

## 5. AGENDA ITEMS

### 5.1. BIOSECURITY PLAN AND SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM 2022-2026

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#### RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to:

1. Adopt the Douglas Shire Biosecurity Plan 2022-2026; and
2. Adopt the Douglas Shire Council Invasive Plants and Animals Surveillance Program 2022-2026.

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#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the Douglas Shire Biosecurity Management Plan is to bring together all sectors of the local community to manage invasive plants and animals. It does this by outlining the key responsibilities, roles and desired outcomes required under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* for the whole of the Douglas Shire area. It aims to benefit the community through preventing or reducing the impacts of pests and weeds on the economy, environment and people of the area through:

- Addressing the obligations under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*;
- Prioritisation of invasive pests and prevent the introduction and spread of invasive plants and animals within Douglas Shire;
- Identifying the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders and providing direction on managing biosecurity risks;
- Building partnerships and enable better use of resources available within the community and across all land managers; and
- Better coordination between all stakeholders, including integrated catchment management approaches, state-wide land protection strategies and management of conservation areas.

The plan identifies the goal for managing biosecurity in the Douglas Shire Council as:

*“All stakeholders working together to implement ongoing, coordinated and effective biosecurity management across the Douglas Shire Council area.”*

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, Council must adopt a Biosecurity Plan and a Surveillance program.

#### BACKGROUND

The Douglas Shire Biosecurity Management Plan 2017-2021 was formally adopted at the Ordinary Council Meeting of 31 October 2017. This plan informs the management of all invasive biosecurity matter and locally declared pests in the Douglas Shire Council area. The Biosecurity Plan and Surveillance Program are reviewed annually by the Biosecurity Working Group.

The current Biosecurity Management Plan 2017-2021 expires 31 December 2021. A new Biosecurity Plan and Surveillance Program have been drafted with minor amendments made to the previous documents to reflect the current biosecurity status in Douglas, thus requiring new approval by Council.

The plan provides management outcomes for specific high priority pests. These management outcomes are outlined in the pest specific strategies and have been developed by the Biosecurity Working Group based on priority, knowledge of distribution, feasibility, achievability and the existing and potential impacts on the biosecurity considerations (human health, social amenity, the economy or the environment) in the local area.

The management outcomes guide or set the standard for the actions and measures considered reasonable and practical by the Douglas Shire Community that will help in addressing the biosecurity risk posed by these pests and achieve the desired local management objectives.

## **COMMENT**

The general biosecurity obligation (GBO) is one of the core principles of the Biosecurity Act and represents a major shift in thinking – from prescriptive to outcome-based management. The GBO is an overarching principle that requires all persons who deal with biosecurity matter to take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise the risk. A range of legislative instruments have been built into the Biosecurity Act to ensure there is capacity to respond appropriately to different levels of biosecurity risk and different stages of incursion.

Biosecurity programs for surveillance or prevention and control are generally for use in non-emergency situations where there is or is likely to be biosecurity matter that poses a significant biosecurity risk in the area to which the program applies. Biosecurity programs may also be used to prevent the entry or establishment of biosecurity matter in a particular area.

The programs enable local governments to be proactive in identifying and responding to a pest, disease or other biosecurity matter that poses a significant biosecurity risk. Once a program is established, authorised officers have additional powers of entry and control that are not available under normal circumstances. The program must be authorised by the Chief Executive Officer of the Local Government. A copy of the program must be published on Council's website.

## **PROPOSAL**

That Council resolves to:

1. Adopt the updated Douglas Shire Biosecurity Plan 2022-2026; and
2. Adopt the Douglas Shire Council Invasive Plants and Animals Surveillance Program 2022-2026.

## **FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Council employs six full-time Officers to conduct on ground works on invasive biosecurity matter. This consists of a Team Leader Biosecurity, team of four to focus on invasive pest plants (weeds) and one staff targeting pest animals.

Douglas Shire Council works closely with all stakeholders on several joint agency programs implementing a “nil tenure” approach to ensure successful outcomes for the shire. The works are funded as core business with funds allocated each year in the operational budget.

## RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Under section 48(1) of the *Biosecurity Act 2014* the main function of local government is to ensure both prohibited and restricted invasive biosecurity matter are managed within the local government area. The Douglas Shire Council covers an area from Degarra in the north, west to the Mt Windsor Tableland and south to Ellis Beach. The area is fringed by Wet Tropics Areas to the west and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park to the east. These iconic natural resources combined with a strong agricultural sector make the entire region important both nationally and globally.

Given that biosecurity risks directly threaten biodiversity, agriculture and social amenity on a very large scale, there is a great responsibility to understand and mitigate the impacts of weeds and pest animals in a context that encompasses a wide range of land uses and expectations.

Implementation of the Douglas Shire Biosecurity Plan 2022-2026 and the Douglas Shire Council Invasive Plants and Animals Surveillance Program 2022-2026 will provide a timely and effective response to protect our economy, environment and community.

## SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

### Economic:

Weeds cost Queensland an estimated \$600 million every year. The negative economic impacts of weeds include:

- competition with pastures leading to reduced stocking capacity and erosion;
- toxicity to livestock;
- competition with crops for water and nutrients;
- increased stock mustering costs;
- loss of ecotourism values;
- impacts (of aquatic weeds) on water quality and irrigation; and
- management costs arising from the use of physical, mechanical and chemical control methods.

For example, one weed species - Miconia (*Miconia calvescens*, *M. nervosa* *m. racemosa*) - costs Australia more than \$3.1 million each year in control programs. Whyanbeel Valley has the largest infestation of Miconia in Australia. Evidence of the economic and environmental impacts of this weed in other countries supports the need to maintain eradication as the main objective of the program.

### Environmental:

Weeds can degrade natural vegetation and impact on biodiversity. Mexican Bean Tree (*Cecropia pachystachya*, *C. palmata* and *C. peltata*) known to occur in Whyanbeel, has the potential to invade and dominate moist forest ecosystems in north Queensland, possibly causing serious and irreversible damage to the World Heritage Area. Gamba grass (*Andropogon gayanus*) recently discovered at Finlayvale, is useful cattle feed in parts of far north Queensland, but also has significant negative impacts, including replacing native plants, increasing fire risk and ecosystem modification.

**Social:** Social impacts include effects on human health, recreation, safety and aesthetics. Siam weed (*Chomoleana oderata*) has a significant impact on human health in heavily infested Wet Tropics areas of Queensland.

People can suffer serious allergic reactions, such as dermatitis and rhinitis or asthma, on contact with the plant or its pollen.

Many aquatic weeds, such as salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*), cause safety hazards. Small children have drowned when they assumed the floating carpet of salvinia was solid ground. Aquatic weeds also interfere with recreational activities (such as swimming and fishing) and reduce the aesthetic value of lakes and streams.

Additionally, weed control is an essential component of road and railway corridor maintenance especially with regards to safety considerations.

## **CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

### **Corporate Plan 2019-2024 Initiatives:**

#### **Theme 3 - Leading Environmental Stewardship**

Our visitors and residents deeply value the unparalleled environment in which we live. We recognise our responsibility in protecting and preserving our natural world for generations to come.

We understand the strong link between the environment and the economy: they are interdependent. Douglas Shire will be at the forefront of environmental protection by developing strategies, setting policies, and working with all stakeholders to become the envy of and to inspire locations across Australia and the World.

**Goal 4 - We will partner with the community to educate and monitor.**

## **COUNCIL'S ROLE**

Council can play a number of different roles in certain circumstances and it is important to be clear about which role is appropriate for a specific purpose or circumstance. The implementation of actions will be a collective effort and Council's involvement will vary from information only through to full responsibility for delivery.

The following areas outline where Council has a clear responsibility to act:

**Regulator** Council has a number of statutory obligations detailed in numerous regulations and legislative Acts. Council also makes local laws to ensure that the Shire is well governed. In fulfilling its role as regulator, Council will utilise an outcomes based approach that balances the needs of the community with social and natural justice.

## CONSULTATION

**Internal:** In preparing these documents, consultation was undertaken with the following:

- On ground staff from the Biosecurity Team.
- Coordinator Public Spaces
- Coordinator Environmental Health and Local Laws

**External:** The Biosecurity Working group (BWG) was formed to ensure the Douglas Shire Biosecurity Management Plan is developed by and for the entire community. The BWG considered all pests in relation to the range of land management priorities in the Douglas Shire Council area. To avoid conflict when setting priorities, the (BWG) has adopted a prioritisation framework that takes into account knowledge of the pest's ecology, invasion potential, control methods available and other factors, while keeping in mind the need for long-term sustainability of the range of land uses in the Douglas Shire Council.

The BWG consists of representatives from the following groups:

- Douglas Shire Council;
- Far North Queensland Region of Council's;
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries;
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service;
- Jabalbina Aboriginal Corporation;
- Mossman Canegrowers;
- AgForce Daintree; and
- Mossman Botanical Gardens.
- Terrain NRM

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Biosecurity Plan and Surveillance Program is available for viewing on council's website.

## ATTACHMENTS

1. DSBP 2022-2026 version 1.4 LORES [5.1.1 - 69 pages]
2. DSC Surveillance program 2022-2026 FINAL [5.1.2 - 11 pages]

# DOUGLAS SHIRE BIOSECURITY PLAN

2022-2026

*“All stakeholders working together to implement ongoing, coordinated and effective biosecurity management across the Douglas Shire area”*



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## Acronyms and Glossary

**BQ -Biosecurity Queensland** coordinates the government's efforts to prevent, respond to, and recover from pests and diseases that threaten the economy and environment. BQ is made up research, operations and policy. BQ is part of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF).

**DSBWG- Douglas Shire Biosecurity Working Group** prev. Pest Working Group; Local forum established to regularly bring all the relevant stakeholders together to discuss a range of land management priorities

**DSC -Douglas Shire Council** – Council for Local Government area covered by this plan.

**DAF- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries**

**DES- Department of Environment and Science**

**EAEP-Electric Ant Eradication Program**

**FNQROC- Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils** is made up of membership of Councils from Ingham north to Cooktown and west to Carpentaria in Far North Queensland. The organisation fosters cooperation and resource sharing between councils and advocates regional positions and priorities.

**NAMAC- Natural Asset Management Advisory Committee.**

**NTWEP-National Tropical Weeds Eradication Program** – A national eradication program delivered by Biosecurity Queensland (BQ), targets the eradication of five weeds listed as restricted matter (category 2,3,4 & 5) - Mikania vine, Miconia calvescens, Miconia racemosa, Miconia nervosa and Limnocharis flava.

**QPWS- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.**

**Terrain NRM- Terrain Natural Resource Management** - Regional Natural Resource Management organisation working over the Wet Tropics region which takes in the local government areas of Douglas Shire Council, Hinchinbrook Shire Council, Cassowary Coast Regional Council, Tablelands Regional Council and Cairns Regional Council.

# Executive Summary

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The purpose of the Douglas Shire Biosecurity Plan (DSBP) is to bring together all sectors of the local community to manage invasive plants and animals. It does this by outlining the key responsibilities, roles and desired outcomes required under the Biosecurity Act 2014 for the whole of the Douglas Shire area. In doing so it aims to benefit the community through preventing or reducing the impacts of pests and weeds on the economy, environment and people of the area through:

- Addressing the obligations under the Biosecurity Act 2014 for all stakeholders.
- Prioritization invasive pests and prevent the introduction and spread of invasive plants and animals within Douglas Shire based on best practice.
- Identifying the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders involved and providing direction on managing biosecurity risks
- Building partnerships and enable better use of resources available within the community and across all land managers
- Better coordination between all stakeholders, including integrated catchment management approaches, state-wide land protection strategies and management of conservation areas.

The plan identifies the goal for managing biosecurity in the Douglas Shire Council as:

***“All stakeholders working together to implement ongoing, coordinated and effective biosecurity management across the Douglas Shire Council area.”***



## **Introduction**

The Douglas Shire Council covers the area from Degarra in the north, west to the Mt Windsor Tableland and south to Ellis Beach. The area is fringed by Wet Tropics Area to the west and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park to the East. These iconic resources combined with a strong agricultural sector make the entire region important both nationally and globally.

Given that biosecurity risks directly threaten biodiversity, agriculture and social amenity on a very large scale, there is a great responsibility to understand and mitigate the impacts of weeds and pest animals in a context that encompasses a wide range of land uses and expectations.

## **Protecting values and managing risks**

A risk-based approach to biosecurity requires us to first understand the values which are important to the community. When we understand what is important, where and why, we can then identify how invasive plants and animals (biosecurity matter) may impact those values. It is likely that the things we value may be at risk from more than a single biosecurity matter and even if those risks are not equal, they may be detrimental in an accumulative way. It is also likely that a single asset may represent a range of the values outlined below. For example, a waterway on a property may be equally important for its value for conservation (as habitat); agriculture (for watering stock); water resources (for natural flows); and community (a local swimming hole) simultaneously.

