

# Chinese stripe-necked turtle

Prohibited invasive animal

Look. Report. Protect. 13 25 23



Photos courtesy Col Limpus

- It is illegal to import, keep, breed or sell Chinese stripe-necked turtles in Queensland.
- Its claws are longer than native turtles and has yellow and black lines along the neck.
- May carry new diseases.
- Chinese stripe-necked turtles are not native to Australia and have the potential to become a problem if they escape or are released into the wild.
- Early detection and reporting helps protect Queensland's natural environment.

## Description

The Chinese stripe-necked turtle (*Mauremys sinensis*) is native to China, Vietnam and Korea that can grow up to 24 cm long. The shell is reddish-brown to black, with yellow stripes, the underside of the shell is yellow. It has a narrow head and cream-coloured jaws and chin. Females are larger than males. Unlike native turtles, which tuck their heads in on the side, the Chinese stripe-necked turtle retracts its head straight back into the shell. This is the most reliable characteristic for distinguishing these turtles from our native species.

## Biosecurity risk

The Chinese stripe-necked turtle is a prohibited invasive animal under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. Prohibited species must be reported immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23. You cannot keep a Chinese stripe-necked turtle as a pet in Queensland. Penalties may apply.

The Chinese stripe-neck turtle is not established in Queensland but, if introduced, would compete with native turtles for food and space. To prevent Chinese stripe-necked turtles establishing in Queensland, restrictions apply to their import, possession and sale.

## What should I do?

If you think you have seen a Chinese stripe-necked turtle, report it immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or scan the QR code to access our reporting web page. Until an authorised officer contacts you, please take reasonable and practical steps to prevent the Chinese stripe-necked turtle from escaping, such as shutting doors or windows to contain the animal or placing it in a box or cage.

## More information

Contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or visit [biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au).

