Whitsunday Regional Council Biosecurity Plan

2021-2025

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Executive Summary

The purpose of the Whitsunday Regional Council Biosecurity Plan 2021-2025 is to guide pest management within the Whitsunday Local Government Area. This Biosecurity Plan has been written to comply with the *Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014* and applies to all land within the jurisdiction of Whitsunday Regional Council.

In 2016, Whitsunday Regional Council developed the Whitsunday Regional Council Biosecurity Plan 2016-2020 with regional stakeholders. In 2020, this Biosecurity Plan was reviewed by Council staff and then further reviewed by stakeholders in March 2021.

The Whitsunday Regional Council Biosecurity Plan 2021-2025 builds on the previous Biosecurity Plan. The new Whitsunday Biosecurity Plan 2021-2025 seeks the following outcomes:

- Describe how the extent of pest plants and animals in the region will be mapped and monitored.
- Inform the community of their pest management obligations.
- Describe how the regional pests are prioritises.
- Describe how pests will be managed and reduced across the region.
- Document the roles and responsibilities for pest management stakeholders.

Council has developed this Biosecurity Plan 2021-2025 in consultation with regional land management stakeholders. This Plan has focused on pest plants, vertebrates and invertebrate pests but not pathogens and diseases. Council's Pest Management Programs will aim to reduce pest plant and animals across the region.

Acknowledgements

Whitsunday Regional Council would like to thank the following stakeholders who have contributed to this Biosecurity Plan;

- Biosecurity Queensland
- Bowen Gumlu Growers Association Inc.
- Canegrowers
- Ergon Energy
- Growcom
- NQ Dry Tropics
- Queensland Department of Main Roads and Transport
- Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines
- Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
- Reef Catchments
- Sugar Services Proserpine
- Whitsunday Catchment Landcare

Document Control

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1. Introduction

Pest plant and animals impact on the biodiversity of the Whitsunday region and its economy. Pest plants can reduce the available land for farming practises by out-competing native and introduced pasture species, and reducing land available for grazing. The reduction in land available for productive grazing reduces farm income. Pest plants can also interrupt cropping systems where infestations invade horticultural areas and compete with crops for nutrients and soil water. Pest plants can also impact on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Weeds can similarly out compete native plants for soil nutrients and water, and reduce habitat area for native animals. Whitsunday Regional Council estimate that approximately 165,000ha of land is infested with pest plants across the region.

The Whitsunday region is home to a range of feral animals which include; feral pigs, dogs, cats, fox, rabbits, deer and goats. Feral animals have detrimental impacts on the regions ecosystems and the economy. Feral animals such as pigs, dogs and cats feed on native animals and can have detrimental impacts on ecosystem services. Feral pigs and dogs impact on the local economy by spreading disease to cattle and reduce cattle productivity. Feral animal populations can cause accelerated erosion of stream banks and damage downstream ecosystems through sedimentation. It has been estimated that feral animals cost Whitsunday regional landholders $12.5 million/yr in lost productivity (Synergy, 2020).

Nationally, the economic impact of weeds alone is estimated at $4 billion per year (Sinden, *et al.,* 2004). Biosecurity Queensland estimate that the impact on the Queensland economy is $600 million a year (DAFF, 2016). In response to the economic and environmental threats of invasive plants and animals, the Queensland State government has introduced the *Queensland Biosecurity Act (2014).* The *Biosecurity Act* provides guidance on pest management issues in Queensland. One of the requirements of the *Biosecurity Act* is for local governments to develop a local area Biosecurity Plan with stakeholder input to identify, prioritise and manage pest plants and animals. The purpose of the Biosecurity Plan *is to bring all sectors of a local community together to manage invasive biosecurity matter in their local government area*. There are many benefits of developing a pest plan in consultation with relevant stakeholders. Pest plans that are developed in consultation with relevant community groups can have more accurate content, are generally accepted by the community and ensure communities have a common understanding of the future direction of pest management for an area.

The purpose of the Biosecurity Plan is to determine how pest management will occur in the region for the next four years. The new Biosecurity Plan 2021-2025 builds upon the previous Biosecurity Plan 2016-2020. The Biosecurity Plan timeframe will align with the Queensland Weed and Animal Strategy (2016-20), the Queensland Invasive Plans and Animals Strategy (2019-24), Queensland Biosecurity Strategy: our next five years 2018–2023. The aim of the Biosecurity Plan is to strategically plan for the control and reduction of invasive pest plants and animals to reduce environmental impacts and minimise economic loss. The objectives of this Plan are to:

- Describe the Whitsunday pest framework.
- Prioritise pest plants and animals for the region.
- Incorporate best practise pest management principles and strategies.
- Describe the regional approach to desired pest outcomes.
- Define stakeholder roles and responsibilities.

Within this plan, pests are defined as plants or animals that are prohibited or restricted matter under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, are identified under local laws, or are non-declared species that have the potential to cause adverse impacts in the region. These pests include both exotic and native species. This Plan focus on pest plants, vertebrates and invertebrate pests but not pathogens and diseases.

Council will aim to work collaboratively with the residents of the Whitsunday region and relevant land management stakeholders to proactively manage pest plants and animals in region. This Biosecurity Plan will be used to publicise the region's pest management priorities and outline the pest management programs that will be developed.

2. Background

2.1 Whitsunday Regional Council

The Whitsunday Regional Council area has a population of 34,000 and covers 2,376,500 ha (Figure 1). Council is one of the largest land owners in the Region with 36,893 ha under its control and management. Whitsunday Regional Council owns or manages over 820 lots of land and is responsible for managing hundreds of kilometres of road reserves. Pest management is an important land management issue which the Council takes seriously. Pest management has been incorporated into the Whitsunday Regional Council Corporate Plan. The Corporate Plan includes the following strategies for pest management and protecting the areas environment:

- 2.1.3 Implement, enforce and review community health regulations and standards and deliver a timely and effective response to emerging health issues.
- 3.2.1 Develop and implement policies and strategies that protect and enhance the Whitsunday Region's natural environment.
- 3.2.3 Support and facilitate a variety of community awareness initiatives and programs that promote the Whitsunday Region's natural environment.
- 3.2.4 Partner with landholders to mitigate the effects of pests on the Whitsunday Region's natural environment.

It should be noted that Council will be developing a new Corporate Plan in mid-2021.

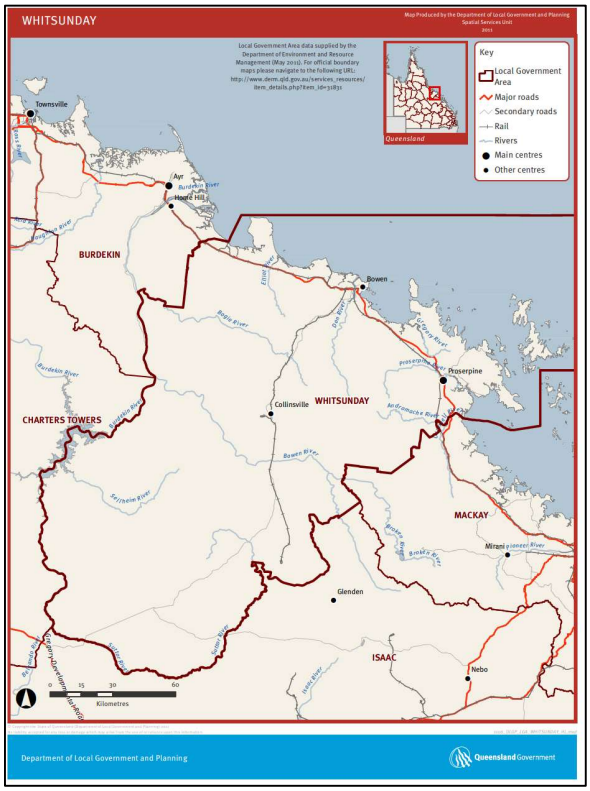

Figure 1: *Whitsunday Regional Council Local Government Area*

Pest management is the responsibility of all landholders. Pests are not confined by fences or boundary lines. Consequently, it is necessary for Council to work with all land management stakeholders and landholders to manage pest plants and animals.

2.2 Pest Management Stakeholders

Pest management in the Whitsunday Regional Council area has relied upon the cooperation and input from a number of land management stakeholders over many years. The development of this Biosecurity Plan has benefited from stakeholder input. Stakeholders have contributed to the development of this Biosecurity Plan through their involvement in the various past pest management working groups and collaborative projects. The implementation of the Biosecurity Plan will require support from the following stakeholders.

- Agforce and Meat Livestock Australia (MLA)
- Bowen Gumlu Growers Association
- Canegrowers
- Ergon Energy
- GrowCom
- Landholders
- NQ Dry Tropics NRM Group
- Powerlink
- Queensland Biosecurity
- Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines
- Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife service
- Queensland Rail
- Reef Catchments NRM Group
- Sunwater
- Traditional owners
- Whitsunday Catchment Landcare
- Bowen Landcare

2.3 Legislation and Policy

The main legislation which guides pest management in the Whitsunday region is the *Queensland Biosecurity Act (2014)* and the *Whitsunday Regional Council Local Law No. 3 (Community and Environment) 2014.* The Queensland Government has introduced the *Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014* to guide the management of invasive plants and animals. The priority invasive pests and associated plans for the region are outlined in Section 4.1 of this Plan.

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* introduces the concept of the General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO), which is an overarching obligation that requires all persons who deal with biosecurity matter to take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise the risk posed by the biosecurity matter. The GBO encourages all relevant parties to take a proactive role in preventing, managing and addressing biosecurity risks that relate to them.

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* also introduces prohibited and restricted biosecurity matter. Prohibited matter is not currently present in Queensland and is prohibited because there are reasonable grounds to believe it could have significant adverse effects if introduced to the state. Restricted matter is found in Queensland and may have an adverse effect if restrictions are not imposed. Restricted matter is assigned category numbers from 1-7 based on its characteristics and the risk it poses. Pest plants and animals can be attributed to more than one pest category.

The *Whitsunday Regional Council Local Law No. 3 (Community and Environment) 2014* enables Council to identify pest plants. Under Local Law No. 3, a person must not;

- introduce, propagate or breed a declared local pest; or
- provide harbour to a declared local pest.

The *Whitsunday Regional Council Subordinate Local Law No. 3 (Community and Environment) 2014* contains a list of locally declared pest plants which are not identified as pest plants by the State Government but are recognised locally as invasive and worthy of control and eradication. A list of locally declared pest plants can be found in Appendix 8.1.

2.3.1 Restricted Matter Categories

The following is a list of the restricted categories and a brief explanation from the State government:

- **Category 1** includes red imported fire ants, electric ants, Asian honey bees, and certain animal diseases, aquatic diseases and pathogens. Biosecurity Queensland needs to be made aware of this restricted matter to take action to contain and eradicate it. You must report category 1 restricted matter to a Department of Agriculture and Fisheries inspector within 24 hours of becoming aware of its presence.
- **Category 2** restricted matter includes certain noxious fish, weeds and pest animals such as spotted gar and red-eared slider turtle.
- **Categories 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.** These categories relate to restricted matter that is in a person's possession, under their control and is also about not feeding restricted matter.
    - **Category 3** includes weeds, pest animals and noxious fish (e.g. gambusia, dingoes, yellow crazy ants).
    - You must not distribute this restricted matter. This means it must not be given as a gift, sold, traded or released into the environment unless the distribution is authorised in a regulation or under a permit. Deliberate human distribution contrary to the legislation is a key source of spread into other areas of the state.
- **Category 4** includes specific weeds, pest animals and noxious fish such as the bitou bush, feral pig or giant cichlid. You must not move this restricted matter to ensure that it does not spread into other areas of the state.
- **Category 5** includes weeds, pest animals and noxious fish such as Mexican feather grass, rabbits and carp. You must not possess or keep this restricted matter under your control. These pests have a high risk of negatively impacting on the environment. You may only keep this restricted matter under a permit of the *Biosecurity Act 2014* or another Act.
- **Category 6** includes invasive animals such as feral deer, foxes, rabbits and wild dogs and noxious fish such as carp, gambusia and tilapia. You must not feed this category of restricted matter. Feeding this restricted matter may cause their numbers to increase and negatively impact the economy or the environment. Feeding for the purpose of preparing for or undertaking a control program is exempted.
- **Category 7** includes noxious fish such as carp, weather loach, climbing perch, gambusia and tilapia. If you have these noxious fish in your possession, you must kill the restricted matter and dispose of the carcass by burying the whole carcass (no parts removed) in the ground above the high tide water mark or placing it in a waste disposal receptacle (DAFF, 2016).

2.4 Pest Management Planning

2.4.1 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-inforce 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:
    - *Vegetation Management Act 1999*

- *Nature Conservation Act 22992*
- *Water Act 2000*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1994*
- *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994*
- *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*
- *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Queensland) Act 1994*
- *Wild Rivers Act 2005*
- *Land Title Act 1994*
- *Health Act 1937*
- *Agricultural Chemicals Distribution and Control Act 1966* (DAFF, 2016).

2.4.2 Previous and Current Pest Management Plans

The Whitsunday region has had a proactive approach to the planning and management of invasive pest plants and animals over the last 15 years. Land management stakeholders and Council have contributed to the development and implementation of the following previous Pest Management Plans:

- Bowen Shire Council Pest Management Plan 2005-2009
- Whitsunday Shire Council Pest Management Plan 2005-2009
- Whitsunday Pest Management Plan 2010-2015
- Mackay Regional Pest Management Strategy 2008 – 2013
- Burdekin Dry Tropics NRM Group Pest Plan 2008
- Whitsunday Regional Council Biosecurity Plan (2016-2020)

There are a number of current Natural Resource Management regional plans that guide the management of invasive plants and animals (Figure 2). The regional plans which have a focus on pest management or include pest management are:

- Burdekin Dry Topics NRM Region – Pest Management Plan – 2014-2019 (NQDT, 2014)
- Mackay Whitsunday Isaac Natural Resource Management Plan (2014 – 2024)
- Burdekin Dry Tropics Natural Resource Management Plan -2016-2026
- Regional Pest Management Strategy – Isaac Mackay Whitsunday 2011-2014.

The Whitsunday Biosecurity Plan 2021-2025 will aim to reflect the regional pest management priorities. This Biosecurity Plan builds upon and updates the previous Whitsunday Regional Council Biosecurity Plan 2016-2020. The Biosecurity Plan will also reflect the objectives and desired outcomes of the Queensland Weed and Pest Animal Strategy (DAFF, 2016) and the Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy (2019-2024).

