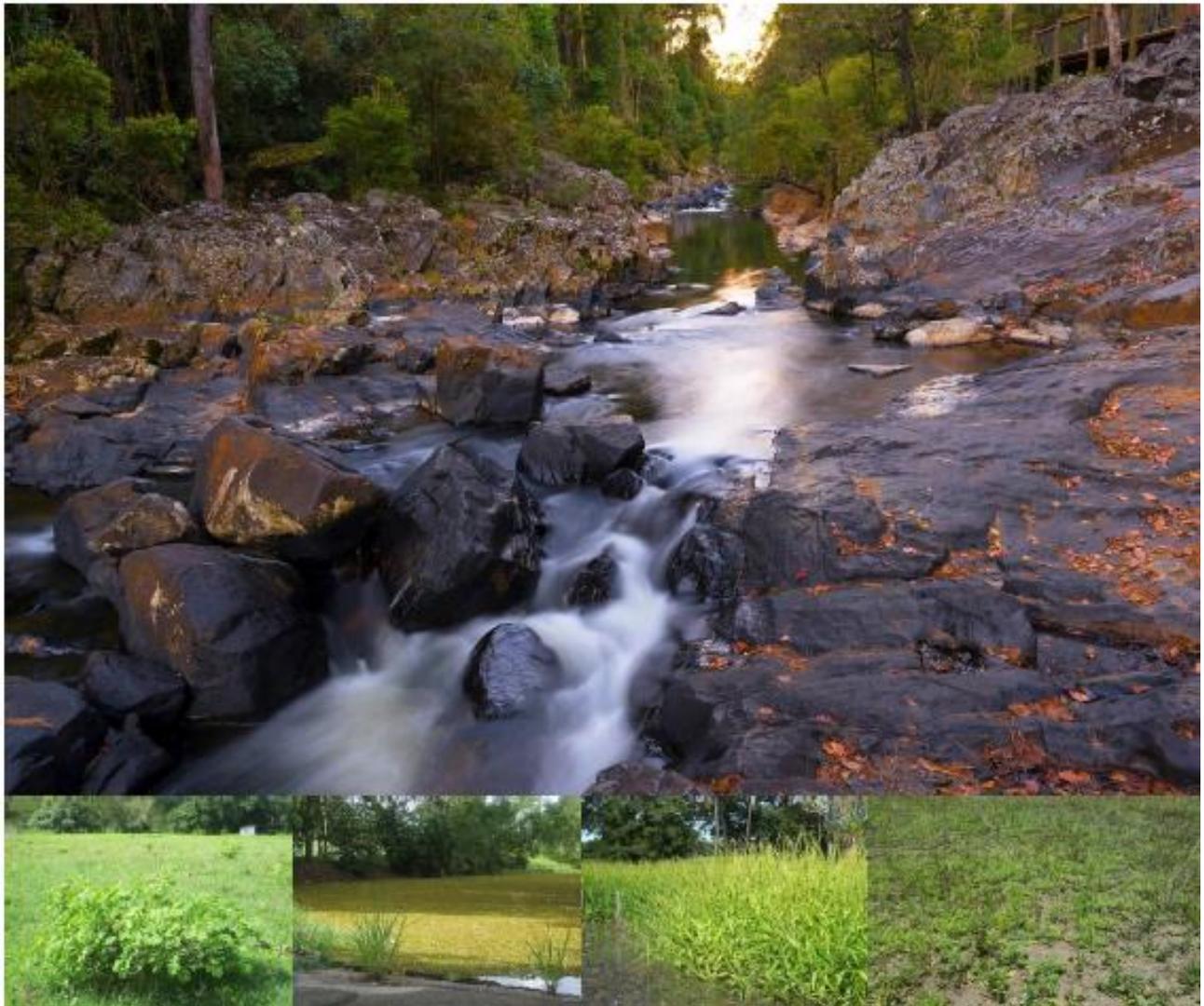


**Mackay Regional Council**  
**Biosecurity Plan: 2017 - 2021**



**PO Box 41**

**Mackay, Qld 4740**

**Updated July 2020**

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## **Executive Summary**

The aim of the Mackay Regional Council Biosecurity Plan (2017-2021) is to provide a framework for an effective biosecurity system for the Mackay region. This Biosecurity Plan applies to all land within the jurisdiction of Mackay Regional Council and carefully plans and prioritise resources to ensure that time and money are spent on invasive biosecurity matter where work will be most effective.

