

# North West Queensland Regional Biosecurity Plan 2022 – 2027



**9 SHIRES AND THEIR STAKEHOLDERS  
WORKING TOGETHER  
TO COLLECTIVELY MANAGE  
INVASIVE SPECIES.**

The 9 collaborating shires;



Proudly supported by;



## Acknowledgments

The North West Queensland Regional Biosecurity Plan has been facilitated and compiled by Southern Gulf NRM and developed in partnership with the North West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (NWQROC) participating councils; Burke, Carpentaria, Cloncurry, Doomadgee, Etheridge, Flinders, McKinlay, Mount Isa and Richmond Shire councils in consultation with regional stakeholders and would like to acknowledge their invaluable contribution to the development of this document.

We also recognise that this plan relates to the country of the many Aboriginal communities of the region. We formally acknowledge the Traditional owners of the Region and pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

### Disclaimer

The North West Queensland Regional Biosecurity Plan – A plan to assist all stakeholders in the region to protect and restore the environment through best management practices. The reader/user accepts all risks and responsibilities for losses, damage, expenses, or consequences resulting from using or relying on information within this document.

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## Contents

1. Executive Summary	4
2. Area Covered by The Plan	5
3. Compiling The Plan	6
3.1 Purpose of the Plan	6
3.2 Vision	6
3.3 Scope	7
3.4 Plan Development, Implementation and Review	8
4. Importance of Biosecurity Management	9
4.1 Biodiversity Assets	9
4.2 Water Resource Assets	9
4.3 Community and Residential Assets	9
4.4 Agricultural and Industry Assets	9
5. Regional Governance and Coordination	10
5.1 Regional Technical Advisory Group	11
5.2 Gulf Catchments Pet Taskforce	11
5.3 Local Government Work Planning	11
5.4 Data Sharing Arrangements	11
6. Guiding Principles	12
7. Biosecurity Responsibilities	14
7.1 The Biosecurity Act	14
7.2 Invasive Biosecurity Matter	14
7.3 General Biosecurity Obligations (GBO)	14
8. Stakeholder Roles and Responsibilities	15
8.1 Role of Local Government	15
8.2 Other Stakeholder Roles	16
9. Integrated Planning Framework	18
10. Biosecurity Management	20
10.1 Priority Invasive Plants and Animals	20
11. Identifying Priorities	22
11.1 Priority Invasive Plants and Animals	22
12. Reasonable and Practical Measures	38
i. Appendix 1 - Definitions	39
ii. Appendix 2 - Biosecurity Act Categories	40
iii. Appendix 3 - Prohibited and Restricted Matter	41
iv. Appendix 4 - Reasonable and Practical Measures for Priority Invasive Plants and Animals	48
v. Appendix 5 - References	60
vi. Appendix 6 - Table of Acronyms	60
vii. Appendix 7 - Photo Credit	61

# 1. Executive Summary

The Northwest Queensland Regional Biosecurity Plan (the plan) was agreed to be developed by the North West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (NWQROC) to establish a catchment approach to the management of invasive biosecurity matter. The plan sets out the strategic direction of all stakeholders in a cooperative and collaborative way so that all efforts are directed towards the same agreed priorities.

The general biosecurity obligation (GBO) is the principle obligation under the Act and requires a person to take action to minimise biosecurity risks. The management of invasive biosecurity matter is a shared responsibility of all land managers, industry, the community, and all levels of government. While primary responsibility rests with the land manager, collective action which engages all stakeholders is best practice, particularly for mobile species.

This plan delivers achievable objectives to ensure all landholders in the region actively undertake invasive biosecurity matter control, have agreed risk management strategies in place to ensure reduced movements of invasive biosecurity matter from their properties which is supported by encouragement and incentives. Stakeholders will invest resources in a collaborative approach to ensure both shire and regional community priorities are addressed.

The Biosecurity Act 2014 (the Act) sets out a framework for the management of invasive biosecurity matter across Queensland. (s53) of the Act mandates that Local Governments (LG) must have a biosecurity plan for invasive biosecurity matter for its LG area. (s55) allows for LGs to act concurrently for biosecurity planning, this plan sets priorities at the LG level as well as the broader stakeholder level of the combined nine (9) LGs of the NWQROC to meet their statutory requirement. Each LG has legislative power to ensure prohibited and restricted biosecurity matter are managed in their local government area. This document is supported by the broader North West Queensland Regional Weed and Pest Animal Strategy 2020-2024.

The development and implementation of this plan is based on the management principals of integration; public awareness; commitment; consultation and partnership; planning; prevention and early intervention; best practice; and improvement.

A copy of the act can be accessed at: <https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2014-007>



# 2. Area Covered by the Plan

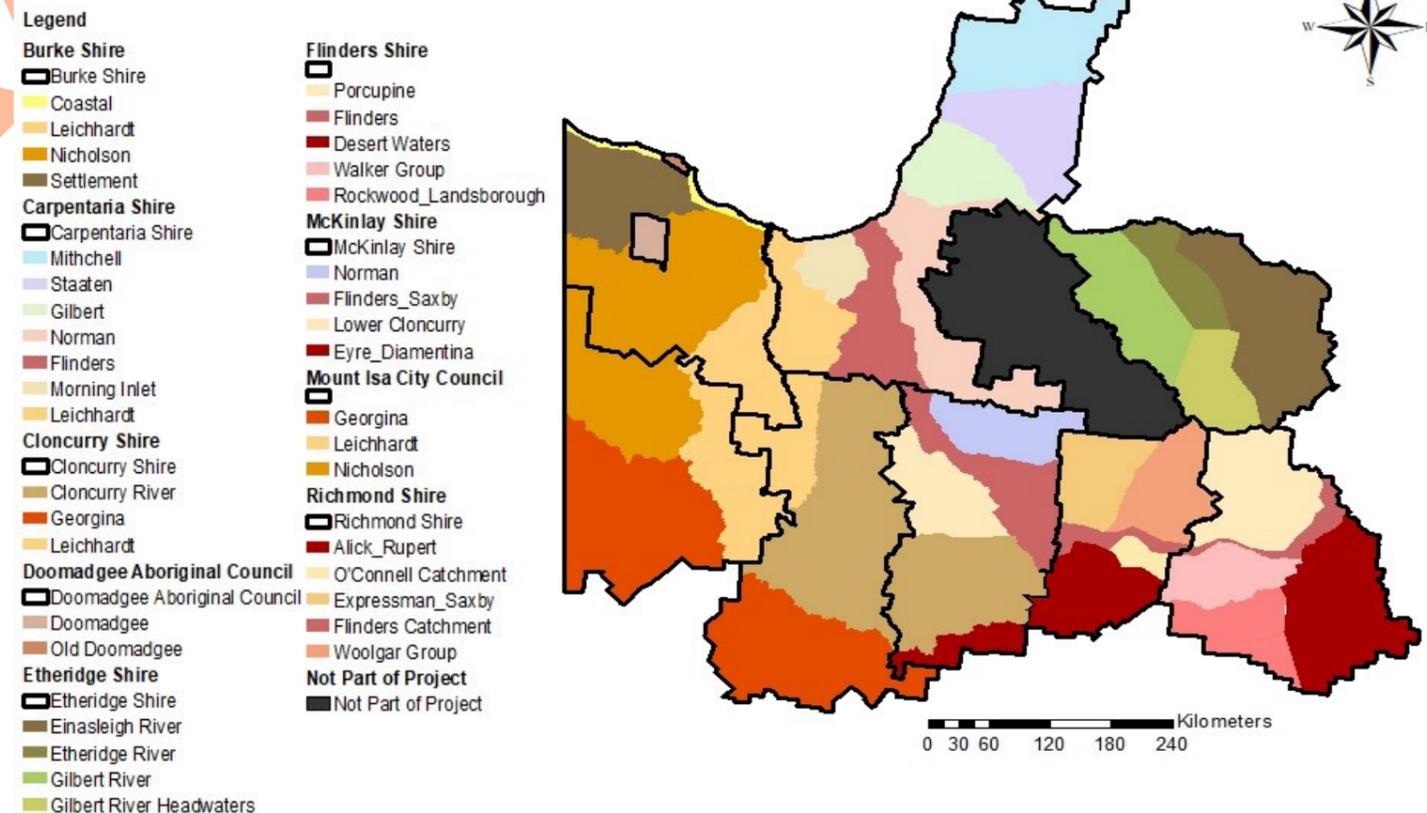
The NWQROC region is situated in the north west corner of Queensland with the Northern Territory and northern coastline forming part of its border. The NWQROC consists of the local government areas of Burke, Carpentaria, Cloncurry, Doomadgee, Etheridge, Flinders, McKinlay, Mt Isa and Richmond. The NWQROC services an area covering 18% of Queensland or 350,000km<sup>2</sup> with approximately 29000 people calling our region their home.

North West Queensland is a remote region with unique natural resource values and significant natural resource management (NRM) challenges. While the landscapes are largely intact, natural resource condition has been degraded by weeds, pest animals, fire, erosion, drought, flood and overgrazing. These issues need to be addressed to maintain and restore natural resource condition, and to provide the environment and natural resource-based enterprises with resilience to face further challenges, including climate change.

For these reasons, invasive species biosecurity awareness and management are important natural resource and regional economic issues. Pest management is vitally important environmentally, economically, socially and culturally, for the conservation of the region's natural resources, grazing and mining industries and community and cultural values.

To ensure consistency with the Act (S48), the plan covers all the lands within the NWQROC participating LG areas regardless of tenure.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS AND THEIR CATCHMENTS



# 3. Plan Compilation

- This plan supports each participating LG in meeting their statutory requirements per the act, and encourages LG's and their stakeholders to partake in catchment and regional planning. In developing this plan, consideration has been given to the integrated planning framework from the national level, to the individual owner level, as shown on page 19.

