

# Wide Bay Burnett Regional Biosecurity Strategy



## **Acknowledgement of contributors**

This plan was developed by the Wide Bay Invasive Species Advisory Committee (WBBISAC) in consultation with key stakeholders for endorsement of the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Organisation of Councils.

The WBBISAC would like to acknowledge stakeholders and community for their input into the development of this plan. The breadth and depth of their contributions has been significant, and is a reflection of the passion, expertise and knowledge that exists across the Wide Bay Burnett Region.

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### **Delivery Partners in the Wide Bay Burnett:**

Burnett Mary Regional Group

Biosecurity Queensland

TMR

HQ Plantations

Agforce

Department of Defence

Endorsed by

(Chairman)

Wide Bay Burnett Regional Organisation of Councils

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing on 07/11/2017. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate local government officer or the user's independent adviser.

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## Summary:

The Regional Biosecurity Strategy was developed by the Wide Bay Burnett Invasive Species Advisory Committee (WBBISAC) to coordinate the regional approach to the management of invasive plants and animals in the region. This regional approach will increase coordination of investment and action to mitigate the negative impacts of invasive plants and animals on the economic, environment, cultural and social values in the Wide Bay Burnett.

The Regional Biosecurity Strategy 2017-2022 is based on 8 key principles:

1. Risk-based prevention and early intervention is generally the most cost-effective approach for managing invasive plants and animals. **Prevention and early detection**
2. Effective invasive plant and animal management is a responsibility shared between all stakeholders including landholders, community, industry and all levels of government. **Commitment**
3. Regular monitoring and evaluation of control activities and research about invasive species is needed to make evidence-based decisions and improve management practices. **Improvement (research, monitoring and evaluation)**
4. Prioritisation of invasive plant and animal management must be informed by a risk based approach; considering feasibility, likelihood of success, impact and regional significance. **Planning**
5. Invasive species management is an integral part of managing natural resources and agricultural systems. **Integration**
6. Coordination amongst landholders, community, industry and government across a range of scales and tenures is necessary to successfully manage invasive plants and animals. **Consultation and partnership**
7. Sustaining capability and capacity across landholders, community, industry and government is fundamental to effective long term management of invasive plants and animals. **Public awareness**
8. Invasive species 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. **Best practice**

The operating principles forming the basis of the Regional Biosecurity Strategy align with key principles outlined in the Australian Weed Strategy, the Australian Pest Animal Strategy and the draft Queensland Weed and Pest Animal Strategy 2016-2022.

## **Key Recommendations for Invasive Species Management in the Wide Bay Burnett**

- That the WBBISAC support the implementation and monitoring of the Regional Biosecurity Strategy by key stakeholders in the region
- That the WBBISAC liaise with key stakeholders to secure funding for the implementation of the Regional Biosecurity Strategy
- That the WBBISAC coordinate a regional Invasive Species Education and Awareness Program with key stakeholders in the Wide Bay Burnett
- That the WBBISAC support the implementation of an Invasive Species Education and Awareness Program, in coordination with key stakeholders in the region
- That the WBBISAC develop a Metadata Strategy to consolidate data collected and used by stakeholders throughout the Wide Bay Burnett
- That the WBBISAC support the implementation of the Regional Metadata Strategy, in coordination with key stakeholders in the region
- That the WBBISAC develop an Invasive Species Assessment Framework incorporating current extent, potential threats and impacts for use by key stakeholders within the region
- That the WBBISAC support the development of a Regional Operations Program with key stakeholders to prevent new incursions, contain existing populations and manage widespread populations of regionally significant invasive species
- That the WBBISAC support the implementation and monitoring of a Regional Operations Program, in coordination with key stakeholders in the region

## Vision for Invasive Species Management in the Wide Bay Burnett

This plan provides a sound basis for the cooperative and coordinated management by all tiers of government, industry and the community working to protect the economy, the community and the environment of the Wide Bay Burnett region from the negative impact of invasive plants and animals.

The vision and the stated desired outcomes for the Regional Biosecurity Strategy emphasise the importance of shared ownership, effective actions and long term commitment to invasive species management in the Wide Bay Burnett.

The desired outcomes drive the Wide Bay Burnett Invasive Species Delivery Program through the following management goals (expanded pages 39-42)

- Goal 1: Prevent the establishment of new invasive species in the Wide Bay Burnett
- Goal 2: Eliminate, or prevent the spread of, new invasive species in the Wide Bay Burnett
- Goal 3: Reduce the impacts of widespread invasive species in the Wide Bay Burnett
- Goal 4: Ensure the community of the Wide Bay Burnett region has the ability and commitment to manage invasive species.

The desired outcomes and management goals for this strategy align with those of the Queensland Weed and Pest Strategy 2016-2020.

<b>Desired Outcome 1:</b> <b>Stakeholders are informed, knowledgeable and have ownership of invasive species management.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Education and awareness programs are designed to build stakeholder capacity and are linked to phases of the invasion curve</li><li>- Suitable programs are developed to foster a shared responsibility for invasive species management</li></ul>			
<b>Management Goal 1</b> ✓	<b>Management Goal 2</b> ✓	<b>Management Goal 3</b> ✓	<b>Management Goal 4</b> ✓



**Desired Outcome 2:**

**Decision making for invasive species management is based on reliable and accurate information**

- Suitable, consistent information is collected by a range of stakeholders in the Wide Bay Burnett region
- Reliable and accurate information is made available to and widely utilised by relevant stakeholders

Management Goal 1	Management Goal 2	Management Goal 3	Management Goal 4
	✓	✓	

**Desired Outcome 3:**

**Strategic directions for invasive species management are established, maintained and owned by all stakeholders.**

- Consistent goals and outcomes are agreed to and shared by stakeholders
- Stakeholders utilise a consistent assessment framework to define risk, management targets and the feasibility of management of invasive species

Management Goal 1	Management Goal 2	Management Goal 3	Management Goal 4
	✓	✓	

**Desired Outcome 4:**

**Invasive species are strategically managed to reduce impacts on the economic, social and environmental values of the Wide Bay Burnett region**

- Management programs aimed at reducing the impact of invasive plants and animals reflect the goals incorporated in the generalised invasion curve
  - Prevent the establishment of new invasive species in the region
  - Eliminate, or prevent the spread of, new invasive species in the region
  - Contain invasive species to a known area and preventing spread to 'clean' areas
  - Protect assets of high economic, environmental and social value from invasive species, or to reduce the impact if invasive species already established

Management Goal 1	Management Goal 2	Management Goal 3	Management Goal 4
✓	✓	✓	✓

## 1. Intent of the Regional Biosecurity Strategy

Biosecurity is the management of risks to the economy, environment and community of invasive species in the Wide Bay Burnett. The Regional Biosecurity Strategy provides a sound basis for a cooperative and coordinated approach to managing invasive plants and animals in the Wide Bay Burnett. It provides the tools for making the transition from low risk or low return activities and investment – a framework to prioritise investment, a rigorous approach to risk and consequence analysis and shared responsibility for decision-making and action.

The Regional Biosecurity Strategy (and the legislation that underpins it) is based on the premise that effective invasive species management is everyone's responsibility. It defines what "shared responsibility" means for the region's communities and stakeholders and how they may work collaboratively to identify, minimise, respond to and manage invasive plants and animals at a regional scale.

The Regional Biosecurity Strategy is relevant to all lands within the Wide Bay Burnett region of Queensland. It is a living document; to be edited and updated when needed to ensure that it aligns with relevant regional frameworks.

The Regional Biosecurity Strategy, and the assessment framework within, complements relevant strategies or plans developed by individual stakeholders for their own needs. It is a tool to assist collaborative effort on the management of invasive species which have been identified as priorities within the region. It can be used to assist all stakeholders to meet the challenges of invasive species management in the Wide Bay Burnett now and in the future.



## 2. Queensland Policy Framework

Local governments and their communities continue to be best placed to control local invasive plants and animals. Together they can develop practical and appropriate solutions to deal with these risks. Under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, local governments are required to develop biosecurity management plans for their area.