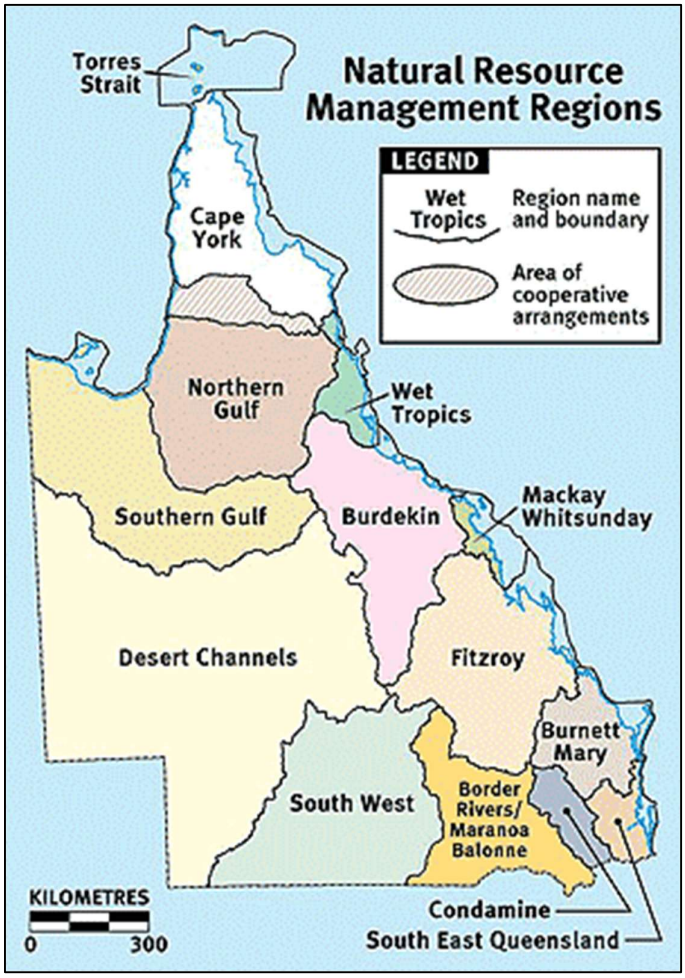

Figure 2: *Natural Resource Management Group boundaries*

2.4.3 Agricultural Industry Pest Management

Plant Health Australia is the national coordinator of plant biosecurity in Australia. The PHA is a not-for-profit organization which works between government and the industry to manage and prevent pests and disease. The PHA work with industries to develop targeted biosecurity plans. Biosecurity Plans have been developed for the vegetable crop industry and Mango industry (Plant Health Australia, 2007). One of the more important roles of PHA is that it is the custodian of the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed which is a legally binding agreement between the Australian government, State governments, PHA and national industry organizations. The Emergency response deed covers responses to emergency plant pest incidences, decision making and roles and responsibilities.

2.5 Whitsunday Pest Management Framework

Pest management is recognised at a national, state and regional level. The national guiding Pest Management Plans and Strategies include:

- Australian Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030.
- Australian Weed Strategy (2007).
- Australian Pest Animal Strategy (2007).

The Queensland Government Weed and Pest Animal Strategy, the Queensland Biosecurity Strategy (2018-2023) and the Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy (2019-2024) provides the guiding principles for pest management in Queensland. The relationship between the three levels of government and pest management is shown in Figure 3.

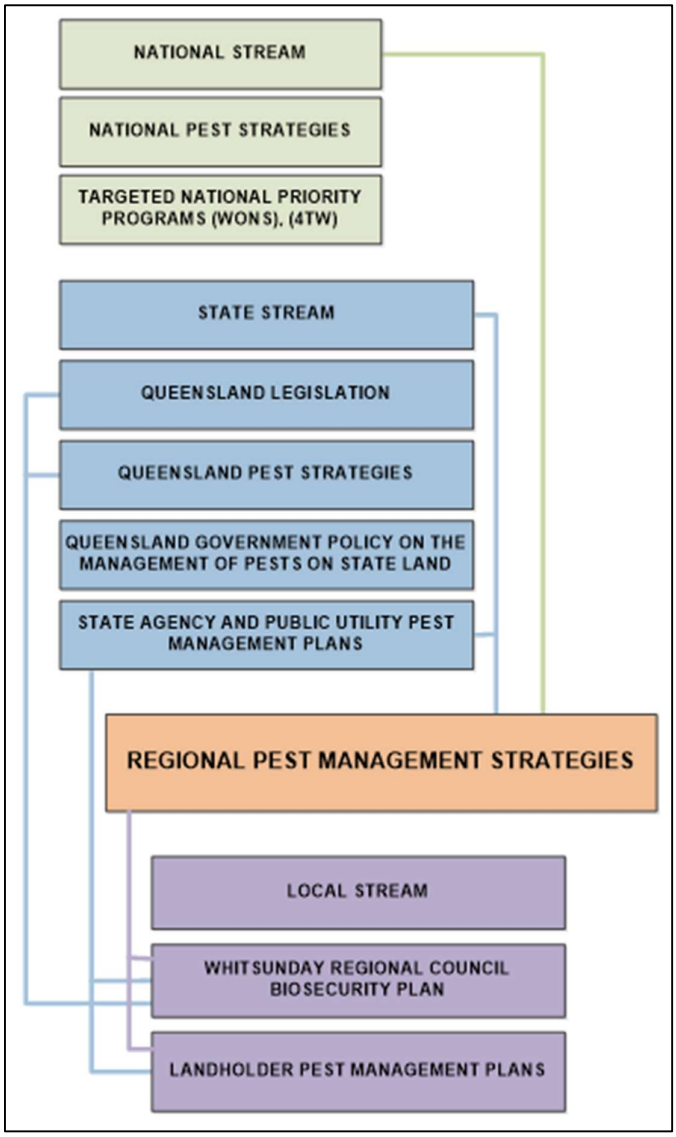

Figure 3: *Pest Management Framework*

Council coordinates a Feral Animal Control Program and a Weed Management Program. The feral animal control activities are shown in Figure 4. Council also coordinates a Declared Weed Spraying Program, a Weed Management Incentive Program and provides assistance to landholders to develop Property Pest Management Plans.

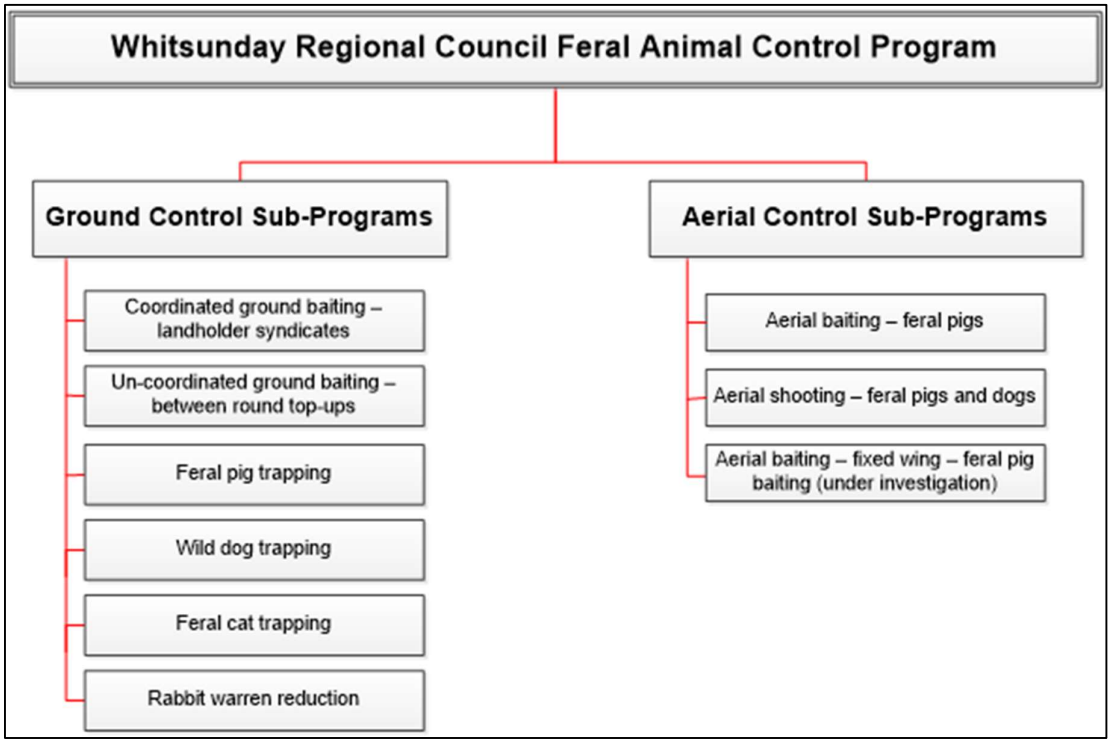

Figure 4: *Whitsunday Regional Council Feral Animal Control Activities*

3. Strategic Program

3.1 Pest Management Principles

Local Government is encouraged to utilise the pest management principles adopted by the Commonwealth and Queensland Government. The pest management principles are considered by the Queensland government as "critical to the success of pest management planning and implementation" (DAFF, 2016). The pest management principles include:

Essential links		Description
Principles of pest management	Integration	Weed and pest animal management is an integral part of managing natural resources and agricultural systems.
	Public awareness	Public awareness and knowledge of weeds and pest animals must be raised to increase the capacity and willingness of individuals to participate in control.
	Commitment	Effective weed and pest animal management requires shared responsibility, capability, capacity and a long-term commitment by land owners/managers, the community, industry groups and government. Those that create the risks associated with pest species introduction or spread and those that benefit from the pest management should help to minimise the impacts of weeds and pest animals and contribute to the costs of management.
	Consultation and partnership	Consultation and partnership arrangements between land managers, local communities, industry groups, state government agencies and local governments must be established to achieve a collaborative and coordinated approach to management.
	Planning	Planning for weed and pest animal management should be based on risk management to ensure that resources target the priorities identified at local, regional, state and national levels.
	Prevention and early Intervention	Preventive weed and pest animal management is generally more cost effective than other strategies and is achieved by: - preventing the spread of pest species and viable parts of these species, especially by human activity – - early detection and intervention.
	Best practice	Weed and pest animal management must be based on ecologically and socially responsible practices that protect the environment and the productive capacity of natural resources while minimising impacts on the community. It should balance feasibility, cost-effectiveness, sustainability, humaneness, community perceptions, emergency needs and public safety.
	Improvement (research, monitoring and evaluation)	Research about weeds and pest animals and regular monitoring and evaluation of control activities is needed to make evidence-based decisions and improve management practices.

The Queensland Weed and Pest Animal Strategy (DAFF, 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

3.2 Regional Pest Plan Priorities

3.2.1 NQDT Pest Management Plan 2014-2019

The North Queensland Dry Tropics Natural Resource Management Group (NQDT) developed a Regional Pest Management Strategy in 2014 (NQDT, 2014). The NQDT Regional Pest Plan has the following four goals:

1. Better participation and cooperation between all stakeholders is achieved for regionally focussed pest management activities.
2. Strategic and robust regional pest management projects are identified, developed and implemented.
3. Leadership in the development of best management practice for pest management.
4. The community is more aware of invasive pest issues and has an increased capacity to perform integrated management techniques.

The regional strategy covers the northern areas of the Whitsunday Regional Council area from Bowen northwards to the Burdekin boundary and west to the boundary with the Charters Towers Regional Council. The pest plants and animals have been categorised as priority or alert species. Pests have been grouped into the following categories:

- Trees
- Shrubs and small trees
- Grasses and sedges
- Forbes and cacti
- Water plants
- Climbers and creepers
- Mammals
- Fish and invertebrates

The full list of priority pest plants and animals identified in the NQDT Pest Plan can be found in the appendix.

It should be noted that the NQ Dry Tropics will be releasing the next Burdekin Pest Plan in Mid-2021.

3.2.2 Whitsunday Horticultural and Cropping Industries

The Bowen-Gumlu horticultural area and the region's sugarcane cropping businesses are guided by national pest management protocols and biosecurity planning. Biosecurity issues are an important consideration for local horticultural and cropping farm businesses. The horticulture and sugarcane industries work with growers on issues such as machinery hygiene, pest and disease identification and notification and pest spread prevention. Growcom promote the need for horticultural growers to develop property biosecurity plans. Similarly, Canegrowers through the local productivity board (or service) work with cane farmers to develop on-farm systems to minimise pest plant and disease spread.

3.3 Pest Impact Rating and Prioritisation Scheme

3.3.1 Risk Management

Risk management is a guiding principle in the *Queensland Biosecurity Act* (DAFF, 2016). Local Governments are encouraged to use a risk-based approach to prioritising pest plants and animals and setting goals and actions. The prioritisation of pest plants and animals will include the assessment of their current and potential impact and likelihood of entry, establishment and spread. The assessment of risk may use the risk assessment matrix shown in table 1 (DAFF, 2016).

Table 1: *Matrix used to assess risk*

Likelihood		Consequence				
		Insignificant (1)	Minor (2)	Moderate (3)	Major (4)	Extreme (5)
	Almost certain (5)	Low	Medium	Significant	High	High
	Likely (4)	Low	Medium	Significant	Significant	High
	Neutral (3)	Low	Low	Medium	Significant	Significant
	Unlikely (2)	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Significant
	Rare (1)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium

The risk matrix can be used to prioritise weeds which may have a high impact on the local economy and environment.

3.3.2 Pest Prioritisation Process

The Queensland State Government suggests local governments develop a pest rating and prioritisation scheme. The purpose of the pest impact and prioritisation scheme is to list priority pests to assist in focusing pest management responses. The prioritised list of pests can be useful to focus local government and stakeholder resources.

Biosecurity Queensland suggests that the pest prioritisation process should:

1) Assess the impact of the existing or potential threats,
2) Assess the likelihood of entry, establishment or likelihood of spread, and,
3) Assess the feasibility of response and treatment (DAFF, 2016).