## 3.1 Purpose of the Plan

The plan provides guidance on how to reduce biosecurity risks associated with invasive plants and animals by:

- Identifying and documenting regional pest priorities.
- Identifying actions for early pest detection and intervention.
- Promoting and supporting stronger governance and leadership.
- Developing strong partnerships, strategic alignment and identifying opportunities for collaboration and alignment of effort.
- Facilitating resource allocation and prioritisation to achieve more efficient and effective utilisation of finite regional resources.
- Building knowledge, encouraging participation and enhancing capacity of land managers.
- Identifying tools for monitoring and evaluation of progress and assessing the success of the investment to ensure that lessons learnt are used to improve future plans; and
- Provides a framework and options for possible regulatory actions by LG.

The plan delivers or describes:

- The basis for coordination among delivery and regulatory organisations to ensure combined efforts are aimed at the highest biosecurity risks to the region.
- Priorities for knowledge and/or skills development among partner organisations.
- The basis for collaboration and mutual support between partners.
- Effective governance and coordination arrangements.
- Strategic alignment in management priorities and procedures to reduce biosecurity risks.

## 3.2 Vision

To foster collaboration and resource sharing between Local Government and stakeholders and effectively advocate on agreed Shire and regional positions and priorities.

## 3.3 Scope

The plan includes the management of invasive plants and animals (referred to as invasive biosecurity matter in the Act, plus any locally significant species) that are:

	Within Scope of local government biosecurity plans (Invasive Biosecurity Matter)	Outside of scope of local government Biosecurity Plans
Prohibited Matter	Schedule 1 Part 3 – Invasive Plants Part 4 – Invasive Animals	Schedule 1 Part 1 – Aquatic diseases, parasites and viruses Part 2 – Animal diseases, parasites and viruses Part 5 – Marine animals and plants Part 6 – Noxious fish Part 7 – Prohibited matter affecting plants Part 8 – Tramp ants
Restricted Matter	Schedule 2 Part 2 – Restricted matter – invasive biosecurity matter	Schedule 2 Part 1 – Restricted matter – other than invasive biosecurity matter
Local Laws	Species specifically targeted as a threat under individual councils' local laws.	

Out of scope items are covered by the Act and as such there exclusion from this plan does not negate the General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO) which applies to all persons. Although these items are managed by different agencies, local stakeholders may be well placed to provide valuable information and surveillance and their assistance may be required for effective management.

A 'nil tenure' approach is taken in the plan, which means that people work together, across public and private land, to manage invasive biosecurity matter. This gives a better result than individual, uncoordinated efforts. The responsibility, actions and costs of biosecurity management are shared by all (shared responsibility). All land and waterways within the boundaries of the local government are included.



### 3.4 Plan Development, Implementation and Review

All stakeholders (including but not limited to: government agencies, industry groups, community groups and private landholders), have been invited to participate and contribute in the development of the regional biosecurity plan by inclusion in stakeholder group meetings or the public submission/or review process.

Although the plan is being developed concurrently, each LG will take ownership of the plan and their section of the plan by adoption through council. The plan is a five (5) year plan (2022-2027), that commences from the date of adoption by each participating council. The five (5) years will commence from the adoption date of the last LG.

Any amendments to the plan will require resubmission to Council for approval and replace the old plan on endorsement of the new plan. The plan will be reviewed annually by the RTAG to assess currency and accuracy.

Following adoption of the plan LG's will have the freedom to work with any stakeholder in delivering the objectives of the plan and applying for funding. This plan meets the statutory requirements of the Act and fosters a collaborative approach to invasive biosecurity management.



Item	Action	Date
Council Consultation	Initial consultation	27/08/2021
BPWG Approval	First draft approval for consultation	02/12/2021
Council Consultation	First draft consultation with Council	04/03/2022
Local stakeholder workshops	Councils workshop with local stakeholders from each LG area.	27/04/2022
Corporate Stakeholders	Consultation with Corporate stakeholders within the region.	27/04/2022
NRM Consultation	Consultation with neighbouring NRM and NT Gov	26/05/2022
Stakeholder Public Consultation	Draft plan made available to the public for a minimum of 21 days on each participating councils' website and in hardcopy and at public places.	22/06/2022
BPWG Final draft Approval	Final draft prepared and reviewed by BPWG	27/06/2022
Adoption	Plan presented to each council for adoption by resolution	01/07/2022

## 4. Importance of Biosecurity Management

- The region supports significant biodiversity; water resource; community and residential; and agriculture and industry assets. A risk-based system underpinned by science that protects the regions people, environment, and economy from biosecurity threats of today and tomorrow is essential to long term sustainability. Understanding the importance of our assets provides a strong foundation to focus our collective efforts and supports a wide range of partnerships.

### 4.1 Biodiversity Assets

The variety of plants, animals, micro-organisms, and ecosystems that form a living environment, is constantly evolving. The key threats to native species are loss, degradation, and fragmentation of habitat; invasive species; and altered fire regimes. Invasive biosecurity matter can increase the impact of these key threats, making their management essential for the conservation of our endangered, threatened, and vulnerable species.

### 4.2 Water Resource Assets

Water is the source of life and protecting our water assets is essential to our community's sustainability and longevity. The region supports many water assets that encompass coastal, marine and freshwater systems, including coastlines, both ephemeral and permanent water courses, wetlands, lakes, springs and aquifers. Water quality is negatively impacted by invasive biosecurity matter and its management should be considered in any water resource management.

The region relies on our water resource assets to supply drinking water, provide for agriculture and industry development, support healthy ecosystems and nationally significant wetlands, and recreation and social amenity.

### 4.3 Community and Residential Assets

A unique natural landscape, world class fossil deposits, national parks and cultural heritage sites makes the region an attractive investment opportunity. Community and residential assets contribute significantly to the livability of the region. Often significant investment has been made to support the establishment of these assets. Ensuring invasive biosecurity matter is adequately managed helps ensure that the value of these assets is not negatively impacted.

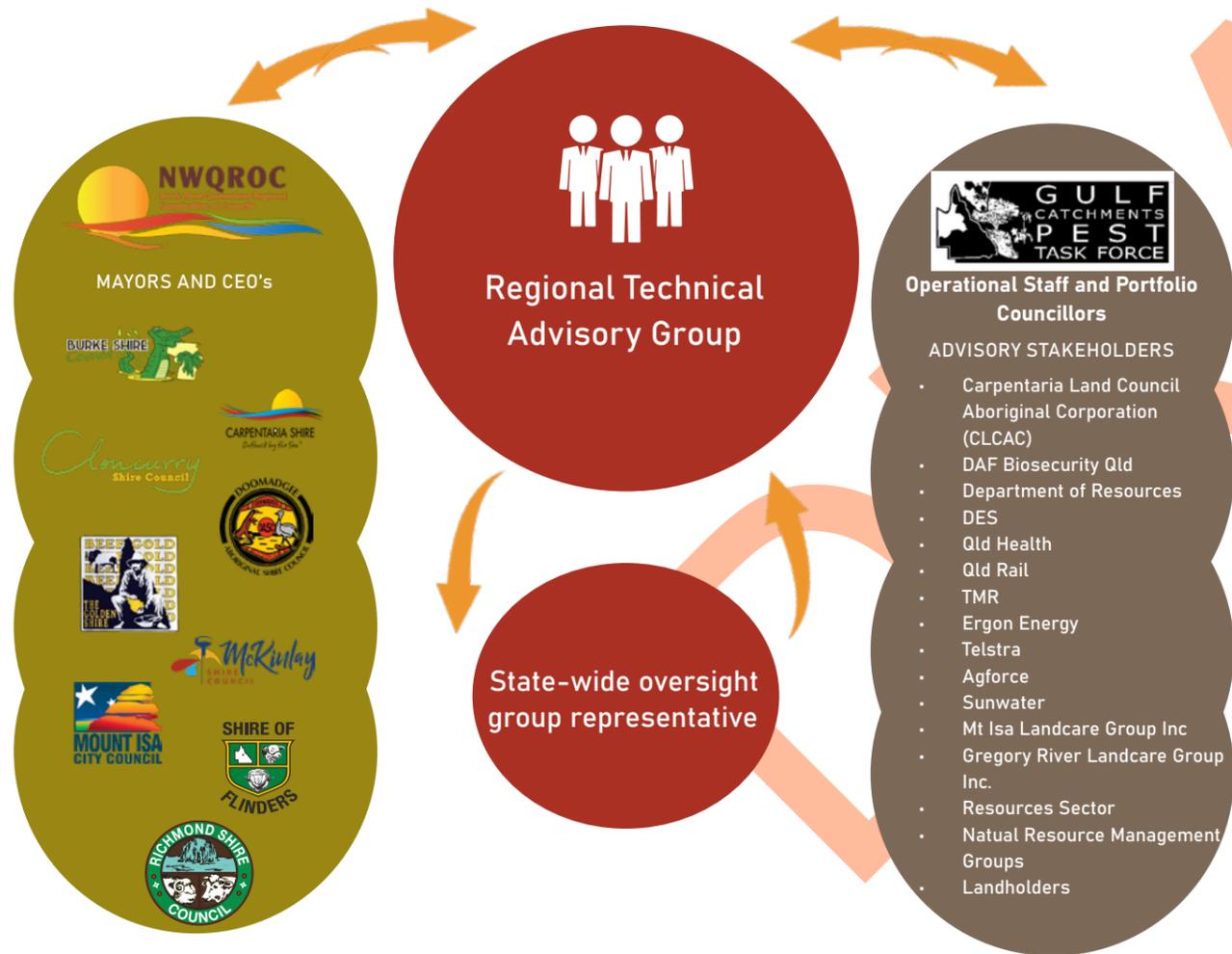
### 4.4 Agricultural and Industry Assets

As highlighted in the 'Northwest Queensland Economic diversification strategy 2019' Resources (mining and mineral processing) contributes 67% of the region's economy, and an estimated \$215 million in royalties shared across Qld. The gross value of Agricultural production (beef cattle production, cropping and commercial fishing) in outback Qld is \$2.4 billion with 88% total value of agricultural production being produced on 82% land area. Tourism (predominantly drive tourism), with a strong focus on the outback experience contributes \$584.8 million spent from domestic overnight visitors and creates 2000 jobs in outback Qld. Business and industry (Small business/supply chain and emerging industry sectors) consists of 2399 businesses, 31.5% of which are Agricultural, Forestry and fishing businesses with 96.8% employing less than 20 employees. These are the economic asset of our region, protecting it by managing invasive biosecurity matter is vital for sustainability.