The Biosecurity Plan has been written to comply with the *Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014* and will guide landholders and managers to control invasive biosecurity matter for the benefits of the entire community.

## **Acknowledgement of Stakeholders**

The Mackay Regional Council would like to thank the members of Mackay Regional Pest Management Group (MRPMG) for contributing to this Biosecurity Plan.

## 1. Introduction

Weeds and pest animals (invasive biosecurity matter) have significant negative impacts on the environment, the economy (particularly agriculture) and the community, including human health and recreation. The purpose of managing invasive species is to prevent new introductions and limit these negative impacts.

The purpose of Mackay Regional Council's Biosecurity Plan is to have an effective and efficient way to control invasive biosecurity matter while educating landholders in the importance of managing pests on their own properties. The plan also helps Council to prioritise where they should be targeting their resources/species to control. Under the *Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014*, everyone has a general biosecurity obligation to take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise a biosecurity risk. Mackay Regional Council aims to work collaboratively with not only landholders in the region but also our neighbouring councils.

This Biosecurity Plan aligns strongly with Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2017-2021. The strategy acts to guide action toward nine strategic outcomes for the Mackay Region, including a "Sustainable Natural Environment" achieved through managing biosecurity threats and promoting the use of non-invasive plants throughout our region.

## 2. Background

### 2.1 Mackay Regional Council

Mackay Regional Council area covers 7622 km<sup>2</sup> with an estimated population of 123,724.



Fig.1 Mackay Regional Council area.

Mackay Regional Council manages over 2,330 kilometres of roads and road reserves.

We have a diverse range of landholders from peri-urban properties to grazing and cane growing properties. Pest Management is an important issue to all – pest plants affect farming and grazing – impacting on the economy, while our main feral animals (pigs and dogs) create a social and economic problem for all.

## 2.2 Legislation and Policy

The Biosecurity Act 2014 outlines the concept of the general biosecurity obligation (GBO), which is an overarching obligation that requires all stakeholders to take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise the risk to Australia's biosecurity. The GBO encourages all relevant parties to take a proactive role in preventing, managing and addressing biosecurity risks that relate to them.

An example is failing to manage/prevent spread of restricted invasive matter on property.

The Biosecurity Act also introduces prohibited and restricted biosecurity matter.

Prohibited – matter not currently present in Queensland and is prohibited because there are reasonable grounds to believe it could bear significant adverse effects if introduced.

Restricted – matter found in Queensland and may have an adverse effect if restrictions are not imposed.

The following is a list of restricted categories and a brief explanation

### 2.2.1 Restricted matter categories

Restricted matter can be biosecurity matter like a plant and animal disease, noxious fish, insects, pest animal or weeds that are found in Queensland. Specific actions are required to be undertaken that limit the impact of this matter by reducing, controlling or containing it.

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

- **Category 1** – Includes red imported fire ants, electric ants, Asian honey bees, and certain animal diseases, aquatic diseases and pathogens. Must be reported to an inspector (Department of Agriculture and Fisheries)

Category 1 restricted matter requires immediate containment or eradication to minimise the risk of spread. It must be reported to an inspector within 24 hours of an individual becoming aware of its presence (Section 42).

- **Category 2** – Includes certain noxious fish, weeds and pest animals such as marbled lungfish, mimosa pigra and red-eared slider turtle. Must be reported to an authorised officer (Local Government Officer)

Category 2 restricted matter includes a range of plant and fish species that pose a significant biosecurity risk and require management. Category 2 restricted matter must be reported to an authorised officer (not necessarily an inspector) within 24 hours of an individual becoming aware of its presence (Section 42).

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

- **Category 3** – not to be distributed or disposed

Category 3 restricted matter includes all invasive animals and plants where deliberate distribution or disposal is a key source of spread. It must not be given as a gift, sold, traded or released into the environment unless the distribution or disposal is provided for in a regulation or under a permit (Section 43).

- **Category 4** – not to be moved

Category 4 restricted matter includes specific invasive plants and animals that must not be moved to ensure they are not spread into other areas of the State. As with category 3, the intention of this prohibition is to limit its distribution or spread (Section 45(a)).

- **Category 5** – not to be kept

Category 5 restricted matter cannot be possessed or kept under a person's control. This restricted matter category includes invasive species that have a high pest potential and capacity to impact heavily on the environment. There are exemptions for seized items, where the restricted matter is being held for identification purposes or under permit (Section 45 (b)).

