

# 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 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.

## 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 dye.
- 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](mailto: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).

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## Further Information

13 48 10

[enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au)  
[townsville.qld.gov.au](http://townsville.qld.gov.au)