

Townsville City Biosecurity Plan 2025–2030



Acknowledgement of Country

Townsville City Council acknowledges the Wulgurukaba of Gurambilbarra and Yunbenun, Bindal, Gugu Badhun and Nywaigi as the Traditional Owners of this land. We pay our respects to their cultures, their ancestors and their Elders, past, present and all future generations.

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This document is true and correct at the time of publishing.

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The Townsville City Biosecurity Plan provides a foundation for a coordinated approach to managing impacts by invasive plants and animals within the Townsville Local Government Area (LGA). The plan applies a reasonable and practicable approach to supporting existing programs and advances new and cost-effective solutions that enable Townsville City Council (Council) to minimise the impacts of invasive plants and animal species on the environment, economy, human health and social amenity within the LGA.

The goals of this Biosecurity Plan are to:

- prioritise management of invasive plants and animals known and potentially present in the LGA
- set achievable objectives to manage invasive plants and animals in the LGA
- engage the community, including residents, groups, businesses, nongovernment organisations (NGO) and government agencies, within the Townsville LGA regarding priority biosecurity issues
- identify the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders and provide a mechanism to inform, support and integrate pest management activities
- provide a collaborative approach in the implementation of ongoing, coordinated and effective management of all pests
- outline processes to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the plan.

The development of the above goals is guided by the principles of effective invasive plant and animal management as identified in the Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2019 – 2024 prepared by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF). The implementation of this plan will also enable Council to meet its obligations under the Queensland *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

Endorsement

The preparation of the Townsville City Biosecurity Plan has been undertaken in consultation and collaboration with Council's Executive, elected members and key internal and external stakeholders to ensure accuracy, relevance and functionality of the content.

This plan is recommended and approved for distribution by Townsville City Council.

Joe McCabe Chief Executive Officer Townsville City Council

Date: 29/01/2025

Cr Ann-Maree Greaney Acting Mayor Townsville City Council

Date: 30/01/2025

Endorsed by Townsville City Council on: Wednesday 22 January 2025



Document Control

Amendment Register

This plan has been developed in alignment with the Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy and is valid for a period of six years (2025 – 2030).

This plan will be reviewed annually to ensure accuracy and consistency of content against relevant legislation and standards.

Version No.	Review Date	Next Review Due	Reason for Review
1.0 (Initial plan)	January 2025	January 2027	Initial plan for six-year cycle (2025 – 2030)

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
BPRP	Biosecurity Plan Review Panel
BQ	Biosecurity Queensland
BSC	Burdekin Shire Council
СМО	Construction, Maintenance & Operations
Council	Townsville City Council
CTRC	Charters Towers Regional Council
DAF	Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
DESI	Queensland Department of Environment, Science and Innovation
DoR	Queensland Department of Resources
GBO	General Biosecurity Obligation
LGA	Local Government Area
LGAQ	Local Government Association of Queensland
NGO	Non-government Organisation
NQDT	NQ Dry Tropics Ltd
NRM	Natural Resource Management
PPMP	Property Pest Management Plans
QPWS	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
ROC	Regional Organisation of Councils
TMR	Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads

1. Plan Administration

and Governance

1.1 Purpose

This plan provides a framework to enable the coordinated and consistent management of biosecurity matters involving invasive plants and animals within the Townsville LGA.

1.2 Authority to Plan

In accordance with Section 53 of the Queensland *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act), Council must develop, maintain and make publicly available its Biosecurity Plan, outlining priorities for managing invasive species.

Section 3 provides additional detail on the Queensland Biosecurity Framework and obligations relating to Council.

1.3 Functional Responsibility

In accordance with the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, Council is responsible for:

Responsibility	Description
Plan development and accessibility	This plan has been developed following review of relevant legislation, plan strategies and guides in the LGA, state and Australia. The following organisations contributed to the development of this plan:
	Agrorce Queensiand Burdokin Shiro Council (BSC)
	Burdekin Shire Council (BSC) Charters Tawars Degianal Council (CTDC)
	Charters Towers Regional Council (CTRC)
	Ergon Energy
	NQ Dry Tropics Ltd (NQDT)
	Port of Townsville
	Powerlink
	• Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF)
	 Queensland Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (DESI)
	Queensland Department of Resources (DoR)
	• Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR)
	Townsville City Council (Council).
	This plan is available to the community on Council's public website.

Responsibility	Description
Plan implementation	Council's Construction, Maintenance and Operations (CMO) Team is responsible for coordinating implementation of this plan.
	A minimum of two technical biosecurity officers with the assistance of at least one field team will be responsible for the implementation of the Biosecurity Plan and the management actions outlined in Table 3 .
	*It is important to note that Council has finite resources and must work within the limit of these resources. As such works will be prioritised based on risk.
Stakeholder consultation and community education	Important updates and best practice information will be communicated through Council's website, customer requests, events (such as Eco Fiesta) and by direct contact with residents where required to minimise serious biosecurity impacts for the benefit of the community.
Plan review	The plan duration is six years to coincide with the Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy and ensure consistency with relevant legislation, principles of pest management, state invasive species management strategies, guidelines for pest management and Townsville's community interest.
	Council will review the accuracy and measure the progress of this plan on an annual basis, with the assistance of the Biosecurity Plan Review Panel (BPRP). The BPRP will comprise a group of key stakeholders with knowledge and expertise in the management of invasive species in the Townsville LGA. The BPRP will:
	 consider (and recommend where appropriate) species for declaration under a local law
	 review annual progress reports
	 review and update pests in the management categories annually
	 where appropriate, make reasonable, practical and attainable recommendations on biosecurity matters impacting the LGA.
Monitoring and reporting	To review the effectiveness of the implementation of the Biosecurity Plan, Council will prepare an annual progress report on its implementation which will assist the panel in the annual review. Metrics in Table 3 will be used to assess the success of the biosecurity plan.

2. Community Context

2.1 Introduction

The Townsville LGA covers an area of approximately 3,736 km² within the Dry Tropics Region of North Queensland and is the largest urban centre north of Brisbane, with a major industrial and transport hub and an estimated population of 201,433. This population data is based on Australian Bureau of Statistics 2023 estimates (.id community, ND). Important land uses within the Townsville LGA include:

- urban properties (residential, commercial and industrial)
- larger peri-urban properties surrounding urban areas
- defence infrastructure (training areas, barracks)
- industries (including refineries, cattle processing, the port and other transport facilities)
- grazing (primarily beef cattle)
- intensive agriculture (including sugar cane, horticulture and intensive animal production)
- conservation (national parks, world heritage, conservation parks, state forests)
- tourism.

The introduction and dispersal of pests in the region are influenced by a variety of natural and human processes. The establishment of new invasive matter is predominantly influenced by human factors. As Townsville is a major industrial and transport hub, vehicle hygiene is particularly valid for this region. Natural dispersal processes such as wind, water and movement via birds are impossible to restrict. However, dispersal caused by human activities can be managed through the implementation of coordinated strategies at local, regional, state, national and international levels.

Invasive plants and animals can impact on:

- the economy (e.g. reduce productivity and profitability of grazing, agriculture, transport and exports)
- human / animal health (e.g. toxicity, allergens, increased risk of fire, spread of disease, public safety risk)
- environmental values (e.g. compete with native species, predation of native species, alter ecosystem function, integrity and species composition and degrade physical landscape features) and social amenity (e.g. reduced aesthetics and impeded access in recreational areas).

Some features of the Townsville LGA that affect the introduction and spread of invasive plants and animals include:

- Different bioregions are present in Townsville that support a wide variety of ecosystems by providing suitable conditions for a diverse range of invasive plants and animals.
- Five river catchments exist within the Townsville LGA (Black, Bohle, Ross, Magnetic Island and Lower Burdekin), providing many vectors for water borne movement of pest species within, into and out of the LGA.



Map 1 Water catchments in the LGA. (DESI, ND)

- As Townsville is a major industrial and transport hub, weed propagules may be introduced from overseas and other parts of the country and spread along major transport corridors. Carriers include boats, vehicles, machinery, plant and animal material, soil, and other contaminated matter in cargoes.
- Townsville contains large conservation areas, including national parks. These properties often have limited access and may require a specialised approach to managing biosecurity risks.
- The large peri-urban fringe around urban areas form a significant area of disturbed landscape that provides ideal habitat for numerous pest plants and animals. The large number of landholders can complicate coordinated management across the peri-urban landscape.
- Many weeds in the region are horticultural escapees from urban and peri-urban gardens. The large urban and peri-urban population increases the risk of horticultural escapees.

- Domestic animal escapees and roaming pets can have the same negative impacts as invasive animals and can also contribute to the growth of invasive animal populations.
- Primary production in the Townsville LGA is principally grazing, but also includes a range of agricultural crops such as mango, lychee, pineapple, sugar cane, various herbs and vegetables. The LGAs to the north, south and west of Townsville also support large areas of intensive agriculture, including sugar cane, vegetables and cattle production. Townsville can therefore assist in managing the spread of agricultural weeds across LGA boundaries.
- Townsville and surrounds offer many tourist attractions. Biosecurity measures are critical in managing the threat of associated travel spreading or introducing pest plants and animals.

Figure 1 shows the Townsville LGA and the impact zones of species Council specifically requests reports on to assist in managing specific or serious risk. For example, Gamba Grass has serious potential to threaten life and property in Townsville.

2.2 Priority National Parks

Queensland's National Parks have unending beauty, often with significant environmental and cultural features unique to each park. DESI has prioritised 50 parks in Queensland which have a number of very high to exceptional natural, cultural and/ or social values in order to prioritise resources. Magnetic Island National Park, Bowling Green Bay National Park and Townsville Common Conservation Park are the three priority parks in the Townsville LGA.

Magnetic Island National Park (Yunbenun) is one of only five island parks that have been assigned priority status in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (out of 470 Protected Area islands). Magnetic Island is part of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and over 75% of the island's 5,184 ha is protected as national and conservation parks (DESI 2023). Tourists enjoy walking Magnetic Island's mountain trails, dotted with large granite boulders and native Hoop Pines. Koalas can be seen along the Forts Walk (having been introduced in the 1930s) and the island's coastlines are known turtle nesting habitats. Wulgurukaba people, also known as 'canoe people', have a connection to both mainland Townsville and Yunbenun. A joint weedblitz between Council and Queensland Parks and Wildlife (QPWS) has been ongoing for two decades. Council commits to formalising a joint invasive species management program. Islands present an increased opportunity to implement good biosecurity practices and prevent establishment of invasive species.

Often referred to by locals as 'Alligator Creek National Park', Mount Elliot is a large feature of Bowling Green Bay National Park and land of the Bindal people. Alligator Creek flows down, extending to the mouth of the ocean. It is home to eight critically endangered species, including the Mt Elliot Nursery-Froq (Cophixalus mcdonaldi) and Mt Elliot Spiny-Crayfish (Euasticus *bindal*), along with 14 vulnerable species and the near threatened Mt Elliot Broad-tailed Gecko (Phyllurus amnicola) (DESI 2022). Serious threats to this park's biodiversity include Gamba Grass, Yellow Crazy Ants and Siam Weed.