The broad prioritisation process suggested by Biosecurity Queensland involves developing a list of pest species, assess the impacts on the environment and local economy, determine the likelihood of spread and practicalities of control and reduction. There are a range of pest impact prioritisation tools and processes used by local governments. The Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC, 2016) have developed an impact rating and prioritisation tool for pests. The FNQROC impact assessment tool is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: *Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils Pest Impact Rating Scheme*

Pest Impact	Score
A. Conservation and Biodiversity	
Potential to drastically outcompete native species, transform ecosystems and impact on biodiversity in a broad range of natural areas, including areas of intact and high value vegetation. Preys on many native animals	5
Potential to drastically out-compete native species and impact on diversity with impacts limited to areas of the pest suitable habitat. Might prey on some native animals.	4
Potential to invade forest edges and disturbed systems, and impact on areas/ecosystems that re already disturbed or degraded.	3
Potential to develop a presence in natural areas without the potential to out-compete species or alter ecosystem widespread.	2
Unlikely to establish effectively in conservation areas unless by isolated infestations, dumping or urban escapes. Unlikely to penetrate undisturbed areas.	1
B. Agricultural and Production Areas	
Major threat to productivity by way of reduced output and increased control expenses with potential to lead to a de-valuation of land or forced changes in land use. Management required is significant and impacts on economic viability of the enterprise. Impacts likely to extend to adjoining rivers, creeks and native vegetation and properties.	5
Moderate reduction of output with increased management expenses. Control is added to existing routine pest management practises for crop, pasture and livestock. Benefits of management outweigh costs and are able to be absorbed without significant impacts on profitability. Not likely to impact on land value. Impacts may extend to drainage lines, native vegetation and adjoining properties.	4
Moderate threat to agricultural operations. Increased maintenance including drainage lines, creeks and roadways. Pest threat to crop/pasture and livestock can be reduced or stopped as part of routine pest management practises.	3
Moderate threat to farm assets and visual appearances of property. May impact on native vegetation in non-production areas over time.	2
Not of concern to agricultural endeavours under good land management	1
C. Community and Residential Land Use (Social)	
Potential to form solid stands of weeds or dense populations of pest animals. Can out-compete or destroy gardens/pets a native plants/animal and impacts on community natural area and nearby creeks, rivers, beaches and bushland. Wil lead to a decline in vegetation quality in areas which are already threatened by urban pressures. If left untreated will impact on both private and public places and will require high costs to remove, repair or manage.	5
Potential to out-compete native or gardens plants in community areas, roads, parks, gardens, creeks, and beaches. May affect access appearance, or increase management requirements. May provide shelter for vermin and pest animals or reduce recruitment of native species over time.	4
Potential to move into degraded areas in and around the community including riparian areas, bushland, gardens and beach areas. High potential for pest to be replaced with other pests or weeds after treatment. Requires targeted management but threat to community areas can be responded to as part of regular management.	3
Likely to affect appearance or bring about complaints from residents or neighbours. May impact the function, use or appearance of community and residential areas or require a low-level management response.	2
Unlikely to affect community and residential areas due to limited habitat, or may be managed effectively in routine maintenance. May exists in isolated areas due to dumping or urban escapes, but is not able to dominate vegetation and gardens in the community.	1
IMPACT RATING TOTAL (A+B+C)	
D. Potential to Spread	
High	5
Medium	3
Low	1
E. Potential to Control : Achievability and Feasibility of Success	

Infestation is small, isolated and/or contained. Eradication highly achievable if resources and control methods permit	5
Eradication within a particular catchment or geographic region that is unlikely to become reinfested is feasible. Effective management tools and approaches exists and spread-prevention actions can be implemented	4
Potential for land managers to satisfy basic strategic control targets with appropriate resources and support. Effective management tools and approaches exists. May involve buffer spraying or satellite control to limit spread to new areas and raising awareness	3
Management is heavily reliant on coordinated action from all landholders and generally difficult to implement or requires significant external resources. Reinfestation or managed areas is likely but can be reduced.	2
Pest is widespread and is present in most suitable habitats across multiple tenures. There is no universal effective control available for the benefits of control do not outweigh the costs. Resources are directed to maintaining/protecting significant production areas and natural assets.	1
Weed Species, Infestation and Ability to Control (A+B+C+D+E)	

3.4 Pest Baseline Information – Current Extent of Knowledge

Council coordinates a Feral Animal Control Program and a Weed Management Program. The following were the Feral Animal Program Outcomes for 2019-20:

- Feral Animal Baiting:
    - Number of feral animal landholder syndicates = 22
    - Number of landholders in syndicates = 85
    - Number of syndicate rounds/yr = 2-3
    - Number of ground baits delivered = 2125kg pig, 7000kg dog, 160kg fruit
    - Area of land serviced by this program (total land area of participating landholders) = 1,200,000 ha
    - Number of feral pig traps established = 20
    - Number of active feral pig traps = <10
    - Number of pigs trapped in WRC traps = approximately 9-60/pa
    - Estimated land serviced by traps = 1000 ha

- Aerial Baiting:
    - Number of flights = 1
    - Flight distance = 250km
    - Number of baits = 3100
    - Estimated bait treatment area = 1,100,000 ha

- Aerial Shooting:
    - Number of times per year = 18-34 per year currently
    - Length of flight paths = 9678 km per year
    - Estimate land area serviced by the flights = 1,100,000 ha/yr
    - Number of pigs destroyed in 2019-20 = 3229
    - Number of dogs destroyed in 2019-20 = 45

- Estimated pest animal population based on 2016-2017 information (Hardy and Fuller, 2017):
    - Feral pigs = 16,000
    - Wild dogs = 15,000
    - Feral deer = 4,300
    - Feral cats = 13,000
    - Fox = 3,800

- Estimated pest animal impact on agriculture is $12.5 million/yr in lost productivity (Synergy, 2020).

- Estimated impact on environment is $28 million/yr (Hardy and Fuller, 2017).

The Whitsunday Regional Council Weed Management Program includes weed mapping, development of property pest plans and spraying noxious weeds. The following were the weed management program outcomes for 2019-20:

- Number of properties with Property Pest Plans (2019-2020):
    - Total number = 104 Plans
    - Number of hectares under Property Pest Plans = 186,757ha
    - Number of landholders participating in herbicide rebate scheme = 49

- Estimated extent of priority pest plants:
    - Chinee apple – 18,900ha
    - Parthenium - 14,900ha
    - Prickly Acacia – 7,120
    - Parkinsonia – 4,200ha
    - Rubbervine – 30,100ha
    - Total area of land infested by pest plants is estimated at 165,000ha.

4. Priority Species Program

4.1 Pest Species Prioritisation

Whitsunday Regional Council and land management stakeholders have agreed upon a list of pest plant and animals. This pest prioritisation was determined in 2016/2017 in consultation with various regional pest management stakeholders. A review of the pest prioritisation for the region has found that the lists are still relevant and their prioritisation reasonably reflects broad professional opinion. The impact of the pest plants and animals in the region have been assessed and their prioritisation shown in table 3, 4 and 5. The pest plant and animal impact rating is based on the FNQROC impact rating tool (see Section 3.3 of this report). The priority pest plant lists for Bowen, Collinsville and Proserpine/Airlie Beach can be found in the appendix of this report.

Table 3: *Impact Rating and Prioritisation for Pest Plants*

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Land Protection Act (2003) Status	Biosecurity Act (2014) Status	Present in Whitsunday Region	Relative Infestation Size	Total Impact Rating Score	Priority (2016)
Mimosa pigra	*Mimosa pigra*	Class 1	2,3,4,5	Yes	Isolated	11.85	**1**
Siam weed	*Chromolaena odorata*	Class 1	3	no	Not present	11.45	**2**
Leucaena	*Leucaena leucocephala*	Locally declared	N/A	Yes	Low	10.3	**3**
Lantana	*Lantana camara*	Class 3 WoNS	3	Yes	Medium	9.5	**4**
Navua sedge	*Cyperus aromaticus*	Environmental Weed	N/A	No	Not present	9	**5**
Rubber vine	*Cryptostegia grandiflora*	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Medium	8.95	**6**
Itch grass	*Rottboellia cochinchinensis*	Locally Declared BSC LGA	N/A	Yes	Isolated	8.9	**7**
Prickly acacia	*Acacia nilotica (Vachellia nilotica)*	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Medium	8.85	**8**
Sicklepods	*Senna obtusifolia, Senna hirsuta and Senna tora*	Class 2	3	Yes	Low	8.75	**9**
Prickly pear	*Opuntia monacantha, O. stricta, O. tomentosa*	Class 2	3	Yes	Isolated	8.7	**10**
Harrissia cactus	*H. martinii, H. tortuosa and H. pomanesis syn.*	Class 2	3	Yes	Isolated	8.6	**11**
Chinee apple	*Ziziphus mauritiana*	Class 2	3	Yes	Medium-high	8.6	**12**
Pond apple	*Annona glabra*	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Isolated	8.6	**13**

Hymenachne	*Hymenachne amplexicaulis*	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Low	8.55	**14**
Miconia	*Miconia sp*	Class 1	2,3,4,5	No	Not present	8.35	**15**
Giant sensitive plant	*Mimosa diplotricha var. diplotricha*	Class 2	3	Yes	Isolated	8.25	**16**
Johnson grass	*Sorghum halepense*	Not Declared	N/A	Yes	Isolated	8.05	**17**
Giant Parramatta grass	*Sporobolus fertilis*	Class 2	3	Yes	Low	7.85	**18**
American rat's tail grass	*Sporobolus jacquemontii*	Class 2	3	Yes	Low	7.8	**19**
Salvinia	*Salvinia molesta*	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Isolated	7.6	**20**
Parkinsonia	*Parkinsonia aculeata*	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Low - medium	7.55	**21**
Water lettuce	*Pistia stratiotes*	Class 2	3	Yes	Isolated	7.35	**22**
Water hyacinth	*Eichhornia crassipes*	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Isolated	7.35	**23**
Mesquites	*Prosopis glandulosa, P. pallida and P. velutina*	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Low	7.35	**24**
Singapore daisy	*Sphagneticola trilobata syn. Wedelia trilobate*	Class 3	3	Yes	Low	7.15	**25**
Chinese lantern	*Dichrostachys cinerea*	Not declared	N/A	Yes	Low	7.15	**26**
Parthenium weed	*Parthenium hysterophorus*	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Medium - high	7.15	**27**
Cat's claw creeper	*Macfadyena unguis-cati*	Class 3 WoNS	N/A	Yes	Isolated	6.95	**28**
Mother–of–millions	*Bryophyllum delagoense (syn. B.tubiflorum,*	Class 2	3	Yes	Low	6.85	**29**
Bellyache bush	*Jatropha gossypiifolia*	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Low	6.85	**30**
Snake weed	*Stachytarpheta spp*	Environmental Weed	N/A	Yes	Low	6.7	**31**
Gamba grass	*Andropogon gayanus*	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Isolated	6.6	**32**
Cabomba	*Cabomba caroliniana*	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Low	6.6	**33**
Caltrop	*(Tribulus cistoides, T. terrestris)*	Locally Declared	N/A	Yes	Low	6.55	**34**
Blue trumpet vine	*Thunbergia grandiflora*	Class 2	3	Yes	Isolated	6.5	**35**
Giant rat's tail grass	*Sporobolus pyramidalis and S. natalensis*	Class 2	3	Yes	Low	6.5	**36**
White Ball acacia	*Acaciella glauca (syn. A. angustissima)*	Class 1	3?	Yes	Isolated	6.25	**37**
Castor Oil Plant	*(Ricinus communis)*	Locally Declared	N/A	Yes	Low	6.2	**38**
Parramatta grass	*Sporobolus africanus*	Class 2	3	Yes	Low	6.05	**39**
Noogoora Burr	*(Xanthium strumarium)*	Locally Declared	N/A	Yes	Low	5.7	**40**

Basket asparagus fern	*Asparagus aethiopicus*	Class 3 WoNS	3	Yes	Isolated	5.5	**41**
Water mimosa	*Neptunia oleracea and N. plena*	Class 1	2,3,4,5	Yes	Isolated	5.45	**42**
Yellow guava	*Psidium guajava*	Environmental Weed	N/A	Yes	Isolated	5.45	**43**
Japanese Sunflower	*(Tithonia diversifolia)*	Locally Declared	N/A	Yes	Isolated	5.3	**44**
Arrowhead	*Sagittaria platyphylla*	WoNS	3	Yes	Isolated	5.2	**45**
Pennisetum / Elephant grass	*Pennisetum purpureum*	Environmental Weed	N/A	Yes	Low	5.2	**46**
Milkweed	*(Euphorbia heterophylla)*	Locally Declared	N/A	Yes	Low	5.15	**47**
Broad-leaved Pepper Tree	*Schinus terebinthifolius*	Class 3	3	Yes	Low	5.15	**48**
Dutchman's pipe (exotics)	*Aristolochia spp.*	Class 3	3	Yes	Isolated	5.05	**49**
Kyasuma grass	*Cenchrus pedicellatus*	Not Declared	N/A	Yes	Isolated	4.95	**50**
African fountain grass	*Pennisetum setaceum*	Class 3	N/A	Yes	Isolated	4.9	**51**
Yellow oleander	*Cascabela thevetiana (syn.Theretia peruviana)*	Class 3	3	Yes	Isolated	4.8	**52**
African tulip tree	*Spathodea campanulata*	Class 3	3	Yes	Isolated	4.75	**53**
Limnocharis	*Limnocharis flava*	Class 1	2,3,4,5	Yes	Isolated	4.7	**54**
Khaki Weed	*(Alternanthera pungens)*	Locally Declared	N/A	Yes	Low	4.7	**55**
Glush weed	*Hygrophila costata*	Class 1	3	Yes	Isolated	4.65	**56**
Guinea Grass	*Megathyrsus maximus*	Environmental Weed		Yes	Medium	4.2	57
Neem Tree	*(Azadirachta indica)*	Locally Declared	N/A	Yes	Isolated	4.05	**58**
Grewia	*Grewia asiatica*	Environmental Weed	N/A	Yes	Isolated	3.85	**59**
Mimosa	*Acacia farnesiana syn. Vachellia farnesiana v. nilotica*	Not Declared	3	Yes	Low	3.7	**60**
Bamboo	*Phyllostachys sp. and Bambusa sp*	Class 2	N/A	Yes	Isolated	3.65	**61**
Candle Bush	*(Senna alata)*	Locally Declared	N/A	Yes	Isolated	3.55	**62**
Swamp foxtail	*Pennisetum alopecuroides*	Environmental Weed	N/A	Yes	Isolated	3.3	**63**
Coral Vine	*(Antigonon leptopus)*	Locally Declared	N/A	Yes	Isolated	3.3	**64**
Knob weed	*Hyptis capitata*	Environmental Weed	N/A	Yes	Isolated	3.25	**65**
Grey Willow	*Salix spp. other than S babylonica S. x calodendron, S. x reichardtii and S. chilensis syn. S. humboldtiana*	Class 1	3	No	Not present	3.2	**66**

Blackeyed Susan	*(Thunbergia alata, T. species)*	Locally Declared	N/A	Yes	Isolated	3.2	**67**
Athel pine	*Tamarix aphylla*	Class 3 WoNS	3	Yes	Isolated	2.55	**68**
Grader Grass	*Themeda quadrivalvis*	Environmental Weed	N/A	Yes	Low	1.4	**69**
Mossman river grass	*Cenchrus echinatus*	Environmental Weed	N/A	Yes	Low	1.4	**70**
Elephant ear vine	*Argyreia nervosa*	Environmental Weed	3	Yes	Low	1.4	**71**
Mexican Bean tree	*Cecropia pachystachya*	Class 1	3	Yes	Isolated	1.4	**72**
Tree Wisteria	*Bolusanthus speciosus*	Environmental Weed	N/A	Yes	Isolated	1.4	**72**