- **Category 6** – not to be fed

Category 6 restricted matter cannot be fed unless held under a restricted matter permit or for the purposes of poison baiting. This includes invasive animals and noxious fish which are not owned by a person including feral deer, foxes, rabbits, and wild dogs. The intention of this prohibition is to discourage population growth (Section 45 (c)).

- **Category 7** – must be killed

Category 7 restricted matter must be killed as soon as practicable and disposed of in a way described under a regulation. This is currently intended for the management of noxious fish such as carp, and tilapia (Section 44).

There may be several restriction categories that apply to particular biosecurity matter, for example, the Act lists rabbits as category 3,4,5 and 6 restricted matter. This means that rabbits must not be given, distributed, sold or traded, moved within Queensland, kept by a person or in their control, fed (except during baiting programs) and must not be released into the environment.

### 3. Bio Security Planning

Mackay Regional Council Plan will be in place from 2017 – 2021 with annual reviews.

#### 3.1 Biosecurity Plans

The Queensland government requirements for local Biosecurity Plans are:

- There is no requirement for department approval of biosecurity plans, but the local government may adopt by resolution.
- There is no requirement to review the plan but best practise is to review periodically.
- Plans should be developed in consultation with the community.
- Plans should re-enforce that local governments are responsible for ensuring invasive biosecurity matter control within their jurisdiction and in accordance with regional plans.
- Plans will include all areas in the Shire, including State land.
- Plans should prioritise biosecurity matter.
- The Biosecurity Plan should not breach the requirements of other Queensland legislation such as:
  - *Agriculture Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966*
  - *Vegetation Management Act 1999*
  - *Nature Conservation Act 1992*
  - *Water Act 2000*
  - *Environmental Protection Act 1994*
  - *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994*
  - *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*
  - *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Queensland) Act 1994*
  - *Qld Biosecurity Act 2014*

Elements of the Biosecurity Plan include:

- Assessing risk and prioritising species
- Setting goals and management objectives and developing strategies and activities to achieve goals and objectives
- Identifying responsibilities and building commitment to manage invasive biosecurity matter
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the plan
- Informing the local community about the plan

### **3.2 Pest management principles**

The following is a list of the pest management principles adopted by Queensland Government. These principles are encouraged to be used by local government as core elements of biosecurity planning to ensure best practise in developing a sound strategy.

- Commitment
- Consultation and Partnership
- Integration
- Prevention and early detection
- Planning
- Improvement (research, monitoring and evaluation)
- Public awareness
- Best practise

### **3.3 Regional Priorities**

The Mackay Regional Pest Management Group (MRPMG) consists of representatives from Whitsunday, Mackay and Isaac regions from local and state government departments, community groups and industry bodies whose core business involves the provision of plant and animal pest management information and expertise within their respective fields.

The MRPMG current Regional Pest Management Strategy 2020-2025.

- The goal of the group is to prioritise and coordinate pest management across the region and ensure that best practice principles are carried out in a consistent, integrated and efficient manner.