The risk assessment process, which is used to identify the issues requiring a response in this plan, considers the likelihood and extent of the impact/s a biosecurity issue might present on four broad categories of values.

## **Conservation and biodiversity**

Conservation and biodiversity assets and values represent the natural environment. These assets can range from landscapes and features like our national parks and reserves through to remnant or restored patches of forest to individual trees. These assets might contain or support unique or rare plants, animals and communities or they may simply provide important places for natural processes to take place.

## **Agriculture and industry**

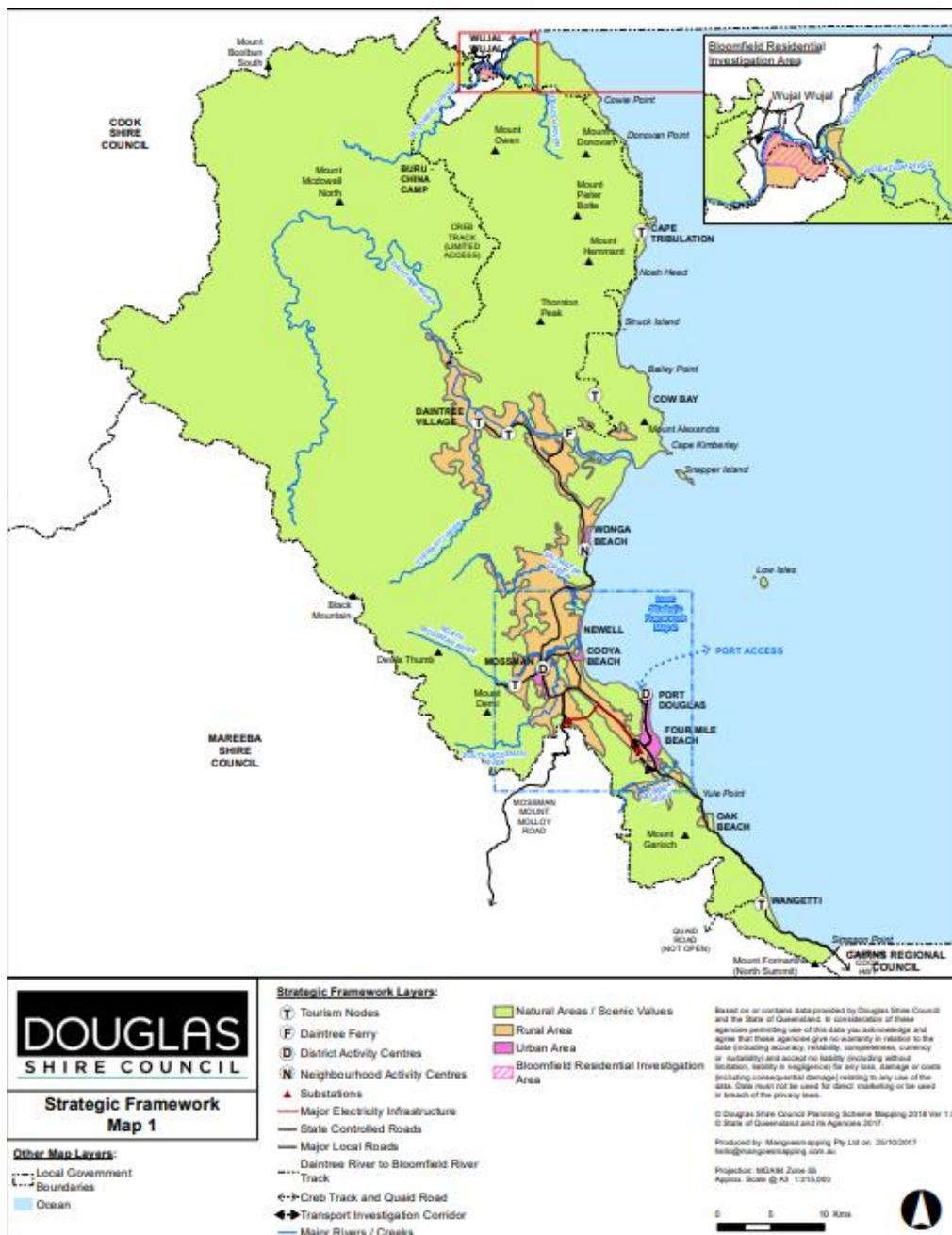
Agriculture and industry represent primary production and the economy. These may include highly modified or intensive production systems right through to the relatively natural systems utilized in the rangelands. An industry like honey production might make use of both native forests and intensive agricultural systems. Other industries might be based in urban or industrial systems.

## **Water resources and assets**

Water resources and assets represent both natural and artificial waterways. These may include modified waterways and storage systems such as lakes, dams and impoundments through to natural waterways and wetlands. Water resources and assets may be valuable as natural environments or they may have value for water supply, recreation or provide economic benefit such as fisheries.

### Community and residential

Community and residential assets are places important to people, where they live, work or play on a daily basis. These may include densely settled areas and environments such as urban communities through to the areas around homesteads and houses in rural areas. Most community and residential assets also include areas of natural or semi natural areas and habitats by way of gardens, urban bushland or waterway reserves.



More detailed maps of Douglas Shire land use can be found at the following links:

<https://douglas.qld.gov.au/download/planning-scheme/1.-Zoning-Maps-70K-1-to-11.pdf>

<https://douglas.qld.gov.au/download/planning-scheme/2.-Zoning-Maps-15K-12-to-23.pdf>

With established pest species the challenge is to ensure all stakeholders are meeting their obligations. The numerous weeds, vertebrate pests and tramp ant incursions highlight the vulnerability of our region to the introduction of biosecurity matter and the strategic importance of preventing the spread of biosecurity matter across Australia.

Given the favorable conditions in the Wet Tropics Bioregion, the Douglas Shire area is faced with a diverse range of weed and pest animal issues. The favorable climate provides ideal habitat for a huge variety of noxious weeds and an ideal harborage for large populations of pest animals with its rich resources and year-round water and cover.

The DSBP is written to in accordance with the provisions of the Biosecurity Act 2014. The DSBP is subject to renewal every four years, with necessary updates being made on annual basis to reflect changes in resources, pest threats, legislation, or policy.

The Douglas Shire Council formally adopted this Biosecurity Plan through a resolution of council on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December 2021.

### **Biosecurity Planning**

A plan to stop land degradation by pest invasion is a major undertaking. It cannot be achieved simply by allocating finance in the annual budget. Without setting goals and defining the means of achieving them, any gains will be due to good luck rather than good management.

When clear guidelines are not communicated it is difficult to track progress toward pest management outcomes. It is also more difficult for landowners and managers to understand what is required of them to deliver their general biosecurity obligation. The DSBP forms a policy document which in effect is a reference tool for field and administrative staff from within Douglas Shire Council, but also applies equally to all landholders and managers across the Douglas Shire area.

The DSBP will guide the management of all invasive biosecurity matter and locally declared pests in the Douglas Shire Council-

To fulfill these responsibilities, Council is expected to:

- Control invasive biosecurity matter on land under its control.
- Inspect private property to determine the presence of invasive biosecurity matter.
- Provide advice to landholders on appropriate pest control options.
- Carry out procedures to ensure control of invasive biosecurity matter on private property.

The State government is responsible for:

- Providing technical and management information and staff training to Council personnel.
- Ensuring that invasive biosecurity matter controlled on land under the control of other Government Departments.

## **The Douglas Shire Biosecurity Working Group**

The Douglas Shire Biosecurity Working Group DSBWG was formed and open to all stakeholders to ensure the DSBP is developed by and for the entire community.

The DSBWG considered all pests in relation to the range of land use values in the Douglas Shire Council area.

The role of the Biosecurity Working Group is:

- Ensure all stakeholders formally know, accept and acknowledge their roles and responsibilities in relation to the DSBP.
- Prioritize biosecurity matter and develop specific obligations to ensure pests are being managed to a standard that is accepted by the community.
- To provide advice to government, organisations and individuals on the biosecurity management priorities and obligations in the Douglas Shire area.
- Identify research priorities and operational needs of the DSLGA and ensure the DSBWG is represented at the NAMAC who represent the DSBWG for the purpose of the co-investment model.
- Develop and review a Biosecurity Plan for invasive biosecurity matter for all land tenure in the DSLGA.
- Ensure key stakeholders are involved in implementing, coordinating, monitoring and of the DSBP.

## **Legal Requirements Regarding Biosecurity**

### **Invasive Biosecurity Matter and Locally Declared Pests**

Under section 48(1) of the Biosecurity Act the main function of local government is to ensure both prohibited and restricted, invasive biosecurity matter are managed within the local government area. According to section 48(3) of the Act, local government's local laws (Queensland Local Government Act 1993) may provide for the management of invasive plants and animals whether they are prohibited or restricted matter.

The Biosecurity Act 2014 pertains schedules for prohibited and restricted matter that can be viewed at:

<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-2014-007>

The Douglas Shire Council Subordinate Local Law No. 3 (Community and Environmental Management) lists locally declared species that are not listed under the Biosecurity Act 2014:

[https://douglas.qld.gov.au/download/local\\_laws/Subordinate-Local-Law-No.-3-Community-and-Environmental-Management-2020.pdf](https://douglas.qld.gov.au/download/local_laws/Subordinate-Local-Law-No.-3-Community-and-Environmental-Management-2020.pdf)

## Invasive Biosecurity Matter

### Prohibited Matter

Prohibited matter includes a range of invasive plants and invasive animals that have the potential to have significant impacts and are currently not present or known to be present in Queensland.

It is an offence to deal with prohibited matter and fail to report its presence. If you become aware of prohibited matter or you believe, or ought to reasonably believe, that something is prohibited matter you need to report it immediately to Biosecurity Queensland 132523

### Restricted Matter

Restricted matter includes a range of invasive plants and animals that are present in Queensland. These invasive plants and animals are having significant adverse impacts in Queensland and it is desirable to manage them and prevent their spread, thereby protecting un-infested parts of the State.

### Categories of restricted matter

There are seven categories for restricted matter, five of which are relevant to this plan each category places restrictions on the dealings with the biosecurity matter or requires actions to be taken to minimise the spread and adverse impact of the biosecurity matter.

Category 2	Must be reported to a Queensland Government or a Douglas Shire authorised person.
Category 3	Must not be distributed or disposed. This means it must not be given as a gift, sold, traded, or released into the environment unless the distribution or disposal is authorised in a regulation or under a permit.
Category 4	Must not be moved. To ensure that it does not spread into other areas of the state.
Category 5	Must not be possessed or kept under person's control without a permit.
Category 6	must not be fed except for the purpose of preparing for or undertaking a control program.

## The General Biosecurity Obligation

The general biosecurity obligation (GBO) is one of the core principles of the Biosecurity Act is outcome-based management.

The DSBP defines what community expects of individuals to discharge their **general biosecurity obligation (GBO)** regarding the priority invasive pests at specific locations.

### *What is a general biosecurity obligation and who does it apply to?*

The general biosecurity obligation (GBO) is an overarching obligation that requires all persons who deal with biosecurity matter or a carrier to take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise the risk. However, the obligation only arises when the person *knows or ought reasonably to know* that the biosecurity matter, carrier or activity pose or is likely to pose a biosecurity risk.

### *How the GBO is used to achieve local pest management outcomes?*

The GBO imposes an obligation on all relevant persons – individuals, industry and government – to take an active role in preventing, managing and addressing biosecurity risks that relate to their activities. It provides a capacity for flexibility and ensures that the focus is on the management of biosecurity risk rather than following a prescribed process.

The DSBP provides management outcomes for specific high priority pests. These the management outcomes are outlined in the pest specific strategies and have been developed by the DSBWG based on priority, knowledge of distribution, feasibility, achievability and the existing and potential impacts on the biosecurity considerations (human health, social amenity, the economy or the environment) in the local area.

The DSBP also provides specific actions landholders can take to satisfy general biosecurity obligations that are not pest specific and these are listed in the table below.

