

A photograph of a forest stream with large rocks and lush greenery. The stream flows through a dense forest, with large, dark grey rocks scattered throughout the water. The water is clear, reflecting the surrounding greenery and trees. The forest is composed of tall, thin trees with green foliage, and there are some ferns visible in the background. The overall scene is a peaceful, natural landscape.

Biosecurity plan

2024-2029

Acknowledgment of Country

City of Moreton Bay acknowledges the Jinibara, Kabi Kabi, and Turrbal peoples and pays respects to Elders, past, present and emerging.

Council recognises that the Moreton Bay region has always been a place of cultural, spiritual, social, and economic significance to its Traditional Custodians.

Council is committed to reconciliation and working in partnership with Traditional Custodians and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to shape a shared future for the benefit of all communities within the City of Moreton Bay and beyond.

Document Management

This document is the control copy of the Plan and is maintained by Council's Environmental Services Department.

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Inconsequential amendments may be made at any time to this document by the Environmental Services Department. However, any significant alterations that change the intent of this document will be submitted to Council for endorsement.





Contents

Acknowledgment	2
Overview	6
Our Biosecurity Plan	9
Aim of the plan	9
Scope	9
Our City	10
Our Drivers	13
Strategic biosecurity management	16
Restricted Biosecurity Matter	20
Impacts	25
Management Response	26
How will Council implement the Plan?	30
Regulations and Compliance	30
Council's Management Actions	31
Conclusion	33
Appendix 1:	34
Appendix 2:	36

Disclaimer

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Overview

The Biosecurity Act 2014 (the Act) requires each local government in Queensland to create a biosecurity plan to outline how landowners are to manage certain pest animal and weed species.

City of Moreton Bay's (Council) Biosecurity Plan (Plan) aligns with the requirements of the Act and Council's Corporate Plan and supports Our Healthy Environments Strategic Pillar.

The Plan complements the State Government's Biosecurity Strategy (the Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2019–2024) and is designed to describe the Biosecurity Matter - Prohibited Matter and Restricted Matter, as defined in the Act.

To guide the delivery of management actions, the Act includes a range of terms. For ease of reference in this document, Council uses the following terminology:

- **Biosecurity Matter** - is a living thing that is not human, including pathogens of plants and animals, and some contaminants that pose a Biosecurity Risk.

Biosecurity Matter is further broken down into "Prohibited Matter" and "Restricted Matter".

- **Prohibited Biosecurity Matter** (PBM) is a species that may be present but is not currently established in Queensland, but that would have a significant impact on human health, social amenity, the economy and/or natural environment if it became widely established.
- **Restricted Biosecurity Matter** (RBM) is Biosecurity Matter that is established in Queensland and likely to have a detrimental impact to human health, social amenity, the economy and/or natural environment.
- **Biosecurity Risk** - the risk of any adverse effect caused by, or likely to be caused by Biosecurity Matter.
- **A Carrier** - Any 'thing', dead or alive, biological, or inanimate, that is carrying or has the potential to carry Biosecurity Matter. A 'thing' includes a human.
- **Biosecurity considerations** - human health, social amenity, the economy, and the natural environment are collectively known as biosecurity considerations.





Our Biosecurity Plan

Aim of the plan

Biosecurity Matter has the potential to adversely alter ecosystem function, reduce primary industry productivity and profitability, threaten human and animal health and impact social amenity. Across Australia, PBM and RBM have major economic, environmental, and social impacts, causing damage to natural landscapes, agricultural lands, waterways, and coastal areas.

This Plan has been prepared in accordance with requirements of the Act to establish and promote a cooperative approach for the management of Biosecurity Matter identified throughout the city.

Council has a legislative responsibility to regulate Biosecurity Matter and the Plan provides guidance on management approaches and outlines what is expected of landowners to fulfill their obligations under the Act.

The Plan:

- Lists Biosecurity Matter present in the city.
- Identifies actions to be taken to meet objectives and reduce any associated Biosecurity Risks; and
- Details how the Plan will be monitored, evaluated, and reviewed.

Scope

The Plan identifies the PBM and RBM currently located within the city and outlines the management response for each species. A full list of PBM and RBM across Queensland is listed in Schedule 1 (parts 3 and 4) and Schedule 2 (part 2) of the Act respectively - refer legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce

There are several pest plant and animal species, commonly referred to as environmental pest species, which are not included in this Plan, as they are not designated as PBM or RBM. Examples include "environmental weeds" such as Mile-a-Minute, Castor oil plant, Black-eyed Susan, Wild tobacco, Leucaena and "nuisance animals" such as rodents and cockroaches.

Council recognises that environmental pest species can impact biodiversity and other environmental values however, they are not included within the scope of this Plan. While this Plan does not include specific management actions for environmental pest species, Council does implement a range of programs aimed at reducing the impact these species - refer Appendix 1 Strategies and Programs - Pest Plants and Animals for more information.

Intentionally, the Plan does not include the following, as their management is covered by other legislation or Council local laws:

- RBM identified on Federal Government managed land.
- Public health pest species such as mosquitoes; and
- Domestic animal nuisances, such as barking dogs or roaming domestic cats.