The Townsville Town Common Conservation Park (Wambuluna as it is called by the Gurambilbarra Wulgurukaba people) is well known for its importance for migratory birds. Up to 280 bird species have been recorded in the area. Magpie geese, brolgas and many others gather here to feed and nest, particularly as the wetlands dry out and food sources become concentrated in the remaining lagoons (DESI 2023). The Town Common is popular with avid bird watchers, and has trails for hikers with differing skill levels, along with cross-country mountain biking. Common invasive species impacting the town common include feral pigs and high biomass grasses.



Figure 1 Townsville LGA and known locations of species Council is particularly interested in reports for. This will assist Council to identify currently unknown locations, and apply appropriate actions to address biosecurity threats to Townsville's society, economy and environment.

3. The Queensland

Biosecurity Framework

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* commenced in July 2016 and establishes an effective biosecurity system that aims to minimise biosecurity risks and facilitates a coordinated response to biosecurity events. The Act imposes a General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO) on persons to prevent or minimise the impact of biosecurity risks on human health, social amenity, the economy and the environment.

Council takes its GBO seriously, through the implementation of this plan and associated on-ground programs.

3.1 Invasive Species Terminology

While the Act covers a range of biosecurity matters (including contaminants, diseases, pathogens and living things other than humans), the obligations for a local government are limited to invasive biosecurity matter. This means invasive plants and animals that have, or are likely to have, an adverse impact on human health, social amenity, the economy or the environment. The Act further breaks down biosecurity matter to prohibited matter and restricted matter:

Term	Definition
Prohibited matter	Biosecurity matter not currently established in Queensland, but that would have a detrimental impact on human health, social amenity, the economy and natural environment.
	Prohibited matter is listed in Schedule 1 of the Act. It is an offence to deal with prohibited matter without a permit and if prohibited matter is found, it must be reported to Biosecurity Queensland (BQ) or local government authorised person within 24 hours.
Restricted matter	Biosecurity matter that is present in Queensland and likely to have a detrimental effect.
	Restricted matter is listed in Schedule 2 of the Act. If the matter is a Category 2, it must be reported to BQ or Council within 24 hours.

The Act identifies seven categories of restricted matter, which must be managed in specific ways. Categories relevant to invasive biosecurity matter are shown in **Table 1**.

 Table 1 Categories of Invasive Restricted Matter Under the Biosecurity Act 2014

Legislative Categories	Description
Category 1	This restricted matter must be reported to the Queensland Government
Category 2	This restricted matter must be reported to an inspector or local government authorised person within 24 hours of becoming aware of its presence.
Category 3	This restricted matter must not be distributed or disposed of. This means it must not be given as a gift, sold, traded or released into the environment, unless the distribution or disposal is authorised in a regulation or under a permit.
Category 4	This restricted matter must not be moved, or caused or allowed to be moved, to ensure that it is not spread into other areas of the state.
Category 5	This restricted matter must not be possessed or kept under your control, unless authorised under a permit of the Act or another Act. These pests have a high risk of negatively impacting on the environment.
Category 6	This category of restricted matter must not be fed, except for the purpose of preparing for or undertaking a control program.
Category 7	Must be destroyed as soon as practicable and must dispose of the restricted matter in the way prescribed under a regulation.

Under the Act, a local government can declare a pest species using a local law under the *Local Government Act 2009* to manage invasive animals and plants species that are not declared under the Act.



3.2 The General Biosecurity Obligation

All Queenslanders have a GBO under the Act. This means that everyone is responsible for minimising biosecurity risks that they deal with and have knowledge of. Being present, including entering or leaving a place, also applies to a person's dealing with invasive biosecurity matter.

Under the GBO, individuals and organisations whose activities, or a lack of activity, pose a biosecurity risk must:

- take all reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimise each biosecurity risk
- minimise the likelihood of causing a 'biosecurity event' and limit the consequences if such an event is caused
- prevent or minimise the harmful effects a risk could have, and not do anything that might make any harmful effects worse.

Table 2 explains what this means in more detail andprovides a range of examples in a local context.

Section 6 outlines BQ and Council's expectations on the community for playing an active role in minimising biosecurity risks within the Townsville LGA.



Table 2 General Biosecurity Obligations (GBO)

S23 General Biosecurity Obligation

(1) This section applies to a person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier, or carries out an activity, if the person knows or ought reasonably to know that the biosecurity matter, carrier, or activity poses or is likely to pose a biosecurity risk.

(2) The person has an obligation a GBO to take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise the biosecurity risk.

 (3) Also, the person has an obligation also a GBO (a) to prevent or minimise adverse effects on a biosecurity consideration of the person's dealing with the biosecurity matter or carrier or carrying out the activity; and

(b) to minimise the likelihood of causing a biosecurity event, or to limit the consequences of a biosecurity event caused, by dealing with the biosecurity matter or carrier or carrying out the activity; and

(c) not to do or omit to do something if the person knows or ought reasonably to know that doing or omitting to do the thing may exacerbate the adverse effects, or potential adverse effects, of the biosecurity matter, carrier or activity on a biosecurity consideration

(4) For subsection (1), carrying out an activity includes entering, being present at or leaving a place where biosecurity matter or a carrier is present.

Examples

Example 1. Nurseries, aquariums, marketplace and other backyard sellers are expected to know the species they are selling are not declared, restricted nor prohibited invasive species. Weed information is readily available on the <u>Business Queensland</u> website.

Example 2. Whilst quarries are not expected to know specific weeds, it is assumed their knowledge covers vehicle hygiene and keeping vegetation off active worksites, including entry and exit points will assist in limiting the spread of invasive species and will have and follow an environmental management plan.

Example 1. It is reasonable to expect off road enthusiasts to start their adventure with a clean vehicle and wash down at the earliest convenience after the trip.

Example 2. A rural or peri-urban resident sells manure for a little extra cash. The seller has an obligation to minimise the spread of weed seed that may be in the manure. One way to do this is to cover the manure with black plastic for sufficient time to sterilise any weed seed in the manure prior to selling. Additionally, the seller can communicate the main weeds in the paddocks where the horses feed to potential buyers. Conversely, buyers also have an obligation and could ask what weed seed may be present in the manure. This allows the buyer to decide if the weed is already present and unlikely to cause a (biosecurity) risk, or whether new weeds could be introduced to their garden, thereby potentially affecting neighbouring properties, farms, or the environment. This example can be extended to pot plants with potential Yellow Crazy Ants.

Example 1. A dentist enjoys living on a lifestyle property (1 ha) surrounded by other lifestyle properties and a farm. His neighbour is a farmer with 230ha of grazing land. The lifestyle property owner has an obligation to consider how species on their property may impact the farmers income from their cattle. The dentist doesn't have much knowledge on weeds, so could ask the neighbouring farm what actions or inaction is negatively impacting the farms productivity and seek best practice advice from the Business Queensland website, Council or BQ.

Conversely, the lifestyle property owner's lawn is rooted up by feral pigs, however is unable to safely control them on the small property due to the size and layout of the land. During the day, the pigs reside in bushland on the neighbouring farmland. The farmer has an obligation to consider how the pigs are impacting their neighbour's social amenity.

Example 1. A Transportation company moves goods all over - ranging from citywide to the world. To ensure they meet their GBO, they implement their company's biosecurity/environmental plan, undertaking measures such as periodic inspections of goods, trucks/vessels, and the facility to ensure invasive species are not being introduced or spread.

Example 1. A machinery operator is contracted to undertake work on several development sites. The operator is inducted in the company's policies and procedures, so is aware of the washdown requirements when working between sites. After operating in Stuart, they are sent to Magnetic Island to operate the same machine. To ensure compliance with company protocols and both the company and the machinery operators GBO, the machine is washed down prior to arrival at the Stuart site and again before travelling to Magnetic Island.

Example 2. A local farmer knows that Gamba Grass is a restricted weed in Qld owing to the significant risk to human safety through fire and its ability to change entire ecosystems. Despite this, the farmer decides to grow the weed as they believe it provides good fodder for their cattle. By deliberately growing this, the farmer is not meeting their GBO.

Example 1. A contractor is hired to assist on a property and is cautioned that part of this property (outside of the work zone) has been colonised by Yellow Crazy Ants. To access the work site, the contractor needs to drive through the infestation. The contractor is instructed to drive through the infestation and park machinery outside of the infested area as equipment sitting for longer than 24 hours increases the likelihood an ant queen will form a colony in the machine. It's a Friday afternoon and the contractor wanted to finish work for the week, so instead of complying with instructions given to him by the landowner, they unhooked the trailer a short way into the property - within the infestation. The contractor is in breach of their GBO.

4. Strategic Priorities

4.1 Council Priority Actions

The Townsville Corporate Plan 2021 – 2026 promotes a well-educated community that participates in the protection and promotion of our dry tropics and reef coast. **Table 3** gives a breakdown of Council's five strategic biosecurity priorities.

Townsville City Council's strategic biosecurity priorities to meet its Corporate Plan

1. Education and Awareness

The community (including local businesses and government) is informed, knowledgeable and have ownership of invasive plant and animal management

- **2. Commitment, Roles and Responsibilities** The community is committed to and enabled to participate in the coordinated management of invasive plants and animals
- **3. Monitoring and Assessment** Reliable information is available as a basis for good decision making
- **4. Prevention and Early Intervention** Prevent the introduction, establishment and spread of invasive plants and animals
- **5. Integrated Management Systems** Integrated systems for managing the impacts of established invasive plants and animals are developed and implemented

Table 3 This table provides an outline of the priority management actions Council will take to manage biosecurity risk across the LGA.

Council's Commitment to Achieve Strategic Biosecurity Priorities

- **1. Education and Awareness:** The community (including local businesses and government) is informed, knowledgeable and have ownership of invasive plant and animal management.
- 1.1 Review and update the information on the public website annually. *Council's public website is a credible source of information on biosecurity issues.*
- 1.2 Produce a public focused awareness campaign on how actions impact the environment, economy, human health or social amenity and everyone's GBO in 2026 and 2028. *Informing the community encourages positive biosecurity action.*
- 1.3 Continue to provide best practice information in response to all relevant customer information requests.
 Demand for biosecurity is increasing, with an annual rise of 9.85% in requests during 2024. Council

Demand for biosecurity is increasing, with an annual rise of 9.85% in requests during 2024. Council officers addressed 435 customer requests over the calendar year.

1.4 At least four community events held annually for biosecurity awareness and best practice management.

Community events provide a great opportunity for residents to seek plant identification or advice from Council's experienced Biosecurity team.

1.5 Maintain an educational use restricted matter permit through BQ. Live pest plants give people a better example of what the species looks like than referring to photos of pest plants.

2. Commitment, Roles and Responsibilities: The community is committed to and enabled to participate in the coordinated management of invasive plants and animals.

