

# CANE TOAD FACT SHEET #3

## Wet Season Toadbusting

[www.canetoads.com.au](http://www.canetoads.com.au)

This will be the second wet season of the Kimberley Toadbusters' campaign, the end of which will see the achievement of two years of continuous toadbusting.

As opposed to the dry season, it has become clear that an entirely different strategy is required to trap toads during the wet season.

### So...why is wet season toad busting so important?

- It enables us to track and pinpoint the toads as they move along flooded waterways, road systems and various connecting wetland systems. This provides us with information on how far the toads can and are moving during the wet season period
- it gives us an opportunity to put in place the most accurate dry season strategy to deal with toad incursions into new areas
- provides an opportunity to study where toads are colonising and breeding. From this we can more accurately determine where the furthest toad incursions are extending to and why
- provides an opportunity to 'bust' cane toad eggs and tadpole populations that are predominantly laid during the wet season (dry season busts focus on mature toads and successive generations that have survived the wet season, and are now isolated to permanent waterholes)
- provides an opportunity to impact on the cane toad's egg and tadpoles cycles thus slowing down (and perhaps stopping), the breeding of subsequent populations of cane toads in busted sites
- wet season busting provides an opportunity to slow down and even stop the colonisation and breeding of cane toads in permanent waterholes. This in turn slows down the number of colonising mature toads waiting in permanent waterholes to breed for the next wet season
- provides an opportunity for the toadbusters and research scientists to study cane toad behaviour and to stop the forward movement of the front line.



### The strategy for the use of traps also varies between the two seasons.

Continuous fieldwork has indicated that they are fundamental to the wet season strategy whilst during the dry season it forms a back-up to physically picking up toads isolated to rapidly drying up waterholes.

Research by KTBs into the necessity for traps in the field indicates that this form of toad control is imperative but more research is required before we have a clear picture of the best way to utilize optimum trapping, particularly at the cane toad 'front line'.

In the meantime we will continue to place traps in the field and monitor their progress and success.

### For more information contact:

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