



QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

Biosecurity Plan

Driving local action to reduce the
impact of introduced species



Background

Townsville residents enjoy a great lifestyle supported by our natural environment. Feral animals and pest plants are non-native species that can affect our lifestyle and cause environmental and economic harm. The Townsville Biosecurity Plan drives local action to reduce the impacts of these pests.

This quick reference guide provides critical information from the full Townsville Biosecurity Plan 2017 -2021. This is important information on the pest plant and animal threats in the Townsville region you need to be aware of.

More detailed information on a much larger number of pest species, what is being done to address them and what you can do to help can all be found in the Townsville Biosecurity Plan 2017 -2021.

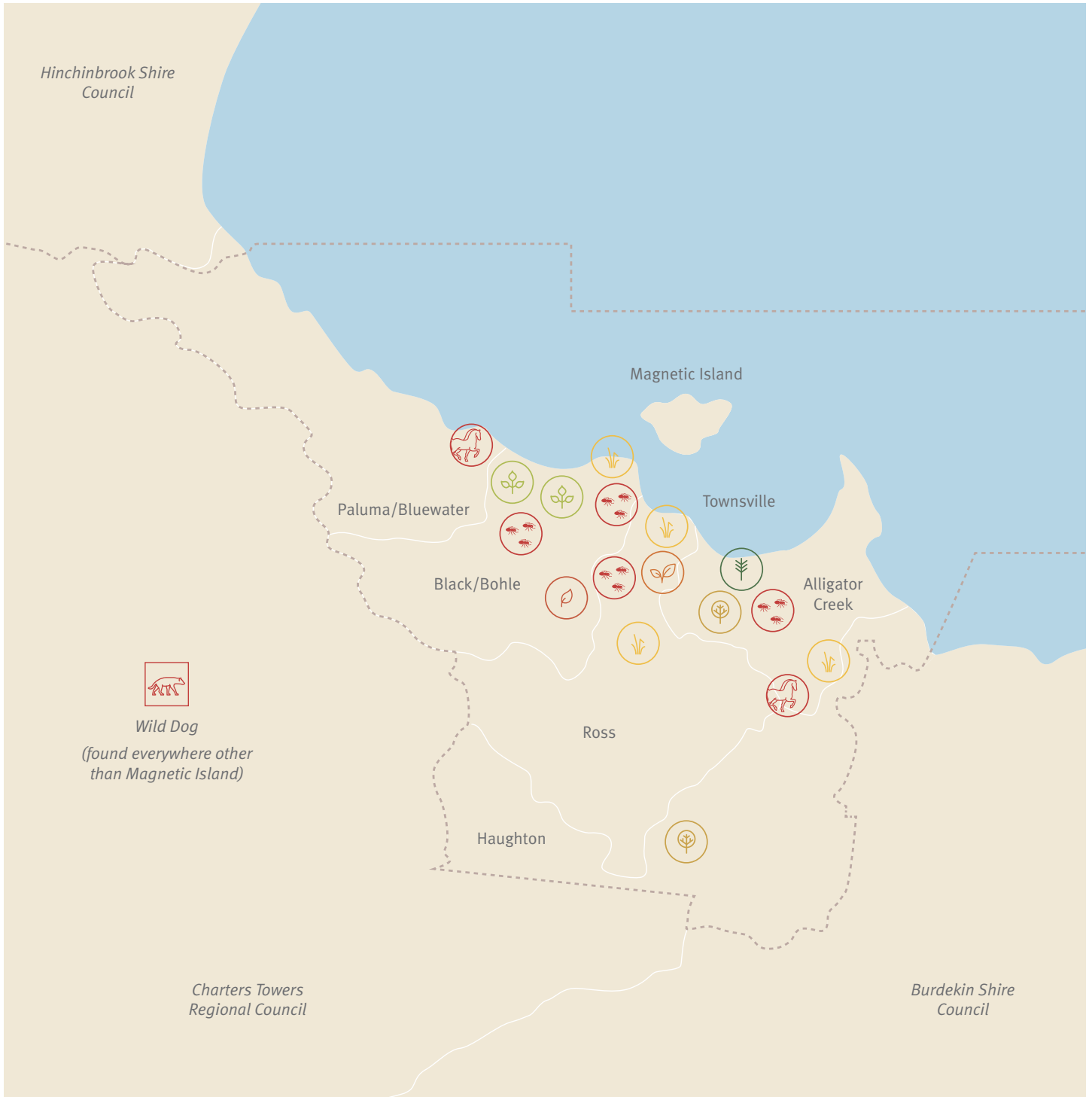
The full plan was developed with input from key state agencies, industry and community groups.