- 2.1 Continue to enable residents with 2ha or greater to manage their biosecurity risks by promoting the Property Pest Management Subsidy Scheme. This scheme is a great tool to aid land managers to create property pest management plans for their properties, whilst also incentivising associated pest management actions. Users of the scheme also have access to a weed spray trailer and pig traps. Information on this scheme can be found in Appendix 4.
- 2.2 Continue to highlight operational resources required for implementing the plan annually and seek funding to manage serious biosecurity risks where funding opportunities arise. Biosecurity works completed by the Council's Environmental Restoration team are reported at senior meetings monthly. Opportunities to fund management of biosecurity risks will continue to be sought (internal and external), this includes working with other stakeholders where funded programs require coordination.
- 2.3 Review local laws and investigate the need for additional regulation of any invasive species (e.g. local declaration of species, restrictions on certain species) biennially.
 Any potential declaration will be considered for its merits, purpose and ability to achieve the desired outcome.
- 2.4 Participate in at least three Regional Pest Management Group meetings annually. *Council is formally committed to provide active leadership in the implementation of the goals and objectives of the Burdekin Dry Tropics NRM Regional Pest Management Strategic Approach 2020-2025. Council further recognises and acknowledges the group's vision "Through cooperative partnerships, enhance and protect the natural, economic, cultural and social value of the Burdekin Dry Tropics NRM Region".*
- 2.5 Organise biannual Internal Pest Operations Group meetings. Biosecurity Officers invite relevant officers from water, waste, maintenance, and environment departments to maintain open communication of biosecurity matters across Council.

3. Monitoring and Assessment: Reliable information is available as a basis for good decision making.

- 3.1 Two compliance inspections or upskilling activities undertaken annually. Reported breaches of the Act are investigated and seller compliance inspections are undertaken to regulate the spread of invasive plants and animals. Sellers can find species that are not legal to sell on the Business Queensland website.
- 3.2 Review and evaluate the implementation of the Biosecurity Plan and report progress annually. Council's biosecurity staff will report on the progress of this plan's actions annually to the Biosecurity Plan Review Panel. The panel will consist of a panel of regional stakeholders, which will review and evaluate the report and where applicable suggest changes/amendments to the plan to ensure the intent of the plan is met or to address new and emerging biosecurity issues.
- 3.3 Monitor known *Limnocharis* sites monthly. Yellow Burr Head is part of a National Tropical Weeds Eradication Program, managed by BQ. Council assists by monitoring known sights and controlling where appropriate.
- 3.4 Monitor the known Grey Hair Acacia site biennially. Council controlled the only known Townsville infestation (in Stuart) and continue to monitor the Prohibited Matter.
- 3.5 Roll out internal invasive species mapping app to internal field crew and officers by March 2025. In-field mapping for internal crews will allow invasive species locations and control actions to be recorded and mapped, which will assist with the planning and evaluation of future pest management programs.

Table 3 This table provides an outline of the priority management actions Council will take to manage biosecurity risk across the LGA.

Council's Commitment to Achieve Strategic Biosecurity Priorities

- **4. Prevention and Early Intervention:** Prevent the introduction, establishment and spread of invasive plants and animals.
- 4.1 New pest species to the area are categorised within three months of identification and reasonable and appropriate practical management actions taken.

Early detection of pest species is critical in preventing the establishment of invasive species. The appropriate action/s vary greatly, depending on the ecology of the species, the vectors of spread and how long the species has gone undetected.

4.2 Invasive Plants and Animals Surveillance and Control Programs for the Townsville LGA established by March 2025.

These biosecurity programs authorise Council to access properties and allows for management of priority species on a landscape scale where coordinated efforts are required to meet the goal. Once established, the program details will be available on the public website.

- 4.3 Draft a Vehicle Hygiene procedure for Council and its contractors by 2026. *Cleaning down of vehicles and machinery reduces the risk of spreading invasive plants and soil borne pests and diseases.*
- 4.4 Monitor known Gamba Grass annually, and control where appropriate. Townsville's climate is highly suitable for Gamba Grass, a high biomass grass which has the potential to significantly increase bushfire intensity on a landscape scale. Please refer to Council's public website for further information.
- **5. Integrated Management Systems:** Integrated systems for managing the impacts of established invasive plants and animals are developed and implemented.
- 5.1 Create a Gamba management strategy by December 2026.
 Townsville City Council looks to create a longer-term strategy to protect life and property from the intense bushfires this invasive plant promotes.
- 5.2 Draft a compliance strategy by December 2026. Council seeks to work with the community, however enforcement of individuals is sometimes necessary in managing biosecurity risks for the environment, economy, and larger community.
- 5.3 Undertake biannual invasive animal control programs.

Feral animals are targeted in two programs a year by Council, focusing on reducing impacts to the community. All residents are expected to mitigate at least some risk themselves.

Residents in urban areas at minimum can provide protection to pets through adequate fencing. Periurban and rural residents have the ability to create property pest management plan, incorporating a variety of control techniques they can implement themselves or in conjunction with their neighbours.

5.4 Formalise a joint Council / QPWS invasive species management program for Magnetic Island by December 2026.

The ability to limit introduction of invasive plants and animals is greater for islands owing to the restricted pathways species can take to invade. The program will focus on reducing risks associated with these pathways and limiting the spread of existing species into the national park.

5.5 Investigate suitable locations and funding sources for public vehicle washdown facilities by 2027. *Vehicle hygiene is important in reducing the spread of weed seed. Townsville's multiple industries increase the complexity of how and where invasive species can be spread. This means that public washdowns alone are not satisfactory in reducing the risk of spread. Council recommends working farms and industry implement and maintain a washdown area on their property as part of biosecurity practices.*

4.2 Requirements for Managing Listed Biosecurity Matters

The Act includes provisions to undertake actions in each LGA to manage invasive species. The determination of the most suitable management actions for invasive species listed in the plan is based on a methodology that considers the size and distribution of an infestation (among other factors). This can be represented on an invasion curve.



Figure 2 Generalised invasion curve showing appropriate management actions (created from ISC 2022)

Dependent on its distribution and density at a location, and the potential impact of the species, the most suitable management action can be selected. The proposed management actions are shown in **Table 4**. As can be seen in the invasion curve in **Figure 2**, the most cost-effective option is to prevent weeds from establishing in the first place, followed by eradication when populations are still small.

Table 4 Management A	naroachos with Associatos	Actions and Targets
Table 4 Management A	pproaches with Associated	Actions and largets

Management Approach	Key Actions	Target
Prevention	Effective weed hygiene. Targeted and opportunistic monitoring. Early action on new detections to prevent establishment.	No incursions establish within the LGA.
Eradication	Targeted control program timed to prevent all reproduction of the invasive plant and animal species and remove existing individuals.	No adults present in LGA. No new recruitment in LGA (i.e. species can be moved to prevention category).
Spread Reduction	Strategic control to systematically maintain or reduce the scale of infestations.	Infestations maintained, or reduced to a scale that can be eradicated, or to slow the speed of spread.
Asset Protection	Control to maintain and protect assets from serious threat.	Key assets protected from serious threat.

4.3 Prioritisation of Species

To ensure species that pose the greatest risk across Townsville are feasibly managed, the biosecurity framework allows the application of a risk-based methodology that considers current and inherent risks to identify priorities for management.

Invasive plants and animals were prioritised using a scoring system aligned with BQ's risk prioritisation framework for LGAs. Each species was scored using six attributes to calculate the risk level (economic impact, social impact, human health impact, environmental impact, invasiveness, and potential distribution). Those with very high and high risk levels were then assessed for feasibility, factoring in the current distribution, cost of control and the effectiveness of control. Categorisation of management strategies were a result of the risk and feasibility factors after a panel discussed realistic management objectives.

The tables below identify the management category for each species. Any species that is not listed, falls in the asset protection category.

	Common	Scientific	Legal
	Amazonian Frogbit	Limnobium laevigatum	Not Listed
	Brillantasia	Brillantasia lamium	Not Listed
	Cha Om	Senegalia insuavis	Prohibit
	Giant Sensitive Plant	Mimosa pigra	RM 2,3,4,5
	Glush weed	Hygrophila costata	RM 3
	Groundsel Bush	Baccharis halimifolia	RM 3
	Hairy Croton	Croton hirtus	Not Listed
	Harungana	Harungana madagascariensis	RM 3
ion	Hiptage	Hiptage bengalhensis	Not Listed
/ent	Kosters Curse	Clidemia hirta	RM 2,3,4,5
rev	Kudzu	Pueraria montana var. lobata	RM 3
	Mexican Bean Tree	Cecropia spp.	RM 2,3,4,5
	Miconia	Miconia calvescens, M. nervosa, M. racemose	RM 2,3,4,5
	Mikania Vine	Mikania micrantha	RM 2,3,4,5
	Opuntoid Cacti (Prohibited)		Prohibit
	Parramatta Grass	Sorobolus africanus & S.fertilis	RM 3
	Water Mimosa	Neptunia oleracea	RM 2,3,4,5
	Common	Scientific	Legal
	Athel Pine	Tamarix aphylla	RM 3
c	Chinese Lantern / Sickle Bush	Dichrostachys cinerea	Not Listed
atio	Delta Arrowhead	Sagittaria platyphylla	RM 3
dică	Grey-Haired Acacia	Vachellia gerrardii syn. Acacia gerrardii	Prohibit
Era	Pond Apple	Annona glabra	RM3
	Rubber Bushes	Calotropis ginantea and C.procera	Not Listed
	White Ball Acacia	Acaciella angustissima	Prohibit
	Yellow Burr-Head	Limnocharis flava	RM 2,3,4,5

Table 5.1 Management Category of Pest Plants

Table 5.1 Management Category of Pest Plants

	Common	Scientific	Legal
	Bellyache Bush	Jatropha gossypiifolia	RM 3
	Blue Trumpet Vine	Thunbergia grandiflora & T. laurifolia	RM 3
	Cats Claw Creeper	Dolichandra (Macfadyena) unguis-cati	RM 3
	*Gamba Grass	Andropogon gayanus	RM 3
a keau	Giant Rats Tail Grasses	Sporobolis natalensis & S.pyramidalis	RM 3
	Leucaena Cultivar	Leucaena sp.	Not Listed
lrea	Mexican Poppy	Argemone ochroleuca	Not Listed
2	Ornamental Rubber Vine	Cryptostegia madagascariensis	RM 3
	Porcupine Flower	Barleria prionitis & B.cristata	RM 3
	Prickly Acacia	Vachellia nilotica	RM 3
	Water Poppy	Hydrocleys nymphoides	Not Listed

Common	Scientific	Legal
African Tulip	Spathodea campanulata	RM 3
Asparagus Ferns	Asparagus spp.	RM 3
Bauhinia other than native species	Bauhinia spp.	Not Listed
Billy Goat Weed	Ageratum conyzoides	Not Listed
Brazilian Pepper Tree	Schinus terebinthifolia	RM 3
Buddha Pea / Joint Vetch	Aeschynomene indica L.	Not Listed
Buffel Grass	Cenchrus ciliaris	Not Listed
Butterfly Pea	Clitoria ternatea	Not Listed
Cabomba / Fanwort	Cabomba caroliana	RM 3
*Captain Cook / Yellow Oleander	Cascabela thevetia	RM 3
Castor Oil	Riccinus communis	Not Listed
Centro	Centrosema pubescens	Not Listed
*Chinee Apple	Ziziphus mauritiana	RM 3
Chinese Violet	Asystasia gangetica	RM 3
*Cockscomb	Celosia argentea	Not Listed
Coral Vine	Antigonon leptopus	Not Listed
Elephant Ear Vine	Argyreia nervosa	Not Listed
Elephant Grass	Pennisetum purpureum	Not Listed
Grader Grass	Themida quadrivalvis	Not Listed
Grewia / Phasa	Grewia asiatica	Not Listed
Guinea Grass	Megathyrsus maximus	Not Listed
*Hophead Barleria	Barleria lupulina	RM 3
Hymenachne	Hymenachne amplexicaulis	RM 3
Indian Siris	Albizia lebbeck	Not Listed
Ivy gourd	Coccinia grandis	Not Listed
Joy Weeds	Alternanthera spp.	Not Listed