Table 4: *Impact Rating and Prioritisation for Pest Animals*

Common Name	***Scientific Name***	**Land Protection Act Status**	**Biosecurity Act Status**	**Present in Whitsunday Region**	**Relative Infestation Size**	**Pest Impact Rating**				**Priority (2016)**
						A. Environment (1 to 5)	**B. Agriculture** (1 to 5)	**C. Social** (1 to 5)	**Total** (/15)	
Feral Pig	*Sus scrofa*	Class 2	3,4,6	Yes	Medium	4	3	3	10	1
Wild dog / dingo	*Canis familiaris*	Class 2	3,4,6	Yes	Medium	4	3	3	10	2
Feral Cat	*Felis catus*	Class 2	3,4,6	Yes	Low	4	2	3	9	3
European Fox	*Vulpes vulpes*	Class 2	3,4,5,6	Yes	Very low	3	2	2	7	4
Feral Deer (Chital)	*Axis axis*	Class 2	3,4,6	Yes	Low	2	2	2	6	5
Feral Deer (Russa)	*Cervus timorensis*	Class 2	3,4,6,	No	-	2	2	2	6	5
European Rabbit	*Oryctolagus cuniculus*	Class 2	3,4,5,6	Yes	Low	3	3	1	7	6
Feral Goat	*Capra hircus*	Class 2	3,4,6	Yes	Very low	2	2	2	6	7
Indian Myna	*Acridotheres tristis*			Yes	Very low	2	1	1	4	8
Cane toad	*Rhinella marina*			Yes	Medium - high	3	1	1	5	9
Red ear slider turtle	*Trachemys scripta elegans*			No		2	1	1	4	10
American corn snake	*Pantherophis guttatus*			No		2	1	1	4	11

Table 5: *Impact Rating and Prioritisation for Pest Fish and Invertebrates*

Common Name	***Scientific Name***	**Biosecurity Act Status**	**Present In Whitsunday Region**	**Relative Infestation Size**	**Pest Impact Rating**				**Priority (2016)**
					A. Environment (1 to 5)	**B. Agriculture** (1 to 5)	**C. Social** (1 to 5)	**Total** (/15)	
Yellow Crazy Ant	*Anoplolepis gracilipes*	3	Yes	Three locations	4	3	3	10	1
European Carp	*Cyprinus carpio*	3,5,6,7	No	Not present	4	1	3	8	2
Black mangrove cichlid (tilapia)	*Oreochromis mariae syn. Tillapia mariae*	3,5,6,7	No	-	3	1	2	6	3
Mozambique mouthbreeder (tilapia)	*Oreochromis mossambicus*	3,5,6,7	Yes	Very low	3	1	2	6	4
Mosquito fish	*Gambusia holbrooki*	3,5,6,7	Yes	Medium	2	1	2	5	5
Jaguar cichlids	*Parachromis Managuensis*	3,5,6,7	No	-	3	1	1	5	6

4.2 Biosecurity Management Program (Strategic Program)

The Whitsunday Regional Council Pest Management Strategy aims to utilise the eight pest management principles as outlined in the Queensland Weeds and Pest Animal Strategy (2021-2025). The six desired outcomes that need to be developed and implemented to achieve the management principles include:

1. Prevention and early detection
2. Monitoring and assessment
3. Awareness and education
4. Effective management systems
5. Strategic planning framework and management
6. Commitment, roles and responsibilities.

This Strategy will outline the objectives, actions, targets for each of the six desired outcomes. The status and the priority of the actions are also assessed and listed.

4.2.1 Desired Outcome 1: Prevention and Early Detection

The objectives for desired outcome 1, prevention and early detection are:

1) Management actions are in place to prevent pest species introduction into Whitsunday Regional Council (WRC) LGA.
2) Pest surveillance programs are developed and implemented to identify and record pest species which are categorised as "under surveillance, eradication and containment.
3) The community have good pest species knowledge.
4) WRC is involved in regional eradication programs.

Table 6: *Desired Outcome 1: Prevention and Early Detection*

Objective 1.1: Management actions are in place to prevent pest species introduction into WRC LGA.					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
1.1A	A strong relationship is developed between WRC Departments to develop pest prevention protocols	WRC Departments have documented weed hygiene procedures An annual weed hygiene workshop is held for WRC outdoor crews to identify new pest incursions	Underway	WRC	High
1.1B	Pest species prevention protocols are promoted with key Stakeholders	Stakeholders actively implement weed seed prevention protocols. Weed Hygiene Declaration Forms are utilised. Weed hygiene procedures are adopted and incorporated into daily operations.	Not commenced	All stakeholders	Medium
1.1C	A regular surveillance program of major transport corridors is developed for pest species	Major Transport Corridor Surveillance Program is developed. Major Transport Corridor Surveillance Program is implemented.	Underway	WRC (lead)	High
1.1D	Regularly communication with neighbouring LG's regarding new pest incursions	Regular communication with neighbouring LG's regarding new pest incursions – via meetings.	Underway	WRC (lead)	High
1.1E	Nurseries are regularly monitored to prevent landholders selling, supplying or keeping declared plants	A Nursery Monitoring Program is developed A Nursery Monitoring Program is implemented A commercial seedlings supplier monitoring program is implemented	Underway	WRC Bowen Gumlu Growers Biosecurity Queensland	Medium
1.1F	All locations that keep pests under a permit are monitored	All properties that keep pests under a permit are monitored annually	Underway	DAF (lead)	Medium
1.1G	Funding groups are lobbied for the construction of public wash down facilities	WRC funds at least 1 public wash down facility within WRC LGA	Underway	WRC (lead)	High
1.1H	WRC investigates equipment modification to improve weed hygiene practices (i.e. slasher blowers, covers, etc.)	A review into equipment modifications is undertaken Cost effective equipment modifications are undertaken	Underway	WRC (lead)	Medium
1.1I	Sugarcane harvesters are washed down or blown down between farming entities	100% of harvesters are washed down at designated sites on each farm before moving onto the next property.	Underway	Canegrowers	High

1.1J	Horticultural machinery is washed down before moving into other horticultural districts.	A system is developed and used to document machinery wash down for horticultural machinery.	Year 2	DAF, Growcom, Bowen Gumlu Growers	
Objective 1.2: Pest surveillance programs are developed and implemented to identify and record pest species which are categorised as "under surveillance, eradication and containment.					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
1.2A	Regular surveillance programs are undertaken across the region that target *Under Surveillance Pest Species or priority pest species* (identified in the Strategic Program (Pest Species)	Bi-annual pest survey programs are undertaken across WRC LGA that target *Under Surveillance Pest Species (priority pest species).* New *Under Surveillance Pest Species* infestations are identified through pest survey programs *Eradication Pest Species* are prioritised *Eradication Pest Species* are managed under a PMP *Containment Pest Species* are prioritised Local containment lines for *Containment Pest Species* are developed *Containment Pest Species* administrative actions (compliance) are informed by the location of local containment lines. A "reasonable measures" policy is developed for properties within containment lines that have *Containment Pest Species* infestations	Underway	WRC (lead)	High
1.2B	Processes are in place to consistently and accurately report new *Under Surveillance Pest Species* infestations.	A pest species reporting form is developed. Stakeholders have access to pest reporting forms through a variety of sources.	Underway	WRC (lead)	High
1.2C	A *New Pest Species Rapid Response Procedure* is developed for new pest incursions which outlines Stakeholders roles and responsibilities	A *New Pest Species Rapid Response Procedure* is developed. All Stakeholders know their respective roles in a rapid response procedure	Not commenced	WRC (lead)	Medium
Objective 1.3: The community have good pest species knowledge					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
1.3A	WRC incorporates *Under Surveillance Pest Species* into the *Pest Species Awareness and Extension Program*	*Under Surveillance Pest Species* are incorporated into the *Pest Species Awareness and Extension Program* *Under Surveillance Pest Species* are identified before becoming established.	Underway	WRC (lead)	High
1.3.B	Horticultural growers have access to relevant pest information	A program is developed to deliver pest management information to crop growers	Not commenced	Bowen Gumlu Growers	Medium
1.3.C	Urban and rural residential land owners receive information on small crop and tree crop pests.	A program is developed to inform hobby farmers of pest threats and information is delivered at least annually.	Not commenced	Biosecurity Queensland, WRC, Bowen Gumlu Growers.	Medium
1.3.D	Landholders outside of agricultural industries have access to pest management information.	A pest management extension program is developed which targets landholders, specifically those outside of an agricultural industry.	Not commenced	WRC	Medium

Objective 1.4: WRC is involved in regional eradication programs					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
1.4A	WRC continues to participate in coordinated regional eradication responses for pest species.	WRC Land Protection Officers (LPO's) are available for regional eradication responses.	Underway	WRC (lead)	High

4.2.2 Desired Outcome 2: Monitoring and Assessment

The objectives for desired outcome 2, monitoring and assessment are:

1) To undertake activities to map the extent of pest plants
2) Undertake activities to monitor pest infestations
3) WRC collects and contributes spatial data to inform regional pest management decisions.
4) Pest behaviour is incorporated into prioritising pest management actions.

Table 7: *Desired Outcome 2: Monitoring and Assessment*

Objective 2.1: To undertake activities to map the extent of pest plants and animals					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
2.1A	WRC researches methods to effectively map pest plants and animals	Contact local governments to determine best methods to map weeds. Review information, select best methods.	Underway	WRC (lead)	High
2.1B	WRC develops a pest mapping system and stores data in the Councils GIS	WRC uses best practise mapping methods to map spatial extent of weeds with available data.	Underway	WRC (lead)	High
2.1C	WRC develops statistics showing the extent of pest infestations	Annual report including maps showing weed infestation areas. A table showing the spatial extent of pest plant and animals.	Underway	WRC (lead)	High
2.1D	Stakeholders to collect and collate pest management information to assist with strategic pest management planning	All stakeholders develop a system to collect and store pest information.	Underway	All stakeholders	High
Objective 2.2: Undertake activities to monitor pest infestations					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
2.2A	WRC to develop a program of updating the pest mapping	WRC being able to track the increase or decrease of pest plants and animals.	Underway	WRC (lead)	High
Objective 2.3: Collect and contribute spatial data to inform regional pest management decisions.					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
2.3A	WRC improves their knowledge of current and changing pest species distribution	A annual pest survey program is undertaken throughout the WRC LGA. Processes for mapping declared species within WRC LGA are developed and implemented. WRC invests in improving its pest species mapping hardware and software	Underway	WRC (lead)	High
2.3B	Pest management activities are mapped (1080 baiting, trapping locations, wed herbicide control areas, etc.)	Processes for mapping pest management activities within WRC LGA are developed and implemented	Underway	WRC (lead)	High

2.3C	WRC establishes processes for NRM groups, community groups and other Stakeholders to contribute to and access data	Processes for sharing spatial data information between NRM groups, community groups and other Stakeholders are developed.	Not commenced	WRC, DNR	Medium
2.3D	WRC to continues to contributing towards the Annual Pest Distribution Survey	WRC contributes data to the Annual Pest Distribution Survey.	Underway	WRC, DAFF	High
Objective 2.4: Pest behaviour is incorporated into prioritising pest management actions.					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
2.4A	Pests are organised into management categories, with consideration of available information.	Pest management categories are determined with consideration of available information.	Completed	WRC (lead)	High
2.4B	Pest management activities throughout the Whitsunday region are planned and based upon known pest species information	Pest management activities are planned around known pest species information.	Underway	WRC (lead)	High
2.4C	Local social, economic and environmental pest impacts on local areas are recorded and shared with relevant Stakeholders	Processes for recording priority pests local information are developed. Local impacts of priority pests are recorded. Collected pest species information is shared with relevant Stakeholders.	Underway	WRC (lead)	High
2.4D	WRC lobbies for research support for adaptive species management for priority pests and situations	Any potential research projects that support adaptive species management for priority pests and situations is relayed to DAF.	Underway	WRC (lead)	High

4.2.3 Desired Outcome 3: Awareness and Education

The objectives for desired outcome 3, awareness and education are:

1) WRC and key stakeholders establish, maintain and strengthen communication networks.
2) Pest species information is easily accessed by the community.
3) Pest species data sharing processes are in place with key stakeholders.
4) WRC Land Protection Officers are accessible to the community to assist with the distribution of pest species information.
5) WRC has a strong extension program that promotes the Pest Plan, its priorities, actions and roles and responsibilities.
6) WRC Land Protection Officers have the capacity to manage pest species.
7) Promote pest management training opportunities.