# 5. Regional Governance and Coordination

- Ensuring that the nine (9) participating Local governments and their stakeholders have a structure for coordination and communication is imperative to the success of the plan. We must learn from the past experiences, to respond faster and more comprehensively and to make the best use of the knowledge and resources we have. Clear process that facilitates information sharing and data collection ensures that Local Government annual work planning and budgeting is sufficient to address the priorities in their area and ultimately the region.



## 5.1 Regional Technical Advisory Group

The Regional Technical Advisory Group (RTAG) facilitates communication and feedback; makes recommendations; provides advice; and supports the GCPTF and NWQROC. The group provides oversight and facilitates a regional approach to pest and weed management in the region.

Membership of the group consists of two (2) NWQROC representatives, one (1) Gulf Savannah representative, one (1) DAF Biosecurity Queensland officer, two (2) SGNRM representatives with SGNRM also facilitating and providing a secretariat.

Four (4) meetings are held annually, with more scheduled on an as needed basis. The RTAG provides oversight and strategic direction on the implementation of the North West Queensland Regional Weed and Pest Animal Strategy 2020-2024 and the development and implementation of region wide actions stemming from the Regional Biosecurity Plan.

Stakeholder representatives may be invited to attend the RTAG meeting by group members on an as needed basis to provide updates and advice to the group.

Recommendations from the RTAG will be presented to either GCPTF or NWQROC, updates of the groups progress will be reported to both groups.

## 5.2 Gulf Catchments Pest Taskforce

The purpose of the Gulf Catchments Pest Task Force (GCPTF) is to enhance pest plant and animal control within North West Queensland and the Gulf region and reduce their current and potential impacts.

It provides a forum of leadership and participation by major stakeholders in pest plant and animal management. It facilitates networking, information sharing, feedback, advice, integration and support to members and the broader groups they represent on pest management issues and responses of relevance at the local government and regional levels. The group assists to identify, prioritise and address invasive biosecurity issues within the region. It also provides opportunity for addressing operational issues of LG's rural lands officers or rangers as well as providing a platform for capacity building to support their roles and responsibilities within LG.

Operational issues and recommendations are presented to the RTAG for consideration. Issues are considered and addressed by the RTAG where possible. If issues need to be addressed by LG's, recommendations and supporting information is presented to the NWQROC.

## 5.3 Local Government Work Planning

Following the delivery of the NWQROC Regional Biosecurity Plan, each participating LG will be required to develop an annual work plan, working toward the agreed outcomes of the plan.

Each Local Government will report against their workplan at the GCPTF meeting to demonstrate contribution towards the regionally agreed outcomes.

Work planning needs to be developed in collaboration with portfolio councilors, to ensure that invasive biosecurity budgets are adequate to deliver the agreed work plan. Work plans will need to be delivered prior to the local government budgeting period to ensure inclusion in the budget for approval. The workplans will be discussed at the GCPTF meeting at the April/May meeting to ensure collaboration and efficiencies can be identified and capitalised on as well as potential funding projects identified, and application made for appropriate funding.

## 5.4 Data Sharing Arrangements

A key action towards building stronger biosecurity system is to evolve how we work together. Regional data sharing arrangements are necessary, and a consistent, standardised, data capture system that facilitate sharing between agencies is vital to support well informed decision making at LG area and regional levels. Regional data sharing will enable the establishment of regional infestation maps; treatment areas; efficiencies in resourcing; and targeted control ensuring value for money; protect and capitalise on past investment.

This would also provide a data supported platform to quantify regional targets, recognize and celebrate success' and provide for legacy monitoring.

# 6. Guiding Principles

■ This plan embodies the six fundamental principles that underpin effective management of invasive biosecurity matter. They provide a common basis for all of Queensland.

These principles are most effective when they are used by all partners in the biosecurity system to guide planning an investment, and when they are incorporated into strategies, plans and actions across all management levels. (Queensland invasive plants and animals' strategy 2019-2024)



## Prevention and Early Intervention

Prevention and early intervention is generally the most cost-effective management strategy. It is usually impossible to eradicate an established invasive species—impacts and/or management costs for these species often become perpetual.

Government generally has a greater involvement in the earlier stages of prevention and eradication than in later stages of management. However, everybody has a role in preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species.

An invasive species may present different levels of risk and hazard in different regions and productive systems. We need to determine these levels before deciding on priorities for prevention and management.

Preventing the spread of current invasive species will greatly reduce the risk of further negative impacts.



## Monitoring and Assessment

We need reliable data from monitoring to ensure that invasive species are managed holistically and for the long term. This data will inform progress and investment.

To control invasive species, we need a balance between prevention, surveillance, and preparedness.

An increasing amount of information is available on the distribution, abundance and impacts of invasive species. However, this data could be better organised and analysed through existing and new technologies, leading to improved decision-making.



## Awareness and Education

Effective management of an invasive species relies on broad stakeholder knowledge of the problem and the management issues. However, people are often not aware of the impacts that invasive species have on the environment or primary production, or that their own actions may be contributing to a problem.

In fact, many such problems are increased through lack of community knowledge. For example, people may not realise that they assist the spread of invasive species if they allow domestic dogs to breed with wild dogs, release domestic deer or unintentionally move seeds of invasive plants (via contaminated soil or equipment).

The level of knowledge on invasive species is increasing, but more targeted public education and a higher public profile are needed. Different stakeholders need different information and support to raise their awareness of problems and increase their willingness to help with management.

Overall community awareness may improve when stakeholders have accessible, science-based information on invasive species, their characteristics, their impacts and control actions. When people have this knowledge, they may also be enabled to take ownership of the issue with increased confidence and be more likely to act.



## Effective Management Systems

It is widely accepted that, for invasive species, integrated management systems are the most effective. That is, best practice for effective control often involves multiple control methods, and successful long-term management relies on cooperation with neighbours and the coordination of control activities. Therefore, to ensure the best possible outcomes, we will call upon all stakeholders to advocate and adopt best practice for all management activities.

Legislation on the management of invasive species is backed by suitable enforcement measures, but enforcement is best used as a targeted catchment based measure integrated with education, planning and incentives for control.



## Strategic Planning and Management framework

Through strategic planning, we can prioritise actions and ensure that resources are used for maximum effect.

However, a strategic approach can only achieve common goals and priorities if there is effective communication and cooperation between all parties within the system. Biosecurity planning offers a 'partnership' mechanism to achieve this level of coordination and efficiency and the regulatory bottom line.

The Biosecurity Act facilitates a risk-based approach to the management of invasive species; this approach promotes the efficient use of resources.



## Commitment to Roles and Responsibilities

To successfully control invasive species in the long term, we need clearly defined and accepted roles and responsibilities.

When planning and implementing management programs, stakeholders should recognise each other's capacity to deliver the desired outcomes. The broad scope and nature of problems demands a long-term commitment by all stakeholders; they need to recognise the effort, time and cost required for effective management.

Local government planning is crucial to the success of invasive species management and provides an opportunity to foster community commitment to roles and responsibilities. NRM groups facilitate planning and management at a regional level, while state government agencies have a responsibility to manage invasive species on lands and water bodies under their control. Community and local government planning must include all stakeholders (such as managers of state land) early in the process.

# 7. Biosecurity Responsibilities

■ Biosecurity is about ensuring there is a system in place that is resilient, while at the same time being flexible to meet a diverse range of needs. We are faced with an expanding number of future threats, while at the same time having to manage pests and diseases that are already here. Understanding our biosecurity responsibilities is critical to biosecurity management as a whole.

## 7.1 The Biosecurity Act

The Biosecurity Act 2014 (the Act) aims to protect Queensland from the impacts of invasive plants and animals, animal and plant diseases, and biological, chemical and physical contaminants. It promotes proactive management of biosecurity risks using timely and effective biosecurity responses to protect human health, the economy, the environment and social amenity.

The Act is built around the following concepts:

- Shared responsibility - everyone (governments, industries and individuals) who deals with something that may pose a biosecurity risk to Queensland has an obligation to manage the risk effectively.
- Risk-based decision making - the Act requires that the response to a biosecurity risk is reasonable and practical and risk-based decision making is used to ensure that the response is proportionate to the level of risk. This allows flexibility in the application of the legislation and balances the interests of the community with those of the individual.
- The precautionary principle - allows action to be taken to manage biosecurity incursions where serious or irreversible damage is possible but the scientific knowledge is incomplete. It considers that on-balance, the cost of not taking action to minimise a risk is more significant than the cost of taking early and definitive action which subsequently proves to be unnecessary.

These principles are designed to provide a responsive and equitable system for the management of biosecurity risks in Queensland.

## 7.2 Invasive Biosecurity Matter

The plan deals with the management of biosecurity risks associated with invasive plants and animals (invasive biosecurity matter). For local government this includes:

1. Prohibited Matter - invasive plants and animals listed in Schedule 1 of the Act
2. Restricted Matter - invasive plants and animals listed in Schedule 2 of the Act

The significant obligations that are relevant to this work are the general biosecurity obligation (GBO), prohibited matter obligations and restricted matter obligations.

## 7.3 General Biosecurity Obligations (GBO)

The general biosecurity obligation (GBO) is the principle obligation under the Act and requires a person to take action to minimise biosecurity risks.

To fulfill their GBO, a person must:

1. Meet the prescribed requirements of any of the other 5 significant obligations that are relevant (see prohibited and restricted matter details below), and
2. Undertake any other actions that are required in the circumstances to minimise the biosecurity risk. This may include active management of priority invasive plants and animals risk (outcome-based elements).

The second aspect of the GBO provides the flexibility required to ensure all risks can be effectively and efficiently managed. In practical terms this is achieved by an individual taking reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise the biosecurity risk.