Table 5.1 Management Category of Pest Plants

	Common	Scientific	Legal
	Kyasuma Grass	Pennisetum pedicellatum subsp. Unispiculum	Not Listed
	Lantana	Lantana camara	RM 3
	*Leucaena	Leucaena leucocephala	RM 3
	*Mimosa Bush	Acacia farnesiana, syn. Vachellia farnesiana	Not Listed
	Mossman River Grass	Cenchrus echinatus	Not Listed
	Mother in laws Tongue	Dracaena trifasciata	Not Listed
	Mother of Millions	Bryophyllum spp.	RM 3
	Navua Sedge	Cyperus aromaticus	RM 3
	Neem	Azadirachta indica	Not Listed
	Parkinsonia	Parkinsonia aculeata	RM 3
ion	Parthenium	Parthenium hysterophorus	RM 3
ect	Periwinkle	Catharanthus roseus	Not Listed
Prot	Praxalis	Praxelis clidemia	RM 3
set	Prickly Pears (restricted)	Restricted Opuntoid Cacti	RM 3
Ass	Rattlepods	Crotalaria spp.	Not Listed
	*Rubber vine	Cryptostegia grandiflora	RM 3
	Salvinea	Salvinea molesta	RM 3
	Siam weed	Chromolaena odorata	RM 3
	Sicklepod	Senna obtusifolia	RM 3
	Singapore Daisy	Sphagneticola trilobata	RM 3
	Sisal Hemp	Agave vivipara	Not Listed
	Thatch Grass	Hyparrhenia rufa	Not Listed
	Water Hyacinth	Eichhornia crassipes	RM 3
	Water Lettuce	Pistia stratiotes	RM 3
	Wynn cassia	Chamaecrista rotundifolia	Not Listed
	*Yellow Bells	Tecoma stans	RM 3

Please see **Appendix 2** for details on exceptions and special consideration.

Table 5.2 Management Category of Pest Animals

	Common	Scientific	Legal
	Camel	Camelus spp.	Not Listed
tion	Electric Ants	Wasmannia auropunctata	RM 1
/eni	Fire Ants	Solenopsis spp.	RM 1
Pre	Ferret	Mustela putorius furo	Prohibited
	Goat (other than domestic)	Capra spp.	RM3,4,6
	Red Eared Slider Turtle	Trachemys scripta elegans	RM2,3,4,5,6

Ę	Common	Scientific	Legal
ead	Chital Deer	Axis axis	RM 3,4,6
Spre	Rusa Deer	Rusa timorensis	RM 3,4,6
Å	Yellow Crazy Ants	Anoplolepis gracilipes	RM 3

	Common	Scientific	Legal
	Cat (Other than domestic)	Felis catus	RM 3,4,6
uo	Dog (other than domestic dog)	Canis spp.	RM 3,4,5,6
ecti	European Fox	Vulpes vulpes crucigera	RM 3,4,5,6
rote	European Rabbit	Oryctolagus cuniculus	RM 3,4,5,6
et P	Feral Horse	Equus caballus	Not Listed
Ass	Feral Pig	Sus scrofa	RM 3,4,6
	*Indian Myna Bird	Acridotheres tristis	Not Listed
	Pea Fowl	Pavo cristatus	Not Listed
	Tilapia	Oreochromis niloticus	Restrict Noxious

*Indicates exceptions, which is detailed in Table 5.3

Table 5.3 Table of exceptions. Different categorisation of these species is due to infestations in parts of the LGA being considered achievable.

Name	Location	Category
Chinee Apple	Magnetic Island only	Eradication
Gamba Grass	Castle Hill only	Eradication
Hophead Barleria	Magnetic Island only	Eradication
Indian Myna	Magnetic Island only	Eradication
Captain Cook / Yellow Oleander	Magnetic Island only	Spread Reduction
Cockscomb	Magnetic Island only	Spread Reduction
Leucaena	Magnetic Island only	Spread Reduction
Mimosa Bush	Magnetic Island only	Spread Reduction
Rubber Vine	Magnetic Island only	Spread Reduction
Yellow Bells	Magnetic Island only	Spread Reduction

4.4 Stakeholder Roles and Responsibilities

Table 6 identifies the relevant stakeholders and their roles and responsibilities for

 monitoring and managing invasive plants and animals in the Townsville LGA and region.

Table 6 Biosecurity Plan Stakehold	ers
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Area	Stakeholder and Role
Federal Government	The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources coordinates the management of biosecurity and quarantine systems across Australia. It directs national responses to outbreaks of new pest species using the Biosecurity Incident Management System. It develops and coordinates emergency response plans, including guidelines, templates and standard operating procedures.
	The Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (1989) was developed to address biosecurity risks in this region. The strategy includes regular surveys and the development of target lists of weeds, insect pests and diseases that pose the highest risk of entry, establishment and impact on Australian agriculture and the environment.
	The Department of Defence manages large properties within and adjacent to the Townsville LGA, including Townsville Field Training Area, RAAF Townsville, Bohle Transmitter Station, Mt Louisa TACAN and Many Peaks NAVAID, Mt Stuart Training Area and Lavarack Barracks. Defence has developed strategies and plans that coordinate pest management on these properties and when travelling between sites.
State Government	BQ is an agency within the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries that coordinates efforts to prevent, respond to, and recover from pests and diseases that threaten Queensland's economy and environment. It works closely with local governments, communities and other stakeholders to minimise impacts of weeds and pest animals.
	Numerous other agencies within Townsville are involved in the management of land or infrastructure in the LGA, including: • Department of Agriculture and Fisheries • Department of Resources • Department of Transport and Main Roads • Department of Environment and Science and Innovation • Queensland Rail • Ergon • Powerlink • Port of Townsville
	State agencies operating within Townsville LGA are reasonably expected to have knowledge on biosecurity risks that affect people, economy and the environment. Reasonable and practical measures must be taken to reduce risks of invasive biosecurity matter in their activities or on their land.
Local Government	Local governments are required to develop, adopt and implement Biosecurity Plans and manage invasive species within their LGA.
	Local government authorities in and adjoining the Townsville LGA, including:
	Townsville City Council
	Burdekin Shire Council
	Hinchinbrook Shire Council
	Charters Towers Regional Council
	 Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council

Table 6 Biosecurity Plan Stakeholders

Area	Stakeholder and Role
Biosecurity Plan Review Panel	The BPRP will be established by Council and will comprise a group of key stakeholders with knowledge and expertise in the management of pests in the Townsville LGA. The BPRP will assist in the implementation and review of the Biosecurity Plan.
Industry	Businesses operating within Townsville LGA are reasonably expected to have knowledge on biosecurity risks that affect people, the economy and the environment. Reasonable and practical measures must be taken to reduce risks of invasive biosecurity matter under their control.
Regional Organisations	Numerous regional organisations are involved in natural resource management (including pest management) within Queensland.
	NQDT is a non-government natural resource management (NRM) body operating in the Burdekin Dry Tropics region, which includes the Townsville LGA. NQDT has developed the Burdekin Dry Tropics Regional Pest Management Strategic Approach 2020-2025, which aims to reduce the impacts of pest species in the region through cooperative partnerships. NQDT has also produced "Weed Free", a useful identification guide for common weeds in the region. Both documents are available from www.nqdrytropics.com.au.
	Terrain NRM is the equivalent body within the Wet Tropics region, which lies just north of Townsville.
	The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) is the peak body for local government in Queensland. It is a not-for-profit association that assists local councils in their dealings with state and federal government, business and the community. The LGAQ supports Regional Organisations of Councils (ROCs), including the North Queensland ROC.
Local Community Groups	Numerous community groups undertake natural resource management activities within the LGA.
Private Landholders and Occupiers	Members of the local community who own and occupy land in the Townsville LGA, including urban, peri-urban and rural areas. Reasonable and practical measures must be taken to reduce risks of invasive biosecurity matter in their activities or on their land. Having a property pest management plan in place helps to prioritise pests and is one way to show commitment to the general biosecurity obligation.

5. Invasive Species

Management

It is not feasible for all invasive plants and animal species to be eradicated within the LGA, which is why a prioritisation approach has been identified. It is critical that invasive species are managed with an integrated approach involving all parties, not only Council. The sections below identify the management actions and expectations for the invasive species within each management category. Management strategies for species are listed in **Tables 4 and 5** (including 5.1 and 5.2) and more detail can be found in **Appendix 2**.

In addition, it needs to be recognised that plants which have agricultural or aesthetic benefits when well managed can represent a significant weed issue in the natural landscape when they escape from agricultural or garden environments. Growers are responsible for preventing the escape (in the natural environment) of these species that are under their control.

5.1 Prevention Management Category

Species that are not currently known to be present in the Townsville LGA, but could cause significant impacts if introduced, are in the prevention management category. Human aided movement is the largest factor in pest introduction, which is reflected in the management actions and expectations outlined in **Appendix 2**. Preventing an invasive species from establishing in the first place is the most economical long-term solution to managing invasive species.

5.2 Eradication Management Category

Species in the eradication category are species where eradication is considered possible in the LGA. These species are a priority for management by Council. Conditions, whether environmental, economic or social, are constantly changing, which makes eradication of species challenging and sometimes unattainable. Management actions of these species need to fluidly adjust to conditions as they arise or are predicted and require commitment from all stakeholders to succeed. Details on the proposed management of these species are provided in Appendix 2.



5.3 Spread Reduction Management Category

Species are likely to either have pockets of infestations within the LGA, or established across Townsville but not the neighbouring LGAs. While their eradication is not feasible, these species have significant impacts on our community and are priorities for reducing the population and/or attempting to prevent further spread of the species. Key actions for these species will be prioritised on the risks posed to the broader community, the local economy and high value natural assets. Key actions and expectations for species in this category are in Appendix 2.

5.4 Asset Protection Management Category

Asset protection categorised species are well established in Townsville region with widespread and abundant distribution or have not been identified as a species that poses a significant threat. The management of these species will be focused on human safety and asset protection, including maintenance of infrastructure, public areas (parks, roads, etc) drinking water supplies, active farms and environmental assets. Further detail on actions and levels of expectations can be found in **Appendix 2**.

6. UnderstandingExpectations on theCommunity forMinimising Biosecurity

Under the Act, all Queenslanders have a GBO, meaning that everyone is responsible for minimising biosecurity risks that they deal with and have knowledge of. Being present, including entering or leaving a place, also applies to a person's dealing with invasive biosecurity matter.

The community has a responsibility to actively contribute to biosecurity management by minimising biosecurity risks within the Townsville LGA, where possible.

6.1 What Biosecurity Risks are the Community Expected to Know About?

All members of the community are responsible for managing biosecurity risks that they know about or could reasonably be expected to know about. They are not expected to know about all biosecurity risks; however, they are expected to know about risks associated with their day-to-day activities and hobbies. Members of the community are also considered to know about a risk (biosecurity matter) if they have received information about a biosecurity matter.