The development of this Regional Biosecurity Strategy is intended to facilitate a coordinated approach to the management of invasive plants and animals across the region by:

- Guiding the risk assessment of invasive plants and animals; based on extent, potential threats, desired outcomes and achievability
- Identifying regionally agreed desired outcomes, management goals and performance indicators
- Providing agreed definitions for the development of plans consistent with the Regional Biosecurity Strategy
- Increasing the effectiveness of existing programs through coordination of activities and sharing of data and resources

### 2.1 *Biosecurity Act 2014*

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* has repealed the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*, which provided regulatory controls and powers to manage declared plants and animals in Queensland. The *Biosecurity Act 2014* streamlines and modernises the way invasive species are managed in Queensland as it:

- Embeds the principle of shared responsibility for biosecurity risks (including invasive animals) across government, community and industry
- Applies equally to all land in the state, regardless of whether it is publically or privately owned
- Is premised on the concept of risk, so that invasive species management investment and response is appropriate to the risk
- Supports regional planning and management for invasive species

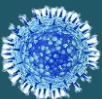






The Act provides local governments with the legal instrument they need to enforce the management of high-priority invasive plants and animals. In keeping with the premise that biosecurity is a shared responsibility, the Act introduces a legally enforceable concept of a general biosecurity obligation.

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* is tenure neutral, as it applies equally to all land in the region, whether public or private. The Act requires that everyone must take an active role in managing biosecurity risks under their control. Individuals and organisations whose activities pose a biosecurity risk (such as the spread of invasive plants and animals) will have a responsibility for managing them.

## Biosecurity Matter

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* identifies invasive species as ‘biosecurity matter’ which is defined as:

- a. a living thing, other than a human or part of a human: or
- b. a pathogenic agent that can cause disease in-
  - i. a living thing, other than a human: or
  - ii. a human, by the transmission of the pathogenic agent from an animal to the human or
- c. a disease; or
- d. a contaminant.

<p>The Act categorises invasive biosecurity matter as either ‘prohibited’ or ‘restricted’</p>	<p>1. </p> <p>AQUATIC DISEASES, parasites and viruses</p>	<p>2. </p> <p>ANIMAL DISEASES, parasites and viruses</p>	<p>3. </p> <p>INVASIVE PLANTS</p>
<p>4. </p> <p>INVASIVE ANIMALS</p>	<p>5. </p> <p>NOXIOUS FISH</p>	<p>6. </p> <p>PLANT DISEASES, parasites and insects</p>	<p>7. </p> <p>TRAMP ANTS</p>

From a legislative perspective, local governments are only required to consider invasive biosecurity matter, which may be declared as prohibited or restricted or other, in the development of the Biosecurity Plan. Biosecurity plans are not required to consider aquatic, animal or plant diseases, parasites or viruses or noxious fish.

## 2.2 Supporting legislation

The following national and state legislation and regulations may apply to biosecurity planning and management by Councils and other stakeholders in the Wide Bay Burnett.

<b>Level</b>	<b>Description</b>
Federal	<p><i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Aims to promote shared responsibility between government and industry and allows for current and future trading environments</li> <li>- Replaces <i>Quarantine Act 1908</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> is relevant to the Wide Bay Burnett as it lists key threatening processes for nominated introduced and/or invasive species such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Competition and land degradation by rabbits/unmanaged goats</li> <li>- Loss and degradation of native plant and animal habitat by invasion of escaped garden plants, including aquatic plants</li> <li>- Predation by european red fox/feral cats/feral pigs</li> <li>- Disease transmission by feral pigs</li> </ul>
State	<p><i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- permits for clearing native vegetation to control weeds</li> </ul> <p><i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- protection of dingoes in conservation areas</li> </ul> <p><i>Water Act 2000</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- deals with the impact of management activities in watercourses</li> </ul> <p><i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- deals with the release of contaminants when undertaking pest management actions</li> </ul> <p><i>Transport Infrastructure Act 1994</i> and the <i>Land Title Act 1994</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deals with managing road reserves that extend beyond identified state-controlled roads);</li> </ul> <p><i>Animal Care and Protection Act 2001</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- includes providing seized pest animal with appropriate food, shelter and water); and</li> </ul> <p><i>Health (Drug and Poisons) Regulations 1996</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- deals with use of poisons (eg 1080) for feral animal control</li> </ul> <p><i>Local Government Act 2009</i></p> <p><i>Land Act 2004</i></p> <p><i>Stock Route Management Act 2004</i></p>

## 2.3 Supporting policies and strategies

<b>Level</b>	<b>Description</b>
Federal	<p><i>Australian Weeds Strategy and Australian Pest Animal Strategy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- identifies national priorities for invasive plant and animal management</li> </ul> <p><i>Weeds of National Significance (WONS) strategies</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- developed for range of species identified because of their invasiveness, impacts on primary production and the environment, potential for spread and socioeconomic impacts</li> </ul> <p><i>Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- recognises that invasive species continue to be a major cause of biodiversity pressure which is increasing with climate change</li> </ul> <p><i>International Agreement on Biosecurity (IGAB)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- developed to improve the national system by identifying roles and responsibilities of governments and outlines the priority areas for collaboration</li> </ul>
State	<p><i>Queensland Biosecurity Strategy 2017-2022</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Build Queensland's Biosecurity system to protect Queensland's ecosystems, industries and way of life</li> <li>- Maintain Queensland's national and international reputation for product safety and integrity</li> <li>- Ensure ongoing market access for our commodities</li> </ul> <p><i>Queensland Weed and Pest Animal Strategy 2016–2020</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishes a state-wide planning framework that addresses the environmental, economic and community impacts of Queensland's current and potential weeds and pest animals.</li> <li>- The development and implementation of this strategy is based on the management principles of integration, public awareness, commitment, consultation and partnership, planning, prevention and early intervention, best practice and improvement (research, monitoring and evaluation)</li> </ul> <p><i>Queensland Wild Dog Management Strategy 2011-2016</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduce wild dog impacts in the coastal, peri-urban and rural residential management zones</li> <li>- Ensure the community is informed and committed to wild dog management and has access to the most current control methods and management techniques</li> </ul> <p><i>Feral Deer Management Strategy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developed to provide stakeholders with a framework to coordinate control measures and reduce the impacts of feral deer in Queensland</li> </ul>

Regional	<p><i>Regional Vegetation Management Plans</i></p> <p><i>Wide Bay Burnett Environment and Natural Resource Management Plan 2012-2031</i></p> <p><i>Wide Bay Burnett Regional Plan</i></p> <p><i>Burnett Mary Strategic Plan</i></p> <p><i>Burnett Mary NRM and Climate Adaptation Plan 2015</i></p> <p><i>Wide Bay- Burnett Statutory Plan</i></p>
Local	<p><i>Gympie Regional Council Pest Management Plan 2011-2017</i></p> <p><i>South Burnett Regional Council Biosecurity Plan</i></p> <p><i>North Burnett Pest Management Plan</i></p> <p><i>Bundaberg Regional Council Biosecurity Plan</i></p> <p><i>Fraser Coast Interim Biosecurity Plan</i></p> <p><i>Adjoining local government biosecurity plans</i>  <i>(Gladstone Regional Council, Banana Shire Council, Western Downs Regional Council, Toowoomba Regional Council, Somerset Regional Council, Sunshine Coast regional Council and Noosa Shire Council)</i></p>