Table 8: *Desired Outcome 3: Awareness and Education*

Objective 3.1. Stakeholders establish, maintain and strengthen communication networks.					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
3.1A	Re-establish the WRC Pest Management Working Group to oversee the implementation and review of the WRC PMP	Membership and terms of reference established for the WRC PMWG. Working Group meetings held bi-annually.	Underway	WRC (lead)	High
3.1B	All key pest management Stakeholders are identified and a contact database is established and maintained	Key Stakeholders are identified. Contact database is compiled and regularly maintained.	Completed	WRC (lead)	High
3.1C	WRC is represented at regional pest management groups/forums	At least 75% of regional pest management group meetings/forums are attended by WRC LPO's.	Underway	WRC (lead)	High
Objective 3.2. Pest species information is easily accessed by the community					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
3.2A	Pest species information is available in print form at all WRC Customer Service Centres and Libraries or internet.	All WRC Customer Contact Centres and Libraries have priority pest species information available in hard copy or via internet.	Underway	WRC (lead)	Medium
3.2B	Pest species information is electronically available on the WRC website.	WRC website has links to biosecurity pest species pages or similar.	Completed	WRC (lead)	High
3.2.C	Crop growers have access to up-to-date pest management information.	A system is established to provide up-to-date pest management and biosecurity information for small crop and tree growers in the region.	Underway	Bowen Gumlu Growers, Growcom.	Medium
Objective 3.3: Pest species data sharing processes are in place with key stakeholders					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
3.3A	Data sharing agreements with key Stakeholders are developed (for sharing	Data sharing agreements are developed and signed by adjoining local government areas and natural resource management groups.	Underway	WRC, LG's and NRM	Medium

	pest related data, i.e. spatial information, local administrative information, etc.).				
Objective 3.4: WRC Land Protection Officers are accessible to the community to assist with the distribution of pest species information.					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
3.4A	WRC employs an appropriate number of LPO's.	100% of customer requests are responded to within WRC acceptable timeframes. 100% of WRC PMP strategic actions are completed.	Underway	WRC	High
Objective 3.5. WRC has a strong extension program that promotes the Pest Plan, its priorities, actions and roles and responsibilities.					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
3.5A	A *Pest Species Awareness and Extension Program* is developed and implemented.	*Pest Species Awareness and Extension Program* developed and implemented.	Underway	WRC (lead)	High
3.5B	Local public awareness campaigns to raise awareness of pest species are developed and implemented.	3 annual local public awareness campaigns are developed and implemented.	Underway	WRC (lead)	High
3.5C	Regular posts of pest species information on WRC Facebook page.	Monthly Facebook posts concerning pest species information is completed.	Not commenced	WRC (lead)	Medium
3.5C	Submission of regular articles into local newspapers regarding pest species issues.	Quarterly press releases regarding WRC pest management activities.	Not commenced	WRC (lead)	Medium
3.5D	Regular mail outs are undertaken to inform landholders of pest species.	Priority pest mail outs are undertaken.	Not commenced	WRC (lead)	Medium
3.5E	Roadside awareness signage is promoted and maintained.	Current pest species roadside awareness signage is maintained.	Underway	TMR	Medium
Objective 3.6.: WRC Land Protection Officers have the capacity to manage pest species.					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
3.6A	WRC LPO's possess the skills and knowledge to effectively fulfil their roles (1080 licence, ACDC)	WRC LPO's attend professional training opportunities. WRC LPO's have necessary certificate/licenses to undertake the roles requirements. WRC LPO's attend a minimum of 2 pest management forums, workshops, conferences a year	Underway	WRC	High
Objective 3.7: Promote pest management training opportunities					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
3.7A	BMP training workshops' for relevant Stakeholders is developed and implemented	BMP training workshops' are developed Yearly 'BMP training workshops' are implemented	Underway	WRC (lead)	High

4.2.4 Desired Outcome 4: Effective Management Systems

The objectives for desired outcome 4, effective management systems are:

1) Best management practises for pest species management are continually improved over time.
2) Pest species management actions by stakeholders are improved to align with BMP techniques.
3) Best management practises for pest species management are adopted and promoted in WRC LGA.
4) Best Management Practises are continually reviewed and where necessary improved.
5) To reduce pest impacts throughout the WRC local government area.
6) Incentives are used to encourage pest management activities.
7) Environmentally significant areas are protected from pest impacts.
8) All stakeholders are actively involved in WRC pest management strategy planning and activities.

Table 9: *Desired Outcome 4: Effective Management Systems*

Objective 4.1: Best management practises for pest species management are continually improved over time.					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
4.1A	Inadequacies in existing technology and future research needs are identified and communicated to DAF.	Additional research needs are communicated between WRC and DAF. New or improved technology/practices are adopted in BMP that limit inadequacies.	Underway	WRC, DAF	High
4.1B	BMP's are continually improved through monitoring and reporting control programs successes and failures.	Processes are developed to share BMP monitoring and reporting data with DAF. Information is regularly shared between WRC and DAF regarding BMP.	Underway	WRC, DAF	High
Objective 4.2: Pest species management actions by stakeholders are improved to align with BMP techniques					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
4.2A	The *Pest Species Awareness and Extension Program* incorporates BMP.	The *Pest Species Awareness and Extension Program* incorporates BMP. Stakeholder pest management actions are improved to align with BMP.	Underway	WRC and stakeholders	High
Objective 4.3: Best management practises for pest species management are adopted and promoted in WRC LGA.					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
4.3A	Pest species BMP publications are available to the community.	WRC Customer Contact Centres and Libraries have BMP publications available to the community or via internet. Community BMP training workshops are developed BMP training workshops are implemented.	Underway	WRC (lead)	Medium
4.3B	A *Decision Support System* that assists landholders in identifying effective and efficient pest management activities is created.	*Decision Support System* created. *Decision Support System* utilised by Stakeholders in planning pest management activities.	Not commenced	All stakeholders	Medium

4.3C	All Stakeholders incorporate BMP into pest species management.	All Stakeholders adopt BMP into daily operations.	Underway	All stakeholders	High
Objective 4.4. Best Management Practises are continually reviewed and where necessary improved.					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
4.4A	Local perspectives are contributed to the development of regional/State wide BMP manuals.	Local perspectives are incorporated into BMP publications.	Underway	All stakeholders	High
Objective 4.5. To reduce pest impacts throughout the WRC local government area.					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
4.5A	Pest management programs for pest animal species are coordinated and are undertaken at a regional scale.	Pest animal control programs are coordinated throughout the region.	Underway	All stakeholders	High
4.5B	Pest management programs for established pest weed species are coordinated and undertaken at a regional scale.	Pest weed control programs are coordinated throughout the region.	Underway	All stakeholders	High
4.5C	Promote and coordinate integrated pest management programs through strategic use of incentives.	WRC incentive programs are integrated into coordinated pest management programs.	Underway	WRC (lead)	High
4.5D	Biological control agents are utilised for the management of pest species.	Biological control agents are distributed. Biological control agents are monitored for their effectiveness and reported to DAF.	Underway	DAF (lead)	Medium / High
Objective 4.6: Incentives are used to encourage pest management activities.					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
4.6A	Incentive programs are promoted to Stakeholders	WRC incentive programs are promoted WRC incentive programs are continued (Whitsunday Weed Partnerships, Herbicide Rebate Scheme)	Underway	WRC	Medium
4.6B	Incentive programs are assessed to determine their effectiveness at encouraging Stakeholders to undertake pest management activities	A review is undertaken into current incentive programs and identifies strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats A review into potential incentive programs that could be incorporated into WRC pest management incentive programs is undertaken. Alternative incentive programs are identified	Underway	WRC (lead)	High
Objective 4.7: Environmentally significant areas are protected from pest impacts.					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
4.7A	ESA's are identified and prioritised	ESA's are identified. ESA's are prioritised	Completed	WRC (lead)	High
4.7B	Pest species adjacent to ESA's are identified and recorded	Pest survey programs target areas that are adjacent to ESA's. Pest species adjacent to ESA's are identified and mapped.	Underway	WRC (lead)	High

4.7C	Mechanisms for the management of the impacts from Pest species on ESA's are developed	Landholders adjacent to ESA's have PPMP's for pest species Landholders adjacent to ESA's have the capacity to manage pest species Compliance framework incorporates procedures for pest species adjacent to ESA's.	Underway	WRC (lead)	High
4.7D	Distribution of funds to community groups to undertake pest species management on areas adjacent to ESA's	WRC develops and implements a grants program to distribute funds to community groups for the management pest species adjacent to ESA's	Not commenced	WRC (lead)	Medium
Objective 4.8: All stakeholders are actively involved in WRC pest management strategy planning and activities.					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
4.8A	A *Compliance and Enforcement Plan* that guides administrative actions under the *Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014* is developed and implement	*Compliance and Enforcement Plan* developed. *Compliance and Enforcement Plan* implemented.	Not commenced	Working group	Medium
4.8B	A *Register of Pest Compliance Actions* under the *Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014* is developed and implemented	*Register of Pest Compliance Actions* is developed. *Register of Pest Compliance Actions* is maintained	Not commenced	WRC	Medium
4.8C	A *Reasonable Measures for Priority Pest Species Policy* that provides a 'baseline' for acceptable control activities is developed and implemented	A *Reasonable Measures for Priority Pest Species Policy* is developed. A *Reasonable Measures for Priority Pest Species Policy* is implemented.	Not commenced	WRC (lead)	Medium
4.8D	Only delegated WRC Officers administer the *Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014*	WRC LPO's are trained in compliance actions under the *Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014.* WRC LPO's are delegated under the *Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014*	Underway	WRC	High
4.8E	Procedures are developed and maintained for communicating with State and Council land managers and those leasing such land	Communications procedures are developed for State and Council land managers and those leasing such land. Communications procedures are implemented for State and Council land managers and those leasing such land	Not commenced	WRC (lead)	Medium

4.2.5 Desired Outcome 5: Strategic Planning Framework and Management

The objectives for desired outcome 5, strategic planning framework and management are:

1) The development of a pest management framework that aligns with other local, regional, State and national pest management strategies.
2) Pest management strategies are implemented, evaluated and reviewed.
3) Pest management is efficiently and effectively resourced.
4) Pest species within the WRC LGA are managed through appropriate Property Pest Plans and are used to guide WRC resources and administrative actions.
5) WRC is involved in stakeholder pest management planning to ensure that the WRC PMP is integrated into other relevant PMPs and pest species strategies.
6) Pest species are considered in all relevant WRC projects, plans, policies and strategies.

Table 10: *Desired Outcome 5: Strategic Planning Framework and Management*

Objective 5.1: The development of a pest management framework that aligns with other local, regional, State and national pest management strategies.					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
5.1A	The WRC PMP is regularly reviewed to ensure that it reflects relevant local, regional, State and National pest management strategies	The WRC PMP reflects all relevant local, regional, State and National pest management strategies	Underway	Working group	High
Objective 5.2: Pest management strategies are implemented, evaluated and reviewed.					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
5.2A	Pest species are managed on WRC land through PMP's	PMP's are developed for pest species located on WRC land.	Underway	WRC	High
5.2B	Property PMP's are developed for Stakeholders affected by pest species	Property PMP's are developed for Stakeholders affected by pest species	Underway	WRC (lead)	Medium
Objective 5.3: Pest management is efficiently and effectively resourced.					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
5.3A	Sufficient internal resources are allocated to WRC pest management operations to achieve the strategic objectives of the WRC PMP	Achievement of strategic actions outlined in the WRC PMP are not compromised by reduced funding.	Underway	WRC (lead)	High
5.3B	WRC develops mechanisms to distribute funding to aid the management of pest species	A review is completed to identify mechanisms to direct funding to priority pest species.	Underway	WRC (lead)	High
5.3C	Identify potential projects that could attract resources from funding bodies (State Government, NRM Groups, industry, etc.)	Mechanisms are in place to attract funding from other sources (species specific projects, catchment plans, etc.) Funding partnerships are developed between WRC and funding bodies.	Underway	WRC and DAF	High

5.3D	Seek private sector sponsorships for pest management activities.	Partnerships developed with the private sector	Not commenced	WRC	Medium
Objective 5.4: Pest species within the WRC LGA are managed through appropriate Property Pest Plans and are used to guide WRC resources and administrative actions.					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
5.4A	Pest species are managed on WRC land through PMP's	PMP's are developed for pest species located on WRC land.	Underway	WRC	High
5.4B	Property PMP's are developed for Stakeholders affected by pest species.	Property PMP's are developed for Stakeholders affected by pest species.	Underway	WRC (lead)	Medium
Objective 5.5: WRC is involved in stakeholder pest management planning to ensure that the WRC PMP is integrated into other relevant PMPs and pest species strategies.					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
5.5A	All Stakeholders incorporate strategies and themes identified in the WRC PMP into relevant PMP's and strategies.	Stakeholders involve WRC in pest management planning throughout the WRC LGA. Stakeholder pest management strategies/plans reflect strategies and themes outlined in the WRC PMP.	Underway	All stakeholders	Medium
Objective 5.6: Pest species are considered in all relevant WRC projects, plans, policies and strategies.					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
5.6A	Development applications under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* consider pest species	Pest species are assessed in development applications	Underway	WRC (lead)	Medium
5.6B	WRC Business Plans incorporate commitments to pest species management	Business Plans incorporate pest management planning where relevant.	Not commenced	WRC	Medium
5.6C	Consider pest management issues during planning and delivery of major projects (includes construction and infrastructure)	Advice is provided to development assessment and Council capital works officers. Advice provided on Queensland Government major projects.	Underway	WRC	Medium
5.6D	Review codes, policies, management plans and operational procedures to ensure compliance with the WRC PMP	Provide advice during the development of WRC codes, policies, management plans and operational procedures	Underway	WRC	Medium

4.2.6 Desired Outcome 6: Commitment, Roles and Responsibilities

The objectives for desired outcome 6, commitment, roles and responsibilities are;

1) All stakeholders take a long term approach to pest management activities.
2) All stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities for pest management within WRC.

Table 11: *Desired Outcome 6: Commitment, Roles and Responsibilities*

Objective 6.1: All stakeholders take a long term approach to pest management activities					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
6.1A	The development of a Whitsunday Pest Management Advisory Group to advise Stakeholders on the progress of the Whitsunday Biosecurity Plan.	Two Whitsunday Pest Management Advisory Group Meetings are held annually. Invited Stakeholders attend at least 75% of Whitsunday Pest Management Advisory Group Meetings.	Underway	WRC / all stakeholders	High
6.1B	The Pest Management Working Group to review and evaluate the Whitsunday Biosecurity Plan and advise Council on its effectiveness at meeting the strategic objectives of the plan.	Pest Management Working Group meet annually to review and evaluate the Whitsunday Biosecurity Plan.	Not commenced	WRC / all stakeholders	High
6.1C	WRC continues its involvement as a member of the Mackay Regional Pest Management Group and the North Queensland Dry Tropics Regional Pest Management Group	A WRC representative attends all Mackay Regional Pest Management Group meetings. A WRC representative attends all North Queensland Dry Tropics Regional Pest Management Group meetings.	Underway	WRC	High
6.1D	All Stakeholders maintain open communication channels	Stakeholders use a variety of communication channels regularly	Underway	WRC / all stakeholders	High
Objective 6.2: All stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities for pest management within WRC.					
Action No.	***Action description***	***Success indicator***	***Status***	***Responsibilities***	***Priority***
6.2A	Stakeholder roles and responsibilities are incorporated into the *Pest Species Awareness and Extension Program*	Roles and responsibilities are incorporated into the *Pest Species Awareness and Extension Program* Stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities in regards to pest management All landholders manage and control pests on their property.	Not commenced	WRC	Medium

4.3 Implementation and Action Plan

4.3.1 General approach and strategic direction

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

1) Council will manage declared plants and animals on its own land using management plans and an annual maintenance schedule. Priority will be given to prohibited pests, priority pests, Weeds of National Significance, State significance, followed by weeds declared under local laws.
2) Council will encourage landholders to control prohibited pests, priority pests, Weeds of National Significance, State significance followed by weeds declared under local laws.
3) Council will develop community education and awareness strategies to assist landholders to control pest plant and animals.
4) Council will direct its pest management resources based on the identification of priority weed control areas.
5) Council will control priority pests on stock routes under it's control.
6) Council will use compliance and enforcement actions in the control of declared pests where required.
7) Council will develop or assist in the development of incentive programs to assist landholders in controlling pests on their property.
8) Council will use property pest management plans or a similar mechanism to work with landholders in controlling weed spread.
9) Council will involve stakeholder organisations and other relevant community groups in pest management decisions via committees and other forms of communication.
10) It is recognised that some weed species cover extensive areas of the Shire and eradication in the short to medium term will be extremely difficult. The Council in consultation with relevant State government personnel, and the Council pest management group will develop weed specific containment lines within the region. These containment lines will be used to guide property pest plans and enforcement actions.
11) Efforts will be made to reduce the impact of declared pests on environmentally sensitive areas. A list of environmentally significant areas is shown in the Appendix.
12) The Whitsunday Regional Council Annual Operational Pest Management Plan must be achievable and reflect human and financial resources at the time.
13) There will be a priority list of regionally important pest management projects developed to focus resources and funding.