References to useful online information sources can be found in **Appendix 1** and examples in **Table 2**.

Risks

6.2 What Are Reasonable and Practicable Steps for Minimising Biosecurity Risks?

The steps that are considered 'reasonable and practicable' will vary depending on the situation and the risks involved. Key factors include:

- the likelihood of the risk occurring (i.e. more action for a higher likelihood)
- how serious the adverse impact could be (e.g. human deaths or extensive productivity loss)
- what a community member knows, or should reasonably be expected to know about the risk (e.g. how dangerous it is and how it is spread)
- what methods are available to minimise the risk (e.g. equipment and work practices), the more readily available a method is, the greater the expectation that action will be taken to minimise the risk
- feasibility and expense (e.g. if the cost and practicality are proportionate to the risk).

6.3 What Does This Mean for the Community?

The Act details a risk-based system that considers the likelihood and consequences of biosecurity risks. In practical terms, this means that a person or organisation must:

- understand the biosecurity risks associated with their activities
- take all reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimise these biosecurity risks.

Refer to **Table 2** for additional detail and examples relating to GBO.

6.4 How Will Council Increase Awareness within the Community?

Understanding what methods are available and the best timing in relation to the pest's ecology is important to be able to best manage pest plants and animals. BQ undertakes research to determine the most effective control measures, and have this best practice information publicly available on the Business Queensland website

Promoting this best practice information at community events like Eco Fiesta and market stalls is one approach Council takes to raise biosecurity awareness within the community. Biannual reviews and updates of the Council website is another, to ensure details are current.

Council's Biosecurity team provides technical, property specific advice on pest plant and animals to residents with properties over 2ha, through the Property Pest Management Subsidy Scheme.

Residents with properties under 2ha can contact Council for pest plant and animal advice if the website does not have the information. BQ is also available to provide best practice management advice.

In instances where serious biosecurity impacts are being felt, or are likely to impact Townsville's society, economy, and environment, direct contact with affected stakeholders may be made for the benefit of the community.

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Appendix 1 – Relevant Legislation and Planning Instruments

Australia	
Australian Weed Strategy 2017–2027 Australian Pest Animal	These strategies provide guides for the consistent management of invasive plants and animals across the country. Stages of management identified in these strategies include but are not limited to:
Strategy 2017–2027	 prevention of species not yet established in Australia
	 eradication of a newly arrived species at either a local, regional, state or national scale
	 containment of a species that cannot be completely eradicated to reduce or limit its spread into at-risk areas
	 asset protection, which may be applied to manage threats of species that have spread too far to be eradicated or contained, with the aim of strategically minimising economic, environmental and social impacts.
Invasive animals in Australia	The Australian government lists nine feral animal species that are recognised as threats to native animals and plants.
Threat Abatement Plans	These plans aim to reduce the impact of listed threatening processes on native species and ecological communities. Plans have been developed for threatening invasive plants and animals including rabbits, foxes, feral cats, feral pigs, cane toads and specific grasses.
National Four Tropical Weeds Eradication Program	This program targets five weed species that have been introduced into North Queensland (<i>Limnocharis flava ,Miconia calvescens, M. nervosa, M. racemosa and Mikania micrantha</i>).
Commonwealth agency plans	Defence has developed strategies and plans that coordinate pest management on Defence properties within and adjacent to the Townsville LGA.
	The Commonwealth has also developed the Australian Emergency Plant Pest Response Plan that provides nationally consistent guidelines to manage response procedures for Emergency Plant Pests affecting Australia's agricultural industries.
Queensland	
Biosecurity Act 2014	This Act establishes an effective biosecurity system that minimises biosecurity risks and facilitates a coordinated response to biosecurity events across Queensland.
Queensland Biosecurity Strategy 2018–2023	The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has developed this strategy in collaboration with over 30 partner organisations. It aims to promote effective management of Queensland's biosecurity risks, including invasive plants and animals and diseases, through collaborative partnerships between government, industry and communities.
State Agency Pest Management Plans	A number of state agencies (e.g. Ergon, Department of Transport and Main Roads, Department of Environment Science and Innovation) have plans and strategies in place to manage invasive plants and animals within lands under their control.



Local	
Townsville City Biosecurity Plan 2020– 2024	Pest management in the Townsville LGA was guided by the previous Biosecurity Plan. The new plan will supersede this plan when adopted by Council.
Neighbouring PMPs / BPs	Neighbouring plans include: • Burdekin Shire Council Biosecurity Plan 2020 – 2025 • Charters Towers Regional Council Biosecurity Plan 2019 – 2024 • Hinchinbrook Local Government Area Biosecurity Plan 2023 – 2024
Townsville City Council Land Protection Strategy	This document was prepared following the amalgamation of the Townsville and Thuringowa LGAs to assess existing pest management capabilities and recommend strategies to enhance future management.
Townsville LGA Wild Dog Management Plan	This plan is aligned with this Biosecurity Plan and will continue to provide a framework for coordinated control of wild dogs in the Townsville LGA.
Townsville LGA pest management programs	 Examples include: Gamba grass management program Ross River aquatic weed removal Common Myna control on Magnetic Island Sagittaria management in Ross River Biannual invasive animal control program
Property	
Property Pest Management Plans	Council assists landholders to develop Property Pest Management Plans (PPMPs) for the strategic management of invasive plants and animals on their property. It also qualifies landholders for assistance through the Pest Management Subsidy Scheme.
Natural Assets Management Plan – James Cook University Townsville Campus	This plan aims to protect natural assets on the 380 ha James Cook University Townsville campus grounds, including sections on weed and pest animal management.
Protected area management plans	The Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing has developed management plans to maintain the natural and cultural values of protected areas within the Townsville LGA.
Species Management	
Management guides for specific pest species	 Examples include: Technical report and future management options for Delta arrowhead (<i>Sagittaria platyphylla</i>) in the Burdekin dry tropics NRM region Grader Grass (<i>Themeda quadrivalvis</i>) management guide Bellyache bush (<i>Jatropha gossypiifolia</i>) management manual Weed Management Plan for Neem (<i>Azadirachta indica</i>) Commonwealth Threat Abatement Plans



Additional online information sources include:

- Biosecurity matters in Queensland including weeds and pest animals <u>https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/biosecurity</u>
- Weeds of Australia fact sheets
 <u>http://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/media/Html/index.htm#A</u>
- Australian invasive species
 <u>www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive-species</u>
- Interactive maps of weed distribution in Queensland <u>https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/invasive-plants-animals/pest-mapping/</u> <u>distribution-maps</u>
- Interactive identification key for weeds of Australia <u>www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/land-management/health-</u> <u>pests-weeds-diseases/weeds-diseases/identification</u>
- Water basin maps
 <u>https://wetlandinfo.des.qld.gov.au/wetlandmaps</u>
- Magnetic Island National Park Management Resource Information 2023 <u>https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0027/335907/magnetic-island-resource-info.pdf</u>

Whilst care was taken to ensure web links were current at the time of publishing, these web links are maintained by other organisations, and may change over time. Information can be found through navigating each organisation's website (eg. www.business.gld.gov.au)



Appendix 2 –

Management Category

Description

Prevention

Adverse financial, environmental, and cultural impacts of invasive plants and animals are astronomically high. Preventing invasive plants and animals from entering and establishing in the first place is the most economical long-term solution to managing invasive species. This management category focuses on species that are not currently known to be present in the Townsville LGA but could cause significant impacts if introduced. Human aided movement is the largest factor in pest introduction.

Goal: Prevent the establishment of listed species in the Townsville LGA. Reported incursions are investigated and treated early, or in circumstances where the pest is established, categorised using the methodology in section 4.3.

Council Focus	Management Actions
	 Prohibited matter and multiple category restricted matter is reported to BQ within 24hrs of sighting
	 Inspect green waste facilities and common illegal dumping sites.
	• Carry out hygiene procedures on vehicles, machinery/equipment and clothing.
	 No species on the prevention list will be grown, propagated, kept, moved, sold, given away or released.
	• Investigate reports and identify unfamiliar plants and animals found in the LGA.
	 Encourage prevention of invasive plants and animal species as cost-effective, long- term pest management.
Level of	Residents, Community Groups, Non-profit Organisations and Hobbyists
Expectation	 Prohibited matter and multiple category restricted matter is reported to BQ within 24hrs of sighting and their instructions followed.
	 Restricted matter and locally significant species listed as prevention targets are reported to Council.
	 Check that the plant (including reproductive parts) or animal you are acquiring is not listed in the biosecurity plan.
	 Identify and regularly monitor areas where there is a high risk of entry on your property (eg. vehicle tracks, fencelines).
	 Carry out hygiene procedures on 4WDs, machinery, equipment, hiking boots and clothing.
	 No species on the prevention list is grown or propagated, kept, moved, sold, given away or released.
	 Have unfamiliar plants/animals found whilst undertaking your activities identified and where appropriate, managed.
	 Source mulch and stock feed and from areas that are not infested with species from the prevention list. A weed hygiene declaration could be requested from the seller.
	 Quarantine stock that has had access to a paddock that contains a species on the prevention target list and follow instructions from the relevant authority (DAF or Council).
	Maintain fences to keep domestic stock, including goats and camel contained.
	Industry
	 Prohibited matter and multiple category restricted matter is reported to BQ within 24hrs of sighting and their instructions followed.
	 Restricted matter and locally significant species listed as prevention targets are reported to Council.
	• Identify and regularly monitor areas where there is a high risk of entry.
	 Carry out hygiene procedures on vehicles, machinery/equipment and clothing.
	 Source mulch and stock feed and from areas that are not infested with species from the prevention list. A weed hygiene declaration could be requested from the seller.
	 Quarantine stock that has had access to a paddock that contains a species on the prevention target list and follow instructions from the relevant authority (DAF or Council).
	 No species on the prevention list is grown or propagated, kept, moved, sold, given away or released.
	 Have unfamiliar plants/animals found whilst undertaking your activities identified and appropriately managed.

Species that could pose a significant biosecurity risk that are not known to be in this LGA, are in the table below.