### Specific actions landholders can take to satisfy general biosecurity obligations.

Sector	General biosecurity obligations	Actions
<b>Primary producers horticulture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be aware of the priority risks to your industry and local government area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey for pest weeds/animals during routine maintenance.</li> <li>Maintain vehicle/machinery hygiene protocols.</li> <li>Use appropriate control methods.</li> <li>Erect property and site-specific signs.</li> <li>Rotate crops and plant cover crops.</li> <li>Participate in baiting and trapping programs</li> <li>Manage weeds on watercourses and roadways.</li> </ul>
<b>Primary producers: grazing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report new or suspected pests to your industry contact, DSC or Biosecurity Queensland.</li> <li>Don't move soil or machinery that has biosecurity risks such as weed seeds or dirt.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct boundary/risk area checks.</li> <li>Survey for weeds/animals during routine maintenance</li> <li>Maintain vehicle/machinery hygiene protocols.</li> <li>Use appropriate control methods.</li> <li>Participate in baiting and trapping programs</li> <li>Erect property and site-specific signs.</li> <li>Conduct chopper rolling, slashing, boom or aerial spraying.</li> <li>Develop a property pest management plan and/or a farm biosecurity plan.</li> <li>Install pest-appropriate fencing.</li> </ul>
<b>Landholders: fruit production</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevent the spread of declared weeds on and off your property by controlling, prior to the flowering period, in high risk areas (watercourses/ roadways/ boundaries).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct crop/risk area checks.</li> <li>Survey for weeds/animals during routine maintenance.</li> <li>Ensure equipment leaving or entering properties is clean of contaminants.</li> <li>Use appropriate control methods</li> <li>Erect property and site-specific signs.</li> <li>Provide/maintain access for programs.</li> <li>Provide groundcover management.</li> <li>Develop a property pest management plan and/or farm biosecurity plan.</li> <li>Install pest-appropriate fencing.</li> <li>Participate in baiting and trapping programs.</li> <li>Reduce priority weeds.</li> </ul>
<b>Nursery industry and plant sellers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce DSC priority weeds on your property.</li> <li>Monitor and record the presence of and damage caused by feral animals on your property.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research information on new stock lines before introduction.</li> <li>Report unusual plants and animals.</li> <li>Prevent sale of state, local and problem pest plants.</li> <li>Manually remove pest weeds and bag seed heads.</li> <li>Erect property and site-specific signs.</li> </ul>
<b>Landholders: rural residential, lifestyle and urban residential</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in coordinated feral animal control programs.</li> <li>Provide/maintain access for management programs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report unusual plants and animals.</li> <li>Responsibly dispose of green waste.</li> <li>Select suitable garden plants.</li> <li>Cooperate with and participate in local area pest and weed management programs.</li> <li>Report recurrence of priority pest and weeds after control efforts.</li> <li>Participate in baiting and trapping programs</li> <li>Develop property pest management plan and/or a farm biosecurity plan.</li> <li>Install pest-appropriate fencing.</li> <li>Reduce priority weeds. (This could include spot spraying; manual removal, bagging seed heads, and use fire or other control methods to reduce infestations.)</li> </ul>

The management outcomes guide or set the standard for the actions and measures thought to be reasonable and practical by the Douglas Shire Community that will help in addressing the biosecurity risk posed by these pests and achieve the desired local management objectives.

There may be circumstances when a person fails to take actions to discharge their GBO to manage a biosecurity risk.

The Biosecurity Act provides Authorised Officers with powers and tools needed to ensure the level of response is appropriate to the level of biosecurity risk. An authorised officer determines, through risk-based decision-making, if the person has failed to take appropriate actions consistent with the management outcomes stated in the DSBP to address that biosecurity risk.

The officer must be certain that the person responsible for the biosecurity matter understands the risk/s that must be mitigated. There may be a need for the officer to provide some education to the person. Following this, if the individual does not take steps to mitigate the risk, the officer would be in a position to consider issuing a biosecurity order.

The person then must take the actions stated in the Biosecurity Order to address the risk.

### Biosecurity Orders

A biosecurity order is an enforcement tool that may be given to a person if an authorised officer reasonably believes that a person has failed, or may fail, to discharge their GBO (s373).

A person fails to discharge their GBO if they do not take 'all reasonable and practical measures' to mitigate a biosecurity risk.

A biosecurity order can direct a person to treat, control, eradicate, destroy or dispose of biosecurity matter or a carrier in a particular way, clean or disinfect something, stop using the place or remove something from the place.

A biosecurity order **must** be directed at ensuring the recipient discharges their GBO at the place; and **may** relate to a specific biosecurity matter. In addition, the biosecurity order may propose stated times or intervals for re-entry to the place, a vehicle or another place, to check compliance with the order; or state how the recipient may show that the stated action has been taken.

A template for the Douglas Shire Council Biosecurity order and information notice can be found in Appendix 3.

### Biosecurity Programs

Biosecurity programs (surveillance or prevention and control programs) have been implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity> and Douglas Shire Council <https://douglas.qld.gov.au/environment-water-and-waste/natural-resource-management/pest-management/> to enable proactive management of a weeds and pest animals.

The Douglas Shire Council Invasive Plants and Animals Surveillance Program 2022-2026 is an instrument to provide authorised officers additional powers of entry for the purpose of undertaking proactive surveillance to determine the presence or absence of stated invasive biosecurity matter, monitoring compliance with the Act or the effect of measures taken in response to a biosecurity risk, or levels of biosecurity matter in a carrier – within Douglas Shire Council local government area. A copy of the surveillance program can be obtained at <https://douglas.qld.gov.au/environment-water-and-waste/natural-resource-management/pest-management/> or purchased through council for the price of printing.

## Key Projects and Programs

The following key projects and programs from across the Douglas Shire area highlight the partnerships and programs that are currently underway and will be continued over the duration of this plan

### Siam Weed Management Program



**Goal:** Locate all infestations within the Shire and control, with the action taken to prevent establishment and reproduction of Siam weed beyond or out of the management zone in the Douglas Shire Council Area.

**Performance Indicator:** Surveys of the entire Shire completed with all Siam Weed located mapped and controlled.

#### Strategic Action:

- To conduct annual surveys to locate and map Siam Weed within the Douglas Shire;
- To ensure that all infestations located are controlled;
- Promote individual landholders and other departments to control Siam Weed on their lands;
- Douglas Shire Council to facilitate public awareness programs with landholders in high risk areas;
- To issue property biosecurity management plans or biosecurity orders to non-compliant landholders as required;

**Project partners:** Douglas Shire Council, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, landowners

### Hiptage Eradication Program



**Goal:** In partnership with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service locate all infestations within the Shire and control, with the aim to eradicate from the Douglas Shire Council Area.

**Performance Indicator:** Surveys completed within management areas, all Hiptage, mapped and treated with no reproductive events.

**Strategic Action:**

- To conduct annual surveys to locate and map Hiptage within the Douglas Shire;
- To ensure that all infestations located are controlled prior to seeding;
- Promote individual landholders and other departments to control Hiptage on their lands;
- Douglas Shire Council to facilitate public awareness programs with landholders in high risk areas;
- Identify funding opportunities to assist in all the above programs.

**Project partners:** Douglas Shire Council, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, landowners

### Miconia Species (National Tropical Weeds Eradication Program)



**Goal:** In partnership with the National Tropical Weeds team locate and control all Miconia infestations within the Shire with the aim to eradicate.

**Performance Indicator:** Surveys completed within management areas, all Miconia species located, mapped and treated with no reproductive events.

**Strategic Action:**

- Participate in survey and control program;
- To ensure that all infestations located are controlled prior to seeding;
- Assist or facilitate public awareness programs such as displays at local field days /talks with landholders in high risk areas;

**Project partners:** National Tropical Weeds Eradication Program, Douglas Shire Council, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Whyanbeel Community Group.

### Feral Pig Management Program



**Goal:** To implement a Shire-wide feral pig management program that minimises the environmental, social and economic impacts of feral pigs.

**Performance Indicator:** A reduction in complaints received regarding feral pig damage occurring within the Shire.

**Strategic Action:**

- To coordinate an effective feral pig trapping program within Douglas Shire;
- Promote individual landholders and other departments on their lands and monitor populations and impacts of feral pigs;
- To provide a 1080 baiting service where appropriate;
- To provide advice on best management practice to the community;

**Project partners:** Douglas Shire Council, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, landowners

### Desired Outcomes

The desired outcomes proposed for this plan are consistent with those of the state weeds and pest animal strategies (developed in accordance with the requirements of the Biosecurity Act 2014 and are central to the success of biosecurity management activities.

<b>Desired Outcome 1</b>	Stakeholders are informed, knowledgeable and are committed to pest weed and animal management.
<b>Desired Outcome 2</b>	To ensure all stakeholders are strongly committed to implementing effective biosecurity management.
<b>Desired Outcome 3</b>	Strategic directions are established, maintained and owned by all stakeholders.
<b>Desired Outcome 4</b>	To prevent the introduction and establishment of new weeds and pest animals.
<b>Desired Outcome 5</b>	Integrated systems for managing the impacts of established weeds and pest animals are developed.

### Desired Outcome 1

*“Stakeholders are informed, knowledgeable and have ownership of weed and pest animal management”*

**Objective** - *To increase community, industry, agribusiness and government awareness of pests and their impacts*

Principle	Strategic Action	By Whom	Timeframe	Success Indicator	
<b>Awareness</b> 	Provide draft DSBP for PWG and public consultation/submissions.	DSC	2021	Draft posted on DSC web site. Submissions received.	Completed DSBP 2022-2026
	Review DSBP and Programs annually		2023	Review completed and amendments made	2023-2026
	Submit DSBP for adoption by Council.	DSC	2021	Adopted DSBP and action plans published on DSC Web site. with linkages to FNQROC web site and DAF fact sheets.	Completed in 2021
	DSBWG works together to promote weed and pest animal awareness across sectors and interest groups	All Stakeholders	Ongoing	Extension material available. Information circulated through existing networks	
	Biosecurity displays are presented at the Field Days & other opportunities (i.e. Reef guardian Program, Canegrowers, Catchment Group meetings)	DSC, DAF	Ongoing	Number of presentations made	

**Desired Outcome 2**

*“To ensure all stakeholders are strongly committed to implementing effective biosecurity management”.*

**Objective-** Establish long term commitment to pest weed and animal management and ensure compliance with the Act in pest weeds and pest animals management

Principle	Strategic Action	By Whom	Timeframe	Success Indicator
<b>Commitment, Consultation and partnership</b> 	Maintain a working group of key stakeholders to develop and review plans and actions	Stakeholders	Annually	Meetings held and updates provided. Continued working partnerships
	Participate in delivery and hosting of taskforce operations under the regional taskforce MOU	DSC & FNQROC	As required	Number of taskforces attended or hosted
	Participate in regional advisory and governance of Biosecurity (NAMAC)	DSC, DAF & FNQROC	Quarterly	Attend and contribute to quarterly NAMAC meetings
	Maintain and promote a Surveillance, Prevention and Control Programs for key projects and priorities	DSC	Annually	Pest Survey Program maintained and implemented
	Support State and Commonwealth pest management projects.	DSC, DAF & DES	On going	State/Commonwealth projects supported.
	Support other *stakeholder projects where they align with the DSBP.	DSC, Landcare & Terrain NRM	On going	Stakeholders, community groups supported.
	Utilise compliance where necessary in line with principals in the Strategic Action Plans.	DSC	As required	Compliance exercised when necessary to achieve actions within the BMP.

### Desired Outcome 3

*“Strategic directions are established, maintained and owned by all stakeholders”*

**Objective-** To create a coordinated and integrated planning framework for weed and pest animal management

Principle	Strategic Action	By Whom	Timeframe	Success Indicator
<b>Planning, Integration</b>  	Ensure that the Biosecurity Management Plan is consistent with related strategies and plans	DSC, DAF, FNQROC	Annually	No inconsistencies between plans. The level of attendance and participation of State Agency representation in planning meetings
	Participate and contribute to regional planning and advisory groups and forums (i.e. NAMAC)	DSC, DAF, FNQROC	As required	Number of meetings and events hosted or attended
	Annual review of action plan and management objectives by DSBWG	Stakeholders	Annually	Timely review of action plans
	Support DSC Development Assessments. Promote pest issues and undesirable species to planning staff	DSC	On going	Informed staff review vegetation plans. Undesirable species are not used. Developments meet legislative requirements concerning pests.