### Prohibited matter obligations

Prohibited matter is biosecurity matter that is not currently established in the State, but if it entered, could have serious impacts. Prohibited biosecurity matter must not be dealt with without a permit, the risks it poses must not be exacerbated, and if found, it must be reported to an inspector as soon as practical (and within 24 hours). This can be achieved by reporting the prohibited matter to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on 13 25 23.

### Restricted matter obligations

Restricted matter is biosecurity matter that is already having a social, environmental, or economic impact in the State and must be managed when it is found. Restricted matter is assigned category numbers from 1-7 based on its characteristics and the risks it poses.

Unless restricted matter is held under permit, it must be dealt with according to the category(s) it has been assigned.

Further information on categories can be found in Appendix 2. Prohibited and restricted matter lists can be found in Appendix 3.

# 8. Stakeholder Roles and Responsibilities

■ Ensuring stakeholders understand and meet their GBO, greatly reduces the risk of new introductions and further spread of existing invasive species. Clearly defined roles and responsibilities leads to greater cooperation between government, industry and the community.

## 8.1 Role of Local Government

The role of local government in relation to the Act includes:

1. An administrative function- enforced through authorised officers.

Local government officers authorised under the Act have functions and powers to ensure invasive biosecurity matter found within the local government's area of operation is managed in compliance with the Regional Biosecurity Plan under authority provided by the Act.

The local government biosecurity plan and associated operational and compliance plans guide the way local government will do this by providing direction on the priorities for the region and how the local government will encourage and/or enforce compliance.

2. The actions the local government and its officers must take to meet their general biosecurity obligation.

Like any other person or organisation, local governments and their employees have an obligation to report notifiable incidents, minimise the risks associated with any biosecurity matter they are dealing with, and refer obvious biosecurity risks that do not relate to invasive biosecurity matter on to Biosecurity Queensland inspectors (via the 13 25 23 Business Information Centre number).

A 'nil tenure' approach is taken in the plan, which means that people work together, across public and private land, to manage invasive biosecurity matter. This gives a better result than individual, uncoordinated efforts. The responsibility, actions and costs of biosecurity management are shared by all (shared responsibility). All land and waterways within the boundaries of the local government are included.

To be clear, a property status or use does not negate a landholders GBO. Where production prevents the use of traditional methods of control, alternative actions must be taken to ensure the landholder is meeting their GBO.



8.2 Other Stakeholder Roles

Responsibilities	
Australian Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide the framework for pest management in Australia.</li> <li>Provide leadership and coordination for emergency responses to pests of national significance.</li> <li>Manage pests on their area of responsibility.</li> </ul>
Queensland Government	<p><b>Biosecurity Queensland</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement pest management policy through legislation, research and extension education programs.</li> <li>Coordinate state response to priority pests.</li> <li>Guide, encourage and assist local government, regional NRM groups, landholders and land managers in invasive pest management.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other Queensland Government Agencies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage pests on state-managed land in accordance with agreed local/regional priorities.</li> <li>Prevent the spread of high priority species.</li> </ul>
Agriculture and Production Industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow best practice for pest management on land they have responsibility for in line with relevant legislation, policy, guidelines, management plans and codes of practice.</li> <li>Be involved in the development of Local Government Biosecurity Plans.</li> <li>Cooperate with, and participate in, local area pest and weed management programs.</li> <li>Develop on property biosecurity plans.</li> </ul>
Shire Residents and Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report unusual plants and animals.</li> <li>Dispose of green waste and aquarium plants/animals properly.</li> <li>Reduce the density or distribution of priority weeds.</li> <li>Meet GBO.</li> </ul>
Tourists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure vehicles and equipment are pest free.</li> <li>Report unusual plants and animals.</li> <li>Be biosecurity aware and ensure that invasive material is not moved from site to site.</li> </ul>
Community Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote awareness of pest issues with the wider community.</li> <li>Seek funding when available.</li> </ul>

Responsibilities	
NRM Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote and facilitate pest management on agreed local priorities.</li> <li>Enable continued improvement in the management of pests on priority projects.</li> <li>Conduct education and awareness activities.</li> <li>Coordinate weed and pest control implementation.</li> <li>Coordinate the delivery of incentives.</li> <li>Map weed and pest distributions and assist in regional data management.</li> <li>Coordinate regional planning.</li> </ul>
Mines and Quarries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure machinery and equipment hygiene.</li> <li>Practice on site biosecurity.</li> <li>Ensure best practice rehabilitation is carried out on exhausted sites.</li> <li>Weed hygiene on quarry material to prevent movement of invasive matter.</li> </ul>
Utility Managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure vehicles and equipment is pest free.</li> <li>Report unusual plants and animals.</li> <li>Advise landholder of presence on property.</li> </ul>
Contractors and Industry Developers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure vehicles and equipment is pest free.</li> <li>Report unusual plants and animals.</li> </ul>
Traditional Owners and the broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distribute information and facilitate the securing of resources for management.</li> <li>Participate in on-ground activities.</li> <li>Record and report on local issues and projects.</li> <li>Report unusual plants and animals.</li> <li>Collaborate with management agencies where possible.</li> </ul>
Garden Supply Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research new lines of stock before introducing them.</li> <li>Do not stock or trade invasive species or known environmental weeds.</li> <li>Manually remove weeds and bag seed heads</li> <li>Erect property and site-specific signs.</li> </ul>
Commercial and Recreational Fishing Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boat and Equipment Hygiene.</li> <li>Coastline surveillance and reporting.</li> <li>Collaborate and assist in emergency response where necessary.</li> </ul>
Charitable Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure supply is from reliable source</li> <li>Provide weed hygiene declarations on supplied products.</li> </ul>

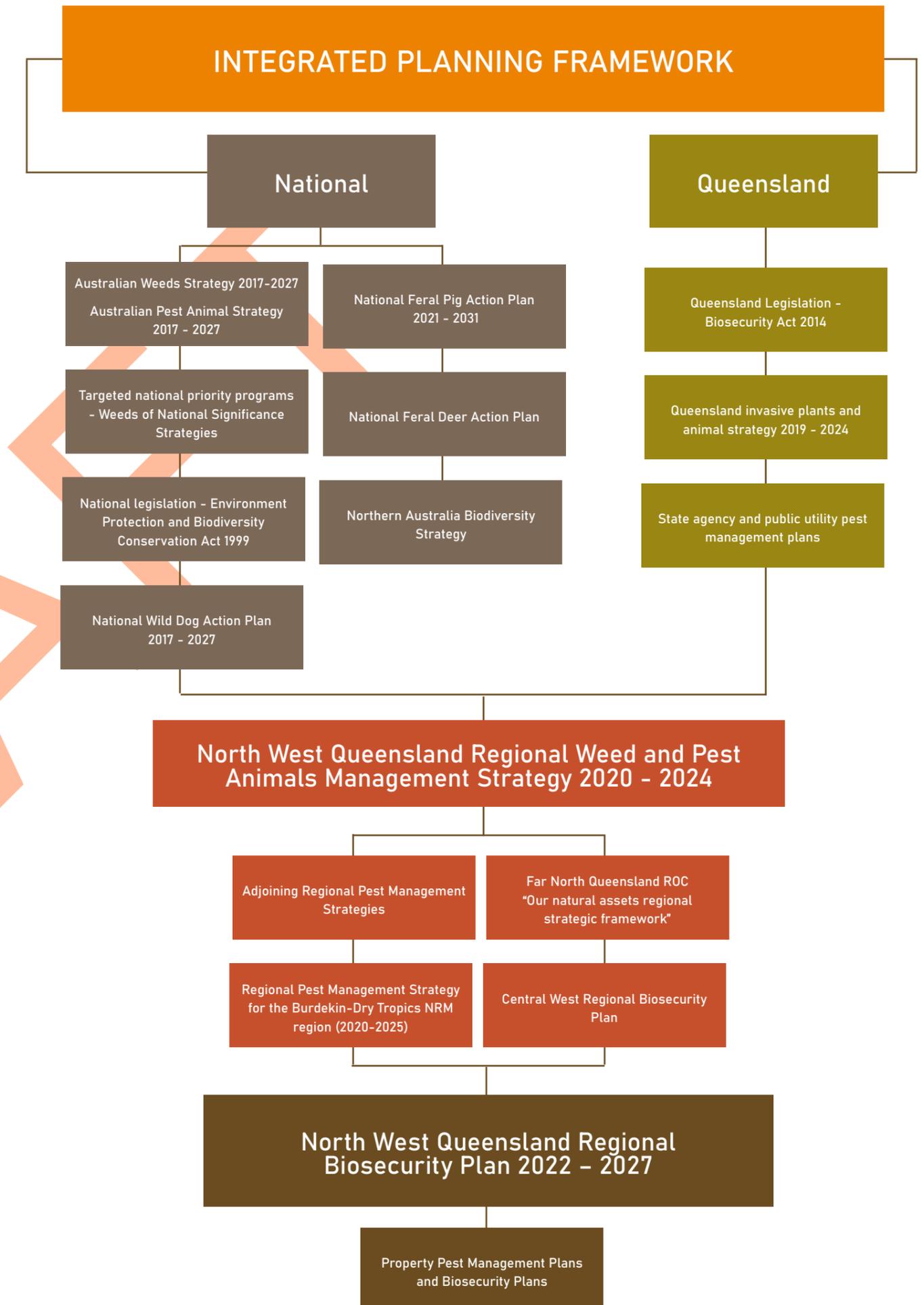
# 9. Integrated Planning Framework

A regional Biosecurity Plan needs to be consistent with the overarching Federal and State strategies. This Regional Biosecurity Plan has been developed with this consistency in mind.

The Act sets out the legal framework for the management of invasive biosecurity matter across the state of Queensland and was developed to ensure it encompassed the provisions contained in other supporting legislation.

The Overarching frameworks are linked throughout the plan to support strategic links to obligations and available funding from these agencies.

The management focus for any particular invasive species may vary across spatial scale. For example, the management strategy for a certain invasive plant may be asset protection at the state level, but for some regions it may be containment and within that region, at a local level, it may be eradication. Therefore, the management of invasive plants and animals requires planning and coordination at federal, state, regional, local and even property levels. The integrated planning framework presents stakeholders with a strategic and holistic approach to the containment, control and eradication of invasive biosecurity matter based on risk, impact, and liability within each of the 9 participating local government areas.