Table 7 Prevention Species

Photo & Height	Name & Legal Status	Closest Known Location	Vectors of Entry
Credit: DAF 0.5m	Amazonian Frogbit <i>Limnobium laevigatum</i> Not Listed	Cairns *Possible previous Ross River incursion.	Aquarium trade / Pond plants
Credit: DAF 2m	Brillantasia <i>Brillantasia lamium</i> Not Listed	Tully and Proserpine	Plant trade
Sm	Cha Om Senegalia insuavis	FNQ	Cultural food sellers
Credit: DAF 6m	Giant Sensitive Plant Mimosa pigra RM 2,3,4,5	Proserpine	Vehicles, machinery
Credit: DAF 1m	Glush weed <i>Hygrophila costata</i> RM 3	Ingham/Lucinda	Water vessels, vehicles, machinery Pond plants
Credit: DAF 3m	Groundsel Bush <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i> RM 3	Rockhampton	Vehicles, machinery
1m	Hairy Croton <i>Croton hirtus</i> Not Listed	Weipa	Vehicles, machinery

Photo & Height	Name & Legal Status	Closest Known Location	Vectors of Entry
Credit: DAF 10-15m	Harungana Harungana madagascariensis RM 3	Babinda and Innisfail	Plant trade, vehicles, machinery
Credit: DAF 15m	Hiptage <i>Hiptage bengalhensis</i> Not Listed	Cairns	Plant trade
Credit: DAF 0.5m-2m	Kosters Curse <i>Clidemia hirta</i> RM 2,3,4,5	Tully	Machinery and vehicles
Credit: DAF 30m	Kudzu Pueraria montana var. Iobata RM 3	Babinda and Proserpine	Stock feed, plant trade
Credit: DAF 10-20m	Mexican Bean Tree <i>Cecropia spp.</i> RM 2,3,4,5	Tully and Proserpine	Animals – birds and flying foxes, plant trade
Credit: DAF 15m	Miconia <i>Miconia calvescens, M. nervosa, M. racemose</i> RM 2,3,4,5	Tully	Plant trade, birds, vehicles, machinery
Credit: DAF 20m	Mikania Vine Mikania micrantha RM 2,3,4,5	Lucinda	Vehicles, machinery
Credit: DAF	Opuntoid Cacti (Prohibited)	Multiple locations across Qld	Cacti trade
Credit: DAF	Parramatta Grass Sorobolus africanus & S.fertilis		

Photo & Height	Name & Legal Status	Closest Known Location	Vectors of Entry
Credit: DAF 2m	Water Mimosa <i>Neptunia oleracea</i>	*previously in Ayr	Cultural food sellers, waterways
Credit: DAF >1.85m	Camel <i>Camelus spp.</i>		Escaped domestic stock
Credit: DAF	Electric Ants Wasmannia auropunctata RM 1	Cairns	Transportation of materials, pot plants, landscape supplies
1-2mm long			
Credit: DAF 2-6mm long	Fire Ants <i>Solenopsis spp.</i> RM 1	Brisbane	Transportation of materials, pot plants, landscape supplies
15cm H, 45-60cm long	Ferret, <i>Mustela putorius furo,</i> Prohibited		Pet trade
Credit: DAF 0.5-0.7m	Goat (other than domestic) <i>Capra spp.,</i> Not Listed		Escaped domestic stock
Credit: DAF >30cm long	Red Eared Slider Turtle <i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i> RM 2,3,4,5,6		Pet trade

Please note this list of species is not exhaustive. Weed species move through landscapes via humans' global, national and interstate connectivity, potentially bringing new species to Townsville. If you think there is a new pest in the region, please contact Council through Snap Send Solve app, enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au or 13 48 10.

Eradication

Species in the eradication category are species where eradication is considered possible within the LGA. These species are a priority for management by Council. Conditions, whether environmental, economic or social, are constantly changing, making eradication of species challenging and sometimes unattainable. Management actions of these species need to fluidly adjust to conditions as they arise or are predicted and require commitment from all stakeholders to succeed.



Athel Pine

Category Category 3 restricted invasive plant

Dispersal



Introduced for erosion control and windbreaks, Athel Pine proved to be a sleeper weed in parts of NT and NSW, where they now form dense thickets. Council has been removing the weed from public land and is to the point it is now thought to be eradicable from the LGA.

Council Focus

- Awareness campaign targeting residential, lifestyle and rural properties, where the highest likelihood of remaining unknown plants are.
- Continue controlling individuals from known locations on Council-owned land using best practice methods.
- Respond to reports of Athel Pine.
- Map all local populations.
- Create surveillance and prevention and control programs for the weed.

Residents, Industry, Non-profit Organisations and Hobbyists

- Report suspected incursions to Council.
- Do not grow, propagate, keep, move, sell, give away or release into the environment.
- All plants are controlled following best practice methods.
- Request a Biosecurity Declaration when buying things or vehicles/machines are entering your land.
- Industry, rural properties and stock owners have a biosecurity plan.

Description

Height:	Up to 18m
Leaves:	Similar to SheOak trees
Flowers:	3-4mm, whitish pink
Fruit:	Bell shaped pod
Seeds:	3mm including white tuft
Bark:	Rough, grey-bown, deeply furrowed
Origin:	Asia, India and north Africa

Known Locations

- Balgal Beach
- Mount Low
- Oak Valley
- Stuart

Athel Pine may be present in residential, lifestyle and rural properties in any location within the LGA.





Chinese Lantern

Dichrostachys cinerea

Category Undeclared



Little is known on the introduction of this plant to Townsville, however it is suspected to have arrived through either infected fodder or as an ornamental plant due to its attractive flowers.

Council Focus

- Continue to coordinate with residents in controlling known incursions using best practice methods.
- Continue to delimitate the known incursion.
- Investigate reports of Chinese Lantern.
- Map all local populations.
- Consider local declaration of the species.
- Undertake compliance where appropriate and resources allow.

Residents, Industry, Non-profit Organisations and Hobbyists

- Report suspected incursions to Council.
- Do not grow, propagate, keep, move, sell, give away or release into the environment.
- All plants are controlled following best practice methods.
- Request a Biosecurity Declaration when buying things or vehicles/machines are entering your land.
- Industry, rural properties and stock owners have a biosecurity plan.

Description

Height:	3-7m
Leaves:	Bipinnate, 4–5cm long
Flowers:	Lilac & yellow with pleasant odour
Fruit:	Yellow-brown pods, 10cm, twisted/ sickle shape
Roots:	Can sucker
Bark:	Rough, dark, thorns
Origin:	Africa

Known Locations

Kelso





Delta Arrowhead

Sagittaria platyphylla

Category Category 3 restricted invasive plant



Sagittaria was first discovered in Townsville in late 2011 by Council officers, with immediate efforts taken to control incursions and determine the extent of the population. A Regional Sagittaria Working Group was formed in 2015, where Council maintains the lead operational role.

Council Focus

- Continue the adaptive, ongoing intensive control program.
- Continue to delimitate the known incursion.
- Investigate reports of Delta Arrowhead.
- Map all local populations.
- Undertake compliance where appropriate and resources allow.

Residents, Industry, Non-profit Organisations and Hobbyists

- Report suspected incursions to Council.
- Do not grow, propagate, keep, sell, give away or release into the environment.
- All plants are controlled following best practice methods.
- Request a Biosecurity Declaration when buying things or vehicles/machines are entering your land.
- Industry, rural properties and stock owners have a biosecurity plan.

Description

Height:	Most 30cm, >1.5m
Leaves:	Ovate to linear with pointed tips
Flowers:	Male – 3cm with 3 white petals
	Female – no petals, resembles flat
	green berries
Fruit:	Dense, cluster of 1-seed fruitlets
Stem:	Triangular, green
Origin:	Eastern USA

Known Location

Ross River





Grey-Haired Acacia

Vachellia gerrardii (syn. Acacia gerrardii)

Category

Prohibited invasive plant



Grey-Haired Acacia was discovered in 2014 in historically dumped soil near the Cleveland Bay Purification Plant. The source of the fill is unknown, leaving a potentially unmanaged infestation.

Council Focus

- Continue monitoring the known infestation and treat if required.
- Opportunistically survey illegal dumping.
- Respond to customer reports and notify BQ within 24hrs.
- Map local populations.

Residents, Industry, Non-profit Organisations and Hobbyists

- Report non-native Acacias to BQ within 24hrs of sighting and follow their instructions.
- Do not grow, propagate, keep, sell, give away or release into the environment.
- Request a Biosecurity Declaration when buying things or vehicles/machines are entering your land.
- Industry, rural properties and stock owners have a biosecurity plan.

Description

Height:	3–9m
Leaves:	Bipinnate, leaflets 7mm long. Thorns are at the base of each leaf
Flowers:	White, 10mm sphere, bisexual
Fruit:	Green – purple, turning brown, arched
Bark:	Rough, fissured. Juveniles green with orange
Origin:	Southwest Africa

Known Locations

Stuart





Rubber Bushes / Calotrope

Calotropis gigantea and C. procera

Category Undeclared



Rubber bushes escaped gardens, where they were introduced for their ornamental appearance. Stock consume Calotrope in the dry season, however stock losses may occur through poisoning during periods of stress. Rubber bush is prevalent in western Queensland, with risk of entry from Charters Towers, however, tolerates salt well in Townsville's sandy beaches.

Council Focus

- Encourage removal from residential properties through an awareness campaign.
- Continue controlling incursions from known locations on Council owned land using best practice methods.
- Respond to reports of Rubber Bush.
- Map local populations.
- Consider for local declaration.

Residents, Industry, Non-profit Organisations and Hobbyists

- Report suspected incursions to Council.
- Do not grow, propagate, keep, sell, give away or release into the environment.
- All plants are controlled following best practice methods.
- Request a Biosecurity Declaration when buying things or vehicles/machines are entering your land.
- Industry, rural properties and stock owners have a biosecurity plan.

Description

Height:	1.2-4m
Leaves:	Opposite
Flowers:	White, globe shape
Fruit:	Large, green, pointed tip, 8–12cm long and almost as wide
Seeds:	Flat, brown, with hairs
Roots:	Tap root
Bark:	Yellowish – white bark
Origin:	Iran, India, China and SE Asia

Known Location

Magnetic Island

Historical

- Bluewater
- Saunders Beach





Pond Apple

Annona glabra

Category Category 3 restricted invasive plant

Dispersal



Pond Apple has the ability to form dense thickets in wetlands, including brackish water. Feral pigs readily eat the fruit, spreading the weed through water systems, including drainage lines.

Council Focus

- Continue to monitor and treat any recurring individuals using best practice methods.
- Continue to coordinate with residents in identifying controlling using best practice methods.
- Explore the use of technology in identifying Pond Apple.
- Investigate reports of Pond Apple.
- Map all local populations.
- Undertake compliance if required and resources allow.

Residents, Industry, Non-profit Organisations and Hobbyists

- Report suspected incursions to Council.
- Do not grow, propagate, keep, sell, give away or release into the environment.
- All plants are controlled following best practice methods.
- Request a Biosecurity Declaration when buying things or vehicles/machines are entering your land.
- Industry, rural properties and stock owners have a biosecurity plan.

Description

Height:	3–6m
Leaves:	Alternate, 7–12cm, a prominent midrib
Flowers:	Cream, red inner-base, short-lived, 3 inner & outer petals, 2–3cm in diameter
Fruit:	Green, round, 5–15cm in diameter
Roots:	Fissured and fibrous roots
Bark:	Rough, dark
Drigin: Tropical America & west Africa	

Known Locations

• Bushland Beach, Saunders Beach and Ross River (Cranbrook/Douglas)





White Ball Acacia

Acaciella angustissima

Category Prohibited Invasive Plant

$\begin{array}{c} \textbf{Dispersal} \\ \overbrace{Animal}^{(\mathcal{D})} & \overbrace{Seed}^{(\mathcal{D})} & \overbrace{Grazing}^{(\mathcal{D})} & \overbrace{Water}^{(\mathcal{D})} \\ \end{array}$

Description

Height:	2–7m
Leaves:	Compound, bipinnate
Flowers:	Bisexual, cream, purple or white
Fruit:	Flat pods 4–9cmL x 1–1.5cmW,
Seeds:	8–12 seeds per pod, round
Bark:	Slightly rough, brown to brownish-grey
Origin:	America – subtropical to tropical

An escaped fodder trial, White Ball Acacia has in recent years been found to have a larger extent than previously known. BQ is leading the eradication program, coordinating government, industry and private stakeholders.