#### Desired Outcome 4

*“Introduction spread and establishment of weeds and pest animals is prevented.”*

**Objective-** To prevent the introduction and establishment of new weeds and pest animals

Principle	Strategic Action	By Whom	Timeframe	Success Indicator
<b>Prevention</b> 	Adopt weed prevention protocols.	Stakeholders	Ongoing	Occurrence of new weeds species
	Promote weed hygiene declarations for movement of harvesting and construction plant, and fodder.	Stakeholders	Ongoing	Use of weed prevention declaration
	Promote early reporting of pest problems and respond to landowners' complaints promptly.	DSC & DAF	Ongoing	% of recurrence of target weeds
	Promote and participate in Rapid Response protocol.	DSC & DAF	As required	

### Desired Outcome 5

*“Integrated systems for managing the impacts of established weeds and pest animals are developed.”*

**Objective** - Adoption of best practice management techniques by stakeholder/land managers

Principle	Strategic Action	By Whom	Timeframe	Success Indicator
<b>Best Practice Management</b> 	Consider: timing, integrated, techniques, non-target damage, cost prevention, animal welfare, workplace health and safety, monitoring, research, operational procedures and chemical registration requirements in planning	Stakeholders	Ongoing	Feedback on the Pest Management Plan’s comprehensive coverage of issues.
	Promote the use, awareness and availability of best practice information.	DSC, DAF & FNQROC	As required	Best Practice Manuals distributed
	Maintain and update pest management distribution and objectives. Contribute to Annual Pest Distribution Survey	DSC & DAF	Annually	Distribution and management objective mapping for priority pests and weeds remains current. GIS data shared freely between all stakeholders

### Prioritisation of Biosecurity Matter in the Douglas Shire Area

The Biosecurity prioritisation framework utilised by the DSBWG in assessing and assigning the priorities of Biosecurity matter within this plan was developed within local government and adopted regionally by the FNQROC in May 2021. The process of determining priorities was conducted by members of the DSBWG prior to going to wider consultation to ensure that all stakeholders are strongly committed to implementing effective biosecurity management

### Invasive Plants with Biosecurity Action Plans

Common name	Scientific name	Biosecurity act category	Other programs
Miconia	<i>Miconia spp.</i>	2,3,4,5	NTWEP
Hiptage	<i>Hiptage benghalensis</i>	Locally Declared	
Pond Apple	<i>Annona glabra</i>	3	
Siam weed	<i>Chromolaena odorata</i>	3	
Gamba grass	<i>Andropogon gayanus</i>	3	
Mexican bean tree	<i>Cecropia spp.</i>	2,3,4,5	DAF
Tobacco weed	<i>Elephantopus mollis</i>	3	
Limnocharis	<i>Limnocharis flava</i>	2,3,4,5	NTWEP
Ivy Gourd	<i>Coccinia grandis</i>	Locally Declared	
Water Hyacinth	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	3	
Kudzu Vine	<i>Pueraria montana, var lobata</i>	3	
Turbina	<i>Turbina corymbosa</i>	Locally Declared	
Salvinia / Water fern	<i>Salvinia molesta</i>	3	
Water Lettuce	<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	3	
Thunbergia	<i>Thunbergia grandiflora</i>	3	

### Invasive Pest Animals with Biosecurity Action Plans

Common name	Scientific name	Biosecurity act category	Other programs
Electric Ants	<i>Wasmannia auropunctata</i>	1	EAEP/DAF
Feral pigs	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	3,4,6	
Dog (wild/feral)	<i>Canis familiaris</i>	3,4,6	

Douglas Shire prioritisation scoring and allocated management objectives for each weed and pest species can be found in this document in [Appendix 2](#)

Invasive plant and animal fact sheets for the species list can be found at:

[Invasive plant and animal fact sheets | Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Queensland \(daf.qld.gov.au\)](https://daf.qld.gov.au)

[Other invasive plants | Business Queensland](#)



### Invasive Plants in Monitoring to Eradication

The following weeds are presumed eradicated from the area and are currently under monitoring to ensure they do not reoccur. Any suspected sightings of these weeds should be reported to DSC on 07 4099 9444.

MONITORING	Weed	Location	Where to watch out for it
	<b>Parthenium</b> <i>(Parthenium hysterophorus)</i>	Forrest Creek, Daintree	Machinery, stockfeed, fertiliser, Grazing

### Pest and weed alerts

If you suspect you have seen any of these pests and weeds in the Douglas Shire Area, please report to the DSC on 07 4099 9444. For further information go to [www.daf.qld.gov.au](http://www.daf.qld.gov.au)

ALERTS	Weed	Vicinity (State or Local Government Area)	Likely source and mode of spread
	<b>Fireweed</b> <i>(Senecio madagascariensis)</i>	Tablelands	Machinery, stockfeed, wind, roadside maintenance
	<b>Koster's Curse</b> <i>(Clidemia hirta)</i>	Mareeba, Cassowary Coast	Birds, water, machinery

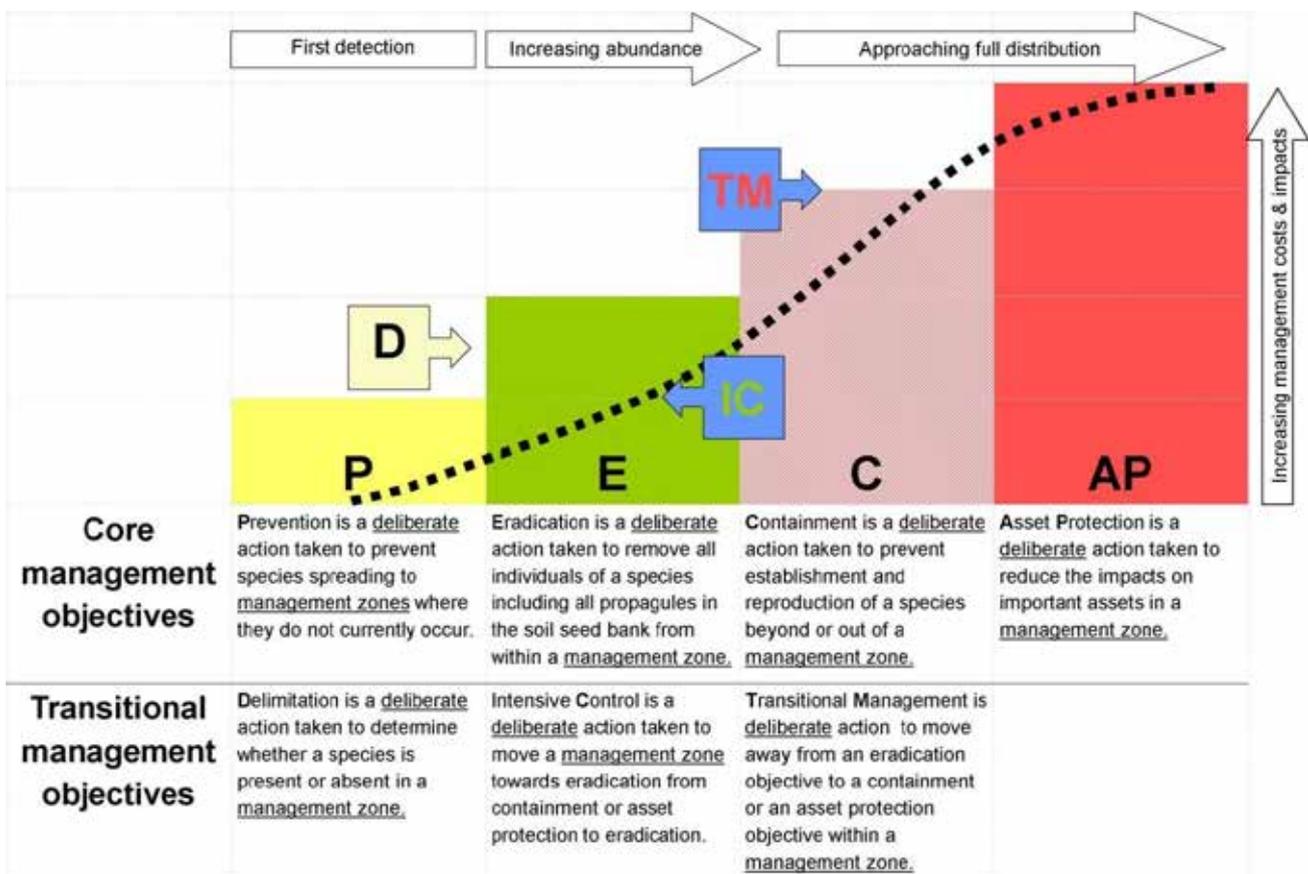
	<p><b>Cabomba</b> <i>(Cabomba caroliniana)</i></p>	<p>Cairns, Cassowary Coast</p>	<p>Aquariums, Boats, fishing gear, water</p>
	<p><b>Stevia</b> <i>(Stevia ovata)</i></p>	<p>Tablelands</p>	<p>Machinery, wind, water</p>
	<p><b>Hygrophila</b> <i>(Hygrophila costata)</i></p>	<p>Cairns, Cassowary Coast, Hinchinbrook</p>	<p>Aquariums, water</p>
	<p><b>Water mimosa</b> <i>(Neptunia)</i></p>	<p>Cairns</p>	<p>Food gardens, water</p>
	<p><b>Madras thorn</b> <i>(Pithecellobium dulce)</i></p>	<p>Cairns</p>	<p>Ornamental gardens</p>
	<p><b>Aleman grass</b> <i>(Echinochloa polystachya)</i></p>	<p>Cassowary Coast, Hinchinbrook</p>	<p>Grazing, stolons (cuttings)</p>

	<p><b>Yellow Crazy Ants</b> <i>(Anoplolepis gracilipes)</i></p>	<p>Cairns, Mareeba</p>	<p>Building / garden materials, machinery</p>
	<p><b>Cha-om species</b> <i>(Senegalia insuavis)</i></p>	<p>Cairns, Cassowary Coast, Mareeba, Cook</p>	<p>Edible gardens</p>
	<p><b>Cactus Species</b> <i>(Opuntioidei cacti)</i></p>	<p>Cairns, Cassowary Coast, Mareeba</p>	<p>Ornamental gardens</p>
	<p><b>Amazon Frogbit</b> <i>(limnobium laevigatum)</i></p>	<p>Cairns, Tablelands, Mareeba</p>	<p>Aquariums, water</p>

### Management objectives

The action plans use catchment-based management zones to identify the location-specific management actions required for each priority pest plant and animal. The management zones are based on the pest management concept of the ‘invasion curve’. The invasion curve describes how as a biosecurity issue becomes more abundant over time the management options and strategies available to manage it or its impacts also change. At each stage of the curve, as the area occupied by the pest or weed increases, the implied impact and required resources to respond also increase.

The key message is that prevention and early intervention are the most cost-effective (proactive) actions we can take. When these actions are not successful, we need to carefully consider the most strategic (reactive) management approaches to ensure local impacts and potential spread to new areas is reduced.



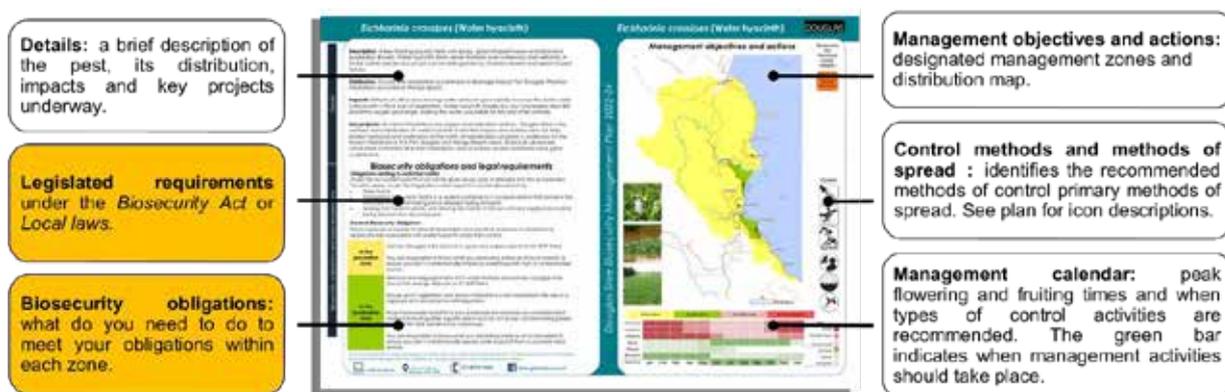
The invasion curve concept describes the management objectives in each of the management zones in the biosecurity action plan.

## Action Plans for Control of Priority Plant Pest and Animal Species

Action plans have been developed for priority weeds and pest animals which occur in the Douglas Shire Council region. The action plans detail specific requirements and strategies for management in addition to what is required of all people under the general biosecurity obligation. The action plans outline management objectives based on established principles of pest management and are designed to assist all stakeholders to:

- Understand the biology and distribution of priority pest plant and animals.
- Understand biosecurity obligations and legal requirements.
- Plan and coordinate pest management activities with neighbouring properties by targeting common management objectives and goals within relevant geographic areas.

There are often a variety of methods to control pests and ways by which each pest species can be spread. These are summarised in icons on each action plan and are detailed below.



*Outline of the material contained within biosecurity action plans for priority species*

## Key Methods of Controlling Biosecurity Matter

There are numerous methods to control pests and ways by which each pest species can be spread.