Our City

Our Moreton Bay. Amazing Places. Natural Spaces.

City of Moreton Bay is an amazing place located in the heart of South East Queensland, spanning more than 2,041 square kilometres, and boasting everything from natural landscapes, rural production areas and urban centres to coastal villages and thriving business precincts - refer Figure 1.

Located between Brisbane City, Somerset and the Sunshine Coast, City of Moreton Bay is one of Australia's fastest growing urban cities with its population forecast to grow by over 40 percent to more than 690,000 by 2041.

A city of natural beauty, it boasts access to the iconic waters of Moreton Bay (the city's namesake) and the D'Aguilar mountain range. There are extensive waterways and wetlands, including ecological corridors with an abundance of wildlife and their habitats, many of which are of State, National and international significance. The Plan is in place to protect these assets by managing Biosecurity Matter and minimizing associated Biosecurity Risks.



Figure 2. A Snapshot of our city

Source: Census 2021, Australian Bureau of Statistics; Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Population Projections, 2018; National Institute of Economic and Industry Research, Moreton Bay Region Economic Profile, 2022, compiled and presented in economy.id; Australian Business Register, 2022



Figure 1. Map of City of Moreton Bay local government area



Our Drivers

Biosecurity is the implementation of measures that reduce the risk of invasive species being introduced or spread across an area and methods to minimise the impacts of species that are already established across the State or within a local government area.

At a National level, the *Australian Pest Animal Strategy 2017–2027* and *Australian Weeds Strategy 2017– 2027* outlines the principles that underpin weed and pest animal management in Australia.

At a State level, the *Queensland Biosecurity Strategy and Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2019-2024* provide the strategic planning framework to address the impacts of invasive plants and animals. These strategies are supported by the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act), which includes the following principles:

- Shared responsibility - everyone (governments, industries, and individuals) who deals with something that may pose a Biosecurity Risk to Queensland has an obligation to manage the risk.
- Risk-based decision making - requires that the response to a Biosecurity Risk is reasonable and practical and risk-based decision making is used to ensure that the response is proportionate to the level of risk. This allows flexibility in the application of the legislation and balances the interests of the community with those of the individual.
- The precautionary principle - allows action to be taken to manage biosecurity incursions where serious or irreversible damage is possible, but the scientific knowledge is incomplete. It considers that on-balance, the cost of not taking action to minimise a risk is more significant than the cost of taking early and definitive action which subsequently proves to be unnecessary.

These principles are designed to provide a responsive and equitable system for the management of Biosecurity Risks in Queensland. Refer Figure 3 - Policy context.

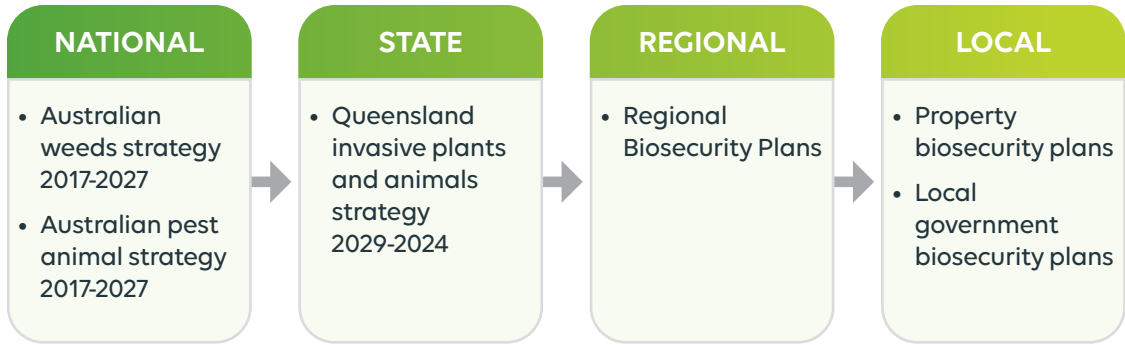


Figure 3 - Policy context

More information can be found on the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries website at daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/policy-legislation-regulation/biosecurity-act-2014

General Biosecurity Obligation

The concept of shared responsibility is defined in the Act as the “General Biosecurity Obligation” (GBO), and it means that everyone must take all reasonable and practical steps to ensure they manage the impacts of Biosecurity Matter.

Although Council is responsible for ensuring that Biosecurity Matter in the city are managed in accordance with the Plan, the whole community has a responsibility to be aware of Biosecurity Risks and take action to minimise their impacts.



Did you know

That you should report any unusual or suspicious pest plants or animals to the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) on 13 25 23 or via their website at daf.qld.gov.au?

Early detection of PBM ensures that new incursions are identified and investigated promptly and assists in eradication actions.

Examples of PBM - species that not currently established within Queensland - include ferrets, iguanas, Red Witchweed, and Cha-om (CO).



Photos: Ferrets (top left); Iguana (top right); Red Witchweed (bottom left); Cha-om (bottom right).

Strategic biosecurity management

PBM requires immediate attention to prevent these species becoming established and the focus of management actions is eradication Following confirmation of an incursion of PBM, surveillance and monitoring, accompanied by targeted response strategies, will take place.

