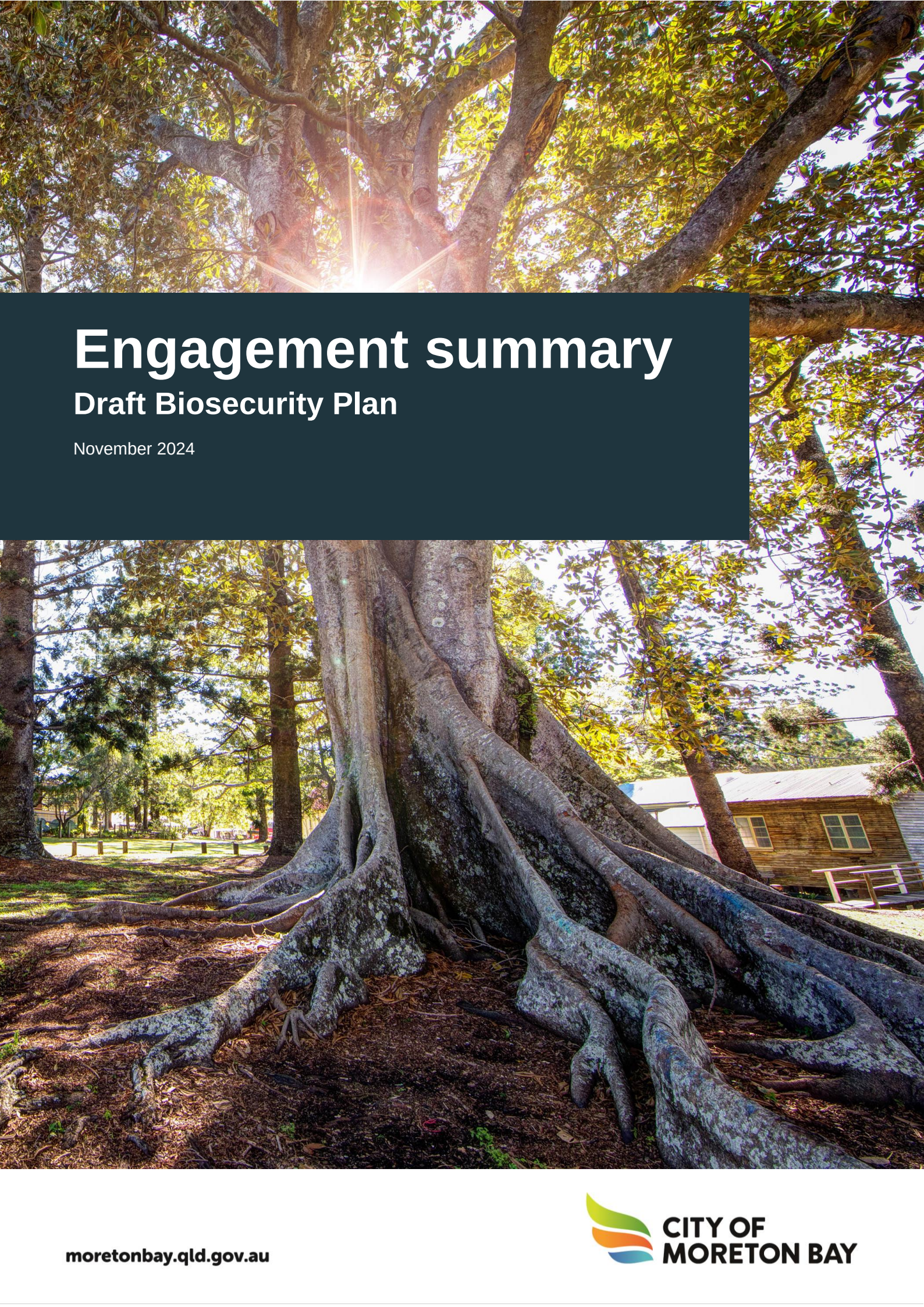




Engagement summary

Draft Biosecurity Plan

November 2024

Acknowledgment of Traditional Custodians

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.



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Disclaimer

City of Moreton Bay and its officers accept no liability for decisions made based on information, expressed or implied, in this document. Nothing in this document should be taken as legal advice.

Protecting our environment, agricultural industry and people's health

The Biosecurity Plan is a commitment of City of Moreton Bay's Environment and Sustainability Strategy 2042.

It outlines how we will manage weeds and pest animals that the State Government has identified as "Biosecurity Matter". It also includes advice for landowners and outlines our approach to managing other weeds and pest animals.

The weeds and pest animals included in the Plan have been targeted because of the impact they can have on our natural areas, agricultural areas, and the health of our communities.

The Biosecurity Plan includes actions in the following themes:

Prevention and early detection	Monitoring and assessment	Awareness and education
Effective management systems	Strategic planning and management	Commitment, roles and responsibilities



How we engaged

We invited community feedback on the draft Biosecurity Plan between 9 August and 9 September 2024.