Key to control methods		
	<b>Frill or stem injection</b>	Herbicide can be applied to woody weeds and trees via cuts or frills made close to the ground around the trunk or stem. This approach is best used when it is ok to leave the dead plant standing.
	<b>Basal bark</b>	Herbicide can be applied to woody weeds or vines with a low-pressure spray (which usually includes diesel or synthetic oil) to the lower stem. This method is not suited to use near or in water ways.
	<b>Cut stump</b>	Many vines, trees and woody weeds can be controlled by applying herbicide to the freshly cut stem. The application is made quickly with a dabber or spray before the plants vascular tissue closes over.
	<b>Chop or grub</b>	Many weeds can be selectively managed manually by grubbing or chopping. This approach is useful for reducing the competition from weeds while native vegetation or desirable plants re-establish.
	<b>Drill/stem injection</b>	Herbicide can be applied as a measured dose into evenly spaced, downward-facing holes drilled near the base of each stem. Cordless or petrol- powered drills are usually used due to their portability.
	<b>Best practice grazing</b>	Carefully managing stocking rates will keep healthy groundcover which provides competition for many weeds. Grazing can also be used in some situations to knock weeds down prior to control.
	<b>Hand removal</b>	Many weeds can be removed manually, particularly when they are at a seedling stage. Hand weeding is very selective and can be used where as little as possible disturbance is required.
	<b>Foliar spray</b>	Most weeds can be controlled at various life stages by applying herbicide via a spray. Sprays applicators can be low or high pressure and are suited to covering larger areas or dense infestations.
	<b>Biocontrol</b>	The release of carefully selected natural pests or diseases of plants and animals can control them, or to interrupt their reproduction. Biocontrol is most effective when integrated with other control tools.
	<b>Slashing</b>	Slashing can often be used to reduce the growth or reproduction of many weeds and is particularly useful before other control actions. Timing is critical in order to prevent the spread of seeds or fragments.
	<b>Mechanical removal</b>	Large scale infestations may require mechanical removal or control. Machinery can also be used to clean up after control activities but will usually require follow-up to control and prevention work.
	<b>Fire</b>	A well planned and timed fire can be a very effective management tool which can reduce or stimulate dormant seeds or control living plants. It is most suited to fire adapted vegetation types.

	<b>Exclusion fencing</b>	There are a wide range of fencing materials and designs to protect domestic and agricultural assets. Fencing can also be used manage grazing pressure or access to reduce weed or disease spread.
	<b>Pesticide</b>	Pesticides are used in certain situations to control anything from ants to wild dogs. There are strict usage and permitting requirements for many pesticides. They can be an effective tool over large areas.
	<b>Trapping</b>	Trapping is widely used for feral pigs but can also be used to control wild dogs, feral cats and feral deer. Trapping is labour intensive but can very target specific when conducted using best practice tools.
	<b>Shooting</b>	Shooting or hunting is sometimes used to control individual animals. It is less usually less effective and even disruptive to other control strategies, but is a useful tool to supplement trapping and baiting.

## Modes of Spread for Biosecurity Matter

Key to modes spread		
	<b>Droppings</b>	Many plants have evolved to use animals to spread seeds by producing a tasty fruit. Seeds are eaten along with the flesh of the fruit and can be dispersed in droppings up to kilometres away.
	<b>Illegal dumping</b>	Deliberate or accidental spread of many plants can occur when green waste is not disposed of responsibly. Areas of bushland, creeks and farmland often suffer impacts from dumped garden plants.
	<b>Machinery and vehicles</b>	Slashers and earthworks equipment are most commonly blamed, for moving pests, but cars, 4wds, motorcycles, boats and caravans are all capable of moving pest plants and animals great distances.
	<b>People and animals</b>	Some plants have seeds adapted to stick to and hitch a ride on passing animals and can move long distances attached to animals fur or peoples clothing.
	<b>Stock, raw materials &amp; produce</b>	Raw materials and produce including hay, animal feed, seed mixes and even livestock can contain or carry weed seed or other biosecurity risks like invasive ants, pathogens or diseases.
	<b>Vegetative</b>	Many plants can spread from cuttings, stem or root fragments. For some species this is their primary means of reproduction but for others it is in addition to producing seeds or spores.
	<b>Water</b>	Many aquatic plants rely entirely on water to spread their seeds. Others have seeds or fragments which can float for long distances and move during regular flows or on flood events.
	<b>Wind</b>	Many plants have seeds which are lightweight with attachments to help them glide or float on the air or in the wind. The lightweight seeds can also get caught on vehicles and clothing.

# Andropogon gayanus (Gamba grass)

**Description** A robust, upright perennial grass that grows to 4m with distinctive plumed seed heads. Gamba grass forms thick and strong tussocks that remain upright even when fully cured in the dry season.

**Distribution** Gamba grass is currently restricted to isolated occurrences in the Finlayvale, Santacatterina and Killaloe area.

**Impacts** Gamba grass was planted as tropical pasture but has escaped from intensively managed grazing systems. It outcompetes native pastures and fuels intense fires. Late season gamba grass fires are very difficult to manage and pose a significant threat to life and property.

**Key projects:** A monitoring and control program is in place on to eradicate gamba grass from all known sites within the Douglas Shire.

## Biosecurity obligations and legal requirements

### Obligations relating to restricted matter

Under the Act gamba grass must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment. Penalties apply.

Under the Regulation gamba grass may be disposed of by:

- Deep burial,
- Transporting to a waste facility securely (contact DSC 07 4099 9444),
- Sealing the matter in plastic and leaving the matter in the sun until any vegetative material being disposed has decomposed.

### General Biosecurity Obligation

The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with gamba grass under their control.

Contact DSC to report any suspect plants on 07 4099 9444.

#### In the prevention zone

Wherever practical ensure agricultural and raw materials are sourced from a reliable supplier and are from a gamba free area.

If introducing new stock spell in a holding paddock for at least 7 days before releasing into property.

Contact DSC to report any suspect plants on 07 4099 9444.

You are required to control all identified gamba grass plants on your property.

Do not disturb or remove soil and plant material from a known infestation location, even if no plants are visible.

You are responsible for ensuring machinery and vehicles avoid known infestation areas or undertake appropriate wash down prior to leaving site.

Do not sell, cart, introduce or transport contaminated hay, silage or livestock.

If introducing new stock spell in a holding paddock for at least 7 days before releasing into property.

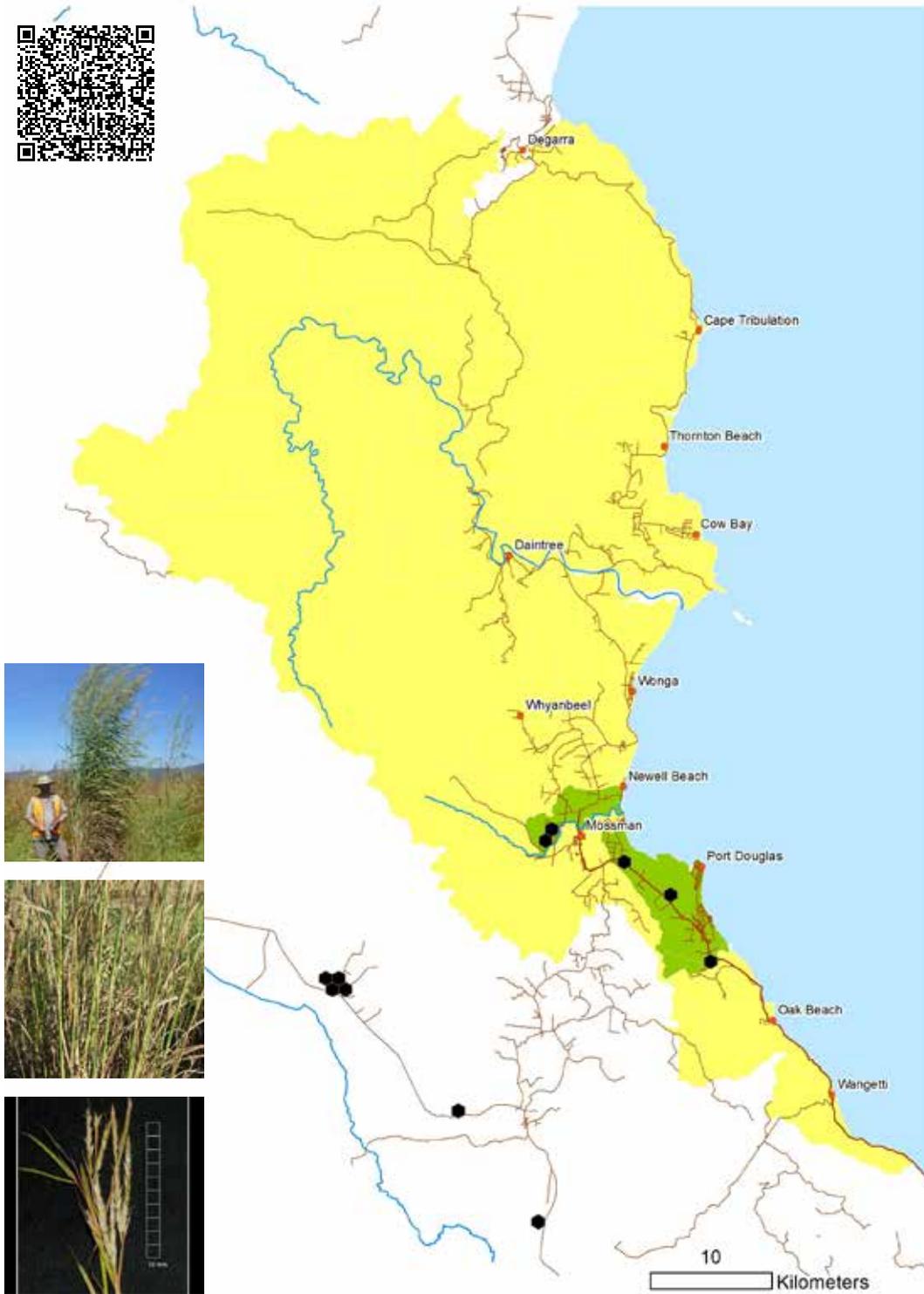
For more information on using this biosecurity action plan fact sheet, and further information on control tools, refer to the Douglas Shire Biosecurity Management Plan available at [douglas.qld.gov.au](http://douglas.qld.gov.au) and customer service centres.



# Andropogon gayanus (Gamba grass)

Douglas Shire Biosecurity Management Plan 2022-26

## Management objectives and actions



Biosecurity Act Restricted matter category

**3**  
Do not distribute

Control



Spread



	Prevention	Eradication	Containment	Asset protection								
Flowering												
Seeding												
Spray												
Slash												
Burn												
Graze												
Best time	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Key

- Peak ●
- First/last flush ●
- Occasional ●
- Optimal ●
- Good ●
- Marginal ●

# Annona glabra (Pond Apple)

**Description:** Pond apple is a tall semi-deciduous shrub or tree reaching around 15m but usually 3-6 m. Pond apple is most likely to occur in wetlands and along waterways, but it may occur along beaches as well. Leaves are lighter below than above and have a green apple scent when crushed. The Large fruit is similar to a custard apple and are filled with floating seeds similar in size and shape to a pumpkin seed.

**Distribution:** Core infestations occur in the Daintree River and Baileys Creek areas. Outlier infestations occur in the Mossman River, Port Douglas and have been detected as far north as Cowie Beach. Seeds can float on river and ocean currents.

**Impacts:** Pond apple is a highly invasive tree/shrub that can colonise and take over a wide range of wetland habitats. It forms dense thickets that exclude most native ground and shrub layer plants and prevents regeneration of trees.

**Key projects:** The upper Daintree River and Mossman River are the target of top-down management to remove upstream sources above tidal areas. Occasional plants occur in the Port Douglas and Four Mile Beach and are removed when detected.

## Biosecurity obligations and legal requirements

### Obligations relating to restricted matter

Under the Act pond apple must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment. Penalties apply.

Under the Regulation pond apple may be disposed of by:

- Deep burial,
- Transporting to a waste facility securely (contact DSC 40999444),
- Sealing the matter in plastic and leaving the matter in the sun until any vegetative material being disposed has decomposed.

### General Biosecurity Obligation

The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with pond apple under their control.

#### In the prevention zone

Contact DSC to report any suspect plants on 07 4099 9444.

#### In the eradication zone

Contact DSC to report any suspect plants on 07 4099 9444.

Landowner's or occupiers can assist DSC by maintaining easy access to infestations and by assisting with control activities.

You are required to control all identified pond apple plants on your property where practical to do so.

#### In the asset protection zone

Landowner's or occupiers can assist DSC by maintaining easy access to infestations and by assisting with control activities.

Manage risk of spread from your property and protect priority assets using best practice methods to control infestations where practical to do so.

You are responsible to ensure materials or products leaving your property are free from pond apple seed or plant material.

For more information on using this biosecurity action plan fact sheet, and further information on control tools, refer to the Douglas Shire Biosecurity Management Plan available at [douglas.qld.gov.au](http://douglas.qld.gov.au) and customer service centres.