The management response to RBM will depend on a variety of factors including the:

- Impact that the RBM has on the environment, agriculture, economy and/or social amenity.
- Knowledge and understanding of the RBM. For example, how much is known or is expected to be known about the RBM and the risk it poses.
- Likelihood that the RBM will pose a risk to the environment, agriculture, economy and/or social amenity.
- Distribution of the RBM. For example, is it restricted to a defined area with limited ability to easily spread; and
- Available management techniques for the RBM. For example, the type of treatment and how readily available the intervention actions are.

These factors have informed the establishment of management actions for RBM within City of Moreton Bay. Generally, containment and reduction of impacts will be the focus for many of the RBM present across City of Moreton Bay. This is accomplished through annual treatment programs such as weed harvesting and spraying and pest animal trapping.

In addition to the above factors, the “invasion curve”, as outlined in the Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2019-2024 (refer Figure 4) is considered.

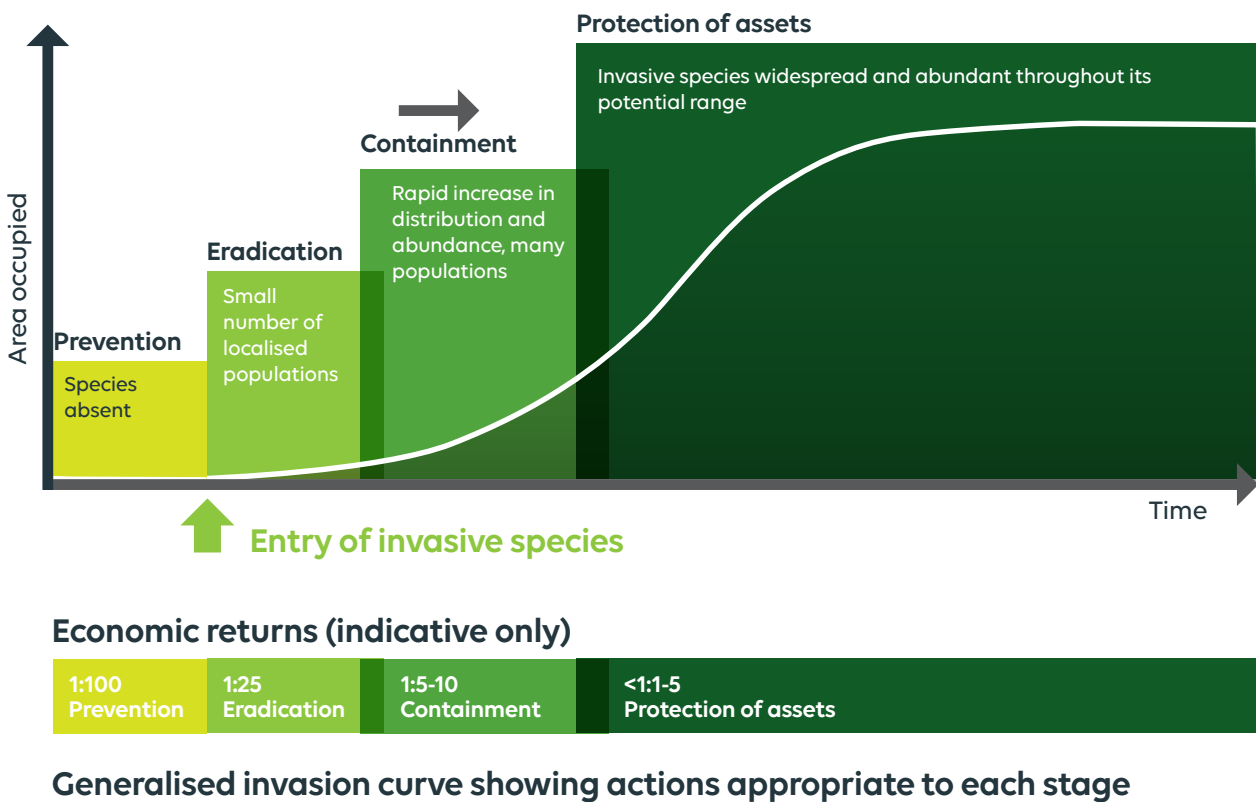


Figure 5. Invasion curve - Source: Biosecurity Strategy for Victoria (2009)

Invasion curve

The Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2019-2024 establishes a state-wide planning framework that addresses the environmental, economic, and social amenity impacts of Queensland’s current and potential Biosecurity Matter.

Key stages of the invasion curve are:

- Prevention of an incursion, including planning and preparedness.
- Eradication of an incursion, usually requiring early detection.
- Containment of an incursion to a geographical area.
- Protection of assets from impacts once the RBM is established in an area.

The invasion curve demonstrates the impacts of invasive plants and animals and the economic returns on investment in undertaking prevention, eradication, containment, and protection of assets - Figure 5.

Over the stages of the invasion curve, there is a ratio of dollars invested to dollars saved over time from damage and loss caused by the pest species.

The return on investment is higher for prevention than for management of localised or widely established pest populations. Also, the return on investment in ongoing management by governments is improved when it supports collective industry and community action.