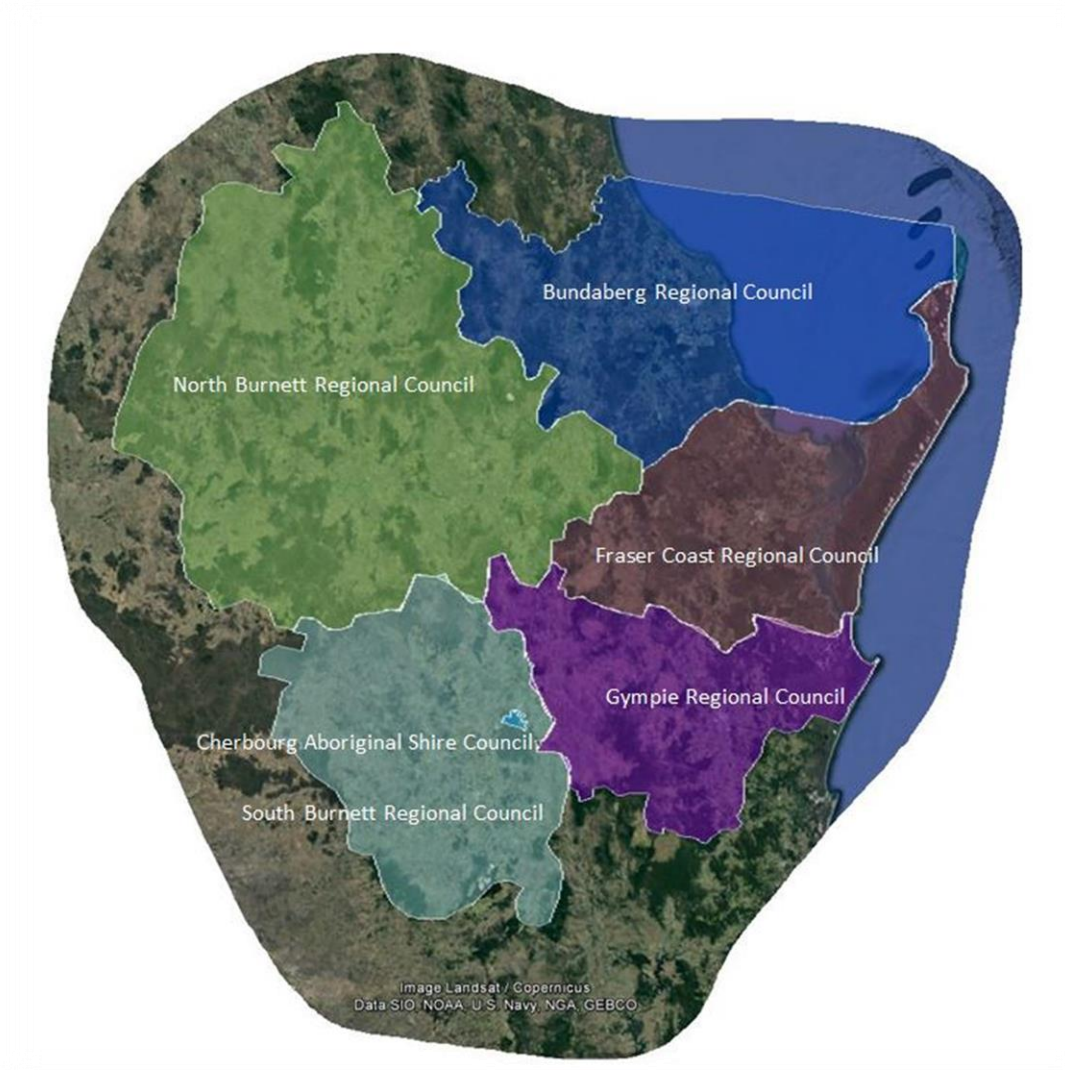


### 3. Description of the Wide Bay Burnett Region

#### 3.1 Geography

The Wide Bay Burnett region is made up of the five Regional Council areas of South Burnett, North Burnett, Bundaberg, Gympie and Fraser Coast, as well as the Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council. Geographically, the region covers an area of more than 52 376 km<sup>2</sup>. The population of more than 300 000 people enjoy rural, regional and coastal lifestyles. Major urban centres of the Wide Bay Burnett include Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, Maryborough, Kingaroy and Gympie. Smaller regional townships such as Murgon, Cherbourg, Gayndah, Biggenden, Mundubbera, Childers and Tiaro make up the region.

The climate, spectacular scenery, biological diversity, cultural values and economic productivity define the Wide Bay Burnett as one of the fastest growing regions in Australia.





### 3.2 Landscapes and biodiversity

The Wide Bay Burnett is renowned for its diverse landscapes – from coastal lowlands, sand masses and dunes, to inland sandstone hills. The inland plains and rangelands have a mosaic of soils and land types, each requiring a different management regime.

The region is incredibly biodiverse and includes the RAMSAR listed Great Sandy Strait Wetland, the World Heritage listed Fraser Island and part of the Cooloolaa Coast. The following are some of the many endangered species are found within the region.

- Mary River Cod
- Mary River Turtle
- Spotted Quoll
- Black breasted button quail
- Isis Tamarind
- Goodwood Gum
- Threatened ecological communities such as Brigalow and Littoral Rainforest

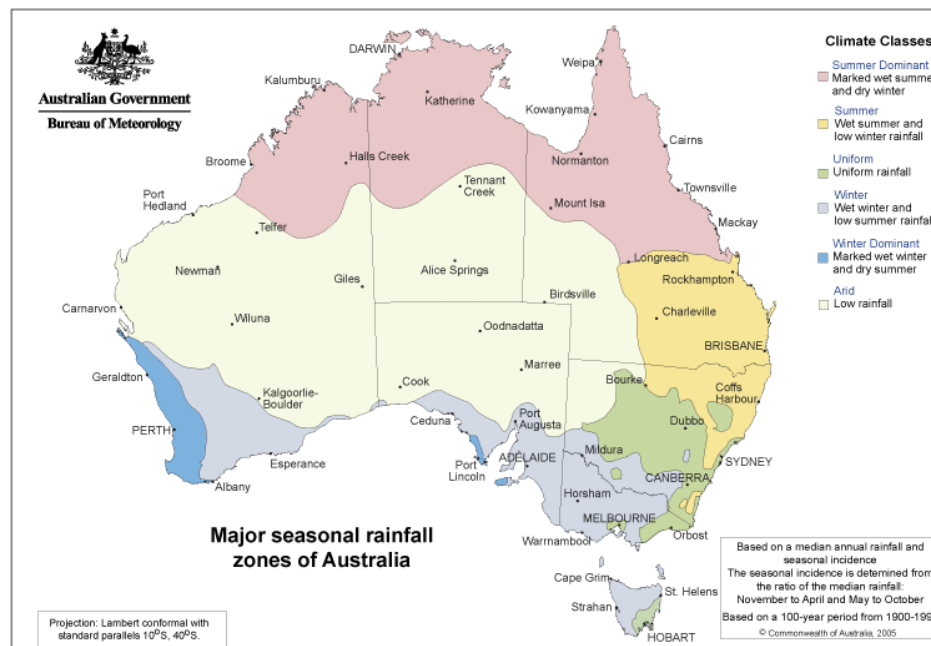
### 3.3 Production and tourism

Extensive primary production is conducted within the Wide Bay Burnett including sugarcane, horticulture, citrus and tree crops, grain crops, viticulture, dairy and grazing. The region is rapidly emerging as the food bowl of Queensland and is capitalising on the diversification of traditional manufacturing and food processing industries. Two thirds of Queensland's softwood plantation resources are in the Wide Bay Burnett's timber and forestry industry. Tourism also plays an important role, with the region sharing a common boundary with Noosa and the Sunshine Coast and being recognised as the gateway to the Southern Great Barrier Reef and the Bunya Mountains.



### 3.4 Climate

The climate of the Wide Bay Burnett lends itself to the threat of invasive plants and animals. The average annual rainfall ranges from 600mls-1500mls with a wet summer and low winter rainfall pattern, based on median annual rainfall and seasonal incidence over a 100 year period. The average daily mean temperature based on 30 year standard climatology ranges from 18-21 degrees Celsius.



A changing climate may pose a threat to the management of invasive plant and animal species in the Wide Bay Burnett. As climate variables continue to change in the region, new pests and diseases may become able to invade previously uninhabitable areas and extend their range. Climate factors that aid in invasive species incursions are mostly temperature related and include

- increasing average temperatures,
- warmer winter minimum temperatures,
- changes in precipitation patterns, and
- water shortages.

Climate variability is expected to increase the range, or "damage niche" (also called "invasion niche") of many invasive species. Research suggests that the composition of invasive weed communities will be fundamentally altered by the end of the century under increasing temperature scenarios, with new weed species entering communities as a result of geographic range shifts.

## **4. Invasive species management in the Wide Bay Burnett**

### **4.1 Regional Approach**

Invasive plants and animals represent a significant threat to the natural, economic and social assets of the Wide Bay Burnett region. The key benefits to a regional approach to the management of invasive plants and animals in the Wide Bay Burnett are to:

- Bring together people, networks and resources to improve stakeholder capacity to respond to new and existing invasive plants and animals,
- Enable development of regional frameworks to build partnerships and leverage new and existing resources ,
- Create opportunities to develop and implement innovative and effective management systems that provide benefit across tenures and local government areas; and
- Provide a mechanism for stakeholders to share information, develop coordinated efforts to attain agreed outcomes and decrease duplication of efforts on a regional basis.