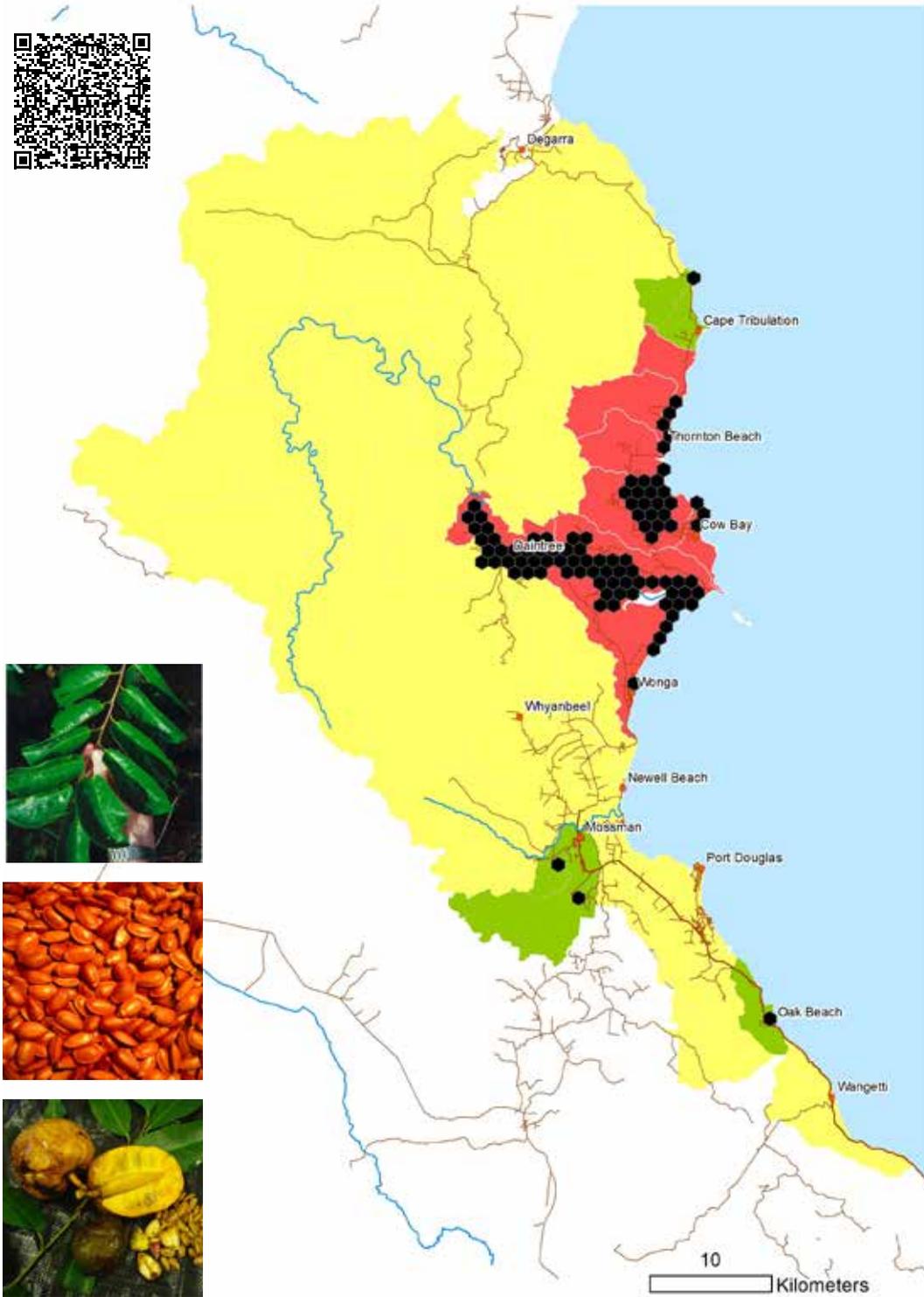
# Annona glabra (Pond Apple)

## Management objectives and actions



Biosecurity Act  
Restricted matter category

**3**  
Do not distribute



Control



Spread



	Prevention	Eradication	Containment	Asset protection								
Flower	Occasional			Peak								
Seed	Peak	Occasional		Peak								
Spray		Optimal	Optimal	Optimal								
Mechanical		Optimal	Optimal	Optimal								
Manual	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal								
Burn		Optimal	Optimal	Optimal								
Best time	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

**Key**  
 Peak ●  
 First/last flush ●  
 Occasional ●  
 Optimal ●  
 Good ●  
 Marginal ●

# Cecropia spp. (Mexican bean tree)

**Description:** A rapidly growing tree to 20m with hollow stems and large deeply lobed leaves with flocked white undersides. There are distinctive leaf scars on the trunk. The female plant produces long finger-like flower spikes.

**Distribution:** Cecropia is restricted to an isolated outbreak in the Whyanbeel Valley where it was introduced as a garden specimen.

**Impacts:** A rapid growing rainforest pioneer which can invade and dominate rainforests and urban gardens. Cecropia is spread by birds and bats and so can be moved long distances into adjoining landscapes and forests.

**Key projects:** All known locations are the target of a regional eradication program led by Biosecurity Queensland. All suspected sightings of this plant should be reported to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

## Biosecurity obligations and legal requirements

### Obligations relating to restricted matter

Under the Act all sightings of Mexican bean tree must be reported, in addition it must not be kept, moved, given away, sold, or released into the environment.

### General Biosecurity Obligation

The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with Mexican bean tree under their control.

#### In the prevention zone

All suspected sightings of this plant should be reported to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

You are responsible to know what you are buying online or at local markets to ensure you don't unintentionally introduce Mexican bean tree from a contaminated source.

#### In the eradication zone

All suspected sightings of this plant should be reported to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

Landowner's or occupiers can assist BQ & DSC by maintaining easy access to infestations and by assisting with control activities.

Undertake regular checks for recruitment along rainforest margins.

You are required to control all identified Cecropia plants on your property.

You are responsible to ensure materials or products leaving your property are free from Cecropia seed or plant material.

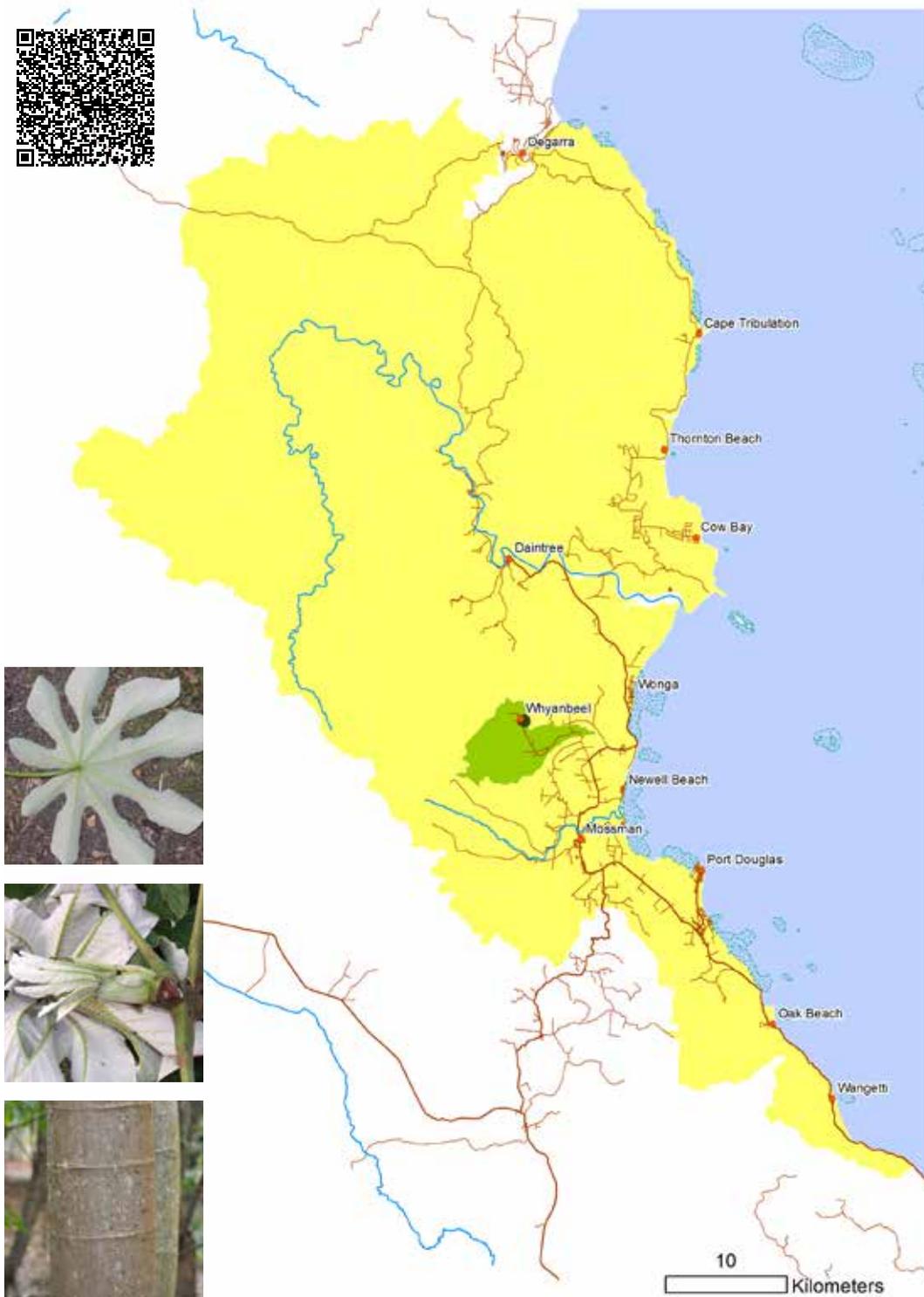
You are responsible for ensuring machinery and vehicles avoid known infestation areas or undertake appropriate wash down prior to leaving site.

For more information on using this biosecurity action plan fact sheet, and further information on control tools, refer to the Douglas Shire Biosecurity Management Plan available at [douglas.qld.gov.au](http://douglas.qld.gov.au) and customer service centres.



# Cecropia spp. (Mexican bean tree)

## Management objectives and actions



Biosecurity Act Restricted matter category

**2**  
Must be reported

**3**  
Do not distribute

**4**  
Do not move

**5**  
Do not keep

Control



Spread



Flowering												
Seeding												
Spray												
Manual												
Cut stump												
Best time	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Key

- Peak ●
- First/last flush ●
- Occasional ●
- Optimal ●
- Good ●
- Marginal ●

# Chromolaena odorata (Siam weed)

**Description:** A scrambling woody shrub to 3 metres (sometimes higher as a scrambling climber) with distinctive forked leaf venation and purple flush on new leaves. Siam produces clusters of mauve-white flowers in May-June and October.

**Distribution:** Localised and occasional in the Killaloe and Mossman area.

**Impacts:** Siam weed can form dense thickets and outcompete native species and pasture in both disturbed and undisturbed sites.

**Key projects:** Siam weed remains a long-term management target in the Douglas Shire area. For larger infestations Douglas Shire Council will work with landholders to develop a property biosecurity plan.

## Biosecurity obligations and legal requirements

### Obligations relating to restricted matter

- Under the Act Siam weed must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment. Penalties apply.

Under the Regulation Siam weed may be disposed of by:

- Deep burial,
- Transporting to a waste facility securely (contact DSC 07 4099 9444),
- Sealing the matter in plastic and leaving the matter in the sun until any vegetative material being disposed has decomposed.

### General Biosecurity Obligation

The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with Siam weed under their control.

#### In the prevention zone

Contact DSC to report any suspect plants on 07 4099 9444.

When practical ensure agricultural and raw materials are sourced from a reliable supplier and from a Siam weed free area.

#### In the containment zone

Undertake control works on known infestations in April prior to peak flowering period in May-June.

Follow up control works during May-June to ensure any missed plants are controlled before they can produce seed.

Do not disturb or remove soil and plant material from a known infestation location, even if no plants are visible.

