

# Cane toad found near Broome

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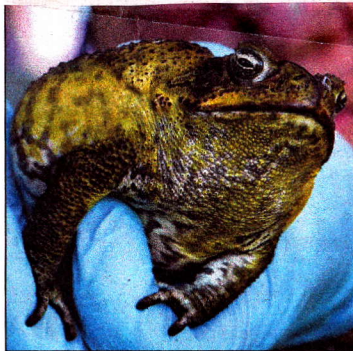
AN UNINJURED cane toad about the size of a large male fist was spotted 50 kilometres out of Broome on the road to Derby last Friday morning.

A man who was on his way to a job at Curtin Detention Centre near Derby spotted the creature on the road around 10.30am, and thought he had run over it.

But when he turned around to have a quick look, he got out of the car and just five feet away the toad leapt into some large puddles on the side of the road.

"I've been fishing up in the Territory a lot and I know what these things look like," he said.

"It could have got here by



Cane toad.

Picture: Nic Ellis

hitching a ride on the underside of a truck, but it didn't look to be injured at all.

"What worries me is that the Fitzroy River, which has its origins quite a way away, is run-

ning so well at the moment that it could be an ideal highway for cane toads." John Cugley of Kimberley Toad Busters said it was likely the toad was a hitchhiker as they tended to use roads more than fast flowing water.

He said while there had been quite an increase of numbers of cane toads in Kununurra recently it was not expected that they would reach Halls Creek for another year yet.

Mr Cugley urged west Kimberley visitors and residents to report any sightings of creatures they suspect to be cane toads, either to the KTB on 9168 2576 or to their local Department of Environment and Conservation branch.