## 4. Prioritising Species

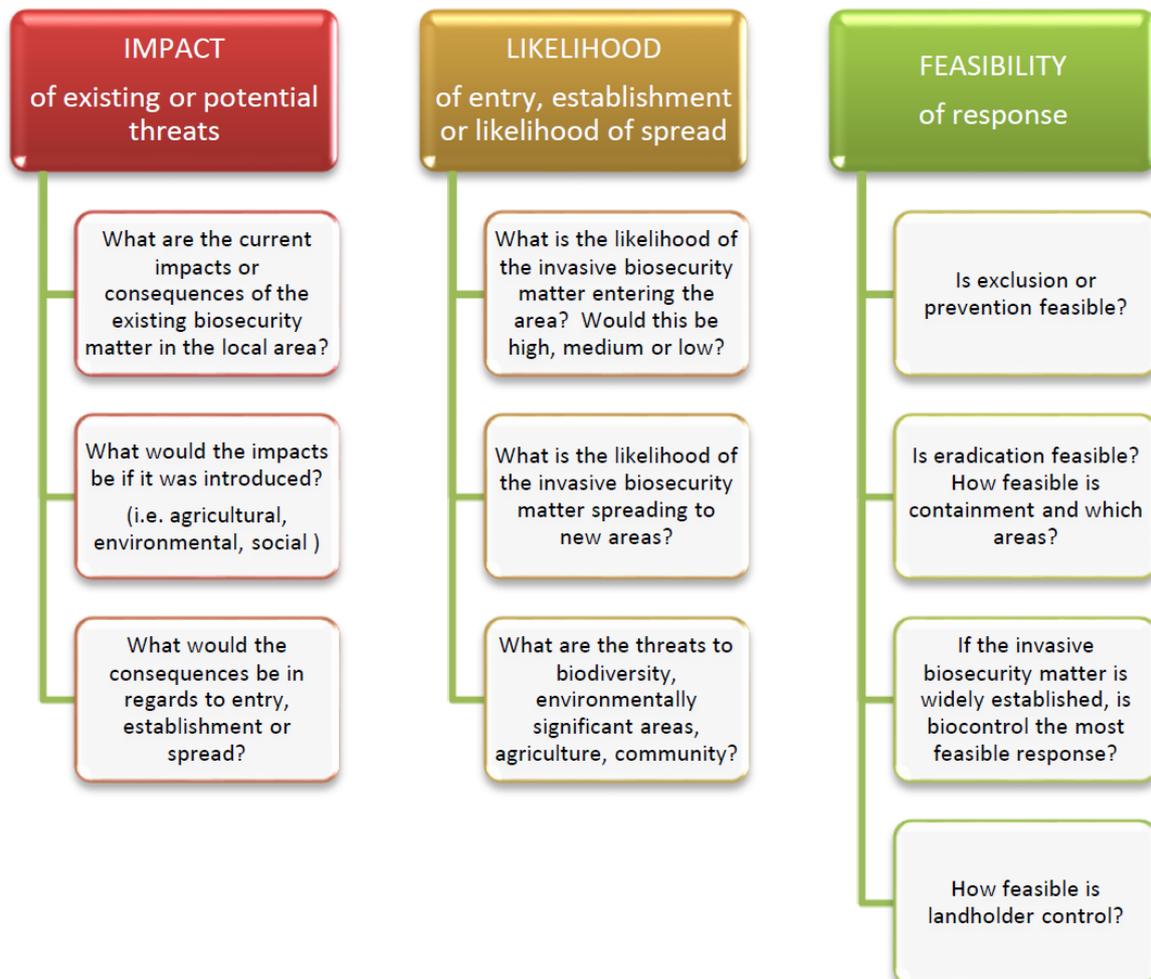
### 4.1. Priority Rating

**Table 1 Level of Priority**

Rating	Level of Priority	Commitment
H	High	Report, eradicate, monitor
M	Medium	Contain, control, reduce, educate, monitor, roadside spraying
L	Low	Protect environmental areas, educate, monitor

The priority rating was assessed on information relating to the following criteria:

- The impact or potential impact of the plant or animal
- The distribution and density of the plant or animal
- The resources available
- The feasibility of applying control



**Table 2 Current Status of Infestation**

1	Don't have, want to prevent
2	Have, want to eradicate
3	Have, want to contain, control and reduce, educate

## 4.2. Prohibited Species

**Table 4** - To be isolated, reported to DAF immediately.

Invasive Plants	Prohibited	Priority Rating	Current Status of Infestation
Red Witch Weed <i>Striga asiatica</i>	✓	H	2

Red Witch Weed currently under DAF control.

## 4.3. Restricted Species

Invasive Plants	Category No	Priority Rating	Current Status of Infestation
Mimosa Pigra ( <i>Mimosa pigra</i> )	2,3,4,5	H	1
Prickly Acacia ( <i>Vachellia nilotica</i> )	3	H	1
Giant Sensitive plant ( <i>Mimosa diplotricha</i> var. <i>diplotricha</i> )	3	H	2
Pond Apple ( <i>Annona glabra</i> )	3	H	2
Parthenium ( <i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i> )	3	H	3
Rubber Vine ( <i>Cryptostegia grandiflora</i> )	3	H	3
Sagittaria ( <i>Sagittaria platyphylla</i> )	3	H	2
Elephant Ear Vine ( <i>Argyreia nervosa</i> )	3	M	2
Bellyache Bush ( <i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i> and hybrids)	3	M	2
Thunbergia ( <i>Thunbergia grandiflora</i> )	3	M	3
Rat Tail Grasses ( <i>Sporobolus pyramidalis</i> and <i>S.natalensis</i> )	3	M	3
Sicklepods ( <i>Senna obtusifolia</i> )	3	M	3
Singapore Daisy ( <i>Sphagneticola trilobata</i> syn. <i>Wedelia trilobata</i> )	3	M	3
Madeira vine ( <i>Anredera cordifolia</i> )	3	M	3
Tobacco Weed ( <i>Elephantopus mollis</i> )	3	M	3
Mother of Millions ( <i>Bryophyllum delagoense</i> )	3	M	3
Navua Sedge ( <i>Cyperus aromaticus</i> )	Invasive Plant - Emerging issue	M	3
African Tulip tree ( <i>Spathodea campanulata</i> )	3	L	3
Asparagus Fern ( <i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i> , <i>A. africanus</i> and <i>A. plumosus</i> )	3	L	3
Broad Leaf Pepper Tree ( <i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i> )	3	L	3
Cats Claw Creeper ( <i>Dolichandra unguis-cati</i> )	3	L	3
Lantana ( <i>Lantana camara</i> )	3	L	3
Prickly Pears -	3	L	3