# 10. Biosecurity Management

■ Making decisions about the level of risk the invasive biosecurity matter presents is a critical part of biosecurity planning. A risk-based decision making process will help determine the way risks are managed.

The level of impact of the invasive biosecurity matter (including existing species and species not yet present) on the local community and the potential for successful control measures are an important consideration as part of assessing risk and prioritisation of risk.

The risk of each species entering and becoming established is assessed, with the highest risk species given highest priority. There are four key types of action in managing invasive plants and animals; prevention, eradication, containment and Public Interest Asset-based protection.

## 10.1 Priority Invasive Plants and Animals

The risk prioritisation process allows for the identification of species of highest risk to the region and identify management objectives to reduce this risk. The risk-based decision-making process used for this document is based on the Reasonable and practical measures for priority invasive plants and animals that were set with the guidance of the Biosecurity Queensland (2020), Local Government Biosecurity Planning Support Tools – Risk Prioritisation Tool, The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Brisbane. Each participating local government has completed a risk-based process to support the thresholds that appear in table 2. The six (6) steps that were considered when appointing these thresholds are included below.



Management thresholds have been identified for each priority invasive biosecurity matter listed in table 2. The Queensland Weed and Pest Animal Strategy (QW&PAS 2019-2024) assigns management objectives for specific invasive Biosecurity Matter listed under the act, as described below.



**CAUTION**

It is important to remember that there is a legislative obligation for individuals and organisations to meet the prescribed prohibited and restricted matter obligations, regardless of the risk-rating that is identified for your Local Government area or region.

The local government has assessed several invasive plant and animal species and determined the following as priorities for management in the local government area (table 2).

















# 12. Reasonable and Practical Measures

Reasonable and practical measures describe the action(s) needed to minimise the biosecurity risk associated with invasive plants and animals. Determined by the situation, stakeholders within the local government area may be required to discharge the GBO and take reasonable and practical measures to reduce the biosecurity risk.

Examples of measures include:

- Following hygiene procedures, such as washing vehicles/machinery, to prevent the spread of an invasive plant
- Checking that the plant or animal you are acquiring is not listed in the biosecurity plan
- Reporting the presence of eradication targets to the local government biosecurity officer
- Managing invasive plants or animals in accordance with best practice control methods
- Getting involved in a pest animal baiting or fencing program.

A full list of reasonable and practical measures for the priority invasive plants and animals listed in this plan see (table 2) can be found in Appendix 4.

Make yourself familiar with the reasonable and practical measures associated with the invasive plants and animals listed in this plan.



## i. Appendix 1 - Definitions

Biosecurity considerations	Include human health, social amenity, the economy and the environment i.e. things which may be negatively impacted by biosecurity matter.
Biosecurity event	An event or potential event that has been, or is likely to be caused by biosecurity matter, and which has had, or may have a significant adverse effect on a biosecurity consideration (s14). These are usually high-risk events such as an outbreak of disease which may have widespread impacts on an industry.
Biosecurity matter	(Referred to in the plan as invasive plants and animals). A living thing (other than a human or part of a human), a disease, a pathogenic agent that can cause disease in a living thing other than a human or in a human via transmission of the pathogenic agent from an animal, or a contaminant (biological, chemical and physical) (s15).
Biosecurity risk	Any risk (real or potential) of an adverse effect on a biosecurity consideration caused by: biosecurity matter, dealing with biosecurity matter or a carrier, or carrying out an activity relating to biosecurity matter or a carrier (s16).
Carrier	Can be any 'thing', dead or alive, biological or inanimate, that is carrying or has the potential to carry biosecurity matter (s17). A 'thing' includes a human.
Contaminant	Anything that may be harmful to animal or plant health or pose the risk of an adverse effect on a biosecurity consideration (s18). Examples include pathogenic bacteria in irrigation water, environmental contaminants including dioxins and residual organochlorine pesticides, heavy metals in fertilisers and animal feed and weed seeds.
General Biosecurity Obligation	Everyone is responsible for managing biosecurity risks that are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• under their control; and</li> <li>• that they know about or should reasonably be expected to know about.</li> </ul> Under the GBO, individuals and organisations whose activities pose a biosecurity risk must take all reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimise each biosecurity risk by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• minimising the likelihood of causing a 'biosecurity event', and limit the consequences if such an event is caused; and</li> <li>• preventing or minimise the harmful effects a risk could have, and not do anything that might make any harmful effects worse.</li> </ul>
Invasive biosecurity matter	Invasive plants and animals (weeds and pest animals) listed as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• prohibited matter in schedule 1, parts 3 and 4;</li> <li>• restricted matter in schedule 2, part 2; or</li> <li>• listed in a regulation or emergency prohibited matter declaration (a temporary measure prior to listing as restricted or prohibited matter in the Act).</li> </ul>
Prohibited matter	Biosecurity matter that is not currently present in Queensland and is prohibited because there are reasonable grounds to believe that it may have a significant adverse effect on a biosecurity consideration if it did enter Queensland (ss19 and 20). Prohibited matter is listed in schedule 1 of the Act and schedule 1, part 1 of the Regulation.
Reasonable and practical measures	The term 'reasonable and practical measures' is used throughout the legislation to include all the mitigation measures (actions or inactions) that a person would reasonably be expected to undertake to prevent or minimise a biosecurity risk in a particular circumstance.
Restricted matter	Biosecurity matter that is already present in Queensland and may have an adverse effect on a biosecurity consideration if restrictions are not imposed (ss21 and 22). Restricted matter is listed in schedule 2 of the Act and schedule 1, part 2 of the Regulation. Restricted matter is assigned category numbers from 1-7 based on its characteristics and the risks it poses.

## ii. Appendix 2 - Biosecurity Act Categories

Categories 1 and 2 have specific urgent reporting requirements, whether or not they are in a person's possession.

Categories 3, 4, 5 and 7 relate to the requirements for restricted matter that is in a person's possession.

Category	Description
Category 1 – must be reported to an inspector	Category 1 restricted matter requires immediate containment or eradication to minimise the risk of spread. It must be reported to an inspector within 24 hours of an individual becoming aware of its presence (s42).
Category 2 – must be reported to an authorised officer	Category 2 restricted matter includes a range of plant and fish species that pose a significant biosecurity risk and require management. Category 2 restricted matter must be reported to an authorised officer (i.e., an inspector or an authorised person) within 24 hours of an individual becoming aware of its presence (s42).
Category 3 – not to be distributed or disposed	Category 3 restricted matter includes all invasive animals and plants where deliberate distribution or disposal is a key source of spread. These species must not be given as a gift, sold, traded or released into the environment while still 'alive' unless the distribution or disposal is provided for in a regulation or under a permit (s43 of the Act and chapter 2, part 3 of the Regulation). Note: 'alive' includes viable propagules (seeds or spores) or vegetative material from which the plant could grow.
Category 4 – not to be moved	Category 4 restricted matter includes specific invasive plants and animals that must not be moved from their site of origin to ensure they are not spread into other areas of the State (s45 (a)). This includes viable propagules or vegetative material from which the plant could re-grow.
Category 5 – not to be kept	Category 5 restricted matter cannot be possessed or kept under a person's control. This restricted matter category includes invasive species that have a high pest potential and capacity to impact heavily on the environment. There are exemptions for seized items, where the restricted matter is being held for identification purposes or under permit (s45 (b)).
Category 6 – not to be fed	Category 6 restricted matter cannot be fed unless held under a restricted matter permit or for the purposes of poison baiting. This includes invasive animals and noxious fish which are not owned by a person. The intention of this prohibition is to discourage population growth (s45 (c)).
Category 7 – must be killed	Category 7 restricted matter must be killed as soon as practicable and disposed of in a way described under a regulation. This is currently intended for the management of noxious fish (s44 of the Act and chapter 2, part 3 of the Regulation).

## iii. Appendix 3 - Prohibited and Restricted Matter

Prohibited Matter - Schedule 1, Part 3 & Part 4

Invasive Plants
acacias non-indigenous to Australia (Acaciella spp., Mariosousa spp., Senegalia spp. and Vachellia spp. other than Vachellia nilotica, Vachellia farnesiana)
anchored water hyacinth (Eichhornia azurea)
annual thunbergia (Thunbergia annua)
bitterweed (Helenium amarum)
candleberry myrtle (Morella faya)
cholla cactus (Cylindropuntia spp. and hybrids other than C. fulgida, C. imbricata, C. prolifera, C. rosea, C. spinosior and C. tunicata)
Christ's thorn (Ziziphus spina-christi)
Eurasian water milfoil (Myriophyllum spicatum)
fanworts (Cabomba spp. other than C. caroliniana)
floating water chestnuts (Trapa spp.)
harrisia cactus (Harrisia spp. syn. Eriocereus spp. other than H. martinii, H. tortuosa and H. pomanensis syn. Cereus pomanensis)
honey locust (Gleditsia spp. other than G. triacanthos)
horsetails (Equisetum spp.)
kochia (Bassia scoparia syn. Kochia scoparia)
lagarosiphon (Lagarosiphon major)
mesquites (all Prosopis spp. and hybrids other than P. glandulosa, P. pallida and P. velutina)
Mexican bean tree (all Cecropia spp. other than C. pachystachya, C. palmata and C. peltata)
miconia (Miconia spp. other than M. calvescens, M. cionotricha, M. nervosa and M. racemosa)
mikania (Mikania spp. other than M. micrantha)
Peruvian primrose bush (Ludwigia peruviana)
prickly pear (Opuntia spp. other than O. aurantiaca, O. elata, O. ficus-indica, O. microdasys, O. monacantha, O. stricta, O. streptacantha and O. tomentosa)
red sesbania (Sesbania punicea)
salvinias (Salvinia spp. other than S. molesta)
serrated tussock (Nassella trichotoma)
Siam weed (Chromolaena spp. other than C. odorata and C. squalida)
spiked pepper (Piper aduncum)
tropical soda apple (Solanum viarum)
water soldiers (Stratiotes aloides)
witch weeds (Striga spp. other than native species)