### **4.2 Wide Bay Burnett Invasive Species Advisory Committee (WBBISAC)**

The WBBISAC is established under the auspices of the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Organisation of Councils (WBBROC) and is comprised of representatives of the Councils within the same footprint.

The aims of the WBBISAC are to

- Provide advice to WBBROC and recommend actions that encourage the proactive management of invasive species (plants and animals) by stakeholders within the Wide Bay Burnett Region.
- Coordinate the development of a Wide Bay Burnett Regional Biosecurity Strategy to facilitate the implementation of locally developed and managed Biosecurity Plans.
- Develop and manage regionally significant projects aimed at encouraging regional collaboration and, where necessary, recommend regional projects that may require external funds.
- Facilitate the review of the Regional Biosecurity Strategy and guide monitoring, implementing and reporting on progress.



## WBBISAC Contacts

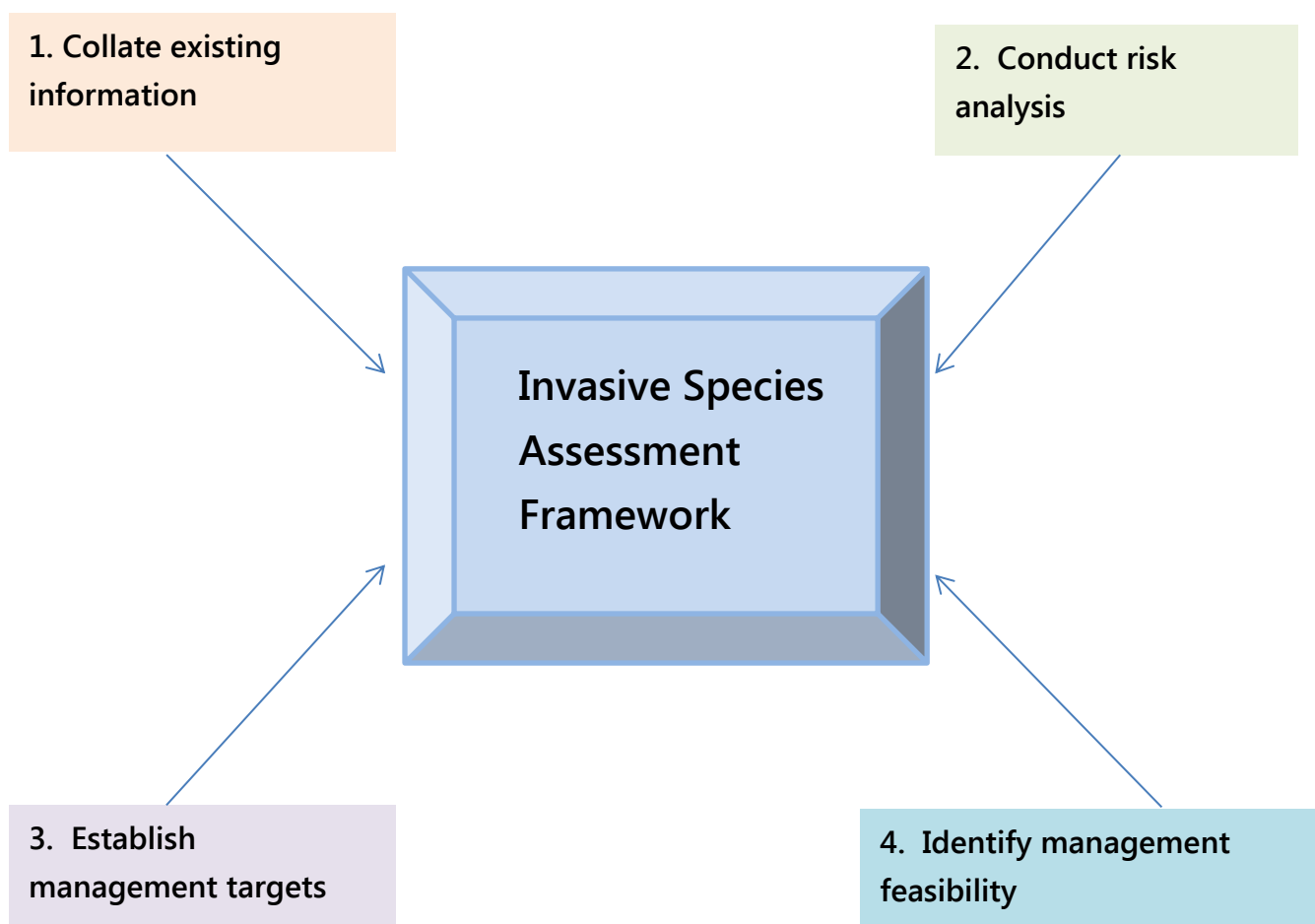
Gympie Regional Council	<a href="http://www.gympie.qld.gov.au">www.gympie.qld.gov.au</a> <a href="mailto:council@gympie.qld.gov.au">council@gympie.qld.gov.au</a>	1300 30 78 00
South Burnett Regional Council	<a href="http://www.southburnett.qld.gov.au">www.southburnett.qld.gov.au</a> <a href="mailto:info@southburnett.qld.gov.au">info@southburnett.qld.gov.au</a>	(07) 4189 9100
North Burnett Regional Council	<a href="http://www.northburnett.qld.gov.au">www.northburnett.qld.gov.au</a> <a href="mailto:admin@northburnett.qld.gov.au">admin@northburnett.qld.gov.au</a>	1300 69 62 72
Bundaberg Regional Council	<a href="http://www.bundaberg.qld.gov.au">www.bundaberg.qld.gov.au</a> <a href="mailto:ceo@bundaberg.qld.gov.au">ceo@bundaberg.qld.gov.au</a>	1300 88 36 99
Fraser Coast Regional Council	<a href="http://www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au">www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au</a> <a href="mailto:enquiry@frasercoast.qld.gov.au">enquiry@frasercoast.qld.gov.au</a>	1300 79 49 29
Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council	<a href="http://www.cherbourg.qld.gov.au">www.cherbourg.qld.gov.au</a>	(07) 4168 1866

### 4.3 Wide Bay Burnett Invasive Species Assessment Framework

Councils within the Wide Bay Burnett region utilise a risk-based approach for determining management objectives and priorities for invasive species management to ensure that resources are targeted to provide the greatest return.

The utilisation of an agreed management system will enhance the consistency of individual Biosecurity Plans and identify opportunities for collaboration with key stakeholders throughout the region. The agreed criteria and scoring system will enable the development of regionally aligned, but still locally significant, priorities which may vary across the region.

The Wide Bay Burnett Invasive Species Assessment Framework involves a number of defined steps which are detailed in the following section. The use of a standardised description of components of each step is central to the assessment framework.



### Step 1 Collate existing information on the invasive species

- Gather information about a particular species such as existing priorities and current distribution to build a profile
- Generally this information is made available by Councils to other stakeholders

Existing Priority	Score
Weed of National Significance (WONS)	5
National Eradication Program	5
State Management Program	5
Other	0

Current Status	Score
Prohibited Invasive Biosecurity Matter	5
Restricted Invasive Biosecurity Matter	4
Declared locally	4
Environmental	2
Not declared	1

Extent	Score
Isolated/historic	5
Localised (occasional)	4
Localised (common)	3
Widespread (occasional)	2
Widespread (common)	1

## Step 2 Conduct a risk analysis on the invasive species

- This involves working through a risk analysis process incorporating both potential and existing threats, while considering the negative impacts of the invasive species on Conservation/Biodiversity, Social, Agricultural and Economic (other than agriculture) values.
- The risk analysis process can be used for both plants and animals