The full plan includes:

- » An overview of the Townsville area, potential impacts of pest plants and animals, and legislation, strategies, plans and guides relevant to the plan
- » A summary of how Council and our partners developed and will implement the plan
- » A strategic plan that describes Townsville's Biosecurity objectives and strategies, defines responsibilities and how we measure success.
- » Priority species plans for dozens of pest plants and animals with targeted strategic management actions.
- » Annual work plan that shows specific actions we will undertake to implement the plan for each year (2017 -2021).

For more information, or to find the full version of the biosecurity plan visit: <https://www.townsville.qld.gov.au/> or call 1300 878 001

IMPACT ZONES OF CRITICAL NON-NATIVE SPECIES



LEGEND:

- | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|---|-------------------|---|--------------------|
|  | Wild Dog |  | Pond Apple |  | Yellow Burr Head |
|  | Yellow Crazy Ant |  | Gamba Grass |  | Grey Haired Acacia |
|  | Feral Horse |  | White Ball Acacia |  | Arrowhead |

CRITICAL SPECIES



Photo credit: Department of Agriculture and Fisheries



Yellow Crazy Ant

Anoplolepis Gracilipes

Impacts:

Reduces biodiversity by disrupting natural species. Insects, amphibians and reptiles are the most affected, however birds, mammals and plants can also be affected. Can affect horticultural industries. Can cause burning and irritation of skin and eyes of animals and potentially humans.

Townsville Distribution:

Three known colonies in the Townsville region - Nome, Mt St John and James Cook University.

Management Category:

Delimit and eradicate.

Strategic Actions:

Develop an emergency response plan to guide prevention and eradication actions.

Survey to clarify distribution of this species, especially at likely entry points.

Encourage community to report sightings of this species.

Control:

A coordinated effort is required to eradicate a super colony, however there are limited food based products registered for Yellow Crazy Ants.



Photo credit: Department of Agriculture and Fisheries



Wild Dog

Canis Spp

Impacts:

Predates on livestock and wildlife.

Risk to domestic animals.

Potential risk to human safety. Potential vector for disease.

Townsville Distribution:

Widespread on mainland Townsville.

Management Category:

Intensive control and delimit.

Strategic Actions:

Educate the community about risk of feral animals and benefits of responsible pet ownership.

Increase community awareness of wild dog / dingo impacts on urban areas and methods to minimise these impacts.

Prioritise control actions based on potential environmental, social and economic impacts to local sites.

Control:

A planned strategy that uses a combination of trapping, shooting, fencing and poison baiting, as well as considering wild dog behavior, will enable effective management. 1080 is a restricted poison and is not permitted in urban areas. Baits are injected by licenced operators within Council and Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, for use by approved rural landholders. Council provides a free baiting service to rural areas on a coordinated basis. Livestock guardian dogs are also effective in reducing stock predation.



Photo credit: Department of Agriculture and Fisheries



Feral Horse

Equus Caballus

Impacts:

Can cause erosion, damage vegetation, foul watercourses, over graze large areas, spread weeds and reduce the quality of work horses by contaminating bloodlines. Risk to human life on roadways.

Townsville Distribution:

Localised in Bluewater/Paluma, Black/Bohle and Alligator catchments. Varying distribution in other catchments.

Management Category:

Intensive control and prevent.

Strategic Actions:

Educate the community about risk of feral animals and benefits of responsible pet ownership.

Encourage community to report sightings of feral horses.

Enforce compliance in high risk areas.

Prioritise control actions based on potential safety, environmental, social and economic impacts.

Control:

Mustering, trapping and shooting can be effective.



Photo credit: Christopher Gardener



White Ball Acacia

Acaciella Angustissima

Impacts:

Forms thickets along roadsides and pastures in its native range.

Townsville Distribution:

Previously trialled as a fodder plant, eradication attempts are well underway in Woodstock. Plants existed on Campus Creek near the Townsville General Hospital and on the roadside near Rollingstone, but evidence indicates the infestations may have been eradicated.

Management Category:

Prevent and eradicate.

Strategic Actions:

Develop an emergency response plan to guide prevention and eradication actions.

Survey to clarify distribution of this species, especially at likely entry points.

Encourage community to report sightings of this species.