Stakeholder roles and responsibilities change along the invasion curve

(Extract from the Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2019-2024)

"The roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder change along the invasion curve, in line with the actions needed and who is best placed to carry them out.

Given the higher costs and greater return on investment at the beginning of the invasion curve, governments generally have more involvement in the earlier stages of management - prevention, eradication and, to an extent, containment.

Protection of assets (whether public or private) from the impacts of an established invasive species is generally better managed locally by the owners and managers of those assets, or in some cases by local community groups. Decisions on the protection of private assets (such as land, crops, and livestock) are often best made at a property, enterprise, or local level.

Actions are most effective when prioritised through risk management. Government's role in the later stages of the invasion curve generally includes sharing some of the responsibility for on-ground management, as well as support for research, extension, facilitation, planning, policy, and regulation.

The management focus for any invasive plant or animal may vary across spatial scales. For example, the management strategy for a certain invasive plant may be asset protection at the state level, but for some regions it may be containment and within that region, at a local level, it may be eradication. Therefore, the management of invasive plants and animals requires planning and coordination at national, state, regional, local, and even property levels."

Council acknowledges that managing Biosecurity Matter can be difficult, as some management techniques are specialised in nature and/or are difficult to coordinate due to the distribution range of the particular pest species.

For example, wild dogs and deer are widespread across City of Moreton Bay and require specialised management techniques across a broad range of land tenures.

Council continues to invest in the management and containment of RBM including delivery of programs aimed at assisting landowners to identify and remove RBM from their properties, along with surveillance and implementation of management actions across Council managed land.

Restricted Biosecurity Matter

There are 13 RBM Animals and 31 RBM Plants known to occur in the city.
Tables 1 and 2 list the species, along with the response categories as defined in the Act.
The response categories are the minimum requirements for management of the RBM, in addition to the everyone's GBO.



Table 1. Legislated categories for RBM Animals present in City of Moreton Bay

The act category for restricted matter							
Common name	Category 1 Must be reported to an Inspector	Category 2 Must be reported to an Authorised Officer	Category 3 Must not be distributed or disposed of	Category 4 Must not be moved	Category 5 Must not be kept without a permit	Category 6 Must not be fed (except to trap)	Category 7 Must be destroyed as detected
Cat (feral)			X	X		X	
Deer - Chital, Fallow, Red, Rusa (feral)			X	X		X	
Dog - other than domestic (hybrid dingo)			X	X		X	
Dingo			X	X	X	X	
European fox			X	X	X	X	
European rabbit			X	X	X	X	
Pig (feral)			X	X		X	
Slider turtle		X	X	X	X	X	
Fire Ants	X						
Yellow Crazy Ants			X				

Table 2. Legislated categories for RBM Plants present in City of Moreton Bay

The act category for restricted matter							
Common name	Category 1 Must be reported to an Inspector	Category 2 Must be reported to an Authorised Officer	Category 3 Mustnot be distributed or disposed of	Category 4 Must not be moved	Category 5 Must not be kept without a permit	Category 6 Must not be fed (except to trap)	Category 7 Must be destroyed as detected
Alligator weed			X				
Annual Ragweed			X				
Asparagus fern			X				
Balloon or heart seen vine			X				
Broadleaved pepper tree			X				
Cabomba			X				
Camphor laurel			X				
Cat's claw creeper			X				
Chinese celtis			X				
Dutchman's pipe			X				
Fireweed			X				
Groundsel			X				
Hygrophila			X				
Hymenachne			X				
Kahili ginger			X				
Lantana (including creeping)			X				

Madeira vine			X				
Mother of Millions			X				
Parthenium			X				
Rat's tail grasses			X				
Riverina prickly pear		X	X	X	X		
Rubber vine			X				
Sagittaria			X				
Salvinia (S. molesta)			X				
Senegal tea			X				
Singapore daisy			X				
Small leaf or Chinese privet			X				
Thunbergia			X				
Water hyacinth			X				
Water lettuce			X				
Willows* (Salix spp.)			X				

* except S. babylonica, S. calodendron, S. rechartii



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Credit: Ken Gr

Impacts

A Case Study: Feral deer impact on biodiversity

City of Moreton Bay has four species of Feral deer established in the city - Red, Rusa, Fallow and Chital.

Deer were first introduced to Australia in the mid to late 1800s and the population curve of wild deer Nationally has dramatically increased. New feral deer populations appearing in Queensland that are not connected to the historic ranges are indicative of translocation and deliberate release.

Feral deer cause significant impacts to biodiversity and cultural heritage values through environmental, economic and social impacts. These impacts include changes in vegetation layers, bark stripping and tree damage, wallowing and fouling of waterways, competition for native fauna food resources, livestock pasture competition, increased riverbank erosion, aggression towards pets and livestock, contributors to weed seed spread, damage to fences and potential injury through vehicle accidents.

Impacts and interactions with feral deer are significantly higher during breeding seasons, when feral deer congregate in larger numbers.

Within the City of Moreton Bay, feral deer are considered a containment species. This means that populations need to be managed and distribution contained.