### 2.1 Identify potential threats

<b>Likelihood of widespread establishment</b>	<b>Score</b>
Already established throughout the region	5
Characteristics well suited to the region, very likely to establish, present in neighbouring area, noted historic sites	4
Characteristics moderately suited to the region, numerous means of introduction	3
Limited suitability to the region; few, if any, means of introduction	2
Unsuited to the region; very little, if any, likelihood of establishment	1
<b>Dispersal mechanisms</b>	<b>Score</b>
Spread exceptionally easily by all listed vectors	5
Spread easily via 3 of the listed vectors	4
Spread moderately easily via 2 of the listed vectors	3
Spread by only 1 of the following vectors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- human/machinery</li> <li>- domestic animal/wildlife</li> <li>- reproductive/vegetative</li> <li>- wind/water</li> </ul>	2
Limited ability to spread in any way	1
<b>Invasiveness</b>	<b>Score</b>
Species displays all listed characteristics and can successfully invade a range of land systems	5
Species displays 3 listed characteristics and can successfully invade a range of land systems	4
Species displays 2 listed characteristics and can successfully invade suitable land systems only	3
Species displays limited invasive characteristics limited to 1 of the following and may invade suitable land systems only <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ability to germinate/reproduce in arrange of environments</li> <li>- competitive ability</li> <li>- reproductive advantage</li> <li>- distance of dispersal</li> </ul>	2
Species doesn't display any significant invasive characteristics	1
<b>Management Cost</b>	<b>Score</b>
Ongoing and high cost treatments to discharge general biosecurity obligation	5
Ongoing, moderate cost treatments to discharge general biosecurity obligation	4
Initial moderate cost to discharge general biosecurity obligation	3
Multiple, low cost treatments to discharge general biosecurity obligation	2
Single, low cost treatment to discharge general biosecurity obligation	1

## 2.2 Identify impacts caused by infestation/incursion

<b>Conservation/Biodiversity</b>	<b>Score</b>
Species likely to drastically out-compete native species and impact on biodiversity in a broad range of natural areas (including sensitive areas)	5
Species likely to drastically out-compete native species impact on biodiversity limited to the pests' suited habitat	4
Species has the potential to invade edges and disturbed systems, has the potential to destroy ecology which is already threatened	3
Species likely to develop a presence in conservation areas without widespread out-competition of native species	2
Species unlikely to establish effectively in conservation areas unless by isolated infestations, dumping or urban escapes. Unlikely to penetrate undisturbed areas	1
<b>Social</b>	<b>Score</b>
Species displays severe impacts on all 4 listed social values	5
Species has significant impacts on 3 of the listed social values	4
Species has significant impacts on 2 of the listed social values	3
Species may impact on 1 of the following social values <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- human health and wellbeing</li> <li>- personal safety and accessibility</li> <li>- visual amenity</li> <li>- management of public and private assets</li> </ul>	2
Species has no documented impacts on any social values	1
<b>Agriculture</b>	<b>Score</b>
Major threat to agriculture by way of reduced output with increased control expenses. Control is added to existing routine management practices and impacts on economic viability of operations. Has the potential to devalue land or force change of land use. Impacts likely to extend adjoining properties	5
Moderate threat to agriculture with reduction in output and increased management expenses. Control is added to existing routine pest management practices for crop or pastures. Benefits of management outweigh costs. Not likely to impact on land value. Impacts may to extend adjoining properties	4
Moderate threat to agriculture. Increased maintenance including drainage lines, creeks and roadways. Threats to crop/pasture/livestock can be abated as part of routine management practices.	3
Moderate threat to farm assets and visual amenity throughout the property. Species may impact on native vegetation in non-production areas over time	2
Not of concern to agriculture under good land management practices	1
<b>Economic (other than agriculture)</b>	<b>Score</b>
Species may have a negative impact on 4 of the listed economic values	5
Species may have a negative impact on 3 of the listed economic values	4
Species may have a negative impact on 2 of the listed economic values	3
Species may have an impact on only 1 of the following economic values <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ability to derive income from the land system, including land values</li> <li>- visual amenity</li> <li>- ability to harbour pests</li> <li>- ease of management</li> </ul>	2
Not of concern to economic endeavours in the region	1



### 2.3 Calculate the final risk ranking for invasive species in the area:

Once a risk assessment has been conducted on all invasive species in an area (property, local government catchment scale), they can be ranked according to the *risk* represented.

In the Wide Bay Burnett, the formula for the final risk ranking for invasive plants and animals is:

$$\text{(Existing Priority + Current Status + Potential Threat + Impact) x Extent}$$

### Step 3 Establish management targets for each species

- The management targets for invasive species should be aligned with the Invasion Curve outlined on page 30 of the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Biosecurity Strategy
- Whilst the management targets are not included in the risk assessment, they should be highlighted for each invasive species.

Outcome	Description	Score
<b>Prevent entry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- High priority species not previously identified as being present in the region are prevented from entering</li><li>- High risk areas and pathways identified and monitored regularly to identify possible incursion by new species</li><li>- All staff aware of high priority species and high risk sites and pathways</li></ul>	4
<b>Eradication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Species not previously recorded in the region are prevented from establishing</li><li>- Effective rapid response program in place to ensure all visible incursions/populations are effectively controlled within the entire region</li><li>- Historical sites identified and monitored regularly to identify and eradicate new incursions</li></ul>	3
<b>Containment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Eradication not feasible, areas known to be clean but suitable for establishment</li><li>- Widespread species restricted to identified containment zones</li></ul>	2
<b>Asset protection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Management programs target protection of high priority assets from widespread species within the region</li><li>- Impact of widespread species reduced in the region through identification of management zones and targeted programs</li><li>- Landholders implementing best practice activities to reduce the impact of invasive plants and animals</li><li>- Landholders throughout the region have the capacity and commitment to manage widespread invasive species</li></ul>	1

#### Step 4 Identify the management feasibility for each species

- The feasibility of long term control must be built into operational programs for invasive species management

Achievability/feasibility of long term control	Score
Prevention of entry of high risk species likely as high risk sites and pathways identified and surveillance program in place	6
Eradication of the invasive species is highly achievable as incursion is small or very contained. Ongoing surveillance necessary to ensure no further reinfestation.	5
Potential to eradicate isolated infestations/populations in particular catchment/geographic area that is unlikely to become reinfested	4
Potential for Council/landholders to satisfy basic strategic control targets with appropriate funding/ resources.	3
Management of the invasive species requires universal commitment from all stakeholders. Operational control is reliant on coordinated action from all stakeholders.	2
Invasive species is widespread throughout the region covering various tenures. There is no universal control available.	1

## 4.4 Invasive species in the Wide Bay Burnett

The list of invasive plants and animals has been developed by collating information from the existing pest management plans of local governments within the Wide Bay Burnett.

This list is in no particular order, but serves to show the variation of invasive species being addressed by stakeholders throughout the Wide Bay Burnett region.

### Invasive Animals

Feral Pig	European Fox
Feral Cat	Wild Dog
Feral Deer including	Indian Myna
- fallow	Cane Toad
- chital	Hares
- red	European Rabbit
- rusa	Red eared slider turtle
Samba deer	Tilapia
Feral Goat	Yellow Crazy Ants
Feral Horse	