■ All amphibians, mammals and reptiles other than the following

Invasive Animals
amphibians, mammals and reptiles that are restricted matter
amphibians, mammals and reptiles indigenous to Australia, including marine mammals of the orders Cetacea, Pinnipedia, Sirenia
alpaca ( <i>Lama pacos</i> )
asian house gecko ( <i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i> )
axolotl ( <i>Ambystoma mexicanum</i> )
bison or American buffalo ( <i>Bison bison</i> )
black rat ( <i>Rattus rattus</i> )
camel ( <i>Camelus dromedarius</i> )
cane toad ( <i>Rhinella marina</i> syn. <i>Bufo marinus</i> )
cat ( <i>Felis catus</i> and <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i> x <i>Felis catus</i> )
cattle ( <i>Bos</i> spp.)
chital (axis) deer ( <i>Axis axis</i> )
dog ( <i>Canis lupus familiaris</i> )
donkey ( <i>Equus asinus</i> )
European hare ( <i>Lepus europaeus</i> )
fallow deer ( <i>Dama dama</i> )
goat ( <i>Capra hircus</i> )
guanicoe ( <i>Lama guanicoe</i> )
guinea pig ( <i>Cavia porcellus</i> )
horse ( <i>Equus caballus</i> )
house mouse ( <i>Mus musculus</i> )
llama ( <i>Lama glama</i> )
mule ( <i>Equus caballus</i> x <i>Equus asinus</i> )
pig ( <i>Sus scrofa</i> )
Rabbit ( <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> )
red deer ( <i>Cervus elaphus</i> )
rusa deer ( <i>Rusa timorensis</i> syn. <i>Cervus timorensis</i> )
sewer rat ( <i>Rattus norvegicus</i> )
sheep ( <i>Ovis aries</i> )
water buffalo ( <i>Bubalus bubalis</i> )

■ Restricted Matter - Schedule 2, Part 2

Invasive Plants	Category
African boxthorn ( <i>Lycium ferocissimum</i> )	3
African fountain grass ( <i>Cenchrus setaceum</i> )	3
African tulip tree ( <i>Spathodea campanulata</i> )	3
alligator weed ( <i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i> )	3
annual ragweed ( <i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i> )	3
asparagus fern ( <i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i> , <i>A. africanus</i> and <i>A. plumosus</i> )	3
asparagus fern ( <i>Asparagus scandens</i> )	3
athel pine ( <i>Tamarix aphylla</i> )	3
badhara bush ( <i>Gmelina elliptica</i> )	3
balloon vine ( <i>Cardiospermum grandiflorum</i> )	3
belly-ache bush ( <i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i> and hybrids)	3
bitou bush ( <i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i> ssp. <i>rotundifolia</i> )	2,3,4,5
blackberry ( <i>Rubus anglocandicans</i> , <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> aggregate)	3
boneseed ( <i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i> ssp. <i>monilifera</i> )	2,3,4,5
bridal creeper ( <i>Asparagus asparagoides</i> )	2,3,4,5
bridal veil ( <i>Asparagus declinatus</i> )	3
broad-leaved pepper tree ( <i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i> )	3
cabomba ( <i>Cabomba caroliniana</i> )	3
camphor laurel ( <i>Cinnamomum camphora</i> )	3
candyleaf ( <i>Stevia ovata</i> )	3
cane cactus ( <i>Austrocylindropuntia cylindrica</i> )	3
cat's claw creeper ( <i>Dolichandra unguis-cati</i> )	3
Chilean needle grass ( <i>Nassella neesiana</i> )	3
chinee apple ( <i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i> )	3
Chinese celtis ( <i>Celtis sinensis</i> )	3
cholla cacti with the following names—	3
• coral cactus ( <i>Cylindropuntia fulgida</i> )	3
• devil's rope pear ( <i>C. imbricata</i> )	3
• Hudson pear ( <i>Cylindropuntia rosea</i> and <i>C. tunicata</i> )	2,3,4,5
• jumping cholla ( <i>C. proliferata</i> )	2,3,4,5
• snake cactus ( <i>C. spinosior</i> )	3
Dutchman's pipe ( <i>Aristolochia</i> spp. other than native species)	3

■ Restricted Matter - Schedule 2, Part 2

Invasive Plants	Category
elephant ear vine ( <i>Argyrea nervosa</i> )	3
Eve's pin cactus ( <i>Austrocylindropuntia subulata</i> )	3
fireweed ( <i>Senecio madagascariensis</i> )	3
flax-leaf broom ( <i>Genista linifolia</i> )	3
gamba grass ( <i>Andropogon gayanus</i> )	3
giant sensitive plant ( <i>Mimosa diplotricha</i> var. <i>diplotricha</i> )	3
gorse ( <i>Ulex europaeus</i> )	3
groundsel bush ( <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i> )	3
harrisia cactus ( <i>Harrisia martinii</i> , <i>H. tortuosa</i> and <i>H. pomanensis</i> syn. <i>Cereus pomanensis</i> )	3
harungana ( <i>Harungana madagascariensis</i> )	3
honey locust ( <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> including cultivars and varieties)	3
hygrophila ( <i>Hygrophila costata</i> )	3
hymenachne or olive hymenachne ( <i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i> and hybrids)	3
Koster's curse ( <i>Clidemia hirta</i> )	2,3,4,5
kudzu ( <i>Pueraria montana</i> var. <i>lobata</i> syn. <i>P. lobata</i> , <i>P. triloba</i> other than in the Torres Strait Islands)	3
lantanas—	3
• creeping lantana ( <i>Lantana montevidensis</i> )	3
• lantana, common lantana ( <i>Lantana camara</i> )	3
limnocharis, yellow burrhead ( <i>Limnocharis flava</i> )	2,3,4,5
Madeira vine ( <i>Anredera cordifolia</i> )	3
Madras thorn ( <i>Pithecellobium dulce</i> )	2,3,4,5
mesquites—	3
• honey mesquite ( <i>Prosopis glandulosa</i> )	3
• mesquite or algarroba ( <i>Prosopis pallida</i> )	3
• Quilpie mesquite ( <i>Prosopis velutina</i> )	3
Mexican bean tree ( <i>Cecropia pachystachya</i> , <i>C. palmata</i> and <i>C. peltata</i> )	2,3,4,5
Mexican feather grass ( <i>Nassella tenuissima</i> )	2,3,4,5
miconia with the following names—	
• <i>Miconia calvescens</i>	2,3,4,5
• <i>M. cionotricha</i>	2,3,4,5
• <i>M. nervosa</i>	2,3,4,5
• <i>M. racemosa</i>	2,3,4,5

■ Restricted Matter - Schedule 2, Part 2

Invasive Plants	Category
mikania vine ( <i>Mikania micrantha</i> )	2,3,4,5
mimosa pigra ( <i>Mimosa pigra</i> )	2,3,4,5
Montpellier broom ( <i>Genista monspessulana</i> )	3
mother of millions ( <i>Bryophyllum delagoense</i> syn. <i>B. tubiflorum</i> , <i>Kalanchoe delagoensis</i> )	3
mother of millions hybrid ( <i>Bryophyllum</i> x <i>houghtonii</i> )	3
ornamental gingers—	3
• Kahili ginger ( <i>Hedychium gardnerianum</i> )	3
• white ginger ( <i>H. coronarium</i> )	3
• yellow ginger ( <i>H. flavescens</i> )	3
parkinsonia ( <i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i> )	3
parthenium ( <i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i> )	3
pond apple ( <i>Annona glabra</i> )	3
prickly acacia ( <i>Vachellia nilotica</i> )	3
prickly pears—	3
• bunny ears ( <i>Opuntia microdasys</i> )	2,3,4,5
• common pest pear, spiny pest pear ( <i>O. stricta</i> syn. <i>O. inermis</i> )	3
• drooping tree pear ( <i>O. monacantha</i> syn. <i>O. vulgaris</i> )	3
• prickly pear ( <i>O. elata</i> )	2,3,4,5
• tiger pear ( <i>O. aurantiaca</i> )	3
• velvety tree pear ( <i>O. tomentosa</i> )	3
• Westwood pear ( <i>O. streptacantha</i> )	3
privets—	3
• broad-leaf privet, tree privet ( <i>Ligustrum lucidum</i> )	3
• small-leaf privet, Chinese privet ( <i>L. sinense</i> )	3
rat's tail grasses—	3
• American rat's tail grass ( <i>Sporobolus jacquemontii</i> )	3
• giant Parramatta grass ( <i>S. fertilis</i> )	3
• giant rat's tail grass ( <i>S. pyramidalis</i> and <i>S. natalensis</i> )	3
rubber vines—	3
• ornamental rubber vine ( <i>Cryptostegia madagascariensis</i> )	3
• rubber vine ( <i>C. grandiflora</i> )	3
sagittaria ( <i>Sagittaria platyphylla</i> )	3

■ Restricted Matter - Schedule 2, Part 2

Invasive Plants	Category
salvinia ( <i>Salvinia molesta</i> )	3
Scotch broom ( <i>Cytisus scoparius</i> )	3
Senegal tea ( <i>Gymnocoronis spilanthoides</i> )	3
Siam weed with the following names—	3
• <i>Chromolaena odorata</i>	3
• <i>C. squalida</i>	3
sicklepods—	3
• foetid cassia ( <i>Senna tora</i> )	3
• hairy cassia ( <i>S. hirsuta</i> )	3
• sicklepod ( <i>S. obtusifolia</i> )	3
silver-leaf nightshade ( <i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i> )	3
Singapore daisy ( <i>Sphagneticola trilobata</i> syn. <i>Wedelia trilobata</i> )	3
telegraph weed ( <i>Heterotheca grandiflora</i> )	3
thunbergia ( <i>Thunbergia grandiflora</i> syn. <i>T. laurifolia</i> )	3
tobacco weed ( <i>Elephantopus mollis</i> )	3
water hyacinth ( <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i> )	3
water lettuce ( <i>Pistia stratiotes</i> )	3
water mimosa ( <i>Neptunia oleracea</i> and <i>N. Plena</i> )	2,3,4,5
willows (all <i>Salix</i> spp. other than <i>S. babylonica</i> , <i>S. x calodendron</i> and <i>S. x reichardtii</i> )	3
yellow bells ( <i>Tecoma stans</i> )	3
yellow oleander, Captain Cook tree ( <i>Cascabela thevetia</i> syn. <i>Thevetia peruviana</i> )	3