Council's Invasive Species team use best practice methodologies to reduce feral deer populations through innovative trapping and removal programs.



Deer tree damage

Management Response

To determine management responses for each of the RBM listed in Tables 1 and 2, an assessment against the Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2019-2024 invasion curve (refer Figure 4) and the potential impacts, control options and likelihood of spread - the "feasibility of control" (refer Table 3) - has been completed.

Table 3. Feasibility of control risk assessment table

Control Feasibility	Control Local Management Feasibility				
	LOW 1	2	3	4	HIGH 5
LOW 1	Asset Protection (localised)	Asset Protection (localised)	Asset Protection (localised)	Asset Protection (localised)	Asset Protection (localised)
2	Asset Protection (localised)	Asset Protection (localised)	Asset Protection (localised)	Asset Protection (targeted landscape)	Asset Protection (targeted landscape)
3	Asset Protection (localised)	Asset Protection (localised)	Asset Protection (targeted landscape)	Asset Protection (targeted landscape)	Containment of pest spread and protect sites
4	Asset Protection (localised)	Asset Protection (targeted landscape)	Asset Protection (targeted landscape)	Containment of pest spread and protect sites	Working towards eradication
HIGH 5	Asset Protection (targeted landscape)	Asset Protection (targeted landscape)	Containment of pest spread and protect sites	Working towards eradication	Eradication

The higher the feasibility of control, the more successful the local management strategies will be. For example, where control feasibility is low, say a score of 1 or 2, asset protection is the recommended local management action that will be most feasible. When control feasibility is high, say a score of 5, the management options vary as local management feasibility increases, with the ideal outcome being eradication.

Asset protection (localised) takes place at an individual property level. Asset protection (targeted landscape) takes place along a landscape feature e.g., in a waterway or riparian zone within catchment area. Both options manage the impacts of pest species that are established in the city.

It should be noted that the feasibility of control risk assessment table does not include "prevention" as this is the management action that takes place prior to a pest establishing in an area. Council, State and Federal Governments deliver a range of early detection, surveillance, and diagnostics systems to identify, report and manage new incursions.

Also, some RBM may fall into multiple response categories. For example, asset protection (targeted landscape) and asset protection (localised) responses often overlap.

Table 4 outlines the management responses for Biosecurity Matter identified within City of Moreton Bay.

In addition to the management responses outlined below, everyone can assist in reducing Biosecurity Risks by:

- Following hygiene procedures, such as washing vehicles/machinery, to prevent the spread of RBM plants.
- Checking that the plant or animal you are acquiring is not listed in the Act as being PBM or RBM.
- Reporting the presence of new or unusual species or incursions to the State Government, and
- Managing RBM in accordance with best practice control methods.

Management intent	Response	Biosecurity Matter
Prevention	Under the GBO, everyone has the responsibility to report any unusual new pest plant and animal detections to the State Government with 24 hours. Reporting suspect or known new pest species enables a swift response and investigation, aimed at eliminating the pest and the potential Biosecurity Risk before they become established. Council undertakes a surveillance role as part of 'business as usual' operations, assisting to ensure Biosecurity Matter not yet established in the city are identified early. Council's role is also one of prevention by implementing "arrive clean, leave clean" processes, assisting to prevent the spread of pest species across the city. State and Federal Governments develop and provide early detection, diagnostics and monitoring systems, generally having the greatest level of involvement in this response.	Species not yet established in City of Moreton Bay. Includes: PBM as referenced in Schedule 1 parts 3 and 4 of the Act not listed below and All Biosecurity Matter not listed in this Plan (as stipulated in Schedule 2 part 2 of the Act) not listed below.
Eradication	Under the GBO, all stakeholders must report any suspect plant and animal detections to the State Government related to eradication programs underway within 24 hours. This management response aims to reduce the extent of identified priority PBM in the catchment area to below detectable limits in all habitats across all tenures through: - destroying all identified priority plants including seedbanks and - destroying all identified priority animals including juveniles. These actions are the responsibility of all Landholders with support from the State Government.	<i>Cha-om (Senegalia insuavis, Senegalia rugata)</i> <i>Opuntiods other than RBM estricted Opuntia and Cylindropuntia (cactus)</i> <i>Peruvian Primrose (Ludwigia peruviana)</i>
Working towards eradication	Under the GBO, all stakeholders must report any suspect plant and animal detections to the State Government. This management response aims to significantly reduce the extent of the priority RBM across all tenures through: - destroying all identified priority plants including seedbanks and - destroying all identified priority animals including juveniles. These actions are the responsibility of all landholders with support from the State Government.	<i>*Fire Ants (Solenopsis invicta)</i> <i>*Red-eared Slider turtles (Trachemys scripta elegans)</i> <i>Yellow crazy ant (Anoplolepis gracilipes)</i> <i>* The State Government lead the management response to these species however everyone has a GBO to assist in identifying, reporting, and managing these species.</i>