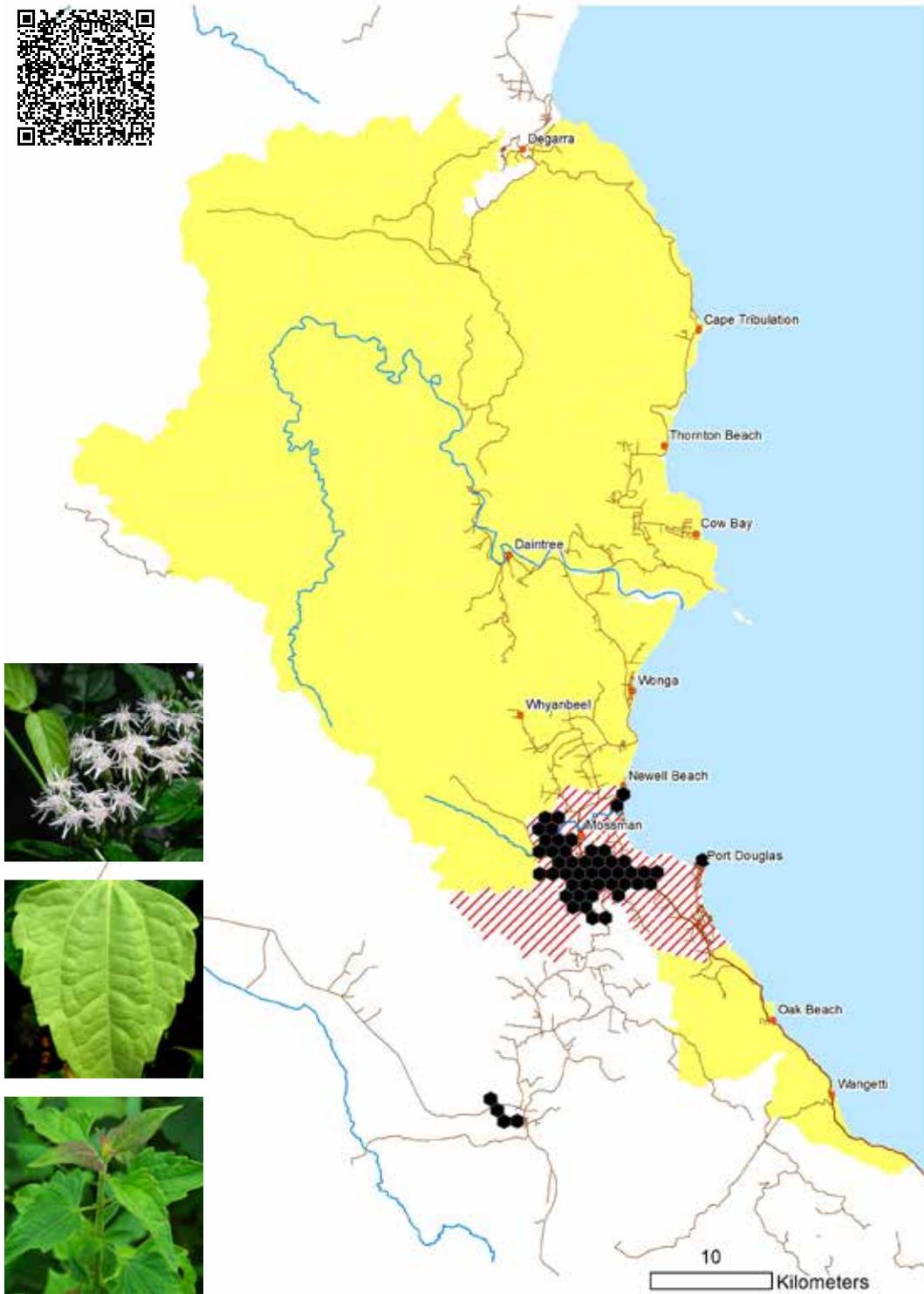
You are responsible for ensuring machinery and vehicles avoid known infestation areas or are appropriately washed down prior to leaving your property.

For more information on using this biosecurity action plan fact sheet, and further information on control tools, refer to the Douglas Shire Biosecurity Management Plan available at [douglas.qld.gov.au](http://douglas.qld.gov.au) and customer service centres.



# Chromolaena odorata (Siam weed)

## Management objectives and actions



Biosecurity Act  
Restricted matter category

**3**  
Do not distribute

Control



Spread



**Prevention**      **Eradication**      **Containment**      **Asset protection**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Flowering				Occasional								
Seeding				Occasional								
Spray	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal
Burn				Optimal								
Hand pull	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal
Cut stump	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal
Best time				Good								

**Key**  
 Peak ●  
 First/last flush ●  
 Occasional ●  
 Optimal ●  
 Good ●  
 Marginal ●

# Coccinia grandis (Ivy gourd)

**Description:** A perennial and fast-growing vine up to and over 10 metres tall. Heart to pentagon shaped leaves grow on slender stems which become thicker and succulent with age. White star shaped flowers in August/September. Produces red fruits to 6 cm long. Ivy gourd has a tuberous root system which can make control efforts difficult.

**Distribution:** Current incursions occur in isolated occurrences in the Mossman catchment and Newell Beach.

**Impacts:** Ivy gourd is a smothering vine which covers other vegetation forming a dense canopy. Ivy gourd was most likely introduced as culinary or medical plant and so is likely to have established in forest margins, creek lines and other areas adjoining towns and gardens. Seeds are spread by pigs and birds.

**Key projects:** All known infestations are surveyed and treated annually. Bi-annual surveys are conducted to monitor known locations and to treat any regrowth or germination of seed.

## Biosecurity obligations and legal requirements

### Obligations relating to local laws

Ivy gourd is a locally declared plant under Douglas Shire Council Local Laws. It is an offence under Local Law to distribute or propagate. Penalties apply .

### General Biosecurity Obligation

The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with ivy gourd under their control.

#### In the prevention zone

Contact DSC to report any suspect plants on 07 4099 9444.

Wherever practical ensure raw materials are sourced from a reliable supplier and are from an ivy gourd free area.

#### In the eradication zone

Contact DSC to report any suspect plants on 07 4099 9444.

Manage risk of spread from your property and protect priority assets using best practice methods to control infestations where practical to do so.

You are responsible to ensure materials or products leaving your property are free from ivy gourd seed or plant material.

Landowner's or occupiers can assist DSC by maintaining easy access to infestations and by assisting with control activities.

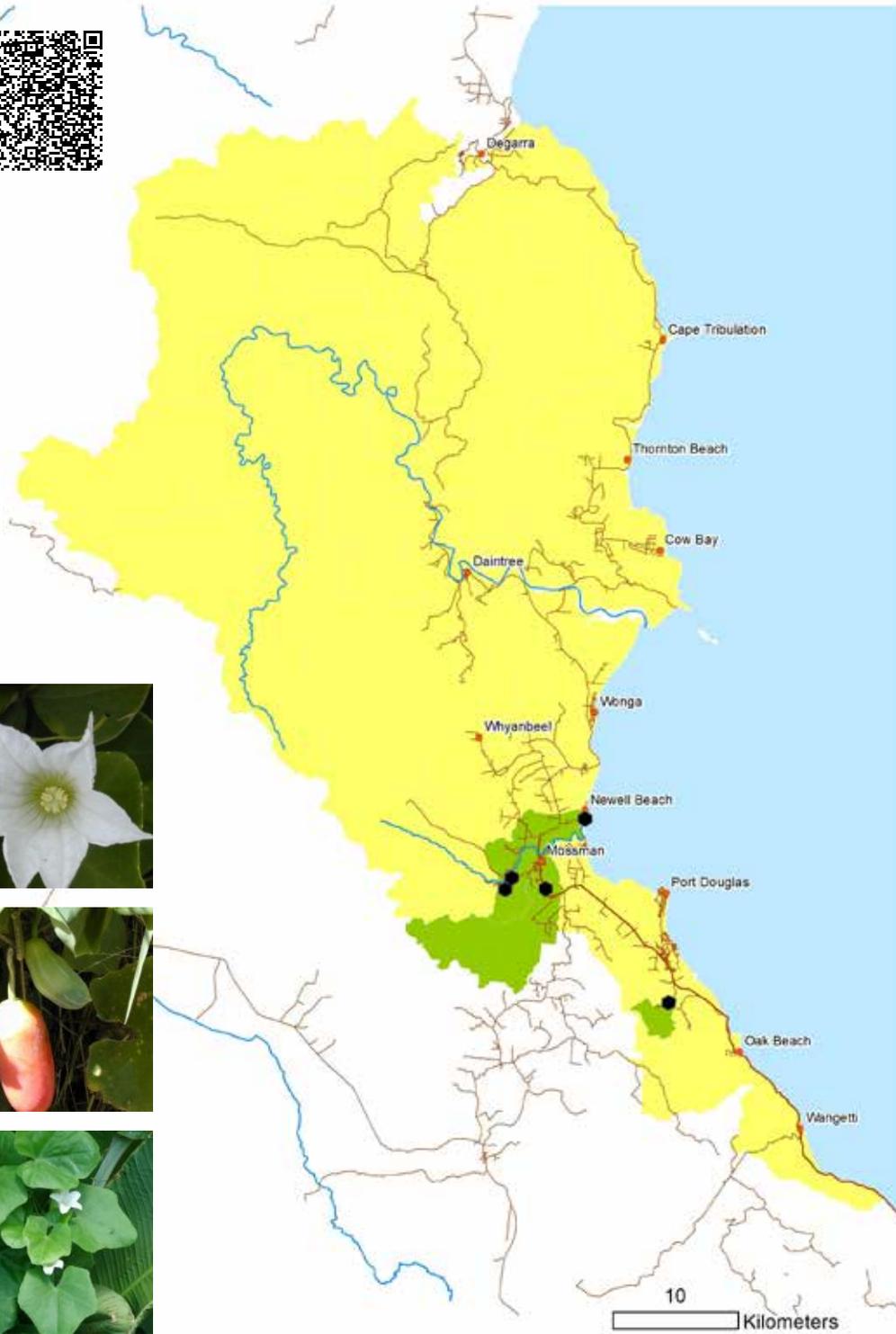
If your property has an active infestation, make sure your green waste does not contain ivy gourd and is disposed of responsibly.

For more information on using this biosecurity action plan fact sheet, and further information on control tools, refer to the Douglas Shire Biosecurity Management Plan available at [douglas.qld.gov.au](http://douglas.qld.gov.au) and customer service centres.



# Coccinia grandis (Ivy gourd)

## Management objectives and actions



Local laws apply

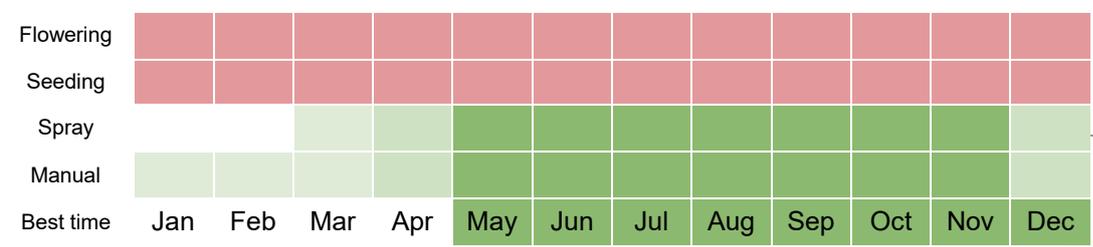
Must not propagate

Must not sell or supply

Control



Spread



**Key**

- Peak (Dark Red Circle)
- First/last flush (Light Red Circle)
- Occasional (Pink Circle)
- Optimal (Dark Green Circle)
- Good (Light Green Circle)
- Marginal (Very Light Green Circle)

# Eichhornia crassipes (Water hyacinth)

**Description:** A free floating aquatic herb with glossy, spoon shaped leaves and distinctive purple/lilac flowers. Water hyacinth forms dense blankets over waterways and wetlands. A similar native species occurs but can be distinguished by its yellow flowers and spear-shaped leaves.

**Distribution:** Occurs only as isolated occurrences in drainage lines at Port Douglas. Previous infestations occurred at Wonga Beach.

**Impacts:** It floats on still or slow-moving water and can grow rapidly to cover the entire water surface with a thick mat of vegetation. Water hyacinth shades out any submerged plant life and limits oxygen exchange, making the water unsuitable for fish and other animals.

**Key projects:** All known infestations are subject to eradication actions. Douglas Shire is the northern most distribution of water hyacinth in the Wet Tropics and actions here will help protect wetlands and waterways to the north. An eradication program is underway on the known infestations in the Port Douglas and Wonga Beach areas. Bi-annual surveys are conducted to monitor all known infestations and to ensure no new outbreaks have gone undetected.

## Biosecurity obligations and legal requirements

### Obligations relating to restricted matter

- Under the Act water hyacinth must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment. Penalties apply.

Under the Regulation water hyacinth may be disposed of by:

- Deep burial,
- Transporting to a waste facility securely (contact DSC 07 4099 9444),
- Sealing the matter in plastic and leaving the matter in the sun until any vegetative material being disposed has decomposed.

### General Biosecurity Obligation

The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with water hyacinth under their control.

Contact DSC to report any suspect plants on 07 4099 9444.

#### In the prevention zone

You are responsible to know what you are buying online or at local markets to ensure you don't unintentionally introduce water hyacinth from a contaminated source.

Be responsible and do not dump garden pond or fish tank contents into waterways.

Remove and bag specimens from water features and contact Douglas Shire Council to arrange disposal on 07 4099 9444.