- bunny ears ( <i>Opuntia microdasys</i> )	2,3,4,5	L	3
- common pest pear, spiney pest pear ( <i>O. stricta</i> syn. <i>O. inermis</i> )	3	L	3
- drooping tree pear ( <i>O. monacantha</i> syn. <i>O. vulgaris</i> )	3	L	3
- prickly pear ( <i>O. elata</i> )	3	L	3
Captain Cook tree – yellow oleander ( <i>Cascabela thevetia</i> syn. <i>Thevetia peruviana</i> )	3	L	3
<b>Water Weeds</b>			
Water mimosa ( <i>Neptunia oleracea</i> and <i>N. Plena</i> )	2,3,4,5	H	2
Hymenachne ( <i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i> and hybrids)	3	M	3
Salvinia ( <i>Salvinia molesta</i> )	3	M	3
Water Hyacinth ( <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i> )	3	M	3
Water Lettuce ( <i>Pistia stratiotes</i> )	3	M	3
<b>Invasive Animals</b>			
Feral Cat ( <i>Felis catus</i> and <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i> x <i>Felis catus</i> ) other than a domestic cat	3,4,6	M	3
Feral Pig ( <i>Sus scrofa</i> )	3,4,6	M	3
Fox ( <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> )	3,4,5,6	M	3
Wild Dog ( <i>Canis lupus familiaris</i> ) other than a domestic dog	3,4,6	M	3
Rabbit ( <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> )	3,4,5,6	L	3
<b>Fish</b>			
Tilapia ( <i>Oreochromis mossambicus</i> and <i>Tilapia mariae</i> )	3,5,6,7	M	3
Cichlid – Oscar & Jaguar	Invasive matter - Emerging Issue	L	3

## 5. Biosecurity Management Program

The Queensland Weed and Pest Animal Strategy (DAF, 2016) identified a number of desired outcomes. The desired outcomes listed in the Strategy need to be reflected in the local government Biosecurity Plans. The desired outcomes are:

- Desired outcome 1: Prevention and early intervention
- Desired outcome 2: Monitoring and assessment
- Desired outcome 3: Awareness and education
- Desired outcome 4: Effective management systems
- Desired outcome 5: Strategic management framework and management
- Desired outcome 6: Commitment, roles and responsibilities

*Desired outcome 1: Prevention and early detection*

Establishment and spread of weeds and pest animals is prevented

<b>Objective A: Management Actions are in place to prevent pest species introduction into MRC LGA.</b>				
<i>Action No.</i>	<i>Action Description</i>	<i>Success Indicator</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
A.1	Open and clear communications between council departments and compliance with prevention protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All relevant departments to have weed hygiene procedures</li> <li>• Annual weed talks given to relevant departments and contractors</li> </ul>	Ongoing	MRC individual departments  PMO
A.2	Build relationships with neighbouring councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing of information regarding priority invasive species</li> <li>• Attendance MRPMG</li> </ul>	Ongoing	MRC WRC IRC
A.3	To keep open discussion on construction of wash down facilities in regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessing funding for Mackay area. (IRC has one in Nebo, WRC has 3 mobile wash down facilities)</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Qld. Government MRC WRC IRC
A.4	Regular surveillance program of roads and transport corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surveillance completed.</li> <li>• Early detection of pest species</li> </ul>	Ongoing	MRC (Lead) All stakeholders TMR

A.5	Nurseries regularly monitored to prevent selling, supply or keeping biosecurity matter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring completed twice a year at each nursery</li> </ul>	Ongoing	MRC Biosecurity Qld (DAF)
A.6	Vehicles and sugarcane harvesters are washed down or blown down between farming entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compliance by contractors, farmers and people accessing properties by washing/blowing down at designated sites prior to moving onto the next property</li> </ul>	Ongoing (aim to increase compliance)	Canegrowers Graziers Contractors MAPS