Containment of pest spread and protect sites	Under the GBO, all stakeholders have a responsibility to be aware of RBM and must take all practical steps to reduce its distribution and/or prevent spread across properties. This management response aims to prevent the ongoing spread, protect sites with high economic, environmental, and/or social value and to progressively reduce the overall distribution and density through: - Use of appropriate biological agents, chemical and manual removal of weeds - Slashing weeds prior to seed set to prevent dispersal. - Following hygiene procedures, such as washing vehicles and machinery, to prevent the spread of RBM plants. - Creating barriers to prevent spread e.g., aquatic booms in waterbodies. - Participating in baiting programs, as appropriate - Use of appropriate and humane legal trapping and/or lethal control to remove animals. - Council can advise landholders on suitable management options appropriate for their circumstances. This activity is the responsibility of all landholders, Council and State Government.	Wild dogs, hybrid dingo and dingo (<i>Canis lupus dingo</i>) Deer, feral Fallow (<i>Dama dama</i>), Red (<i>Cervus elaphus</i>), Rusa (<i>Rusa timorensis</i>, <i>Cervus timorensis</i>), Chital (<i>Axis axis</i>) Cats, feral (<i>Felis catus</i>) European fox (<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>) European rabbit (<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>) Pig, feral (<i>Sus scrofa</i>) Alligator weed (<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>) Annual Ragweed (<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>) Cabomba (<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>) Fireweed (<i>Senecio madagascariensis</i>) Groundsel (<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>) Hygrophila (<i>Hygrophila costata</i>) Hymenachne (<i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i>) Kahili ginger (<i>Hedychium gardnerianum</i>)- Mother of millions (<i>Bryophyllum delagoense</i>) Parthenium (<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>) Prickly pear (<i>Austrocylindropuntia spp.</i>; <i>Cylindropuntia spp.</i>; <i>Opuntia spp. except O. ficus indica</i>) Rat's tail grasses (<i>Sporobolus pyramidalis</i>, <i>S. natalensis</i>) Rubber vine (<i>Cryptostegia grandiflora</i>) Salvinia (<i>Salvinia molesta</i>) Senegal tea (<i>Gymnocoronis spilanthoides</i>) Thunbergia (<i>Thunbergia spp.</i>)
Asset protection (targeted landscape)	Under the GBO, all stakeholders have a responsibility to be aware of RBM and work to reduce its spread on their own property. This management response aims to reduce the overall impacts through targeted management actions. It accepts that containment is no longer possible, but that specific areas can benefit from targeted action to reduce RBM through: Use of appropriate biological agents, chemical and manual removal of weeds Catchment groups, Council and other community groups maintain natural areas such as waterways and embankments through spraying, manual weeding and replanting with suitable plants. Efforts are based on the value of the area and resources to allocate to the job.	Cat's claw creeper (<i>Dolichandra unguis-cati</i>) Madeira vine (<i>Anredera cordifolia</i>) Asparagus fern (<i>Asparagus spp.</i>) Balloon or Heart seed vine (<i>Cardiospermum grandiflorum</i>) Small leaf or Chinese privet (<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>) Sagittaria (<i>Sagittaria platyphylla</i>)
Asset protection (localised)	Under the GBO, all stakeholders have a responsibility to be aware of RBM and work to reduce its spread on their own property. This management response identifies RBM that would be targeted for coordinated management when it is reasonable and practical to do so. It accepts that containment is no longer possible. Stakeholders should prepare and implement a management plan which includes "reasonable and practical" measures that comply with the Act to reduce Biosecurity Risks. Landholders should undertake appropriate weed management to reduce impacts of invasive plants and encourage replacement by desirable plant species.	Asparagus fern (<i>Asparagus spp.</i>) Balloon or Heart seed vine (<i>Cardiospermum grandiflorum</i>) Broadleaved pepper tree (<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>) Camphor laurel(<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>) Cat's claw creeper (<i>Dolichandra unguis-cati</i>) Chinese celtis (<i>Celtis sinensis</i>) Lantana (<i>Lantana camara</i> & <i>L. montevidensis</i>) Dutchman's pipe (<i>Aristolochia elegans</i>) Madeira vine (<i>Anredera cordifolia</i>) Singapore daisy (<i>Sphagneticola trilobata</i>) Small leaf or Chinese privet (<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>) Sagittaria (<i>Sagittaria platyphylla</i>)

How will Council implement the Plan?

Regulations and Compliance

Biosecurity compliance has implications for all landowners, including Council, and those that reside and work within the city.

Compliance consists of various activities undertaken to encourage or compel landholders to take reasonable and practical measures to reduce Biosecurity Risks.

Council, through its authorised officers, utilises a range of tools to encourage and enforce compliance with the Act, including:

- **Providing help and support to stakeholders**
Council has a team of dedicated officers who can assist stakeholders to voluntarily comply with the Act. There are a range of information sheets available on RBM found within the city that may aid compliance. Education plays a significant role in facilitating voluntary compliance.
- **Advice and feedback**
Council recognises that people make mistakes and seeks to help them avoid future errors. Advice on developing site management plans is available and Council Officers can inspect problem sites and discuss remedial options with Landowners.
- **Corrective action**
In cases where there is evidence of ongoing non-compliance (whether deliberate or unreasonably delayed) Council is authorised to issue Biosecurity Orders and seize Biosecurity Matter for compliance action. These orders may be accompanied by penalty infringement notices. Council will investigate when there is evidence of an offence including distributing or disposing of RBM.