Council Focus

- Continue to assist BQ in controlling known incursions using best practice methods.
- Respond to reports and refer them to BQ.
- Map all local populations.
- Where relevant and resources allow, assist BQ in compliance.
- Assist landholders to manage pests through the property pest management subsidy scheme.

Residents, Industry, Non-profit Organisations and Hobbyists

- Report suspected incursions to BQ within 24hrs of sighting.
- Do not grow, propagate, keep, move, sell, give away or release into the environment.
- All plants are controlled following best practice methods.
- Request a Biosecurity Declaration when buying things or vehicles/machines are entering your land.
- Industry, rural properties and stock owners have a biosecurity plan.

Known Locations

• Calcium and Alligator Creek





Yellow Burr-Head

Limnocharis flava

Category Restricted Matter





Yellow Burr-Head is targeted as part of the National Tropical Weeds Eradication Program. Council has assisted the state in monthly monitoring and control since 2009.

Council Focus

- Continue monitoring the known infestation and treat if required.
- Respond to customer reports and notify BQ within 24hrs.
- Map local populations.

Residents, Industry, Non-profit Organisations and Hobbyists

- Report to BQ within 24hrs of sighting and follow their instructions.
- Do not grow, propagate, keep, sell, give away or release into the environment.
- Request a Biosecurity Declaration when buying things or vehicles/machines are entering your land.
- Industry, rural properties and stock owners have a biosecurity plan.

Description

Height:	>1m
Leaves:	Yellow-green, >28cm x >20cm oval at top
Flowers:	Yellow, cup shaped
Fruit:	Spherical, 15–20mm diameter
Roots:	Rooted aquatic plant
Stem:	Triangular, green
Origin:	Central and South America

Known Locations

• Black River, Mundinburra and Pimlico







Spread Reduction

Species within this category have pockets of infestations within the LGA. While their eradication is not currently feasible, their populations may be reduced and/or the risk of their further spread minimised.

Key actions for these species will be prioritised on the risks posed to the broader community, the local economy and high value natural assets.

- Control on high value natural assets (e.g. Oak Valley Nature Refuge).
- Localised eradication (e.g. Indian Myna bird on Magnetic Island).
- Reducing the abundance of known infestations on Council managed assets.
- Targeted control programs to reduce the risk of spread into areas where they are currently not present.
- Educate residents and the community about the impacts of environmental pests on the natural environment and management options.
- Assist landholders to manage pests through the property pest management subsidy scheme.
- Enforce compliance on serious breaches of the Act or failure to meet the GBO.

Goal: Reduce the distribution and establishment of listed species in the Townsville LGA. Reported incursions are investigated and treated early, or in circumstances where the pest is established, categorised using the methodology in section 4.3.

Council Focus	Management Actions
	• Vehicle/machinery hygiene procedures are written into high-risk work contracts.
	 Carry out hygiene procedures before leaving infested areas or before entering clean areas.
	 Respond to customer reports and provide technical control advice.
	Investigate reports outside of known areas.
	Targeted management using best practice methods.
	 Assist landholders to manage pests through the property pest management subsidy scheme.
	Consider <i>Leucaena cultivar</i> for local declaration.
	Carry out hygiene procedures on vehicles, machinery/equipment and clothing.
	 No species in the Spread Reduction list will be sold, given away or released. Man insursions
	 Map incursions. Undertake compliance where strategically appropriate and resources allow
Level of	Pesidents Community Groups Non-profit Organisations and Hobbyists
Expectation	Do not sell, give away or release into the environment
	Species are controlled following best practice methods in accordance with
	your biosecurity plan and General Biosecurity Obligation. Suburban residential properties are not expected to have a biosecurity plan.
	 Identify and regularly monitor areas where there is a high risk of entry for new species on your property (eg. vehicle tracks, fence lines).
	 Carry out hygiene procedures on 4WDs, machinery, equipment, hiking boots, clothing and horses.
	 Have unfamiliar plants/animals found whilst undertaking your activities identified and where appropriate, managed.
	 Source clean mulch, soil and stock feed. Request a Biosecurity Declaration from the seller.
	• Quarantine stock upon arrival and when exiting the property.
	 Species are controlled following best practice methods, prioritised on risk to listed assets and spread risk.
	 Rural properties and stock owners have a biosecurity plan for your property / activity.
	 Consider how your activities or lack of action may impact upon others and the environment.
	Maintain fence-lines and firebreaks.
	Maintain a 10m buffer on border fence lines for invasive plants.
	Industry
	Develop a Biosecurity Plan for your work activities.
	 Carry out hygiene procedures before leaving infested areas or before entering clean areas.
	Integrate vehicle/machinery hygiene into high-risk work contracts.
	• Identify and regularly monitor areas where there is a high risk for new species to enter.
	• Do not sell, give away or release into the environment.
	 Species are controlled following best practice methods, prioritised on risk to assets and potential for spread; particularly to customers, environment and outside the LGA.
	• Carry out hygiene procedures on vehicles, machinery, and equipment.
	 Have unfamiliar plants/animals found whilst undertaking your activities identified and where appropriate, managed.
	 Source clean mulch, soil and stock feed. A Biosecurity Declaration could be requested from the seller.
	 Quarantine stock upon arrival and when exiting the property. Maintain a 10m buffer on border fence lines for invasive plants

Image	Legal Status & Height	Name	Locations
	RM 3 >4m	Bellyache Bush Jatropha gossypiifolia	Alice River, Black River, Bluewater Park, Bushland Beach, Castle Hill, Douglas, Stuart, Toomulla
	RM 3 >10m climbing	Blue Trumpet Vine Thunbergia grandiflora	Residential gardens, Magnetic Island, Mysterton
2ª	RM 3 >30m climbing	Cats Claw Creeper - Dolichandra (Macfadyena) unguis-cati	Residential Gardens, Douglas
	RM 3 >4m	*Gamba Grass Andropogon gayanus	Refer to the Council website for up-to-date information
	RM 3 >2m	Giant Rats Tail Grasses Sporobolis natalensis & S.pyramidalis	Barringha, Beach Holm, Yabulu
	Not Listed >10m	Leucaena Cultivar	Woodstock
X	Not Listed >1m	Mexican Poppy Argemone mexicana	Predominantly appears in landscape supplies and where construction/ development is undertaken
	Not Listed >5m	Mimosa Bush Acacia farnesiana, syn. Vachellia farnesiana	Alice River, Barringha, Calcium, Granitevale, Kelso, Magnetic Island, Pinnacles, Woodstock, Reid River, Ross River, Toonpan
	RM 3 >10 climbing	Ornamental Rubber Vine Cryptostegia madagascariensis	Garbutt
and a	Not Listed >1.5m	Porcupine Flower Barleria prionitis & B.cristata	Balgal Beach, Douglas
	RM 3 Usually 4–5m	Prickly Acacia Vachellia nilotica	Barringha, Brookhill, Calcium, Majors Creek, Nome, Oak Valley, Reid River, Ross River, Toonpan, Woodstock
	Not Listed 30cm	Water Poppy Hydrocleys nymphoides	Kirwan. Possible previous incursion in Ross River
	RM 3,4,6 Stags >1m Does >75cm (to shoulder)	Chital Deer Axis axis	Barringha, Majors Creek, Reid River, Toonpan
E.	RM 3,4,6 Stags >1.1m Does >95cm (to shoulder)	Rusa Deer Rusa timorensis	Majors Creek, Reid River, Toonpan
× .	RM 3 4mm long	Yellow Crazy Ants Anoplolepis gracilipes	Refer to Yellow Crazy Ant Management Plan

*Except Castle Hill, where eradication is the target.

Asset Protection

Species within this category are well established in the Townsville LGA with either widespread and abundant distribution or have not been identified as a species that poses a significant threat. The management of these invasive plants and animals focus on human safety and asset protection, including maintenance of infrastructure, public areas (parks, roads, etc), drinking water supplies, refuse tips, active farms, and environmental assets.

The below list contains weeds commonly seen or reported. The full extent of species present in the LGA are unable to be listed to its entirety. Any species not listed in this plan is assumed to fall under this category, however if you believe it to be a new species introduced to Townsville, please report it to Council to investigate.

Goal: Minimise the negative impacts on identified assets within the Townsville LGA from serious biosecurity risks.

Species known to be well established in this LGA or do not pose a significant risk to biosecurity are in the table below.

Legal Status	Height	Name
RM3	>24m	African Tulip Spathodea campanulata
RM3	0.3-1m	Asparagus Ferns Asparagus spp.
Not listed	>12m	Bauhinia other than native species Bauhinia spp.
Not listed	0.5-1m	Billy Goat Weed Ageratum conyzoides
RM3	Usually >6m	Brazilian Pepper Tree Schinus terebinthifolia
Not listed	0.3-1m	Buddha Pea / Joint Vetch Aeschynomene indica L.
Not listed	<1m	Buffel Grass Cenchrus ciliaris
Not listed	Climbs to 5m	Butterfly Pea <i>Clitoria ternatea</i>
RM3	0.3–1.8m	Cabomba / Fanwort Cabomba caroliana
RM3	>10m	Captain Cook / Yellow Oleander <i>Thevetia peruviana</i>
Not listed	>3m	Castor Oil <i>Riccinus communis</i>
Not listed	50cm	Centro Centrosema pubescens
RM3	>8m	* Chinee Apple Ziziphus mauritiana

Legal Status	Height	Name
Not listed	~30cm	Mossman River Grass Cenchrus echinatus
Not listed	Typically 70–90cm	Mother in laws Tongue Dracaena trifasciata
RM3	>1m	Mother of Millions Bryophyllum spp.
RM3	RM 3 >70cm	Navua Sedge <i>Cyperus aromaticus</i>
Not listed	>30m	Neem Azadirachta indica
RM3	RM 3 >8m	Parkinsonia Parkinsonia aculeata
RM3	RM 3 0.3–1.5m	Parthenium Parthenium hysterophorus
Not listed	>1m	Periwinkle Catharanthus roseus
RM3	RM 3 >1m	Praxelis Praxelis clidemia
RM3	RM 3 0.5–8m	Restricted Opuntoid Cacti
Not listed	~1m	Rattlepods <i>Crotalaria spp.</i> (other than native)
RM3	RM 3 Climbs >30	Rubber vine Cryptostegia grandiflora
RM 3	~1cm	Salvinea Salvinea molesta

Legal Status	Height	Name
RM3	>1m	Chinese Violet Asystasia gangetica
Not listed	>2m	Cocks Comb Celosia cristata
Not listed	Climbs >15m	Coral Vine Antigonon leptopus
Not listed	>10m	Elephant Ear Vine Argyreia nervosa
Not listed	>4m	Elephant Grass Pennisetum purpureum
Not listed	Typically 0.8–1.5m	Grader Grass Themida quadrivalvis
Not listed	>4.5m	Grewia / Phasa Grewia asiatica
Not listed	>4m	Guinea Grass Megathyrsis maximus
RM3	Typically 1–1.2m	Hymenachne Hymenachne amplexicaulis
Not listed	>30m	Indian Siris Albizia lebbeck
RM3	Climbs >13m	Ivy gourd Coccinia grandis
Not listed	>2m	Joint Vetch Aeschynomene americana
Not listed	~30cm	Joy Weeds Alternanthera spp.
Not listed	~2m	Jute Corchorus olitorius & C. aestuans
Not listed	>1.5m	Kyasuma Grass Pennisetum pedicellatum subsp. unispiculum
RM 3	>4m	Lantana Lantana camara
RM 3	>10m	Leucaena Leucaena leucacephala

