

Doing our bit to stop the spread of Panama Disease

In 1891, Herman Reich started banana plantations in Coffs Harbour. The subtropical climate of Coffs Harbour has seen banana farming flourish across the region and be an important economic contributor to the local area. Panama Disease is soil borne fungi permanently affecting the viability of banana plantations. The fungi can be spread by air, soil or water and is a biosecurity risk to the viability of the banana growing industry. To protect the banana farming industry in Coffs Harbour, the project team has developed a draft Panama Disease Control Management Plan. In consultation with the banana farmers, the plan outlines specific control measures such as cleaning and wash down procedures for plant, vehicles, equipment and personnel. It also details specific controls for management of risk material such as vegetation and topsoil.

The basic principle for all team members and contractors is known as “Come Clean, Leave Clean” and this is being implemented whenever entering or leaving banana plantations.



Banana farming has a long history in Coffs Harbour.



Following the “Come Clean, Leave Clean” principle.



Starting consultation with local banana farmers on stopping the spread of Panama Disease.