Council complies with its GBO by:

- Undertaking surveillance on Council land as part of its 'business as usual' activities and identifying and reporting new incursions of Biosecurity Matter.
- Managing Biosecurity Matter through treating, trapping, and removing species found within the city on Council managed land and assisting private land holders.
- Using authorised officers to investigate offences under the Act.
- Offering awareness and education to private landholders and members of the public, coupled with stakeholder engagement.
- Assisting our community to manage RBM on their properties, particularly for species that are known to be transient and/or widespread (for example wild dogs and deer); and
- Creating this Plan and making it publicly available.

Council's Management Actions

The Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2019-2024 identifies key themes for biosecurity including:

- Prevention and Early Detection.
- Monitoring and Assessment.
- Awareness and Education.
- Effective Management Systems.
- Strategic Planning and Management and
- Commitment, Roles, and Responsibilities

Typically, the Biosecurity Risk posed by a species is assessed against three criteria, or areas of interest.

These are:

1. **Impact** – the economic, environmental, social amenity and human health effects the species has.
2. **Invasiveness** – the species' ability to spread and become established.
3. **Potential distribution** – how far the invasive plant or animal could spread

Council has defined specific actions that it will undertake to reduce Biosecurity Risks across its operations as outlined in Appendix 2.

Audits of Council's operations against the requirements of this Plan will occur annually.



Conclusion

This Plan has outlined the Biosecurity Matter known to be present in the city, what is expected of all stakeholders in meeting their GBO, and the associated biosecurity management responses for Council and other stakeholders.

This Plan also demonstrates how Council is working with its community to identify and address Biosecurity Risks and how we will continue to support a city of amazing places and natural spaces.

Council will review the RBM species lists annually, and the Plan every 5 years. Administrative updates in response to legislative changes will occur as required.

Council will also monitor the presence and absence of Biosecurity Matter through “business as usual” activities and targeted surveillance and control programs.

Demonstrating compliance with the Act and adherence to your GBO can be simple when “reasonable and practical measures” are implemented to manage identified Biosecurity Risks.

Appendix 1:

Strategies and Programs - Pest Plants and Animals

Environmental Weeds - Australian Weeds Strategy

The purpose of the [Australian Weeds Strategy 2017-2027 \(agriculture.gov.au\)](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/australian-weeds-strategy) is to reduce the detrimental impact of weeds on agriculture and the environment.

The goals of the strategy are to:

- prevent the development of new weed problems.
- reduce the impact of existing weed problems of national significance.
- provide the framework and capacity for ongoing management of weed problems of national significance.

The strategy addresses weed problems of national significance, in particular problems that:

- threaten the profitability or sustainability of Australia's agricultural industries.
- constitute major threats to Australia's biodiversity.
- require remedial action across several states and territories.

Under this strategy, 32 Weeds of National Significance (WONS) have been identified, and national strategies for all the species have been published. For more information, visit the Weeds Australia website weeds.org.au

Environmental Pests - Australian Pest Animal Strategy

The purpose of the [Australian Pest Animal Strategy 2017-2027 \(agriculture.gov.au\)](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/australian-pest-animal-strategy) is to provide guidance on best practice vertebrate pest animal management and policy foundations to guide and inform the actions of stakeholders.

The goals of the strategy are to:

- recognise the significant challenges and negative impacts pest animals create for Australia.
- encourage coordination and leadership from landholders, industry and community groups, keepers of exotic animals and governments.
- illustrate the national importance of a strategic approach to the management of pest animals.
- describe and explain the eight principles of effective pest animal management.
- identify where national effort, leadership and coordination has the potential to reduce pest animal risks or impacts.

While this Plan does not include specific management actions for "nuisance animals" or "environmental weeds", Council does have a range of programs aimed at reducing the impact that these species have on the local environment.

Natural Areas Operations Team

Public open space is essential for our communities and fundamental to creating great places to live, as well as contributing to sustainable healthy natural environments and the protection of our city's ecological functions.

Public open space encompasses parks, natural areas, linkage parks and pathways, some waterways and foreshores, informal parklands, sports grounds, play spaces, Aboriginal cultural heritage, historical sites, as well as recreation trails for walking and cycling. These combine to form a resilient and interconnected recreation network that enriches the lives of our communities and contributes to the overall well-being of our city.

Council is responsible for managing and maintaining a significant amount of native vegetation in reserves, which contribute to Council's Land Conservation Partnerships. Council's Parks and Reserves - Operational Projects, and Stormwater Quality - Rehabilitation and Revegetation Operational Projects include significant weed management and area rehabilitation works. Fire management is another valuable tool used in weed management with the primary focus on maintaining habitat value. Council's Natural Areas Operations team are responsible for managing the city's conservation estate with the assistance of contractors.

Council protects, connects, and enhances the biodiversity values of all open space areas, with particular emphasis on protection and restoration of values across our natural estate, including natural area open spaces.