■ Restricted Matter - Schedule 2, Part 2

Invasive Animals	Category
barbary sheep ( <i>Ammotragus lervia</i> )	2,3,4,5,6
blackbuck antelope ( <i>Antilope cervicapra</i> )	2,3,4,5,6
cat ( <i>Felis catus</i> and <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i> x <i>Felis catus</i> ), other than a domestic cat	3,4,6
dingo ( <i>Canis lupus dingo</i> )	3,4,5,6
dog ( <i>Canis lupus familiaris</i> ), other than a domestic dog	3,4,6
European fox ( <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> )	3,4,5,6
European rabbit ( <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> )	3,4,5,6
feral chital (axis) deer ( <i>Axis axis</i> )	3,4,6
feral fallow deer ( <i>Dama dama</i> )	3,4,6
feral goat ( <i>Capra hircus</i> )	3,4,6
feral pig ( <i>Sus scrofa</i> )	3,4,6
feral red deer ( <i>Cervus elaphus</i> )	3,4,6
hog deer ( <i>Axis porcinus</i> )	2,3,4,5,6
red-eared slider turtle ( <i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i> )	2,3,4,5,6
feral rusa deer ( <i>Rusa timorensis</i> , syn. <i>Cervus timorensis</i> )	3,4,6
sambar deer ( <i>Rusa unicolor</i> , syn. <i>Cervus unicolor</i> )	2,3,4,5,6

Tramp Ants	Category
yellow crazy ant ( <i>Anoplolepis gracilipes</i> )	3

## iv. Appendix 4 - Reasonable and Practical Measures for Priority Invasive Plants and Animals

Prevention and Early Intervention – Preventing introduction or intervening early is	
Guiding Principal	Strategic Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholders are aware of risks and prevent the introduction of new invasive species to the region.</li> <li>New invasive species incursions are detected early and managed to minimise further spread.</li> <li>Invasive species are managed to prevent their movement into new areas/catchments within the region</li> </ul>	Identify, prioritise, and promote prohibited, emerging, and isolated high risk invasive biosecurity matter for prevention, surveillance, reporting and early intervention activities.
	Conduct surveillance activities for early detection of new incursions.
	Inspect local suppliers and markets for restricted Invasive biosecurity matter.
	Promote and utilise hygiene protocols and local wash down facilities.
	Adopt biosecurity and weed hygiene protocols to minimising spread by carriers.
	New pests and spread of isolated pest incursions are prevented across all land tenure within LG's.
	Support stakeholders' adoption of prevention, eradication and containment activities through agreements, incentives, or compliance.
	Establish on property biosecurity plan.
	Implement 'Best Practice' management actions.
	Report any incursions or seek assistance for suspicious material.
	Implement hygiene protocols and practices to minimize spread.
	Establish GNP buffers as minimum requirement.
	Work with LG and NRM groups in programs and incentive schemes.
	Ensure compliance with GBO.

generally the most cost-effective management of invasive species.	
Responsibility	Success Indicator
BQ, RTAG, LG	Pest alert list and reporting mechanism is established, and high priority prohibited, emerging and isolated invasive biosecurity matter prevention actions are actively promoted.
BQ, RTAG, LG	Detections are actively shared among stakeholders. Regional pest prevention measures are promoted at GCPTF, RTAG and other forums.
LG	Local markets are informed of GBO regarding invasive biosecurity matter.
LG, NRM	Information is being actively shared on hygiene and availability of washdown facilities.
All Stakeholders	Spread prevention is actively promoted and adopted.
All Stakeholders	High priority emerging and isolated invasive biosecurity matter eradication and containment actions are actively promoted and adopted.
BQ, LG, NRM	High impact IBM containment/impact reduction actions are actively promoted and adopted.
All Landholders	Landholders establish and implement on property biosecurity plans.
All Stakeholders	Recognised best practice utilised in on ground activities.
All Stakeholders	Pest alert list and reporting mechanism is established and utilised.
All Stakeholders	Landholders are using hygiene declarations to assess risk, restricting property access, and including signage. All available washdown facilities are being utilised.
All Landholders	Boundary buffer containment concept is supported.
LG, NRM, All Landholders	Actively engage in invasive biosecurity management in local area.
All Stakeholders	Understand GBO and what that means to activities being carried out.

Monitoring and Assessments – Established pests are monitored to allow	
Guiding Principal	Strategic Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate and assist surveillance and monitoring programs to support prevention and early intervention activities.</li> <li>Collect, collate, utilise, and make available data relevant to invasive species management.</li> </ul>	Promote information sharing by key stakeholders to ensure that information is kept current and accurate across the region for better decision making and resource allocation.
	Maintain lines of communication between agencies so that pests can be reported to relevant authorities.
	Promote prohibited, emerging, and isolated high-risk Invasive Biosecurity Matter for surveillance, prevention, and reporting.
	Stakeholders are to undertake surveillance for new pests and monitor and report possible biosecurity risk.
	Support stakeholder surveillance, monitoring, and identification activities.
	Assist mapping and data capture amongst stakeholders.
	Collate all invasive pest presence, distribution, and control data available into a mapping system and support monitoring and assessments.
	Develop pest data sharing program amongst stakeholders.
	Support the Biosecurity Queensland Annual Pest Distribution Survey.
	Encourage and support the development of individual property plans to a scale that meets standards to activate access to NRM plans, permits and funding.

for reliable and timely information to be reported for effective decision making.	
Responsibility	Success Indicator
NWQROC, RTAG, GCPTF, LG, SGNRM	Information is actively shared throughout this governance structure.
RTAG, GCPTF, NRM	High risk Invasive Biosecurity matter is promoted to ensure identification and reporting when encountered.
BQ, RTAG, GCPTF	Biosecurity surveillance completed and any recognized activities completed.
All Stakeholders	Number of key stakeholders actively conducting surveillance and reporting recognised invasive biosecurity risk.
LG, BQ, NRM	Stakeholders are mapping data on all biosecurity matter, and it is included in on-property biosecurity plans.
LG, NRM	No. of stakeholders participating in data capture and sharing for distribution mapping.
LG, NRM	Data collected is collated into informative regional mapping documents.
NRM, NWQROC, RTAG, GCPTF, LG	No. of regional pest distribution maps available to stakeholders.
BQ, NRM, LG	No. of LG participating in Annual Pest Distribution survey.
LG, NRM	No. of landholders completing compliant plans.

**Awareness and Education – Stakeholders are informed and knowledgeable with the capability and capacity to take ownership of invasive species management.**

Guiding Principal	Strategic Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholders are informed and knowledgeable, with the capability and capacity to take ownership of pest management.</li> <li>Stakeholders have a clear understanding of the biology, ecology and impacts of invasive biosecurity matter they are managing.</li> <li>Stakeholders are actively participating in invasive species groups for understanding and information sharing.</li> </ul>	Regional Biosecurity plan developed in consultation with stakeholders and made available for public consultation and submissions.
	Adopted NWQRBP made available via all 9 participating councils' websites and available at LG main office and public information centres.
	Invasive Biosecurity matter information is made available to stakeholders.
	Weed hygiene protocols and practices promoted and enforced among potential carriers.
	Promote adoption of surveillance, prevention and reporting activities for high risk, new incursions, isolated incursions or prohibited biosecurity matter among stakeholders.
	Information is shared amongst key stakeholders for good decision making.
	Assist stakeholders with species identification and planning activities.
	Work with NRM groups and Government Departments to provide training and information relating to invasive biosecurity matter.

**Consultation and partnership arrangements between land managers, community, industry, state, and local government must be established to achieve a collaborative and coordinated approach to management.**

Responsibility	Success Indicator
SGNRM, NWQROC, LG	Draft developed in consultation with stakeholders. Public notice advertised for public consultation and submissions.
LG	All participating LG make the plan available electronically, and hard copy at public office and Library.
BQ, NRM, LG	No. communications distributed to stakeholders. No. of communication pathways expanded.
LG	No. of stakeholders using washdown facilities. Information shared amongst stakeholders of the importance of movement hygiene.
LG, BQ, NRM	Number of landholders, groups or representatives which information was provided.
LG, GCPTF, SGNRM	Information is shared amongst key stakeholders so that information is kept current and accurate.
BQ, NRM	Number of landholders assisted, pests identified, and property plans developed.
LG, BQ, NRM	Number of stakeholders who attend workshops or received training.

**Effective Management System – Invasive species management must be based on ecologically and socially responsible practices that protect the environment and productive capacity of natural resources while minimising impacts to the community.**

Guiding Principal	Strategic Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan to minimise the impacts of invasive species by developing and implementing an integrated strategic plan.</li> <li>Adopt and promote best practice amongst all landholders.</li> <li>Offer incentives to stakeholders for priority invasive species management activities.</li> </ul>	Plans are established in compliance with the act and linking frameworks to ensure consideration in funding programs.
	Agreed programs support control actions from invasive biosecurity matter in compliance with the Act and linking frameworks.
	Make case studies available with cost benefit analysis so that land Managers are better informed for decision making.
	Schedule management activities to coincide with natural population fluctuations and seasonal conditions.
	Programs and actions agreed to among a stakeholder collective should be consistent with stakeholder responsibilities under the Act.
	GNP buffer zones are adopted as minimum requirement.
	On ground works for pest programs and actions should align with best practice for timing, control technique used and cost benefit.
	Ensure that the execution of pest programs aligns with other legislation and practices (i.e., Baiting programs/ Animals Welfare/Medicines and Poisons Act).
	Promote and support release of state government biological controls as a tool in the arsenal.
	Support stakeholder implementation of best practice programs and actions through incentives, agreements, or biosecurity instruments.