## Invasive Plants

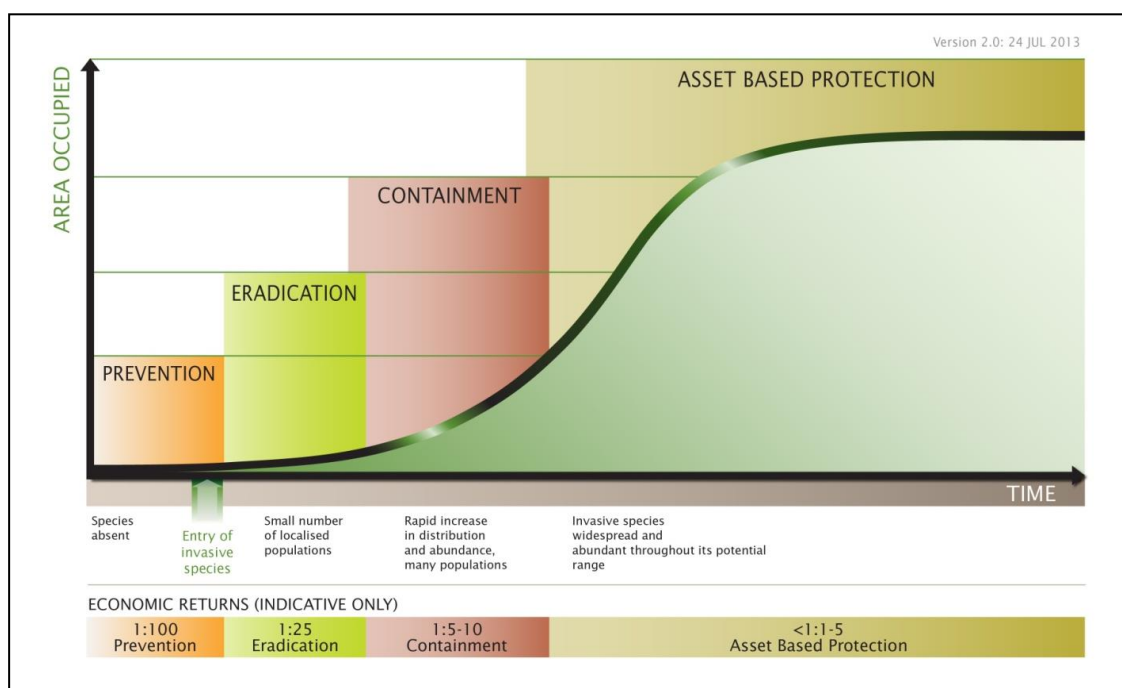
African Boxthorn	Easter Cassia	Parkinsonia
African Fountain Grass	Fireweed	Parthenium
African Lovegrass	Galvanised Burr	Pencil Willow
African Tulip Tree	Glory lily	Pennata Wattle
American rats tail grass	Grader Grass	Praxelis
Annual Ragweed	Green Cestrum	Prickly Acacia
Asparagus Fern	Groundsel Bush	Prickly Pear
Balloon Vine	GRT	Privet
Bathurst burr	Guava	Purple Rubbervine
Bellyache Bush	Harungana	Rubbervine
Bitou Bush	Honey Locust	Saffron Thistle
Blackberry	Hudson Pear	Salvinia
Brazilian cherry	Hygrophila	Sedge
Broadleaf Pepper Tree	Hymenachne	Sicklepod
Bunny Ears	Kei Apple	Singapore Daisy
Cabomba	Kudzu	Sisal Hemp
Camphor Laurel	Lantana	Star Burr
Captain Cook Tree	Leucaena	Thorn Apples
Cats Claw Creeper	Madeira Vine	Umbrella Tree
Chinee apple	Mesquite	Water Hyacinth
Chinese Celtis/Elm	Mexican Feather Grass	Water Lettuce
Coastal Morning glory	Mother of Millions	Yellow Bells
Cocos Palm	Noogoora Burr	
Creeping Lantana	Ochna	
Duranta	Other Opuntias	
Dutchman's Pipe	Paragrass	

## 5. Implementation of the Regional Biosecurity Strategy

Invasive plants and animals inflict substantial economic, social and environmental impacts on all residents of Queensland. Within the Wide Bay Burnett, invasive species are responsible for significant costs in the agricultural sector, have significant effects on biodiversity in the region and have the potential to affect human health and cause damage and loss of amenity in parks, gardens and recreational areas.

The Generalised Invasion Curve illustrates the invasion process for pests from arrival to widespread establishment (after Chippindale 1991); Hobbs and Humphries (1995) and shows that the effort and resources required to control a pest rise with time and area occupied. Managing pests sooner rather than later is more effective use of time and resources. This principle is central to the risk assessment process outlined in this regional strategy. The asset protection phase shown in the Generalised Invasion Curve illustrates an important shift from controlling a pest species, to limiting the impact it may have on important assets.

A study completed in 2002 (The economic impact of state and local government expenditure on weed and pest animal management in Queensland) indicated a return on investment of between 26:1 and 38:1 for preventing pest incursions. The same study estimated that all forms of pest management generate a return on investment of approximately 6:1 on resources allocated.



The return on investment of public funds generally reduces with each action:

- Economic return on investment for activities related to prevention: 1:100
- Economic return on investment for activities related to eradication: 1:25
- Economic return on investment for activities related to containment: 1:5-10
- Economic return on investment for activities related to asset-based protection: <1:1-5.

Based on the economic return and feasibility of control, priority should be given to preventing the introduction and spread of new incursions/populations to the Wide Bay Burnett. The Generalised Invasion Curve illustrates that as pests become established in an area, significant resources and various management options are required to control them. In most cases, eliminating a widespread and well-established invasive species is not feasible. Where an invasive species is widespread within the Wide Bay Burnett region, management actions should focus on mitigating impacts on assets, such as protection of areas of high environmental, economic or social value.

Category	Objective	Characteristics of invasive pests in this category
Prevention	To prevent the invasive species arriving and establishing in the region.	<p>These species are not known to be present in the region.</p> <p>They present a very high risk (highly invasive and high threat) and have a high likelihood of arriving in the region due to potential distribution and/or an existing high risk pathway.</p> <p>Prevention strategies focus on education and awareness and monitoring of high risk pathways.</p>
Eradication	<p>To permanently remove the species and its propagules from the region.</p> <p>OR to destroy infestations to reduce the extent of the pest in the region with the aim of local eradication</p>	<p>These species are present in the region to a limited extent only and the risk of re-invasion is either minimal or can be easily be easily managed.</p> <p>They present a high to very high risk and a very high feasibility of coordinated control.</p> <p>Eradication strategies focus on rapid response and coordinated control.</p>
Containment	To prevent the ongoing spread of the species in all or part of the region	<p>These species have a limited distribution in the region.</p> <p>Containment strategies aim to prevent spread of the species from a core infestation/population; and/or exclude the pest from an uninvaded part of the region (exclusion zone)</p>
Asset Protection	To prevent the spread of pests to key sites/assets of high economic/environmental/social value, or to reduce their impact on these sites of species present throughout region	<p>These species are widespread and unlikely to be eradicated or contained within wider regional context.</p> <p>Effort is focussed on reducing the species threats to protect high value assets.</p>

The table above defines the characteristics (population and risk of establishment) of invasive species for each stage of the Generalised Invasion Curve. The characteristics guide the objectives for the management of the invasive species (pages 39-42).



## 5.1 Guiding principles for invasive species management

The principles underpinning both invasive plant and animal management in Australia should be used to guide planning, investment and actions by all stakeholders within the Wide Bay Burnett.

1. Risk-based prevention and early intervention is generally the most cost-effective approach for managing invasive plants and animals. **Prevention and early detection**
2. Effective invasive plant and animal management is a responsibility shared between all stakeholders including landholders, community, industry and government. **Commitment**
3. Invasive plant and animal management should be based on actual rather than perceived impacts and should be supported by monitoring to measure achievement of impact reduction targets. **Improvement**
4. Prioritisation of invasive plant and animal management must be informed by a risk based approach; considering feasibility, likelihood of success, impact and regional significance. **Planning**
5. Management of established invasive plants and animals should focus on the enhancement of community capacity and the protection of priority assets (for example, a high value agricultural area or a threatened ecological community). **Integration**
6. Coordination amongst landholders, community, industry and government across a range of scales and tenures is necessary to successfully manage invasive plants and animals. **Consultation and partnership**
7. Sustaining capability and capacity across landholders, community, industry and government is fundamental to effective long term management of invasive plants and animals. **Public awareness**
8. Best practice invasive plant and animal management balances efficacy, target specificity, safety and humaneness. **Integration**

## 5.2 Wide Bay Burnett Delivery Partners

Recognition of the interest of delivery partners in invasive species management is central to the delivery of the Regional Biosecurity Strategy. This interest spans from being involved in refining priority actions and programs, to further developing processes to address actions at a variety of levels, through to participating in the delivery of the strategy.

A wide range of delivery partners and customers are involved in the management of invasive plants and animals in the region. The regional Biosecurity Strategy recognises the roles of all levels of government, industry, community and community organisations. It aims to consolidate these efforts through better coordination and communication between organisations and individuals in the region.

As the implementation of the Regional Biosecurity Strategy progresses and opportunities for new partnerships emerge, new partners may also become involved.

The broad roles and responsibilities of the key delivery partners are identified on pages 33-37.

<b>Local Government</b> Local government has a major responsibility for invasive species management through the enforcement of the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> and has an important role to play in engaging local communities, managing public lands and assisting with emergency management.	
Gympie Regional Council South Burnett Regional Council North Burnett Regional Council Fraser Coast Regional Council Bundaberg Regional Council Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council	Invasive species management in the local government area including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- compliance,</li><li>- surveillance,</li><li>- early detection,</li><li>- pest control on a priority basis,</li><li>- local planning,</li><li>- pest data and mapping,</li><li>- raising community awareness, and</li><li>- landholder assistance.</li></ul>

**State Government**

The Queensland State Government leads the development of policies, strategies and legislation that promote a comprehensive and responsive biosecurity system across Queensland. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) is the lead agency for invasive species management within the QLD Government.