Joint funded projects with community groups

Council supports a number of community groups to target riparian management projects aimed at removing environmental weed species such as Cat's Claw Creeper and Madeira vine.

These vine species are widely distributed and common in the coastal and sub-coastal districts of southeastern Queensland. These projects aim to manage the spread of invasive vines along the creeks and tributaries, allowing for locally native riparian species to re-establish.

Voluntary Conservation Programs

City of Moreton Bay offers opportunities for residents and other stakeholders to join their voluntary conservation programs such as Bushcare or Land for Wildlife. These programs assist landowners to identify native and pest plant species and deliver management actions that enhance the ecology of the area. More information on this program can be found on Council's website at moretonbay.qld.gov.au/Services/Environment/Voluntary-Conservation

Community nurseries and targeted workshops

Community nurseries grow local native plants for community projects and for planting in reserves, parks, schools, and public open spaces.

Nurseries are open to the public and volunteers are welcome. The nurseries provide a native plant program, and events targeting weed identification and support.

For more information see moretonbay.qld.gov.au/Services/Environment/Nurseries

Appendix 2:

Council's Biosecurity Risk Management Actions

Key theme	What Council wants to achieve (objective)	How it is achieved (method)	Actions
Prevention and Early Intervention	Prevent the incursion of new RBM to the city.	Best practice hygiene processes for weed seed and hitchhiker containment - Vehicle, plant, equipment, and materials.	Pre and post decontamination (washdown) of vehicles and equipment on work sites at designated washdown facilities.
			Ensure materials sources are clean of contaminants.
	Detection of new or emerging biosecurity mater in the city.	Proactive preparedness planning for early detection of new incursion.	Monitoring of potential incursion corridors, travel ways and waterways.
		Develop and coordinate timely responses to prevent the establishment of new RBM and assist the State Government with PBM responses.	Coordinate cost effective methodologies for the control and eradication of new RBM, where viable.
Monitoring and Assessment	Effective and reliable data collection and storage for long term management of biosecurity matter.	Geospatial data collection of biosecurity matter - distribution, abundance, and impacts for improved integrated management.	Measure data quality to determine biosecurity matter scoring classification within the city. Reporting to Council and Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) as appropriate.
	Quantify impacts of biosecurity matter.	Social, economic, and environmental impacts are documented and used by Council to assist stakeholders develop management plans.	Set a framework for delivering best practice in the development, improvement, and review of biosecurity matter management strategies, in priority areas. Reporting to Council and Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) as appropriate.
Awareness and Education	Promote awareness, knowledge, and reporting of biosecurity matter.	Providing species identification and integrated best practice management resources to stakeholders.	Promote a better understanding of the impacts created by biosecurity matter, to encourage behaviour change in their management.
			Promote property planning development to better manage species.
	Stakeholder engagement to promote effective management of biosecurity matter.	Proactive engagement to mitigate risks through regional shows, market inspections, community and industry group discussions and surveillance programs.	Impart information to stakeholders to enable and encourage effective reporting and managing of biosecurity matter. Implement timely and proficient management strategies with stakeholders.
			Community and other stakeholders updated on biosecurity matter treatments in the area.

Effective Management Systems	Creating site specific management plans for biosecurity matter.	Implement species management systems that promote best practice on Council lands.	Benchmark against Industry best practice and codes of practice to ensure management strategies systems align.
		Assisting private land holders with the creation of management plans for their individual circumstances where appropriate.	Integrate technological advancements, innovation, and research to enhance management strategies.
Strategic Planning and Management	Use of risk assessment to determine management response to biosecurity matter.	Use risk-based assessment tools to prioritise actions and resources, choosing those that strengthen program efficacy and deliver on Plan objectives.	Use an effective and adaptive risk-based management assessment system to improve how Council prioritises biosecurity matter.
			Implement authorised Surveillance and Prevention and Control programs.
	Establish stakeholder partnerships. Collaborate and coordinate with stakeholders on joint planning and operational processes.	Ensure that pest management processes and objectives align with those of Federal, State and Local Governments.	Provide a coordinated network of actions, information management, planning and quality assurance for risk-based decision making.
Commitment, Roles, and Responsibilities	Review biosecurity matter management actions and outcomes.	The Plan is reviewed every 5 years for improved sustainability and to ensure actions align with legislative requirements.	Use the Plan as a living document and integrate new processes as appropriate.
			Use risk-based assessment of control activities to improve cost effectiveness and species prioritisation.
	Foster stakeholder compliance with legislative obligations and responsibilities.	Develop and deliver processes for education and compliance regarding biosecurity matter legislation.	General biosecurity obligations are articulated and defined in the Plan.
			The Plan is available for public inspection at local government office and online.
			Create a framework that promotes prevention and management of RBM.
			A register of biosecurity matter compliance action is maintained and reviewed.
		Council staff and contractors understand their obligations for RBM.	Biosecurity obligations are included in operational plans and procedures across Council.
		Council staff implement a stakeholder education and compliance program.	Develop and deliver a compliance audit program which includes random and targeted components.



For more information on our new Corporate Plan and Pillars scan the QR code or visit moretonbay.qld.gov.au