### Objective B: Community have good knowledge of pest species

Action No.	Action Description	Success Indicator	Time Frame	Responsibilities
B.1	Liaise with Landcare, Reefcatchments and other community groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of workshops delivered</li> <li>Number of field days attended</li> <li>Attend local schools</li> <li>Make Pest Fact Sheets available</li> </ul>	Ongoing	MRC
B.2	To establish media content to improve community awareness of biosecurity matter and the risk posed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Radio talks</li> <li>Newspaper inserts</li> </ul>	Ongoing	MRC
B.3	Develop a webpage on MRC website on Biosecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Webpage developed</li> <li>Links to useful resources</li> </ul>	Developed and maintained ongoing	MRC

### Objective C: MRC to be involved with Regional Eradication Programs

Action No.	Action Description	Success Indicator	Time Frame	Responsibilities
C.1	MRC Pest Management Officers to be available to assist Biosecurity Qld if required, in early detection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invasive species isolated / eradicated</li> </ul>	Ongoing	MRC Biosecurity Qld (DAF)
C.2	MRC Pest Management Officers to work with neighbouring councils if required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preventing spread of invasive species into MRC region</li> </ul>	Ongoing	MRC WRC IRC

*Desired outcome 2: Monitoring and assessment*

Reliable data is needed to ensure that weeds and pest animals are managed holistically and for the long term. Weed and pest animal control requires an appropriate balance between prevention, surveillance and preparedness.

<b>Objective A: To undertake developing mapping system</b>				
<i>Action No.</i>	<i>Action Description</i>	<i>Success Indicator</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
A.1	To research appropriate system/methods to map plants and animals (State & Local Governments are trying to find/develop a system)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finding and implementing system</li> </ul>	Ongoing	MRC
A.2	Train officers in reporting skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Officers reporting and building good data</li> </ul>	Ongoing	MRC
A.3	Develop statistics on extent of infestations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual report produced</li> </ul>	Ongoing	MRC

<b>Objective B: Collection of data to make informed pest management decisions</b>				
<i>Action No.</i>	<i>Action Description</i>	<i>Success Indicator</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
B.1	Sharing of data between agencies. Create common system/documents for collection of stakeholder's information (linked to A1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Common system or documents developed</li> <li>Data collated and reported</li> </ul>	Ongoing	MRC All Stakeholders
B.2	Pest Management Activities mapped (Baiting, Trapping, weed infestations) (linked to A1 for overarching mapping)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creation of map indicating locations</li> </ul>	Ongoing	MRC
B.3	Participate in annual sharing of survey information between LG's and state government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual sharing of information</li> </ul>	Ongoing	MRC IRC WRC Biosecurity Qld (DAF)
B.4	Surveillance programs conducted of known hotspots for Pond Apple, Rubber Vine, Salvinia, Sagittaria.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surveillance conducted: Pond Apple &amp; Salvinia – annually Rubber Vine &amp; Sagittaria – twice a year</li> </ul>	Ongoing	MRC Landcare Reefcatchments
B.5	Survey and treat new weed incursions identified in region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing Surveying</li> <li>Allocated resources to appropriately treat</li> </ul>	Ongoing	MRC

*Desired outcome 3: Awareness and education*

Effective management of weeds and pest animals relies on broad stakeholder knowledge of the problem and management issues. Many weed, and pest animal problems are increased through lack of community knowledge and awareness.

<b>Objective A: Maintain communication network with stakeholders</b>				
<i>Action No.</i>	<i>Action Description</i>	<i>Success Indicator</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
A.1	Pest Management Officers to represent MRC at MRPMG meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All meetings attended</li> </ul>	Ongoing	MRC

<b>Objective B: Media coverage</b>				
<i>Action No.</i>	<i>Action Description</i>	<i>Success Indicator</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
B.1	Develop plan to participate in awareness campaign (reference – Health Regulatory Services Communication Plan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Posts on MRC Facebook</li> <li>Regular Newspaper articles</li> <li>Radio interviews</li> </ul>	Ongoing	MRC

<b>Objective C: Community accessibility to Pest Information</b>				
<i>Action No.</i>	<i>Action Description</i>	<i>Success Indicator</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
C.1	Biosecurity Plan available to public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post on MRC website</li> <li>Printed copies available from MRC</li> </ul>	Ongoing	MRC
C.2	Biosecurity Pest Fact Sheets available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supply of Fact Sheets kept accurate and current</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Biosecurity Qld (DAF) MRC
C.3	Pest Management Officers to address community groups / attend field days and displays at Local Shows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum 10 of events attended</li> </ul>	Ongoing	MRC
C.4	Prompt attention to Customer Requests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All issues resolved within given time frames</li> </ul>	Ongoing	MRC

*Desired outcome 4: Effective management systems*

To ensure the best possible outcomes, all stakeholders should advocate and adopt best practice management for all weeds and pest animal management activities. Weed and pest animal management legislation is backed by suitable enforcement measures, but enforcement should only be used when other approaches have failed.