Biosecurity Queensland	State/Regional planning, mapping and research, compliance, surveillance, early detection, destruction of infestations on a priority basis, raising awareness, support local government planning, 1080 supply and administration.
Department of Natural Resources and Mines (State Land Management)	Maintain Unallocated and Allocated State Lands in accordance with <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> and prevent spread of invasive plants and animals within the specified lands or into neighbouring properties. Coordination with adjacent landholders, Councils and other State government agencies in regional pest management.
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service	Managing invasive plants and animals in parks, forests and other areas gazetted under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> and <i>Forestry Act 1959</i> in accordance with <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> . Coordination with adjacent landholders, Councils and other State government agencies in regional pest management.
Transport and Main Roads	Maintain road corridors in accordance with <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> and prevent spread of invasive plants and animals within the road network or into neighbouring properties. Coordination with adjacent landholders, Councils and other State government agencies in regional pest management.
Queensland Rail	Maintain rail corridors in accordance with <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> and prevent spread of invasive plants and animals within the rail network or into neighbouring properties. Coordination with adjacent landholders, Councils and other State government agencies in regional pest management.

**Federal Government**

The Commonwealth government has a role in preventing new weed incursions at national borders (quarantine); in education, research and development; in funding, and national legislation. National agreements outline the roles and responsibilities of government and industry in responding to emergency plant, pest and disease incidents, and detail how those responses will be funded.

Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

Manage, coordinate and prepare for response actions to national priority pests, diseases and weeds, including research

Department of Defence

Maintain Defence Lands in accordance with *Biosecurity Act 2014* and prevent spread of invasive plants and animals within specified lands or into neighbouring properties. Coordination with adjacent landholders, Councils and other State government agencies in regional pest management.

**Industry Bodies**

Industry bodies in the region promote and facilitate invasive species management on agreed local/regional priorities and identify and fund research priorities to enable continued improvement in the management of weeds and pest animals.

Agforce

Landholder support including training for invasive species management. Participation in communication of initiatives to members and encourage member participation in invasive species management.

Canegrowers

Landholder support including training for invasive species management. Participation in communication of initiatives to members and encourage member participation in invasive species management.

HQ Plantations

Maintain HQ Plantations Land in accordance with *Biosecurity Act 2014* and prevent spread of invasive plants and animals within the specified lands or into neighbouring properties. Coordination with adjacent landholders, Councils and other State government agencies in regional pest management.

NGIQ (Nursery and Garden Industry Queensland)

Landholder support including training for invasive species management. Participation in communication of initiatives to members and encourage member participation in invasive species management.

***Community groups, volunteers and individuals***

Community groups and volunteers play an important role in the management of invasive species in the region by enlisting support and providing on-ground control. Building on this foundation is essential in sharing responsibility for invasive species management.

Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG)	<p>Natural resource and environmental management in the Burnett and Mary catchments through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Collaboration with all levels of Government, Landcare groups, agricultural groups, regional groups and landholders to oversee natural resource and environmental management in the Wide Bay Burnett region</li><li>- Promoting invasive species management across the Burnett and Mary catchments with adequate and appropriate planning and coordinated delivery</li></ul>
Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC)	Work with the community, business and government to secure funding to manage invasive plants and animals in the Mary catchment; including community advice, training, support, services and workshops
SEQ Catchments	Work with the community, business and government to secure funding to manage invasive plants and animals; including community advice, training, support, services and workshops
Healthy Waterways	Work with the community, business and government to secure funding to manage invasive plants and animals; including community advice, training, support, services and workshops
Sunwater	Maintain relevant lands in accordance with <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> and prevent spread of invasive plants and animals to neighbouring properties. Coordination with adjacent landholders, Councils and other State government agencies in regional pest management.
Burnett Catchment Care Association	Work with the community, business and government to secure funding to manage invasive plants and animals in the Burnett Catchment; including community advice, training, support, services and workshops
Primary Producers, Rural and peri-urban Residents, Urban residents	All landholders to take an active role in managing biosecurity risks under their control. Includes early detection, destruction of infestations and pest control in environmentally significant areas

***Utility Bodies***

All managers of linear reserves have an important role in the management of invasive species in the region, including the development and implementation of management strategies and the education of the community and other stakeholders.

Ergon	Maintain relevant energy infrastructure in accordance with <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> and prevent spread of invasive plants and animals to neighbouring properties. Coordination with adjacent landholders, Councils and other State government agencies in regional pest management.
Energex	Maintain relevant energy infrastructure in accordance with <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> and prevent spread of invasive plants and animals to neighbouring properties. Coordination with adjacent landholders, Councils and other State government agencies in regional pest management.
Powerlink	Maintain relevant energy infrastructure in accordance with <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> and prevent spread of invasive plants and animals to neighbouring properties. Coordination with adjacent landholders, Councils and other State government agencies in regional pest management.
Telstra	Maintain relevant infrastructure in accordance with <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> and prevent spread of invasive plants and animals to neighbouring properties. Coordination with adjacent landholders, Councils and other State government agencies in regional pest management.

### 5.3 Wide Bay Burnett Invasive Species Delivery Program

<b>Management Goal 1: Prevent the establishment of new invasive species in the Wide Bay Burnett</b> The introduction of new invasive species in the Wide Bay Burnett is halted through the implementation of effective barriers.	
<b>Indicator of success:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Reports of new incursions of invasive species and rapid response by stakeholders and delivery partners</li><li>2. High priority invasive species prevented from establishing in the Wide Bay Burnett region</li><li>3. High priority sites monitored to prevent entry of invasive species</li></ol>	
<b>Challenges:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Implementation of effective barriers to prevent entry</li><li>2. Maintaining an operational capacity to effectively respond to reports of new incursions</li><li>3. Building and maintaining stakeholder commitment to implementing preventative pest management initiatives</li></ol>	
<b>Regional Goals:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preventative activities recognised by delivery partners as providing high rate of return to Wide Bay Burnett region</li><li>• Invasive species posing high risk to the Wide Bay Burnett region are identified and promoted widely</li><li>• High risk site and pathways are identified and managed appropriately in the Wide Bay Burnett region</li><li>• New invasive species are effectively prevented from entering the Wide Bay Burnett region</li><li>• Collaborative rapid response plan for the Wide Bay Burnett developed and tested</li><li>• Stakeholders aware of potential threats</li></ul>	<b>Stakeholder Activities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Known locations of high risk species threatening the Wide Bay Burnett region mapped and circulated</li><li>• High risk sites (including potential entry points) and pathways identified throughout Wide Bay Burnett region</li><li>• Awareness of high risk species and methods of spread incorporated into coordinated extension campaign</li><li>• Use of appropriate system to facilitate stakeholder reporting of high risk species</li><li>• Effective inspection and monitoring program implemented throughout the Wide Bay Burnett</li><li>• Effective implementation of rapid response plan when necessary</li></ul>

<b>Management Goal 2: Eliminate, or prevent the spread of, new invasive species in the Wide Bay Burnett</b> <b>New invasive species are prevented from establishing through the deployment of timely and efficient control responses by all stakeholders.</b>	
<b>Indicator of success:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invasive species eradicated from the Wide Bay Burnett region.</li> <li>• Invasive species that have transitioned from containment to an eradication phase.</li> <li>• Participation and engagement by the community in invasive species eradication initiatives.</li> </ul>	
<b>Challenges:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implementing an effective, sustainable eradication campaign</li> <li>2. Maintaining an operational capacity to deliver successful eradication and containment programs.</li> <li>3. Building the communities' commitment to a pro-active, rapid response to new invasive species incursions</li> </ol>	
<b>Regional Goals:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eradication activities recognised by delivery partners as providing high rate of return to Wide Bay Burnett region</li> <li>• Invasive species targeted for eradication in the Wide Bay Burnett region are identified and promoted widely</li> <li>• Eradication and historical sites are managed appropriately in the Wide Bay Burnett region</li> <li>• New incursions of invasive species are effectively eradicated from the Wide Bay Burnett region</li> <li>• Collaborative rapid response plan for the Wide Bay Burnett developed and tested</li> </ul>	<b>Stakeholder Activities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify high priority sites and implement appropriate inspection program</li> <li>• Identify high risk pathways/methods of spread</li> <li>• Increase awareness of targeted species throughout the Wide Bay Burnett region</li> <li>• Identify high priority sites and appropriate inspection program</li> <li>• Build strategic relations with appropriate stakeholders</li> <li>• Develop a coordinated information management system to incorporate high risk pathways and high priority sites at a regional scale</li> <li>• Implement appropriate rapid response to incursions of new invasive species</li> </ul>