**There should be a balance between feasibility; cost-effectiveness; sustainability; humaneness; community perceptions and safety; and emergency response.**

Responsibility	Success Indicator
SGNRM, LG	NWQRBP is compiled in consideration with integrated planning framework.
LG, NRM	Planning framework is established linking programs and actions which recognised as best practice and actively adopted.
BQ, NRM	Research and Development is targeted at high priority species. Outcomes of research is made available to the public.
All Landholders	On property Biosecurity Plans schedule activities to coincide with population fluctuations and seasonal conditions and appoint a budget and resources to meet these objectives.
All Stakeholders	Programs are developed in consideration of legislated responsibilities under the act and all stakeholders affected by the program are consulted.
All Landholders	GNP boundary buffer containment concept is supported.
All Landholders	Best Practice procedures are actively promoted and adopted.
All Stakeholders	Consideration is given to Duty of Care and programs and protocols do not contradict other relevant legislation.
BQ, NRM, LG	Uptake and use of biological control to support on ground activities.
BQ, NRM, LG	Programs and incentives are developed in consultation with stakeholders. Biosecurity instruments are developed to support compliance where required.

**Strategic Planning and Management framework – Planning for invasive species management should be based on risk management**

Guiding Principal	Strategic Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Priorities are established to give direction to planning and policy.</li> <li>Environmentally significant areas are protected from invasive species.</li> <li>Invasive species management is integrated with other operation planning processes.</li> <li>Invasive species management is adequately resourced to complete on ground works.</li> </ul>	Prioritise invasive species and implement plans based on risk analysis and achievable outcomes.
	Establish a catchment-based program to ensure the effort downstream is supported upstream.
	Establish an integrated planning framework which ensures stakeholder programs and actions are creating an overall uniform/strategic approach to planning and management.
	Pest programs and actions should aim to align with overarching framework obligations and available funding streams to strategically direct finite resources.
	GNP buffer zones are adopted as minimum requirement.
	LG is incorporating programs and actions into all relevant departmental planning, policy and operation works (i.e., roads, waste, water, and park maintenance).
	All stakeholders incorporate identified, agreed programs and actions into operation activities.
	Participate in local catchment group planning and projects with NRM and neighbours to align obligated commitments with Commonwealth WONS that increases likelihood of securing funding.
	Seek out and source funding opportunities to support catchment groups targeting priorities of national significance identified through integrated pest planning framework.
	Conduct coordinated programs that support invasive species priority management. I.e., 1080 Baiting program.
	Support stakeholder adoption and implementation of programs and actions through incentives, agreements and biosecurity instruments and compliance procedures.
	Conduct annual review to evaluate the effectiveness of programs and actions to support ongoing improvements.

**to ensure that resources are targeted at the priorities identified at local, regional, state and federal levels.**

Responsibility	Success Indicator
LG/SGNRM	NWQRBP is developed on sound risk-based decision-making processes and priorities are established based on achievable outcomes.
LG, NRM	Catchment representation, communication, planning and assessment are adopted.
BQ/LG/NRM	NWQRBP and guiding framework is effective in facilitating stakeholder planning and resourcing.
All Stakeholders	Programs and actions are receiving funding or achieving outcomes from investment.
All Landholders	GNP boundary buffer containment concept is supported.
LG	Work plans, policies and projects are developed in each department with consideration GBO responsibilities and to encourage holistic management across the entire LG workforce.
All Landholders	Landholders are planning and resourcing priority invasive species management into their annual workplans.
All Stakeholders	No. of funded projects established to target pests of national significance.
LG, NRM	No. of landholders collaboratively working together as a catchment group to address priorities.
LG	No. of landholders participating in coordinated programs
LG, NRM	Agreed programs and actions are being adopted by key stakeholders.
RTAG, GCPTF, SGNRM	Review is conducted and outcomes are communicated with stakeholders.

**Commitment to Roles and Responsibilities – Effective invasive species management requires shared responsibility, capability, capacity and long-term commitment by landholders/mangers, the community, industry groups and government.**

Guiding Principal	Strategic Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholders understand and are committed to their roles and responsibilities under the Act.</li> <li>All stakeholders are committed to, and undertake, coordinated management.</li> <li>Stakeholder roles and responsibilities are established in consultation with all stakeholders.</li> <li>Offer incentives to stakeholders for priority invasive species management activities.</li> </ul>	Stakeholders are aware of their obligations under the Act through agreed awareness and education actions.
	Develop and maintain a Local Government Area Pest Advisory Group, to establish commitment to the development of the Plan, its actions and inform pest management generally.
	Provide an opportunity for the entire community to provide input by circulating the draft Biosecurity plan for public consultation and submissions.
	Regional Biosecurity Plan is adopted by all participating councils and subsequent work plans are derived from this plan.
	Participate and contribute to regional planning, advisory groups, and forums such as the GCPTF and RTAG.
	Liaise with government and industry and ensure that State-wide oversight representation is well informed of regional priorities for research consideration.
	Catchment surveillance, monitoring, and assessment to evaluate commitment to actions.
	Support commitment to Local laws relevant to Invasive Biosecurity matter.
	Support stakeholder commitment to the plan and compliance with their GBO, through incentives, agreements, biosecurity instruments or compliance procedures.

**Those who create the risk associated with pest species introduction or spread and those that benefit from their management should help to minimise the impacts of invasive species and contribute to the cost of management.**

Responsibility	Success Indicator
BQ, LG, NRM	GBO material is actively disseminated.
LG, SGNRM, All Stakeholders	Pest Advisory Groups and contact list is established and used to communicate invasive species updates.
LG, SGNRM	NWQRBP is made available to the public for submissions to be considered prior to finalisation.
LG	NWQRBP is presented and adopted by all 9 participating councils by resolution at their respective LG Meetings.
BQ, LG, NRM, Advisory Stakeholders	Forums are represented by LG and key stakeholders from the region.
NWQROC, NRM	NWQROC appointee represents the regions priorities for research investments and programs.
All stakeholders	Invasive species communication is maintained through the pest advisory groups. Monitoring data collection and shared.
LG	LG's local laws supports management of locally declared biosecurity risk.
LG	An implementation agreement is developed to support adoption of identified priorities and actions. Biosecurity instruments are developed to support compliance where required.

## v. Appendix 5 - References

- Many thanks to the following experts in their fields for compiling valuable data that was vital to the implementation of this plan.
  - The Queensland Weed and Pest Animal Strategy (QW&PAS 2019-2024)
  - S Csurhes et al (2009) Invasive animal risk assessment: Feral Horses Equus Caballus: Queensland Government Feral Horse Risk Assessment (daf.qld.gov.au)
  - Biosecurity Queensland (2020), Local Government Biosecurity Planning Support Tools – Risk Prioritisation Tool, The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Brisbane.
  - CSIRO PUBLISHING | The Rangeland Journal
  - Central West Biosecurity Plan V5 at 3 February 2015\_FinalEndorsed (rapad.com.au)
  - Carpentaria Shire Biosecurity Plan 2019
  - Cloncurry Shire Area Biosecurity Plan 2019-2023
  - Feral horse | Business Queensland
  - Flinders Shire Local Government Biosecurity Plan 2017-2021
  - McKinlay Shire Biosecurity Plan 2019
  - Mt Isa City Council Biosecurity Plan 2018
  - Namadgi National Park Feral Horse Management Plan 2020 (act.gov.au)
  - North West Queensland Diversification strategy 2019
  - Richmond Shire Area Biosecurity Plan 2020 – 2024
  - State of Queensland (2021) Regional Collaborative Framework, Enhancing Queensland's local Government Biosecurity Capacity; Biosecurity Queensland, Invasive Plants and Animals Unit.
  - DNRM (2014) Area Management Plan for the control of pest plants in the Dry Tropics Region 2014-2024; Department of natural resources and mines.

## vi. Appendix 6 - Table of Acronyms

Invasive Plants	Category
BQ	Biosecurity Queensland
GBO	General Biosecurity Obligation
GCPTF	Gulf Catchments Pest Taskforce
GNP	Good Neighbour Program
LG	Local Government
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NWQROC	North West Queensland Regional Organisation of Council
Qld	Queensland
RTAG	Regional Technical Advisory Group
SGNRM	Southern Gulf NRM
The Act	Biosecurity Act 2014
The Plan/NWQRBP	North West Queensland Regional Biosecurity Plan
WONS	Weeds of National Significance

## vii. Appendix 7 - Photo Credits

- We would like to acknowledge the talented individuals who have successfully captured the elements of North West Queensland.

Athel Pine Flowers - Forest & Kim Starr Creative	Cover
Belly Ache Bush - Nathan March DAF QLD	Cover
Feral Cat - DAF QLD	Cover
Feral Pig - DAF QLD	Cover
Gas Gun Spraying - Nathan March DAF QLD	Cover
Wild Dog - DAF QLD	Cover
Leucaena Seed Pods - DAF QLD	Cover
Coral Cactus - Robyn Young SGNRM	Cover
Prickly Acacia - Robyn Young SGNRM	Cover
Rubbervine - Robyn Young SGNRM	Cover
Flinders Flowing - Robyn Young SGNRM	4
Lantana Flowers - DAF QLD	6
Calotrope Flowers - Nathan March DAF QLD	7
Gamba Flowers & Seeds - Nathan March DAF QLD	7
Candlebush Flowers - Kenpei Creative Commons	7
Innovation Seminar - Kelsey Hosking DAF QLD	8
Fountain Springs - Isaeagle Photography	9
Gas Gun Spraying - Nathan March DAF QLD	13
Innovation Day - Kelsey Hosking DAF QLD	15
Collaboration Meeting - GCPTF	18
Field Day - SGNRM	38
Cloncurry Mustering - Riki Fulton	61
Station Gate - Robyn Young SGNRM	Rear



Shutting the gate on  
invasive species.



Each year biosecurity threats increase as we welcome more visitors, parcels and cargo to our region. It is imperative that we are all biosecurity aware to protect our unique natural resources, agriculture and industry and community and residential assets for the regions long term sustainability and growth.

Southern Gulf  
NRM



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