4.3.2 Determining Priority Areas for Pest Management

Council and the community will need to focus resources on priority weeds in priority parts of the catchment. Priority areas will be assessed on the following attributes:

1) Pest priority – as identified in local, State and National priority lists.
2) Risk to environmentally significant areas such as; creeks, wetlands and other remnant vegetation.
3) Density and total area of infestation.
4) Capacity of land owner to contain.
5) Ease of access.
6) Location in the catchment. Weed infestations in the upper catchment will be prioritised higher than those in the lower landscape.

5. Community Engagement

5.1 Biosecurity Plan 2016-2020

The Whitsunday Biosecurity Plan 2016-2020 was developed in consultation with regional land management stakeholders and the broad community. The Whitsunday Regional Council consulted with land management stakeholders in the development of this plan from mid-December 2016 through to mid-February 2017. Land management stakeholders were asked to review the initial draft of Whitsunday Biosecurity Plan and provide feedback. Further feedback from land management organisations occurred in two stakeholder meetings held in mid-February 2017. The land management stakeholders who participated in the land management organisation consultation included:

- Bowen Gumlu Growers Association
- Canegrowers
- Ergon
- GrowCom
- Landholders
- NQ Dry Tropics NRM Group
- Queensland Biosecurity
- Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines
- Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife service
- Queensland Rail
- Reef Catchments NRM Group

The feedback from the land management stakeholders were used to develop the final draft of the Biosecurity Plan. The final draft Biosecurity Plan was released to the public for consultation from 3 March 2017 to 10 April 2017. During the broad public consultation period, the Plan was placed on the Council website and landholders were asked to complete a survey on pest priorities and pest management service levels. Council provided information stalls at Collinsville, Bowen, Cannonvale and Proserpine during this consultation period to promote the proposed plan. Comments from the broad community consultation were incorporated into the Whitsunday Biosecurity Plan.

5.2 Biosecurity Plan 2021-2025

The previous Biosecurity Plan 2016-2020 involved an extensive engagement process with stakeholders and the public. Most of the issues and necessary activities are unchanged since 2017, consequently, it is considered that there is no need to re-write the Biosecurity Plan or make large modifications.

The Biosecurity Plan 2016-2020 was reviewed in 2020 by Council staff. In March 2021, the Council sought comments from land management and pest management stakeholders on the Biosecurity Plan. The comments which were gathered from the stakeholder's have been incorporated into this version of the Whitsunday Regional Council Biosecurity Plan 2021-2025. This new Biosecurity Plan was placed on public notification from the 24th of June to the 28th of July 2021. The results of the community consultation process are summarised in the appendix of this report.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Biosecurity Plan 2021-2025 will be reviewed annually by Council staff in consultation with regional land management stakeholders. The review of the Pest Plan will involve:

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

Council will develop an annual report highlighting the outcomes achieved for each financial year. The report will be provided to the pest management committee before the end of September each year for the preceding financial year. The Pest Plan review will be discussed in a stakeholder meeting and reported to Council. If changes to the Plan are required, a new version of the Plan will be developed with the changes. The revised plan will have a new publication date placed on the front of the report to indicate the new version.

7. References

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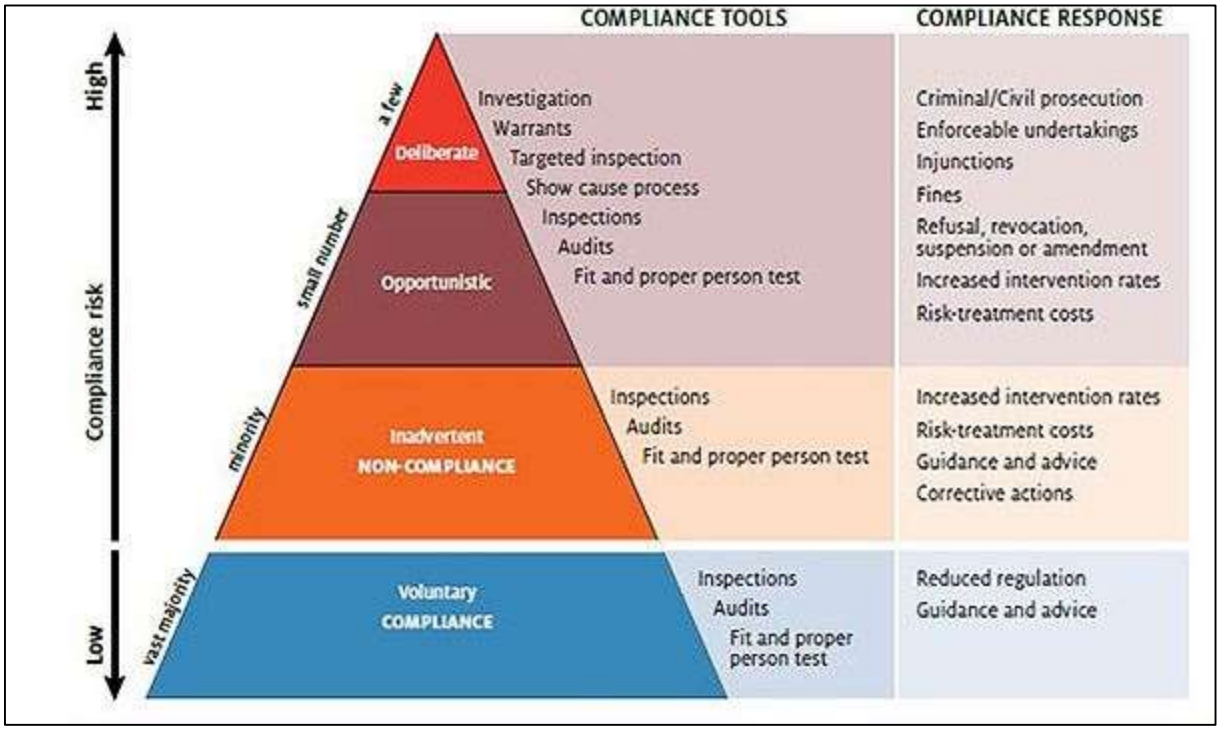
8. Appendix

8.1 Locally Declared Weeds

The following is the list of locally declared pest plants listed under the *Whitsunday Regional Council Subordinate Local Law No. 3 (Community and Environment) 2014*:

- Milkweed *(Euphorbia heterophylla)*
- Castor Oil Plant *(Ricinus communis)*
- Japanese Sunflower *(Tithonia diversifolia)*
- Caltrop *(Tribulus cistoides, T. terrestris)*
- Coral Vine *(Antigonon leptopus)*
- Khaki Weed *(Alternanthera pungens)*
- Noogoora Burr *(Xanthium strumarium)*
- Blackeyed Susan *(Thunbergia alata, T.*
- *species)*
- Neem Tree *(Azadirachta indica)*
- Leucaena *(Leucaena leucocephaia)*
- Itch Grass *(Rottboellia cochinchinensis)*
- Candle Bush *(Senna alata)*

8.2 Compliance Flow Chart – Pest Plant and Animals



8.3 Regional Pest Priority Lists

8.3.1 NQDT Pest Management Plan Priority Pests

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Priority Category	Land Protection Act Status	Biosecurity Act Status
Miconia	*Miconia sp*	Trees	Class 1	2,3,4,5
Chinee apple	*Ziziphus mauritiana*	Trees	Class 2	3
Pond apple	*Annona glabra*	Trees	Class 2 WoNS	3
Mesquites	*Prosopis glandulosa, P. pallida and P. velutina*	Trees	Class 2 WoNS	3
Prickly acacia	*Acacia nilotica (Vachellia nilotica)*	Trees	Class 2 WoNS	3
Parkinsonia	*Parkinsonia aculeata*	Trees	Class 2 WoNS	3
African tulip tree	*Spathodea campanulata*	Trees	Class 3	3
Broad-leaved Pepper Tree	*Schinus terebinthifolius*	Trees	Class 3	3
Athel pine	*Tamarix aphylla*	Trees	Class 3 WoNS	3
Yellow guava	*Psidium guajava*	Trees	Environmental Weed	N/A
Mimosa	*Acacia farnesiana syn. Vachellia farnesiana v. nilotica*	Trees	Not Declared	3
White Ball acacia	*Acaciella glauca (syn. A. angustissima)*	Shrubs and small trees	Class 1	3
Siam weed	*Chromolaena odorata*	Shrubs and small trees	Class 1	3
Grey Willow	*Salix spp. other than S babylonica S. x calodendron, S. x reichardtii and S. chilensis syn. S. humboldtiana*	Shrubs and small trees	Class 1	3
Giant sensitive plant	*Mimosa diplotricha var. diplotricha*	Shrubs and small trees	Class 2	3
Sicklepods	*Senna obtusifolia, Senna hirsuta and Senna tora*	Shrubs and small trees	Class 2	3
Bellyache bush	*Jatropha gossypiifolia*	Shrubs and small trees	Class 2 WoNS	3
Rubber vine	*Cryptostegia grandiflora*	Shrubs and small trees	Class 2 WoNS	3
Yellow oleander	*Cascabela thevetiana (syn.Theretia peruviana)*	Shrubs and small trees	Class 3	3
Lantana	*Lantana camara*	Shrubs and small trees	Class 3 WoNS	3
Leucaena	*Leucaena leucocephala*	Shrubs and small trees	Environmental Weed	N/A
Grewia	*Grewia asiatica*	Shrubs and small trees	Environmental Weed	N/A
Snake weed	*Stachytarpheta spp*	Shrubs and small trees	Environmental Weed	N/A
Noogoora burr	*Xanthium occidentale*	Shrubs and small trees	Environmental Weed	N/A
Chinese lantern	*Dichrostachys cinerea*	Shrubs and small trees	Not Declared	N/A
Hymenachne	*Hymenachne amplexicaulis*	Grasses and Sedges	Class 2 WoNS	3
American rat's tail grass	*Sporobolus jacquemontii*	Grasses and Sedges	Class 2	3
Giant Parramatta grass	*Sporobolus fertilis*	Grasses and Sedges	Class 2	3

Giant rat's tail grass	*Sporobolus pyramidalis and S. natalensis*	Grasses and Sedges	Class 2	3
Gamba grass	*Andropogon gayanus*	Grasses and Sedges	Class 2 WoNS	3
African fountain grass	*Pennisetum setaceum*	Grasses and Sedges	Class 3	N/A
Bamboo	*Phyllostachys sp. and Bambusa sp*	Grasses and Sedges	Class 2	N/A
Parramatta grass	*Sporobolus africanus*	Grasses and Sedges	Class 2	3
Pennisetum / Elephant grass	*Pennisetum purpureum*	Grasses and Sedges	Environmental Weed	N/A
Swamp foxtail	*Pennisetum alopecuroides*	Grasses and Sedges	Environmental Weed	N/A
Itch grass	*Rottboellia cochinchinensis*	Grasses and Sedges	Locally Declared BSC LGA	N/A
Johnson grass	*Sorghum halepense*	Grasses and Sedges	Not Declared	N/A
Kyasuma grass	*Cenchrus pedicellatus*	Grasses and Sedges	Not Declared	N/A
Navua sedge	*Cyperus aromaticus*	Grasses and Sedges	Environmental Weed	N/A
Prickly pear	*Opuntia monacantha, O. stricta, O. tomentosa*	Forbes and cacti	Class 2	3
Mother–of–millions	*Bryophyllum delagoense (syn. B.tubiflorum, Kalanchoe delagoensis), Bryophyllum x houghtonii (syn.B.daigremontianum x B.delagoense, Kalanchoe x houghtonii)*	Forbes and cacti	Class 2	3
Parthenium weed	*Parthenium hysterophorus*	Forbes and cacti	Class 2 WoNS	3
Singapore daisy	*Sphagneticola trilobata syn. Wedelia trilobate*	Forbes and cacti	Class 3	3
Knob weed	*Hyptis capitata*	Forbes and cacti	Environmental Weed	N/A
Harrissia cactus	*H. martinii, H. tortuosa and H. pomanesis syn. Cereus pomanensis*	Forbes and cacti	Class 2	3
Glush weed	*Hygrophila costata*	Water plants	Class 1	3
Limnocharis	*Limnocharis flava*	Water plants	Class 1	2,3,4,5
Water mimosa	*Neptunia oleracea and N. plena*	Water plants	Class 1	2,3,4,5
Water lettuce	*Pistia stratiotes*	Water plants	Class 2	3
Salvinia	*Salvinia molesta*	Water plants	Class 2 WoNS	3
Water hyacinth	*Eichhornia crassipes*	Water plants	Class 2 WoNS	3
Cabomba	*Cabomba caroliniana*	Water plants	Class 2 WoNS	3
Arrowhead	*Sagittaria platyphylla*	Water plants	WoNS	3
Thunbergia	*Thunbergia annua, T fragrans and T laurifolia*	Climbers and creepers	Class 1	3
Blue trumpet vine	*Thunbergia grandiflora*	Climbers and creepers	Class 2	3
Dutchman's pipe (exotics)	*Aristolochia spp.*	Climbers and creepers	Class 3	3
Cat's claw creeper	*Macfadyena unguis-cati*	Climbers and creepers	Class 3 WoNS	N/A
Basket asparagus fern	*Asparagus aethiopicus*	Climbers and creepers	Class 3 WoNS	3
Feral Pig	*Sus scrofa*	Mammals	Class 2	3,4,6

European Rabbit	*Oryctolagus cuniculus*	Mammals	Class 2	3,4,5,6
Feral Deer (Chital)	*Axis axis*	Mammals	Class 2	3,4,6
Feral Deer (Russa)	*Cervus timorensis*	Mammals	Class 2	3,4,6,
Feral Goat	*Capra hircus*	Mammals	Class 2	3,4,6
European Fox	*Vulpes vulpes*	Mammals	Class 2	3,4,5,6
Feral Cat	*Felis catus*	Mammals	Class 2	3,4,6
Wild dog / dingo	*Canis familiaris*	Mammals	Class 2	3,4,6
European Carp	*Cyprinus carpio*		Noxious	3,5,6,7
Mosquito fish	*Gambusia holbrooki*		Noxious	3,5,6,7
Mozambique mouthbreeder (tilapia)	*Oreochromis mossambicus*		Noxious	3,5,6,7
Black mangrove cichlid (tilapia)	*Oreochromis mariae syn. Tillapia mariae*		Noxious	3,5,6,7
Yellow Crazy Ant	*Anoplolepis gracilipes*		Class 1	3
Australian plague locust	*Chortoicetus terminifera*		Class 2	N/A
Migratory Locust	*Locusta migratoria*		Class 2	N/A
Spur-throated locust	*Austracris guttulosa*		Class 2	N/A

