



FRIDAY ENVIRONMENT FORUM

NPA Environment Centre

08 September

Fire Ants: a Biosecurity Risk

This week at Friday Forum – 08 September: *Dylan Olliver, Biosecurity Queensland's Community Engagement Officer*, will outline the threat **Fire Ants** pose to our health, lifestyle, economy and environment.

He will also explain what is being done to eradicate them. Mr Olliver will show live specimens to help with identification.



Fire Ants on 10 cent coin

Suspect ants that could be Fire Ants must be reported to Biosecurity Queensland on 132523 or at www.daf.qld.au/fireants.

Fire Ants were first detected in Brisbane in 2001. These South American invaders cause serious social, economic and environmental problems and consequently are considered a threat under the Biosecurity Act.

With a public report resulting in the eradication of an infestation in Beerwah in June this year, Biosecurity Queensland urges all residents and business operators on the Sunshine Coast to check their properties and work sites and report any ants or mounds considered suspect.

Fire Ants grow from 2-6 mm in length and are coppery brown in colour with a darker coloured abdomen. Nests vary and can be up to 40cm high but might also be flat, looking like a patch of disturbed soil. Sometimes nests occur under or next to rocks or fallen branches. This aggressive pest can displace and eliminate native ant species as well as causing considerable damage to the agricultural industry. When disturbed they sting repeatedly and the sting is incredibly painful.

*Join the audience to hear this important discussion **September 8**. Coffee and a chat are on offer from 10am. Forum starts at 10:00am and ends at 12:15pm. For those interested in an interpretive birding walk before the forum, meet Valda in the Environment Centre car park at 8.30am.*

All welcome.



Fire Ant nests can look like a patch of disturbed soil or turf