

First port of entry into Australia

AQIS fact sheet

By law, ships arriving in Australia must arrive in a first port of entry. The maximum penalty for not doing so is five years imprisonment.

PROCLAIMED FIRST PORTS OF ENTRY

NEW SOUTH WALES

Botany Bay (Sydney)
Coffs Harbour
Lord Howe Island
Newcastle
Port Jackson (Sydney)
Port Kembla
Twofold Bay
Yamba

VICTORIA

Geelong
Melbourne
Portland
Westenport

QUEENSLAND

Abbot Point *
Brisbane
Bundaberg
Cairns
Gladstone
Hay Point (including:
Dalrymple Bay *)
Lucinda *
Mackay

Mourilyan Harbour *
Port Alma *
Thursday Island
Townsville
Weipa

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Ardrossan *
Cape Thevenard *
Port Adelaide
Port Bonython *
Port Giles *
Port Lincoln
Port Pirie
Port Stanvac *
Walleroo *
Whyalla *

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Darwin
Gove (Nhulunbuy)
Groote Eylandt *

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Albany
Broome

Bunbury
Carnarvon *
Dampier
Derby *
Esperance
Exmouth *
Fremantle
Geraldton
Port Hedland
Port Walcott *
Wyndham

TASMANIA

Burnie
Devonport
Hobart (including Risdon &
Selfs Point)
Launceston (including Beauty
Point, Bell Bay & Long Reach)
Point Latta
Point Huon
Spring Bay
Stanly

* denotes ports that are not
suitable for yacht clearance

WHAT IS THE RISK?

The Master, owner or agent of an overseas vessel arriving in Australia is guilty of an offence if he or she permits the vessel to enter a place in Australia other than a declared first port of entry without prior approval.

Maximum penalty is up to five years imprisonment.

Permission to enter a place other than a first port of entry

Permission may be granted for the vessel to be brought to a place other than a proclaimed first port of entry into Australia subject to specified conditions.

To do so, the Master, owner or agent of an overseas vessel must provide written application to the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) – minimum 10 days in advance.