8.3.2 Reef Catchments Pest Management Priority Pests

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Land Use	Priority Category	Land Protection Act Status	Biosecurity Act Status
Parkinsonia	*Parkinsonian aculaete*	Grazing	23/35	2	3
Giant rats tail grass	*Sporobolus sp*	Grazing	24/35	2	3
Lantana	*Lantana camera*	Grazing	23/35	3	3
Tobacco weed	*Elephantopus mollis*	Grazing	21/35	N/A	3
Mimosa	*Mimosa pigra*	Grazing	23/35	1	2,3,4,5
Sicklepods	*Senna obtusifolia, S. tora, S. hirsuta*	Grazing	23/35	2	3
Red convolvulus	*Ipomea hederifolia*	Intensive agriculture	15/15	N/A	N/A
Milkweed	*Euphorbia heterophylla*	Intensive agriculture	15/15	N/A	N/A
Pink convolvulus	*Ipomea triloba*	Intensive agriculture	15/15	N/A	N/A
Itch grass	*Rottboellia cochinchinensis*	Intensive agriculture	15/15	N/A	N/A
Feral pigs	*Sus scrofa*	Intensive agriculture	15/15	2	3,4,6
Sicklepods	*Senna obtusifolia, S. tora, S. hirsuta*	Intensive agriculture	15/15	2	3
Thunbergia	*Thunbergia sp.*	Urban	25/30	2	3
Giant Rats tail	*Sporobolus sp*	Urban	22/30	2	3
Parthenium	*Parthenium hysterophorus*	Urban	20/30	2	3
Rubbervine	*Crptostegia grandiflora*	Urban	22/30	2	3
Prickly acacia	*Acacia nilotica*	Urban	18/30	2	3
Pond apple	*Annona glabra*	Environmentally sensitive areas	High	2	3
Broadleaf pepper tree	*Schinus terebinthifolius*	Environmentally sensitive areas	High	3	3
Rubbervine	*Cryptotegia grandiflora*	Environmentally sensitive areas	High	2	3
Feral cats	*Felis catus*	Environmentally sensitive areas	High	2	3,4,6
Foxes	*Vulpes vulpes*	Environmentally sensitive areas	High	2	3,4,6
Guinea grass	*Panicum maximum*	Environmentally sensitive areas	High	N/A	N/A
Molasses grass	*Melinis minutiflora*	Environmentally sensitive areas	High	N/A	N/A
Feral pigs	*Sus scrofa*	Environmentally sensitive areas	High	2	3,4,6
Hymenachne	*Hymenachne amplexicaulis*	Environmentally sensitive areas	High	3	3
Water lettuce	*Pistia stratiotes*	Environmentally sensitive areas	High	2	3
Salvina	*Salvinia molesta*	Environmentally sensitive areas	High	2	3
Cabomba	*Cabomba caroliniana*	Environmentally sensitive areas	High	2	3
Mimosa pigra	*Mimosa pigra*	Environmentally sensitive areas	High	1	2,3,4,5

Madeira vine	*Anredera cordifolia*	Environmentally sensitive areas	High	N/A	3
Cats claw creeper	*Macfadyena unguis-cati*	Environmentally sensitive areas	High	3	3
Yellow oleander	*Cascabela thevetia / Thevetia peruviana*	Environmentally sensitive areas	High	3	3
Grader grass	*Themeda quadrivalvis*	Environmentally sensitive areas	High	N/A	N/A
Lantana	*Lantana camera*	Environmentally sensitive areas	High	3	3
Thatch grass	*Hyparrhenia rufa*	Environmentally sensitive areas	High	N/A	N/A
Penny leaf	*Dalbergia sissoo*	Environmentally sensitive areas	High	N/A	N/A
Wild dogs	*Canis familiaris*	Environmentally sensitive areas	High	2	3,4,6
Feral goats	*Capra hircus*	Environmentally sensitive areas	High	2	3,4,6

8.3.3 Priority Pest Plants – Bowen Area

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Land Protection Act (2003) Status	Biosecurity Act (2014) Status	Present in Whitsunday Region	Relative Infestation Size	Total Impact Rating Score
Siam weed	*Chromolaena odorata*	Class 1	3	no	Not present	11.45
Leucaena	*Leucaena leucocephala*	Locally declared	N/A	Yes	Low	10.3
Rubber vine	*Cryptostegia grandiflora*	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Medium	8.95
Prickly acacia	*Acacia nilotica (Vachellia nilotica)*	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Medium	8.85
Sicklepods	*Senna obtusifolia, Senna hirsuta and Senna tora*	Class 2	3	Yes	Low	8.75
Chinee apple	*Ziziphus mauritiana*	Class 2	3	Yes	Medium-high	8.6
Miconia	*Miconia sp*	Class 1	2,3,4,5	No	Not present	8.35
Giant Parramatta grass	*Sporobolus fertilis*	Class 2	3	Yes	Low	7.85
American rat's tail grass	*Sporobolus jacquemontii*	Class 2	3	Yes	Low	7.8
Parkinsonia	*Parkinsonia aculeata*	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Low - medium	7.55
Mesquites	*Prosopis glandulosa, P. pallida and P. velutina*	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Low	7.35
Parthenium weed	*Parthenium hysterophorus*	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Medium - high	7.15
Bellyache bush	*Jatropha gossypiifolia*	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Low	6.85
Gamba grass	*Andropogon gayanus*	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Isolated	6.6
Caltrop	*(Tribulus cistoides, T. terrestris)*	Locally Declared	N/A	Yes	Low	6.55
Giant rat's tail grass	*Sporobolus pyramidalis and S. natalensis*	Class 2	3	Yes	Low	6.5
Parramatta grass	*Sporobolus africanus*	Class 2	3	Yes	Low	6.05
Broad-leaved Pepper Tree	*Schinus terebinthifolius*	Class 3	3	Yes	Low	5.15
Yellow oleander	*Cascabela thevetiana (syn.Theretia peruviana)*	Class 3	3	Yes	Isolated	4.8
Guinea Grass	*Megathyrsus maximus*	Environmental Weed		Yes	Medium	4.2
Neem Tree	*(Azadirachta indica)*	Locally Declared	N/A	Yes	Isolated	4.05
Grewia	*Grewia asiatica*	Environmental Weed	N/A	Yes	Isolated	3.85
Grader Grass	*Themeda quadrivalvis*	Environmental Weed	N/A	Yes	Low	1.4

8.3.4 Priority Pest Plants – Proserpine/Airlie Beach Area

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Land Protection Act (2003) Status	Biosecurity Act (2014) Status	Present in Whitsunday Region	Relative Infestation Size	Total Impact Rating Score
Mimosa pigra	*Mimosa pigra*	Class 1	2,3,4,5	Yes	Isolated	11.85
Siam weed	*Chromolaena odorata*	Class 1	3	no	Not present	11.45
Leucaena	*Leucaena leucocephala*	Locally declared	N/A	Yes	Low	10.3
Lantana	*Lantana camara*	Class 3 WoNS	3	Yes	Medium	9.5
Rubber vine	*Cryptostegia grandiflora*	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Medium	8.95
Itch grass	*Rottboellia cochinchinensis*	Locally Declared BSC LGA	N/A	Yes	Isolated	8.9
Sicklepods	*Senna obtusifolia, Senna hirsuta and Senna tora*	Class 2	3	Yes	Low	8.75
Prickly pear	*Opuntia monacantha, O. stricta, O. tomentosa*	Class 2	3	Yes	Isolated	8.7
Pond apple	*Annona glabra*	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Isolated	8.6
Hymenachne	*Hymenachne amplexicaulis*	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Low	8.55
Miconia	*Miconia sp*	Class 1	2,3,4,5	No	Not present	8.35
Giant sensitive plant	*Mimosa diplotricha var. diplotricha*	Class 2	3	Yes	Isolated	8.25
Johnson grass	*Sorghum halepense*	Not Declared	N/A	Yes	Isolated	8.05
Giant Parramatta grass	*Sporobolus fertilis*	Class 2	3	Yes	Low	7.85
American rat's tail grass	*Sporobolus jacquemontii*	Class 2	3	Yes	Low	7.8
Singapore daisy	*Sphagneticola trilobata syn. Wedelia trilobate*	Class 3	3	Yes	Low	7.15
Parthenium weed	*Parthenium hysterophorus*	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Medium - high	7.15
Cat's claw creeper	*Macfadyena unguis-cati*	Class 3 WoNS	N/A	Yes	Isolated	6.95
Mother–of–millions	*Bryophyllum delagoense (syn. B.tubiflorum,*	Class 2	3	Yes	Low	6.85
Gamba grass	*Andropogon gayanus*	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Isolated	6.6
Blue trumpet vine	*Thunbergia grandiflora*	Class 2	3	Yes	Isolated	6.5
Giant rat's tail grass	*Sporobolus pyramidalis and S. natalensis*	Class 2	3	Yes	Low	6.5
White Ball acacia	*Acaciella glauca (syn. A. angustissima)*	Class 1	3?	Yes	Isolated	6.25
Castor Oil Plant	*(Ricinus communis)*	Locally Declared	N/A	Yes	Low	6.2
Parramatta grass	*Sporobolus africanus*	Class 2	3	Yes	Low	6.05
Yellow guava	*Psidium guajava*	Environmental Weed	N/A	Yes	Isolated	5.45
Milkweed	*(Euphorbia heterophylla)*	Locally Declared	N/A	Yes	Low	5.15

Broad-leaved Pepper Tree	*Schinus terebinthifolius*	Class 3	3	Yes	Low	5.15
Dutchman's pipe (exotics)	*Aristolochia spp.*	Class 3	3	Yes	Isolated	5.05
Yellow oleander	*Cascabela thevetiana (syn.Theretia peruviana)*	Class 3	3	Yes	Isolated	4.8
African tulip tree	*Spathodea campanulata*	Class 3	3	Yes	Isolated	4.75
Guinea Grass	*Megathyrsus maximus*	Environmental Weed		Yes	Medium	4.2
Neem Tree	*(Azadirachta indica)*	Locally Declared	N/A	Yes	Isolated	4.05
Grader Grass	*Themeda quadrivalvis*	Environmental Weed	N/A	Yes	Low	1.4
Mossman river grass	*Cenchrus echinatus*	Environmental Weed	N/A	Yes	Low	1.4
Mexican bean tree	*Cecropia pachystachya*	Class 1	3	Yes	Isolated	1.4

8.3.5 Priority Pest Plants – Collinsville Area

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Land Protection Act (2003) Status	Biosecurity Act (2014) Status	Present in Whitsunday Region	Relative Infestation Size	Total Impact Rating Score
Leucaena	*Leucaena leucocephala*	Locally declared	N/A	Yes	Low	10.3
Lantana	*Lantana camara*	Class 3 WoNS	3	Yes	Medium	9.5
Rubber vine	*Cryptostegia grandiflora*	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Medium	8.95
Prickly acacia	*Acacia nilotica (Vachellia nilotica)*	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Medium	8.85
Sicklepods	*Senna obtusifolia, Senna hirsuta and Senna tora*	Class 2	3	Yes	Low	8.75
Chinee apple	*Ziziphus mauritiana*	Class 2	3	Yes	Medium-high	8.6
Giant Parramatta grass	*Sporobolus fertilis*	Class 2	3	Yes	Low	7.85
American rat's tail grass	*Sporobolus jacquemontii*	Class 2	3	Yes	Low	7.8
Parkinsonia	*Parkinsonia aculeata*	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Low - medium	7.55
Mesquites	*Prosopis glandulosa, P. pallida and P. velutina*	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Low	7.35
Parthenium weed	*Parthenium hysterophorus*	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Medium - high	7.15
Mother–of–millions	*Bryophyllum delagoense (syn. B.tubiflorum,*	Class 2	3	Yes	Low	6.85
Bellyache bush	*Jatropha gossypiifolia*	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Low	6.85
Giant rat's tail grass	*Sporobolus pyramidalis and S. natalensis*	Class 2	3	Yes	Low	6.5
Parramatta grass	*Sporobolus africanus*	Class 2	3	Yes	Low	6.05
Pennisetum / Elephant grass	*Pennisetum purpureum*	Environmental Weed	N/A	Yes	Low	5.2
Yellow oleander	*Cascabela thevetiana (syn.Theretia peruviana)*	Class 3	3	Yes	Isolated	4.8
Neem Tree	*(Azadirachta indica)*	Locally Declared	N/A	Yes	Isolated	4.05
Grewia	*Grewia asiatica*	Environmental Weed	N/A	Yes	Isolated	3.85
Mimosa	*Acacia farnesiana syn. Vachellia farnesiana v. nilotica*	Not Declared	3	Yes	Low	3.7
Athel pine	*Tamarix aphylla*	Class 3 WoNS	3	Yes	Isolated	2.55
Grader Grass	*Themeda quadrivalvis*	Environmental Weed	N/A	Yes	Low	1.4
Tree Wisteria	*Bolusanthus speciosus*	Environmental Weed	N/A	Yes	Low	1.4

8.4 Annual Operating Plan

Council staff resources:

- Whitsunday Regional Council Technical Officer – 1FTE (Proserpine) (158 days/yr) – (0.8 FTE feral animals and 0.2 FTE vector control)
- Whitsunday Regional Council Land Protection Officer – 0.2 FTE (Collinsville) – 0.2 FTE (31 work days /yr)
- Whitsunday Regional Council Land Protection Officer – 1 FTE (Bowen) – 1 FTE (158 work days /yr)
- Whitsunday Regional Council Weed Control Officer – 1 FTE (Bowen) – 1 FTE (158 work days /yr)
- Number of work days available = 505 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 380 Days	% Of Total Time
Weed control council land	Spraying of declared weeds on Council land and road reserves	130	20
Property pest management plans	The development of PPMP with landholders	110	20
Pest management incentive program	Agreed incentive programs/projects to encourage landholders to control declared weeds and animals	20	5
Education and awareness	Promotion – eg Weed buster week	30	5
Data acquisition and management	Mapping weeds	70	10
Weed planning, strategic management and meetings	Attending meetings and writing plans	20	5
	Total	**380 days**	**(65)**