<b>Objective A: Efficient Reporting System</b>				
<i>Action No.</i>	<i>Action Description</i>	<i>Success Indicator</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
A.1	Information gathered is efficiently recorded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• True and accurate reports</li> <li>• Continuous updating and improvement of system</li> </ul>	Ongoing	MRC

<b>Objective B: Continued improvement on Best Management Practices (BMP) for pest species</b>				
<i>Action No.</i>	<i>Action Description</i>	<i>Success Indicator</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
B.1	Identify future research required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership with other councils for research project</li> </ul>	Ongoing	MRC WRC IRC Biosecurity Qld (DAF)
B.2	Sharing of BMP updated information from state projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information shared in a timely manner</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Biosecurity Qld (DAF)

<b>Objective C: Coordinated Baiting Program</b>				
<i>Action No.</i>	<i>Action Description</i>	<i>Success Indicator</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
C.1	Pest Management Officers to liaise with Baiting coordinators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baiting programs coordinated throughout the region</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Landholders MRC

<b>Objective D: Community focused programs</b>				
<i>Action No.</i>	<i>Action Description</i>	<i>Success Indicator</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
D.1	Implement effective community based control programs. (Reduce isolated/one off responses)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programs coordinated throughout the region</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Landholders MRC
D.2	Review state-wide incentive programs to determine their effectiveness at encouraging stakeholders to undertake pest management activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report provided to council</li> </ul>	July 2021	MRC

*Desired outcome 5: Strategic training framework and management*

A strategic approach can only achieve common goals and priorities if there is effective communication and cooperation between land managers, NRM groups, industry, local governments and state government departments.

<b>Objective A: Development of Pest Management Strategy that aligns with other Council Strategies</b>				
<i>Action No.</i>	<i>Action Description</i>	<i>Success Indicator</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
A.1	To liaise with other departments so that strategies align	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That departments have same focus</li> </ul>	Ongoing	MRC
A.2	That Biosecurity Plan is reviewed annually to ensure it reflects current issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MRC Biosecurity plan reflects current issues</li> </ul>	Ongoing	MRC

<b>Objective B: Pest Management is effectively resourced</b>				
<i>Action No.</i>	<i>Action Description</i>	<i>Success Indicator</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
B.1	Sufficient resources are allocated to Pest Management operations to achieve desired objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That strategic actions are not compromised by budget restraints</li> </ul>	Ongoing	All stakeholders

<b>Objective C: Pest management strategies are implemented, evaluated and reviewed</b>				
<i>Action No.</i>	<i>Action Description</i>	<i>Success Indicator</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
C.1	Pest species are managed on MRC land through Property Management Plans (PMP's)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PMP's are developed for pest species located on MRC land</li> </ul>	Ongoing	MRC
C.2	Property Management Plans (PMP's) are developed for stakeholders affected by pest species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PMP's developed for affected properties</li> </ul>	Ongoing	All Stakeholders MRC

*Desired outcome 6: Commitment, Roles and Responsibilities*

Management of weeds and pest animals is the shared responsibility of land managers, industry, the community and all levels of government. Clearly defined and accepted roles and responsibilities are crucial to the success of long-term management.

<b>Objective A: Long term approach to Pest Management Activities</b>				
<i>Action No.</i>	<i>Action Description</i>	<i>Success Indicator</i>	<i>Time Frame</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
A.1	MRC continues to be involved in the MRPMG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pest Management Officers to attend MRPMG meeting and Resource Sharing days</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Pest Management Officers
A.2	Support of knowledge building activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trainings and Symposiums attended</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Pest Management Officers

## 6. Implementation and action plan

### *General approach and strategic direction*

The pest management actions of the Mackay Regional Council area will be guided by the following principles:

- 1) The Council will encourage landholders to report prohibited invasive plants and animals to DAF.
- 2) The Council will manage priority pests on its own land using pest management plans.
- 3) The Council will encourage landholders/managers to control restricted invasive matter with the aid of property management plans.
- 4) The Council will develop community education and awareness strategies to assist in educating landholders.
- 5) Council will direct its pest management resources based on the identification of priority control areas.
- 6) The council will control priority pests on Local and Main roads.
- 7) Council will use compliance and enforcement actions in the control of invasive biosecurity matter when education fails.
- 8) The Mackay Regional Council Annual Operation Pest Management Plan (see appendix 1) must be achievable and reflect human and financial resources at the time.

