



# TIP TOP JOB UP NORTH



The Project  
School & Education housing,  
Bamaga, Queensland

Partner  
James O'Donnell  
Brendan O'Donnell  
Fencing



SCHOOL



SAFETY



EXTRA  
PROTECTION



GUARANTEE



AUSSIE  
CONDITIONS



GATE



## Tip top job up north

At the most northern tip of the Australian mainland, where the coastal waters of the iconic Great Barrier Reef ebb and flow to meet the pristine Torres Strait and the waters of our nearest neighbour, Papua New Guinea, you'll find the remote community of Bamaga.



**Even in the most distant and untouched communities around the nation, the need for safety and security exists, and even more so, a need for products made for the unique Australian landscape. That's why you'll also find a Bluedog Fence.**

For more than a year, James O'Donnell and the Brendan O'Donnell Fencing team have been making the trek from their home base in Bundaberg, some 2,326 kilometres away to scope out and install around 3 kilometres of Bluedog Fences for the Queensland Department of Education.

"We've had a few logistical challenges, being so remote-it took some planning and weather watching to get the supplies on site!

"We shipped about forty trailer loads of supplies by ferry across the river 140 kilometres south of Bamaga-and it can take a day to cross on the ferry."

Once supplies arrived onsite, James and the crew mixed concrete batches on location to ensure a flat concrete footing under panels,

allowing for a mower strip in a climate where the lawn mower gets a good workout.

Across the rugged landscape for the far north, Brendan O'Donnell Fencing have been working with the Bluedog Fences team to protect people and property from wild dogs and feral horses that cause damage to not only the local ecosystem but also gardens, yards and other animals, either livestock or pets.

"We've been tasked with installing three kilometres of 2100mm high SecuraTop DET Type 2, to the QLD spec, and in this case with picket spacing for dogs and humans."

And while it might be the wilds of remote Australia, the quarters and company are about as close as the pickets. James and his team have been working hard to get the job done -except in December when they were forced home due to the wet season. The seasons also made it tricky to keep different parts of the project moving along, and meant locking up supplies and tools in 40-foot containers, and finding dry places to keep cement powder.

The far north of Queensland and Cape York are on the bucket lists of many who love camping and fishing, and its isolation is idyllic for the adventurer. It's been an unforgettable job for James and the crew who've been living together in a three weeks on, one week off, fly-in fly-out arrangement for a year, with one local giving them a hand as well. The arrangement has also seen local medical services receive a boost with James' partner, a nurse stationed at the local hospital and medical service throughout the project.

Although the conditions at the tip can be rough, with slippery red clay, unreliable weather forecasts, complex travel and transport for people and products, they've had the same partner by their side for Department of Education projects since 2012. James said the focus on quality and procedures combined with good steel and good coatings gives a better result.

"We pride ourselves on quality and delivering the best long term result for our clients.

"It can be hard to justify a bit of extra cost when they all look the same, but nobody sees

the benefits until later. There's a cost involved in a higher quality product, but if you went for a cheaper one, you'll find out in a year or two how difficult it is to patch repair.

"It's about educating people and getting it right from the beginning -they're an investment to begin with, so the ROI comes with not having to maintain it. Maintenance headaches take funds from other resources -schools in particular need all the funds they can keep" James said.

Continuing his late father's business, James said it's not all shop and steel talk.

**"Lachlan at Bluedog and dad had a really good relationship - when you talk and deal with good people, it's not just about the work."**

**James O'Donnell - Brendan O'Donnell Fencing**





## The Project

# School and Education housing, Bamaga, Queensland

## Project Description

The QLD DET Bamaga project is one of over 200 fence projects being managed or completed by **Brendan O'Donnell Fencing** in Queensland. 32 x Teacher accommodation and education residences were operational during this project. The installation will improve the security for staff and assets.



SCHOOL



SAFETY



EXTRA PROTECTION



STRONG DURABLE



GUARANTEE



AUSSIE CONDITIONS



GATE



LOCKABLE

## Project statistics

<b>Location</b>	DET properties, Bamaga, Queensland
<b>Product</b>	Bluedog SecuraTop® DET tubular school security fence and gate system, treated with MetaPrep™ coating
<b>Style</b>	2100mm high powder coated tubular steel
<b>Length and inclusions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 klms of DET PREP SecuraTop fencing and associated gates.</li> <li>• 300 mtrs of CrowdTuff Flat Top and associated gates.</li> <li>• 2.7 klms of concrete mower strip</li> </ul>
<b>Timeframe</b>	23 weeks

## Specifications & Code Requirements

Queensland Department of Education Emergency & School Security Specification for Security Fencing in State Schools (Version 4). The Tender called up the Code of Practice for the Queensland Building and Construction Industry 2000 (Code of Practice). The Code recommends that the industry should aim to achieve best practice in relation to:

- Value for money;
- Quality in all aspects of service, delivery and product;
- Occupational health, safety and rehabilitation (including the return to work of injured employees);
- Environmental management;
- Training, research and development;
- Employee qualification and skill levels;
- Equal opportunity for employment; and
- Completion of projects on time.

## Site-specific challenges

Being coastal and in the tropical north of Queensland, fencing needed a location-specific product to protect it from premature rusting and deterioration. It also needed to be transported in batches and installed over a staged plan.

Bluedog Fences recommends the MetaPrep™ coating for projects within 10-15 kilometres of the coast to ensure the structural and aesthetic integrity of the fence stands the test of time.

MetaPrep™ is an in-demand product for many projects, including schools and government facilities.

## Innovation and added value

James O'Donnell is a civil engineering draftsman by trade and enjoys working with Bluedog Fences on the technical and planning aspects of projects, choosing the perfect products to stand the test of time.

## Safety performance

A key objective for the Queensland Department of Education is to provide high quality security fencing to ensure the safety of the school community, and general public.

Specifications like gaps between vertical spears and product strength are designed to meet safety requirements set by the state. From schools, to commercial properties and prisons, there are different needs and Bluedog Fences works to deliver on or above specification.