Feral Animals Task	Description	Staff Days Allocated – Target 130 Days	% of Total Time
1080 baiting (ground)	1080 baiting schedule and syndicates	30	10
Aerial baiting	This is a once a year operation delivered in partnership with QPWS, DNR, WCL, Canegrowers and landholders	20	5
Trap management	Feral animal traps to landholders to work and trap animals.	20	5
Education and awareness	Promotion – eg field days	20	5
Aerial shooting	Two aerial shoots a year - Coordinated by Council	40	10
NRM projects - joint	These are projects which grants/funding occurs throughout the year.		
	Total	**130 days**	**(35)**

8.5 List of Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Environmentally significant areas in the Whitsunday Regional Council area are the following areas:

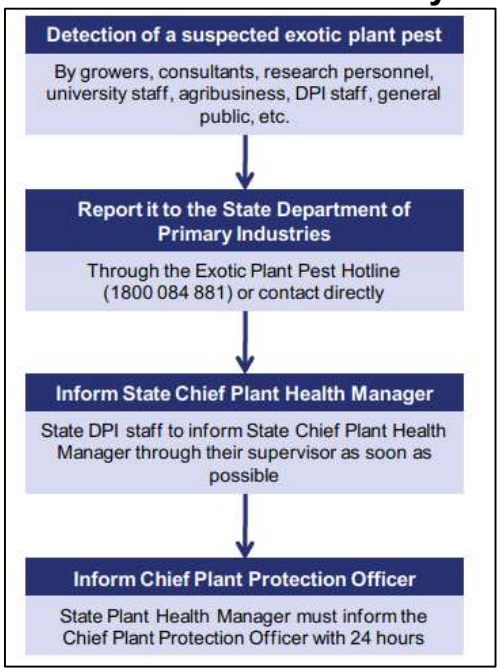
- National Parks, State Forest, Nature reserves
- Waterways with remnant vegetation
- Waterways with vegetation regrowth
- Proserpine Rock Wallaby habitat
- Wetland areas mapped by the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency
- Coastal dune systems with remnant vegetation
- Remnant vegetation – Endangered
- Remnant vegetation – Of Concern
- Remnant vegetation – Not of Concern

8.6 Annual Reporting Form

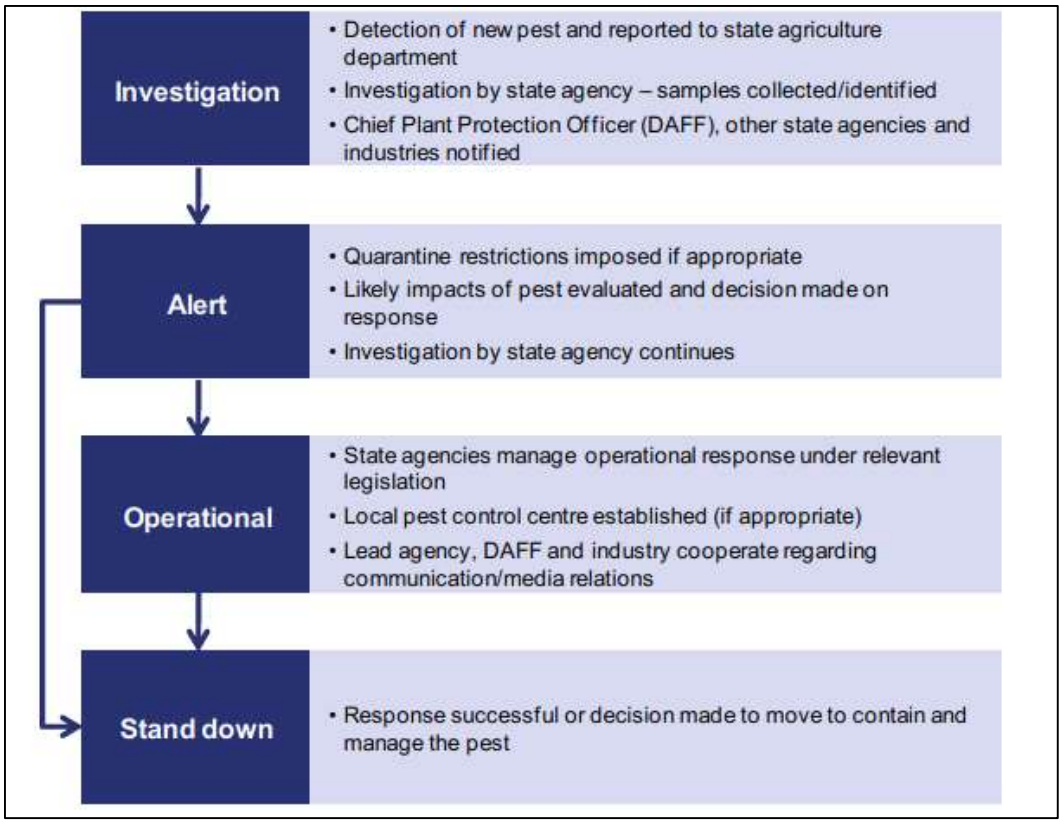
The following is the format for the Whitsunday Regional Council annual statistics report:

Item No.	Activity	Number
	Feral Animal Program	
	Number of coordinated 1080 baiting days	
	Number of landholders who participated in a Coordinated 1080 baiting day	
	Number of pigs caught in pig traps coordinated by Council officers	
	Number of feral dogs caught in traps coordinated by Council officers	
	Number of feral cats caught in traps coordinated by Council officers	
	Number of rabbits caught in traps coordinated by Council officers	
	Number of aerial baits delivered	
	Number of feral animals destroyed via aerial operations	
	Number of ground baits delivered	
	Weed Management Program	
	Number of property weed management plans developed	
	Area of declared weeds mapped	
	Number of infringements issued under the Act	
	Number of clear and enters approved by Council officers	
	Number of pest plant notices issued	
	Number of new plants observed in council area • Prohibited • Restricted	
	Number of pest plants which have been eradicated from the Council area	
	Number of landholders who have benefited and participated in Council incentive programs.	
	Number of field days which were coordinated or participated in to promote best practise pest management	
	Number of landholders who participated in herbicide rebate scheme	

8.7 Horticultural Industry Pest Response Flow Chart

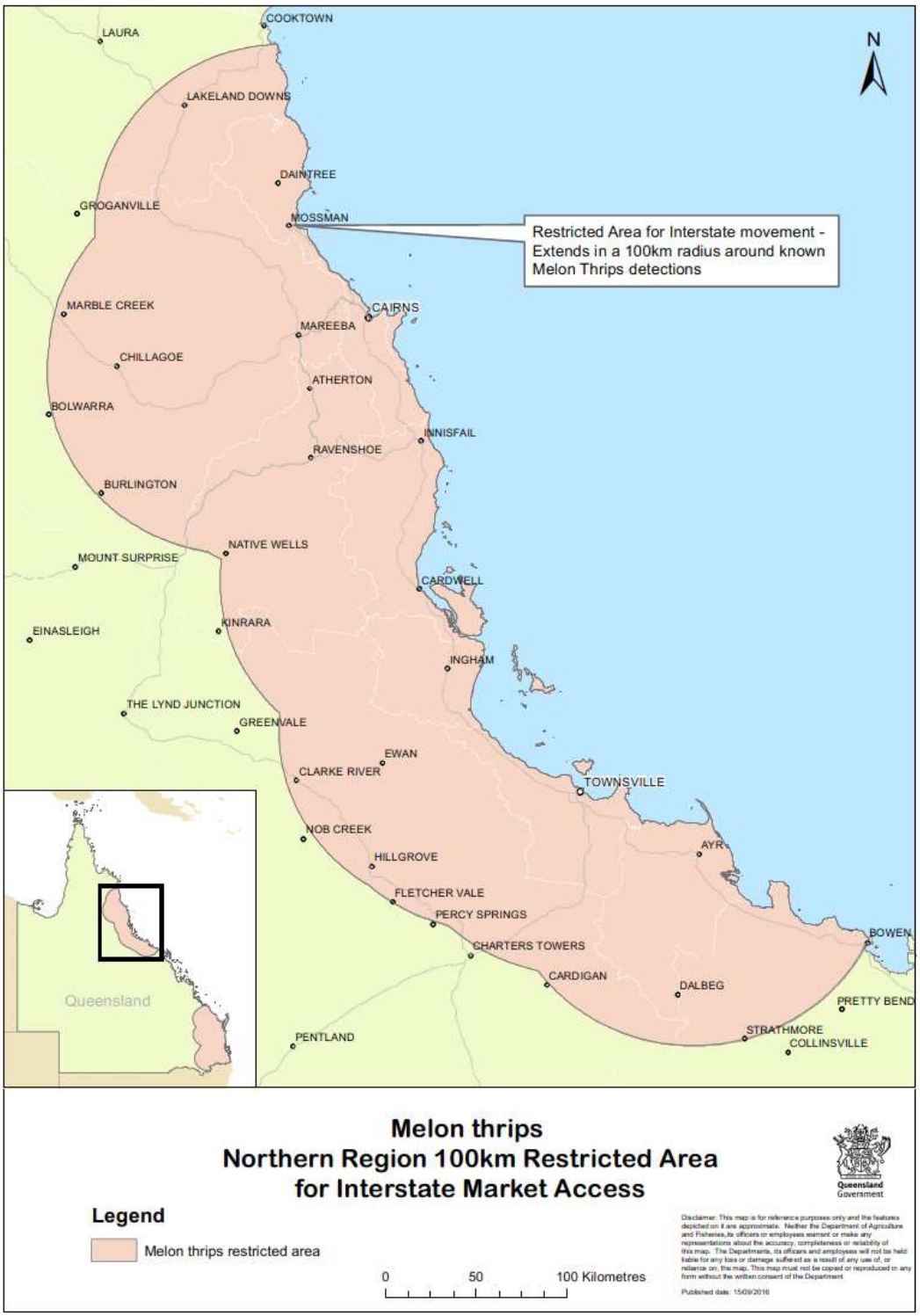


Source: *Plant Health Australia Ltd (2007) Industry Biosecurity Plan for the Vegetable Industry (Version 2.0 - 2011). Plant Health Australia, Canberra, ACT.*



Source: *Plant Health Australia Ltd (2007) Industry Biosecurity Plan for the Vegetable Industry (Version 2.0 - 2011). Plant Health Australia, Canberra, ACT.*

8.8 Melon Thrip Restriction Areas



8.9 Priority Pest Management Projects

The purpose of the following table is to list the Priority Pest Management Projects to undertake between 2021 and 2025.

No.	Project Description	Priority
1	Coordinating the Council roadside slashing and weed spraying schedules	High
2	Develop and promote the weed containment lines	Medium
3	Start implementing the weed washdown sites	High
4	Implement the pest surveillance program and schedule	High
5	Review wild dog bounties	Medium
6	Review weed incentive program – e.g. consider diesel	Medium
7	Review Horticulture pest projects	Medium
8	Develop and implement the Chinee apple bio-control project	High
9	Economic modelling of weed impacts on grazing industry and environment	High
10	Review community involvement in pest surveillance – e.g. use of Aps	Medium
11	Continue and expand feral animal aerial shooting program	High
12	Implement and drive the Whitsunday Yellow Crazy Ant eradication program.	High
13	Develop an improved method of mapping weeds	High
14	Remove Leucaena from urban areas	Medium
15	Review pest management compliance processes and actions	Medium

8.10. Results from the community consultation process

The proposed new Biosecurity Plan (2021-2025) was placed out for community consultation in June/Juny 2021. The results of the community consultation were:

- Consultation was open for one month online at our engagement website Your Say Whitsunday between Thursday 24 June and Wednesday 28 July 2021. The consultation period was advertised via the corporate website, a paid Facebook advertisement and newspaper public notices. An online survey and factsheet were made available on Your Say Whitsunday during this time.
- Council officers held a pest management display at the Whitsunday and Bowen Shows during late June, which attract large numbers of residents. These events helped raise awareness of the Plan and the consultation process, with hardcopy feedback forms made available at the public displays.
- A total of 12 submissions were received during the consultation period, with a range of feedback regarding priorities and concerns for pest management in the region. Feral Pigs and Leucaena were identified as the highest priority by those who completed a survey, and suggestions were put forward as to how WRC can improve its pest management.
- The results from the consultation process highlight residents are either not engaged in pest management or are not happy with WRC's efforts. This suggests that to meet community expectations, WRC may need to invest more resources in the future to raise awareness and combat pest plants and animals across the region.
- It is recommended that further education and awareness takes place over the next twelve months, such as a targeted media campaign to tell the success stories behind pest management in the Whitsundays. WRC needs to demonstrate to the community that we have listened and are working to improve outcomes for all land managers.

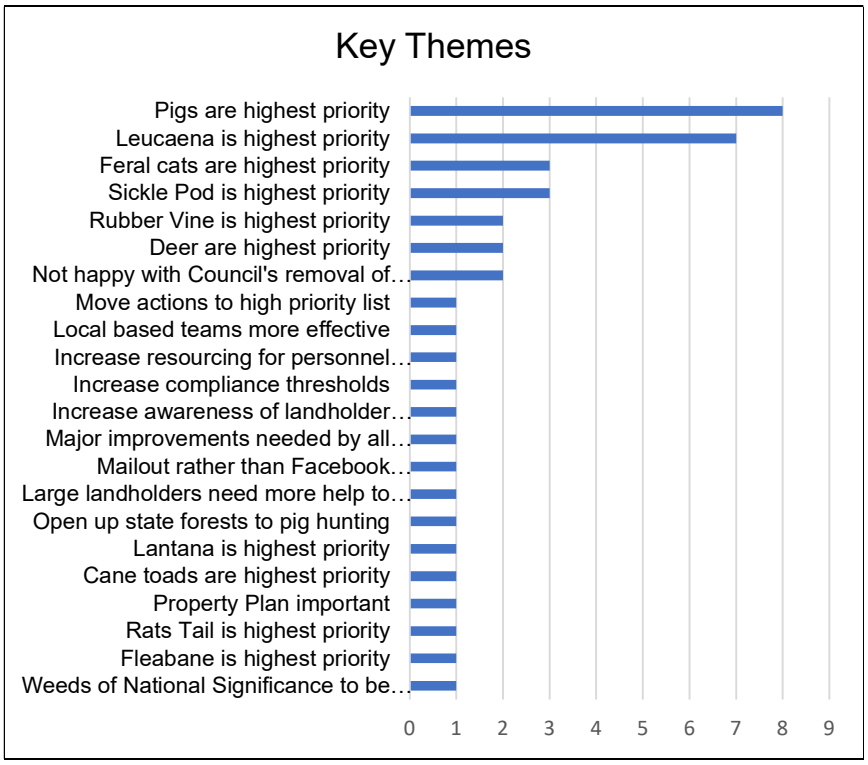


Figure 1. Showing the feedback on the main biosecurity issues.