The council and community will need to focus resources on priority pests in priority parts of the region. Priority areas will be assessed on the following attributes:

- 1) Pest priority.
- 2) Risk to environmentally significant areas and location in catchment such as creeks, wetlands etc. Weed infestations in the upper catchment will be prioritised higher than those in the lower landscape.
- 3) Density and total area infestation.
- 4) Capacity of land owner to contain.
- 5) Ease of access.

## 7. Monitoring and evaluation

The Mackay Regional Council Biosecurity Plan (2017-2021) will be reviewed annually by Council staff. The review of the Biosecurity Plan will involve:

- A review of pest plant and animal species,
- A review of pest priorities
- A review of the annual operating plan

## 8. Appendix

### 8.1 Annual Operating Plan 2020/2021

- Pest Management Team Leader – 1FTE (Mirani/Mackay) (158 days/yr)
- Pest Management Officer – 1FTE (Sarina) (158 days/yr)
- Pest Management Officer – 1FTE (Mirani/Mackay) (158 days/yr)
- Pest Management Officer – 1FTE (Mirani/Mackay) (158 days/yr)
- Pest Management Officer – 1FTE (Mackay/Sarina) (158 days/yr)
- Number of work days available = 790 days/yr

#### Pest Management Program Activities

The following is the proposed list of annual tasks and approximate days allocated to each:

Weed management task	Description	Staff days allocated – target days	%of total time
Weed control council land	Spraying of declared weeds and PMP's on council land and road reserves	118	15
Property pest management plans & enforcement	The development of PMP's with landholders and undertake enforcement action	118	15
Education and awareness	Educating landholders, field days, shed meetings, shows, training sessions	79	10
Data acquisition and management	Investigate mapping system, record data, share data, map weed infestations	40	5
Surveillance program	Surveillance of priority weeds	79	10
Strategic management, training and meetings	Attend training, meetings, write procedures and plans	40	5
Total		474	60%

Pest animal management task	Description	Staff days allocated – target days	%of total time
1080 baiting (ground)	Assist with coordinating and administering 1080 baiting programs	87	11
Aerial baiting	Once a year program delivered in partnership with WRC, QPWS, DNR	8	1
Trap management	Feral animal trap assistance and hire to landholders	40	5
Strychnine baiting	Assist with coordinating and administering strychnine baiting	40	5
Education and awareness	Educating landholders, field days, shed meetings, shows, training sessions	79	10
Strategic management, training and meetings	Attend training, meetings, write procedures and plans	62	8
Total		316	40%

## 8.2 Abbreviations

**MRC** - Mackay Regional Council  
**IRC** - Isaac Regional Council  
**WRC** - Whitsunday Regional Council  
**DAF** - Department of Agriculture & Fisheries  
**MRPMG** - Mackay Regional Pest Management Group  
**QPWS** - Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service  
**DNR** – Department of Natural Resource

## 8.3 List of Stakeholders

Mackay Regional Council, Isaac Regional Council, Whitsunday Regional Council, Pioneer Catchment Landcare, Sarina Landcare, Mackay Regional Pest Management Group, Department of Agriculture & Fisheries, Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service, Reefcatchments, Department of Transport & Main Roads, North Queensland Bulk Ports, Mackay Area Productivity Service, Conservation Australia, Ergon & Power Link.

## 8.4 References

Department of Agriculture & Fisheries 2014. Biosecurity Act 2014 Queensland Government, Brisbane.

Department of Agriculture & Fisheries. Queensland Weed & Pest Animal Strategy 2016-2020, Draft for consultation, Queensland Government, Brisbane.

Department of Agriculture & Fisheries 2016. Developing local area biosecurity plans: a guide for local governments. Queensland Government, Brisbane.

Mackay Regional Pest Management Group, 2011. Regional Pest Management Strategy – Isaac, Mackay, Whitsunday (2011-2014). Reefcatchments Inc.

Mackay Regional Councils Pest Management Plan (2011-2014)