This opportunity to have a say on the draft plan was promoted via:

- direct emails to more than 35 relevant organisations, groups and individuals
- content on the Your Say Moreton Bay website that has more than 8,000 users
- content in various City of Moreton Bay newsletters reaching more than 4,500 subscribers
- 13 Moreton Says pop-up events.

Moreton Says is City of Moreton Bay's ongoing community survey program. During the 9 August to 9 September 2024 survey period, several pop-up events were held across the city to promote the survey and enable face-to-face interaction. The pop-ups included information about the draft Biosecurity Plan. Staff at pop-ups explained how *Moreton Says* data had informed the plan's preparation and that community members could now have a further say by commenting on the draft Biosecurity Plan.

Community members and organisations could provide feedback by:

- lodging a written submission
- completing a short survey
- emailing comments
- speaking to team members at pop-up events.

Six residents provided feedback through the online survey. We also spoke to more than 30 people at pop-up events about the draft plan.

We received two written submissions, as well as confirmation from the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works that they had no further feedback on the draft plan. Submissions were received from:

- Mount Nebo and Mount Glorious Environment Protection Association Inc (MEPA)
- A City of Moreton Bay resident.

What we heard

The feedback survey was only completed by six residents and is not considered representative of the whole community. However, those residents all believed the draft Biosecurity Plan was either 'very' or 'extremely important' for the future of City of Moreton Bay. Satisfaction with the objectives and actions in the draft plan ranged from 'not at all satisfied' to 'extremely satisfied' with an average rating between 'not' and 'moderately satisfied'.



Pop-up engagement at Ecofest in Caboolture

Comments from the survey, written submissions and conversations held at pop-up events were analysed to identify the following key issues and themes.



Enforcement



Localisation of actions



Other species



Community education



Property owners' role



Cross-functional actions



Funding and resourcing



Enforcement

The online survey and written submissions raised the need to improve enforcement of existing regulations and to consider new regulations to improve biosecurity outcomes. Some residents felt behaviours that promote the spread of weeds and pests are not monitored enough to ensure compliance with existing regulations and that education and awareness could be improved.



Localisation of actions

At pop-up events, in submissions and through online surveys we heard a preference for the Plan to consider biosecurity management at a local scale, rather than at a city-wide scale.

Cats Claw creeper was raised as an example of a weed species that poses a threat to natural ecosystems and protected areas that may be able to be contained at a local scale, although not at a city-wide scale.





Other species

Risks from and to other species were raised in online surveys, submissions and in conversations at pop-up events.

The need to address threats from weeds and pests not included in the State Government's list of "Biosecurity Matter" was raised.

The potential for a warming climate to allow different species to thrive here, such as disease carrying mosquitos, was also raised.

The risk of inadvertently harming native species, particularly threatened and protected species, through actions targeting weeds and pest species concerned some residents.

"There is a risk that some necessary efforts to contain invading species may promote the use of substances that may harm biodiversity values."

Resident submission



Community education

There was broad support for the inclusion of community education and awareness as part of the Biosecurity Plan. Specific feedback included:

- making residents and business operators more aware of the potential consequences of spreading weed and pest species, particularly in relation to their own lifestyle and values
- providing information to new residents and business owners to support positive decision making
- educational resources promoting the use of native plant species in home gardens.

"Movement of materials such as turf or hay might be seen as a "personal right" with no insight into the lifestyle changing threats that may result."

Resident submission



Property owners' role

Online feedback, submissions and conversations at pop-up events discussed the role of property owners in managing biosecurity risks. While the responsibility of property owners to manage weeds and pest species on their own land was acknowledged, there were calls for more support and consideration of property owners' preferences. It was also noted by some respondents that effective treatment can be expensive and require skills or equipment that many landowners do not have, and additional support from Council may be needed.



Funding and resourcing

Some residents raised through online surveys and conversations at pop-up events that Council needed to ensure sufficient funding and resourcing to effectively implement this Plan. There was a perception that Council does not currently dedicate

enough effort to managing weeds and pests. Representatives of community groups discussed the impact of sporadic funding of weed removal projects, with the inevitable reinfestation of treated areas if they are not maintained after treatment. There were also calls for funding to support property owners to manage infestations on their land.



Cross-functional actions

Respondents raised the need to integrate biosecurity measures across Council activity. Specific examples of Council activities that should consider biosecurity include:

- road construction and maintenance, particularly disturbance of soil and mowing practices
- monitoring and enforcement of control measures on development sites, including soil movements, turf movements, and runoff into waterways
- maintenance in parks and environmental areas, including weed treatment, mulching and mowing practices
- waste management, including reuse of material from new Green Bins which is likely to include weeds.

Next steps

The Biosecurity project team is reviewing all feedback provided through consultation and will update the draft plan as appropriate. The revised plan will be presented to Council for endorsement.

Council is grateful for the feedback received on the draft plan and looks forward to working with residents, industry and other agencies to deliver the actions in the Biosecurity Plan.