Control:

Fire could be used in areas with previously known infestations to release seeds from dormancy so they can be treated with herbicide. Chemical control is recommended.



Photo credit: Department of Agriculture and Fisheries



Gamba Grass

Andropogon Gayanus

Impacts:

Establishes itself quickly in both disturbed and undisturbed areas where it grows rapidly. Gamba grows taller and denser than native grasses, alters water cycles and increases the risk and intensity of bush fires.

Townsville distribution:

Isolated infestations in Kelso, Mt Elliot, Castle Hill and Pallarenda.

Management Category:

Prevent and eradicate.

Strategic Actions:

Develop an emergency response plan to guide prevention and eradication actions.

Assess feasibility and locations of possible quarantine zones to limit spread of known infestations.

Educate businesses undertaking high risk activities (e.g. sand/soil extraction, earthworks, slashing, quarries, feedlots) about effective weed hygiene practices.

Survey to clarify distribution of this species, especially at likely entry points.

Encourage community to report sightings of this species.

Control:

Chemical control, slashing and follow up spraying, fire and follow up spraying.



Photo credit: Department of Agriculture and Fisheries



Pond Apple

Annona Glabra

Impacts:

Invades fresh, brackish and saltwater areas, its thickets are capable of replacing whole ecosystems.

Townsville Distribution:

Localised infestations in Bushland Beach and previously one plant in Saunders Beach.

Management Category:

Prevent, eradicate and delimit.

Strategic Actions:

Develop an emergency response plan to guide prevention and eradication actions.

Assess feasibility and locations of possible quarantine zones to limit spread of known infestations.

Survey to clarify distribution of this species, especially at likely entry points.

Encourage community to report sightings of this species.

Control:

Smaller plants up to 3m can be cut and painted or foliar sprayed, otherwise stem injection.



Photo credit: Department of Agriculture and Fisheries



Yellow Burr Head

Limnocharis Flava

Impacts:

It has the potential to rapidly establish in suitable habitats and could threaten wetlands and waterways. It can restrict water flow and become a salt trap.

Townsville Distribution:

Localised infestations have been found in Anderson park and the Bush Gardens, where it has been intensively controlled. Historically, there was a single localised infestation in Thuringowa, however this has been eradicated.

Management Category:

Prevent and eradicate.

Strategic Actions:

Develop an emergency response plan to guide prevention and eradication actions.

Educate community about restrictions on growing aquatic pest plants and suitable replacement species.

Educate users of waterways about risk of spreading aquatic pests and effective weed hygiene practices.

Survey to clarify distribution of this species, especially at likely entry points.

Encourage community to report sightings of this species.

Control:

Physical and mechanical removal followed up with careful spot spraying using appropriate water-approved chemicals.



Photo credit: Department of Agriculture and Fisheries



Arrowhead

Sagittaria Platyphylla

Impacts:

Capable of rapid growth and colonisation, reducing the efficiency of irrigation networks and affecting stream health and biodiversity.

Townsville Distribution:

Localised in the Ross River catchment.

Management Category:

Eradicate and prevent.

Strategic Actions:

Develop an emergency response plan to guide prevention and eradication actions.

Educate community about restrictions on growing aquatic pest plants and suitable replacement species.

Educate users of waterways about risk of spreading aquatic pests and effective weed hygiene practices.

Survey to clarify distribution of this species, especially at likely entry points.

Encourage community to report sightings of this species.

Control:

Physical removal of plants including rhizomes is effective if an infestation is small or isolated; there is no wholly effective herbicide, however intensive, targeted control is showing promising results.



Photo credit: Mark A. Hyde (www.zimbabweflora.co.zw)



Grey Haired Acacia

Vachellia Gerrardii

Impacts:

May form thickets and displace native vegetation and wildlife. Dense thickets will also reduce availability and accessibility of pasture.

Townsville Distribution:

Only record in South Townsville (Alligator catchment).

Management Category:

Prevent.

Strategic Actions:

Develop an emergency response plan to guide prevention and eradication actions.

Survey to clarify distribution of this species, especially at likely entry points.

Encourage community to report sightings of this species.

Control:

Cut, scrape and paint or stem inject larger specimens; spot spray smaller plants. Follow up maintenance required due to likely long seed viability.


Biosecurity Plan

Driving local action to reduce the impact of introduced species

For further information:

Townsville City Council
PO Box 1268
Townsville QLD 4810

 www.townsville.qld.gov.au

 1300 878 001

 enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au