Legal Status	Height	Name
RM 3	>3m, scrambles >15m	Siam Weed Chromolaena odorata
RM 3	Typically 0.7-1.5m	Sicklepod Senna obtusifolia
RM 3	>70cm	Singapore Daisy Sphagneticola trilobata
Not listed	Typically >2m	Sisal Hemp <i>Agave vivipara</i>
Not listed	>3m	Thatch Grass <i>Hyparrhenia rufa</i>
RM 3	30-65cm	Water Hyacinth Eichhornia crassipes
RM 3	>15cm	Water Lettuce Pistia stratiotes
Not listed	30cm	Wynn Cassia Chamaecrista rotundifolia
RM 3,4,6	>60cm body length	Cat (Other than domestic) <i>Felis catus</i>
RM 3,4,6	60cm	Dog (other than domestic) <i>Canis spp.</i>
RM 3,4,5,6	~40cm	European Fox Vulpes vulpes crucigera
RM 3,4,5,6	~40cm length	European Rabbit <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>
Not listed	~1.6 to shoulder	^Feral Horse <i>Equus ferus</i>
RM 3,4,6	Typically >1m	Feral Pig <i>Sus scrofa</i>
Not listed	~25cm head to tail	*Indian Myna Bird Acridotheres tristis
Not listed	~75cm	Pea Fowl Pavo cristatus
Restricted Noxious	~35cm length	Tilapia Oreochromis mossambicus

* Except Magnetic Island, where the target is eradication and prevention

^ Unmanaged stock that roams at large at least three times in a year period.

Please note this list of species is not exhaustive. Weed species move through landscapes via humans' global, national and interstate connectivity, potentially bringing new species to Townsville. If you think there is a new pest in the region, please contact Council through SnapSendSolve app, enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au or 13 48 10.

Council Focus	Management Actions
	 Vehicle/machinery hygiene procedures are written into high-risk work contracts. Respond to customer reports and provide technical control advice. Investigate reports and identify unfamiliar plants/animals found in the LGA. Targeted management of priority assets using best practice methods. Implement the Property Pest Management Subsidy Scheme. Encourage responsible pet ownership. Resources are focused on reducing serious risk to identified assets. Undertake compliance where appropriate and resources allow.
Level of	Residents, Community Groups, Non-profit Organisations and Hobbyists
Expectation	 Do not sell, give away or release into the environment. Species are controlled following best practice methods. Identify and regularly monitor areas where there is a high risk of entry for new species on your property (eg. vehicle tracks, fence lines). Carry out hygiene procedures on 4WDs, machinery, equipment, hiking boots, clothing and horses. Have unfamiliar plants/animals found whilst undertaking your activities identified and where appropriate, managed. Source clean mulch, soil and stock feed. A Biosecurity Declaration could be requested from the seller. Quarantine stock upon arrival and when exiting the property. Species are controlled following best practice methods, prioritised on risk to listed assets. Where relevant, have a property pest management plan for your property and/or activity. Exercise responsible pet ownership, including containment of animals. Consider how your activities or lack of action may impact upon nearby assets. Maintain fence-lines and firebreaks where appropriate.
	Industry
	 Develop a Biosecurity Plan for your work activities. Identify and regularly monitor areas where there is a high risk for new species to enter. Do not sell, give away or release into the environment. Species are controlled following best practice methods, prioritised on risk to assets and potential for spread; particularly to customers, environment and outside the LGA. Carry out hygiene procedures on vehicles, machinery, and equipment, Have unfamiliar plants/animals found whilst undertaking your activities identified and where appropriate, managed. Source clean mulch, soil and stock feed. A Biosecurity Declaration could be requested from the seller. Quarantine stock upon arrival and when exiting the property.

Appendix 3 – Biosecurity

Declaration

PART	1: VEHICLE I	NFOR	MATION								
Make/	/Model:			Date:	1		Registratio	n Num	ber:		
Was t	he vehicle clea	an prio	or to entry	to the	job site: c	2					
This d	leclaration is w	valid fo	or the move	ement	of a vehic	le fror	n:			_ (loca	tion)
to:		0-42		98)	1000	10 - 12 N	- 2015 - 2016 - 201	(loo	cation)		
to:						1		(loc	cation)		
PART	2: DECLARAT	TION									
I, Narr	ne:			hereb	y declare t	hat th	e vehicle descri	bed ab	ove has bee	n thoro	ughly
inspec	ted and cleare	d of a	ny visible w	eed se	eds, debris	s, pest	animals or inse	cts.			
Signat	ture:						Date:				
PART	3: BUSINESS	DETA	ILS (IF AP	PLICA	BLE)						
Busine	ess Name:										
Busine	ess Contact:										
		URSING		Sec. 20							
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Appendix 4 – Property Pest Management Subsidy Scheme



Pest Management Subsidy Scheme

WHAT IS THE PEST MANAGEMENT SUBSIDY SCHEME?

Townsville City Council offers assistance to residents

- in managing invasive plants and feral animals on their property. The Pest Management Subsidy Scheme (PMSS) consists of four components:
 - Property Pest Management Plan (PPMP).
 - Subsidy Rebate.
 - Equipment Hire.
 - Technical Knowledge.

A 50% financial rebate is available to approved PMSS participants to assist residents in undertaking weed and feral animal control on their property. The amount that can be rebated depends on the size of the property. If multiple parcels of land are managed by the individual, the combined total of land determined the level of subsidy allowance.

- Properties 2-200ha can claim up to \$800 per
- financial year (this means spending up to \$1,600).
 Properties over 200ha can claim up to \$1,600 per financial year (this means spending up to \$3,200).

Individuals, companies and governments have a general biosecurity obligation to take reasonable and practical measures to eliminate or minimise impacts from invasive biosecurity matter. This obligation is under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

AIM

The PMSS aims to assist peri-urban and rural residents in pest management on their property. It also aims to enable co-ordination across boundaries, encouraging neighbourhood participation. The more neighbours participating, the greater the benefits for everyone involved, as well as the natural environment.

ELIGIBILITY

- Property must be a minimum of 2ha (4.94 acres).If renting or agisting, proof is required that
- responsibility of pest management sits with you.This scheme is aimed at individuals.Where multiple properties are owned by an
- Where multiple properties are owned by an individual, the combined land total is used to determine the level of subsidy allowance.

COMPONENTS

Property Pest Management Plan (PPMP)

The PPMP is a personalised three-year plan that guides landholders on the best way to address pest plants and animals. It contributes to the profitable and sustainable management of the property. An approved PPMP is required to receive the subsidy rebate and hire of equipment.

Subsidy Rebate

50% of auditable pest management costs can be rebated following an approved subsidy application. Properties 2-200ha can claim up to \$800, and properties over 200ha can claim up to \$1,600. These rebates can be claimed per financial year for the life of the PPMP (3 years). Costs must be incurred within the same financial year as the subsidy application.

Equipment Hire

Council has the below equipment available for hire

- through the PMSS.
 - 200L trailer mounted motorised spray unit.
 - 2 x panel traps (pigs).
- 2 x cage traps (pigs).

Technical Knowledge

Assistance in plant identification and control/ management knowledge is provided with the establishment of the PPMP, and is ongoing throughout the life of the plan. Please contact Council as questions arise, or new plant or animal species are discovered.

Wild Dog Baiting Program

Residents may be eligible to participate in 1080 baiting programs under the PMSS. Programs run April to May and September to October. Contact Council for further details and to determine if your property meets the required criteria to participate. Bait injection services are also available for other pest species including feral pigs, feral cats and foxes.

Modified: 6 April 2023

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Contact our Customer Service Centre on 13 48 10.
- A representative will then confirm your eligibility You can fill out the PPMP template, or if assistance is required, a representative will make time to inspect your property. The representative can assist in identifying pest plant species and write a plan suitable to your property
- Hire forms and the subsidy application will be made available once the PPMP is authorised.

WHAT CAN I CLAIM?

Many costs are claimable, in accordance with landholders PPMP. If you are unsure if an item is claimable, please contact Council to speak to a Biosecurity Officer.

- Herbicides.
- Adjuvants/surfactants.
- Herbicide dve
- Fuel (used in pest management activities e.g. fuel for dozer, chainsaw, mix with herbicides etc).
- Measuring jugs. Jerry cans.
- Splatter gun and gas refills for canisters.
- Pest fencing (to best practice standards). New purchase, parts, maintenance and servicing of machinery/equipment (e.g. bulldozer, chainsaw, spray unit, spray mounted quad bikes, knap sacks, tractor attachments, chainsaw chains, engine coolant, fuel filter, spray nozzles, wands) used for best practice pest management.
- Safety equipment (e.g. chaps, safety helmet, spray respirators, safety glasses). Costs relating to firearms for best practice feral
- animal control (e.g. gun safe, bullets, firearms). Hire of qualified professional contractors for weed
- control (e.g. tractor operator, weed spraying). Hire of qualified professional contractor for feral animal control (e.g. wild dog contractor, feral pig
- contractor) conducted to best practice standards. Hire of qualified professional contractor for aerial
- spraying of weeds. Hire of professional qualified contractor for aerial
- surveys with drone. Purchase of meat for baiting.
- Purchase of grain and fruit for pre feeding and baiting.
- Purchase of native plants and grasses for out competition of weed species as per the PPMP.

WHAT IS NOT CLAIMABLE?

- Costs associated with invertebrate pest control (e.g. mosquitoes, crop insects). Cattle fencing unless as part of best practice feral
- horse control as per the PPMP. Maintenance and servicing of equipment not listed
- under the PPMP.

WHEN CAN I CLAIM?

- Once approved, subsidies can be applied for as soon as relevant costs are incurred. Subsidy applications need to be submitted within
- the same financial year to which pest management costs were incurred.
- To allow time for processing, it is recommended to submit applications by 1 June each financial year.
- Please allow one month for processing and reimbursement.
- Once a subsidy application is approved, funds will be direct deposited into a nominated bank account.
- Multiple applications can be made throughout the year until the maximum subsidy allowance has been reimbursed.

HOW CAN I CLAIM?

By Email: Email the application form along with receipts to enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au with Pest Management Subsidy Application in the subject line.

By Mail:

Mail the application form along with copies of receipts to: Attn: Biosecurity Officer Townsville City Council

- PO Box 1268 Townsville QLD 4810

In Person:

Visit Council's Customer Service Centre at 103 Walker Street with a completed Pest Management Subsidy application form and any relevant receipts. The Customer Service representative will make electronic copies and send to the Technical Officer Environmental Restoration (Biosecurity).

Further Information 13 48 10

enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au townsville.gld.gov.au

Modified: 6 April 2023



townsville.qld.gov.au