**Management Goal 3: Reduce the impacts of widespread invasive species in the Wide Bay Burnett**

The management and control of widespread invasive species across the region is targeted where the return on investment will be the greatest

- Prevention of spread to new areas
- Reduction of population /infestation
- Reduction of impacts

**Indicator of success:**

1. Reduced impacts from widespread invasive species in the Wide Bay Burnett region
2. Successful implementation of management programs to mitigate impacts of widespread invasive species
3. Effective participation from key stakeholders in the management of widespread invasive species

**Challenges:**

1. Maintaining an operational capacity to deliver targeted management programs on widespread invasive species.
2. Addressing the increasing rates and methods of spread
3. Community apathy to and knowledge of management of widespread species – methods of spread, ways of reducing spread
4. Identification of the cost of management vs benefit of widespread species
5. Management must be aimed at reducing impacts where benefits of control are the greatest

**Regional Goals:**

- Management programs are identified and prioritised where benefits are the greatest
- On-ground control programs are targeted and effective
- Appropriate resources base in place to implement effective and efficient invasive species management programs in the Wide Bay Burnett

**Stakeholder Activities**

- Maintain collaborative programs between delivery partners in the Wide Bay Burnett
- Maintain provision of suitable technical service and support to landholders/groups undertaking invasive species management
- Fulfil general biosecurity obligation for invasive species management on own lands
- Implement a rapid response to incursions of widespread species to identified clean zones
- Facilitate reporting on strategic goals, objectives and agreed actions by delivery partners
- Provide support for invasive species management research projects where possible

**Management Goal 4: Ensure the community of the Wide Bay Burnett region has the ability and commitment to manage invasive species**  
**The negative impacts of invasive pests on the economy, environment and community of the Wide Bay Burnett region are reduced through the development of suitable knowledge, skills, systems and resources.**

***Indicator of success:***

1. Community and industry groups actively participating in invasive species management programs.
2. Resources (Federal, State and Local Government) allocated to the management of invasive species within the Wide Bay Burnett region.
3. Well trained and equipped network of professionals involved in invasive species management across the Wide Bay Burnett region.
4. Community awareness of and involvement in invasive species management programs.
5. Technology and methodologies available for the management of invasive species.

***Challenges:***

1. Having the resources, systems, knowledge and skills available to effectively manage invasive species.
2. Community acceptance of the need for their involvement in invasive species management programs
3. Large, diverse population means that extension programs need to be targeted
4. Maintaining the sustainability and feasibility of long term programs

***Regional Goals:***

- Private landholders in the Wide Bay Burnett are motivated and able to manage invasive species using best practice management
- Roles and responsibilities for invasive species management are defined
- Legislation and policies are enforced consistently throughout the Wide Bay Burnett for effective invasive species management

***Stakeholder Activities***

- Investment in low cost high return invasive species management by delivery partners
- Promote coordinated messages via range of media and stakeholders groups throughout the Wide Bay Burnett region
- Develop and implement education programs – incorporate messages of best practice management
- Identify high priority assets for protection – target for best return on investment

## **6. Measuring success and continuous improvement**

Monitoring involves collection and analysis of information to assist timely decision making, ensure accountability and provide the basis for evaluation and learning. It is an on-going process of methodical collection of data to provide indications of progress and achievement of objectives.

The WBBISAC has a responsibility to demonstrate to its customers, investors and stakeholders that its Regional Biosecurity Strategy is sound and effective. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting on performance will underpin the strategy and associated programs and systems.

The WBBISAC will work with member Councils and delivery partners to establish a monitoring, reporting, evaluation and improvement process (MERI) that is consistent with the state standards for invasive species management. This MERI framework will facilitate the review of results against planned immediate, intermediate and long-term outcomes. It will also enable a systematic and objective assessment of the effectiveness and efficiency of actions, policies, projects and programs.

This strategy depends on collaboration and sound partnerships for strategic invasive species planning, implementation and reporting. The development of measures to track the establishment of a workable collaborative approach is important to support tenure neutral implementation. The committee will also track resources secured and aligned for implementing the Regional Biosecurity Strategy.

## 5.1 Performance indicators and reporting

Standardised MERI systems will be used to compile and report on the efforts and achievements of stakeholders in contributing to this strategy. Achieving consistency will require the use of:

- key performance indicators
- standard local monitoring and reporting protocols that support region and state-wide needs
- evaluation by partners and the committee to guide improvement in invasive species management projects, programs and policies.

Performance indicators will be developed to enable tracking of the progressive impacts of interventions and investment in priorities and will relate to the stated goals for this strategy.

## 5.2 Strategy review

The Wide Bay Burnett Regional Biosecurity Strategy will be reviewed formally every 12 months by the Wide Bay Burnett Invasive Species Advisory Committee. The Committee may amend, replace or approve minor revisions of the Regional Biosecurity Strategy at any time, if required in accordance with relevant requirements of *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

## 7. Definitions

### General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO)

The GBO means that any person dealing with biosecurity matter (in this case, invasive plants and animals) must take all reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimise each biosecurity risk. This may include:

- If you are a commercial grower, you are expected to stay informed about the pests and diseases that could affect or be carried by your crops, as well as weeds and pest animals that could be on your property. You are also expected to manage them appropriately.
- If you are a livestock owner, you are expected to stay informed about pests and diseases that could affect or be carried by your animals, as well as weeds and pest animals that could be on your property. You are also expected to manage them appropriately.
- If you are a landowner, you are expected to stay informed about the weeds and pest animals (such as wild dogs) that could be on your property. You are also expected to manage them appropriately.

### Invasive Biosecurity Matter

- *Prohibited matter* (not found in Queensland, but would have a significant adverse impact on our health, way of life, the economy or the environment if it entered the state) , or
- *Restricted matter* (found in Queensland and is considered to have a significant impact on human health, social amenity, the economy or the environment. Specific actions must be taken to limit the spread and impact of this matter by reducing, controlling or containing it

## 8. Resources and further reading

- Australian Weeds Strategy 2017-2027 - <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/publications/strategies/weed-strategy.html>
- Australian Pest Animal Strategy 2017-2022 - <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/pests-diseases-weeds/pest-animals-and-weeds/review-aus-pest-animal-weed-strategy/aus-pest-animal-strategy>
- Draft Queensland Weed and pest Strategy 2016-2022
- Queensland Biosecurity Strategy 2017-2022 - <https://publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/draft-queensland-biosecurity-strategy>
- Burnett Mary Regional Group Strategic Plan 2015-2020  
[http://www.bmrg.org.au/files/4814/6363/9543/Strategic\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.bmrg.org.au/files/4814/6363/9543/Strategic_Plan.pdf)
- Wide Bay Burnett Regional Plan 2011 - <https://www.dilgp.qld.gov.au/resources/plan/wide-bay/wbb-regional-plan.pdf>
- Weeds of National Significance (2016) - <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/plants/weeds-pest-animals-ants/weeds/wons>
- Developing local area biosecurity plans – a guide for local governments 2016
- GRC Pest management Plan 2011-2017 - <https://www.gympie.qld.gov.au/documents/40005057/40005560/ISMP013.pdf>
- BRC Pest Management Plan 2010 - [http://www.bundaberg.qld.gov.au/files/Draft\\_PMP\\_2010.pdf](http://www.bundaberg.qld.gov.au/files/Draft_PMP_2010.pdf)
- NBRC Pest Management Plan
- SBRC Biosecurity Plan 2017
- Fraser Coast Interim Biosecurity Plan 2016-2021 - <http://www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/documents/4362881/41228091/Fraser%20Coast%20Pest%20Management%20Plan.pdf>
- Economic impact of state and local government expenditure on weed and pest animal management in Queensland - <https://www.lgaq.asn.au/lgaq/publications/pages/WeedPestMgmtEconomicImpact.html>

# WBBROC

Wide Bay Burnett Regional Organisation of Councils

**Bundaberg Regional Council**

**Fraser Coast Regional Council**

**Gympie Regional Council**

**North Burnett Regional Council**

**South Burnett Regional Council**

**Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council**

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