#### In the eradication zone

Ensure soil or vegetation from known infestations is not moved from the site unless it is disposed of in accordance with the regulation.

If you have water hyacinth in your possession do not share contaminated material including aquatic plants and do not dump garden pond or fish tank contents into waterways.

You are responsible to know what you are selling online or at local markets to ensure you don't unintentionally spread water hyacinth.

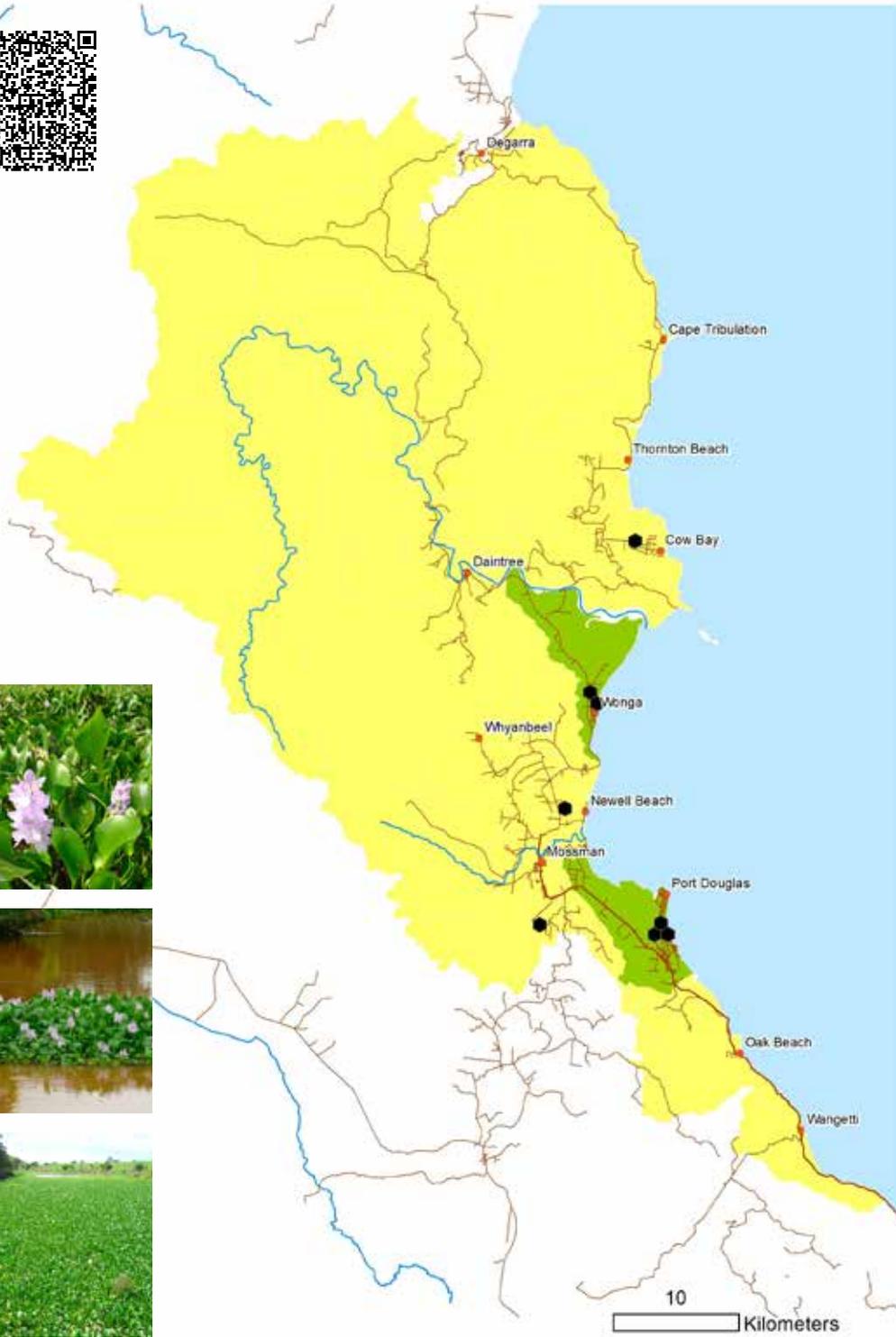
For more information on using this biosecurity action plan fact sheet, and further information on control tools, refer to the Douglas Shire Biosecurity Management Plan available at [douglas.qld.gov.au](http://douglas.qld.gov.au) and customer service centres.



# Eichhornia crassipes (Water hyacinth)

Douglas Shire Biosecurity Management Plan 2022-26

## Management objectives and actions



Biosecurity Act Restricted matter category

**3**  
Do not distribute

Control



Spread



	Prevention			Eradication			Containment			Asset protection		
Flowering												
Vegetative												
Seeding												
Spray												
Manual												
Biocontrol												
Best time	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Key

- Peak
- First/last flush
- Occasional
- Optimal
- Good
- Marginal

# Elephantopus mollis (Tobacco weed)

**Description:** Tobacco weed is a slender fast-growing herb up to 1.5m with rough/hairy oblong/oval leaves bunching at the base. Small white flowers surrounded by three bracts are held in clusters at the end of upright stems. Leaves and stems are resinous and can irritate the skin. Tobacco weed may flower and seed any time of year but generally occurs in May after the wet season

**Distribution:** Widespread in coastal districts particularly along roadsides, pastures and areas of disturbance.

**Impacts:** Tobacco weed can rapidly occupy disturbed and heavily grazed areas. Dense masses of seedlings smother grass. Tobacco weed prefers forest margins and road verges and can be highly competitive in production areas.

**Key projects:** Annual treatments are conducted along roadsides to reduce to spread.

## Biosecurity obligations and legal requirements

### Obligations relating to restricted matter

- Under the Act tobacco weed must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment. Penalties apply.
- Under the Regulation tobacco weed may be disposed of by:
  - Deep burial,
  - Transporting to a waste facility securely (contact DSC 07 4099 9444),
  - Sealing the matter in plastic and leaving the matter in the sun until any vegetative material being disposed has decomposed.

### General Biosecurity Obligation

The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with tobacco weed under their control.

#### In the prevention zone

Contact DSC to report any suspect plants on 07 4099 9444.

Wherever practical ensure agricultural and raw materials are sourced from a reliable supplier and are from a Tobacco weed free area.

#### In the asset protection zone

Spell any stock in a holding paddock for at least 7 days before moving from known infestation areas.

Property tracks/roads and boundaries should be treated annually to prevent spread to adjoining paddocks and properties.

Manage risk of spread from your property and protect priority assets using best practice methods to control infestations where practical to do so.

You are responsible to ensure materials or products leaving your property are free from tobacco weed seed or plant material.

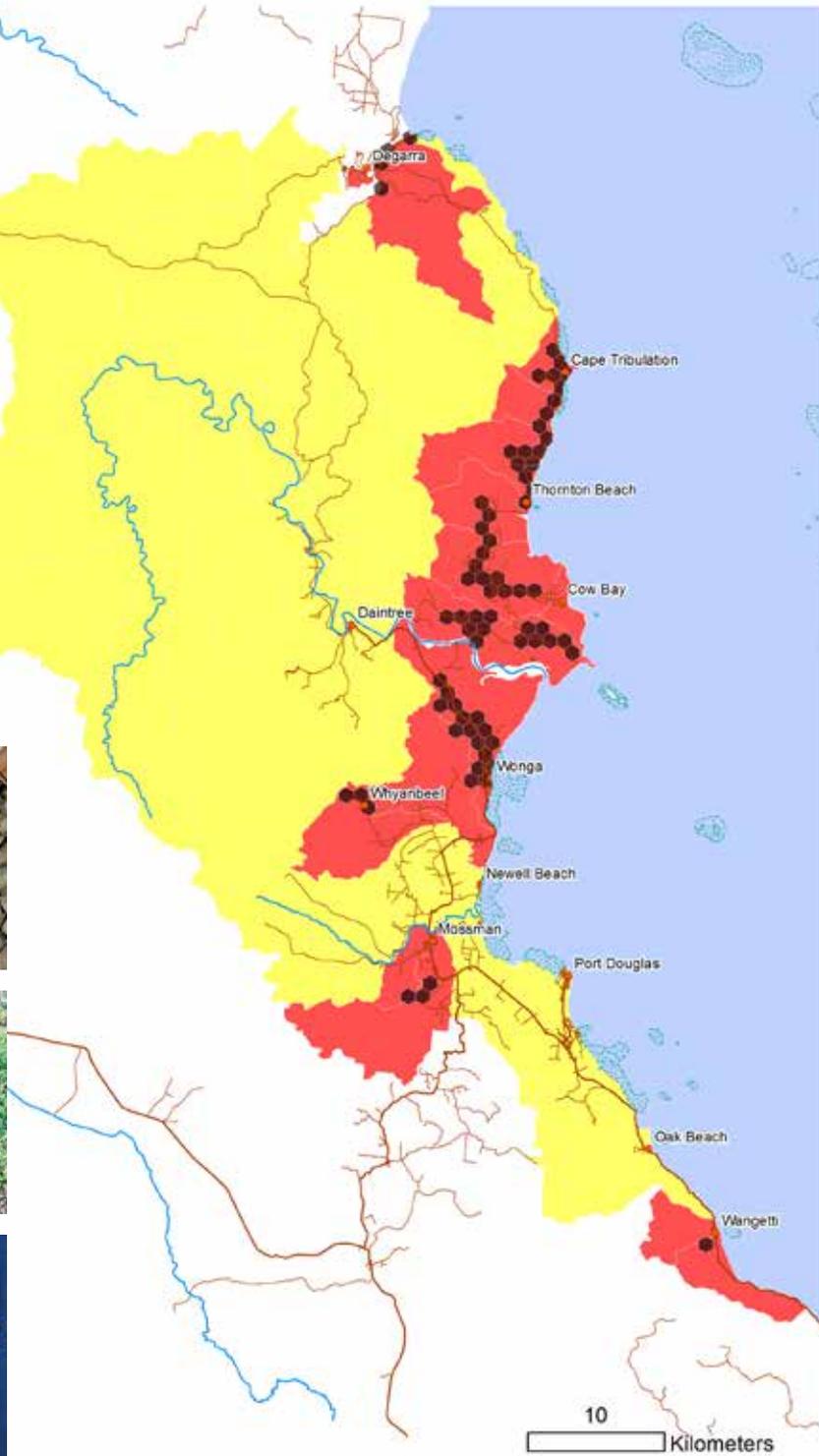
For more information on using this biosecurity action plan fact sheet, and further information on control tools, refer to the Douglas Shire Biosecurity Management Plan available at [douglas.qld.gov.au](http://douglas.qld.gov.au) and customer service centres.



# Elephantopus mollis (Tobacco weed)

Douglas Shire Biosecurity Management Plan 2022-26

## Management objectives and actions



Biosecurity Act Restricted matter category

**3**  
Do not distribute

Control



Spread



Prevention Eradication Containment Asset protection

Flowering												
Seeding												
Spray												
Manual												
Best time	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

**Key**  
 Peak ●  
 First/last flush ●  
 Occasional ●  
 Optimal ●  
 Good ●  
 Marginal ●

# Hiptage benghalensis (Hiptage)

**Description:** A perennial vine growing to the canopy often more than 15m tall. One to three seeds are contained in a helicopter like ('samara') which has 3 papery wings 2-5cm long that float on wind. Flowers are scented and cream coloured generally forming outside of the wet season.

**Distribution:** Only known to occur in the Mossman River catchment within Far North Queensland. The core infestation is located on Butchers Hill in Tara Hills. Outlier infestations occur in the Mossman Gorge and South Mossman River areas.

**Impacts:** Hiptage forms dense vine towers which smother native vegetation along banks of creeks and rivers. It invades rainforests and seasonally dry, lowland closed forests. Hiptage poses a significant threat to Mossman Gorge and the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

**Key projects:** Target of a coordinated eradication program across all known sites. Bi-annual surveys are conducted to monitor all known infestations to ensure no new outbreaks have gone undetected. Aerial surveys are conducted annually to detect flowering plants in the rainforest canopy. Each site is then visited on foot to treat, and the proximity of detected plants is then surveyed for additional plants.

## Biosecurity obligations and legal requirements

### Obligations relating to local laws

Hiptage is a locally declared plant under Douglas Shire Council Local Laws. It is an offence under Local Law to distribute or propagate. Penalties apply .

### General Biosecurity Obligation

The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with hiptage under their control.

#### In the prevention zone

Contact DSC to report any suspect plants on 07 4099 9444.

#### In the eradication zone

Contact DSC to report any suspect plants on 07 4099 9444.

Landowner's or occupiers can assist DSC by maintaining easy access to infestations and by assisting with control activities.

Manage risk of spread from your property and protect priority assets using best practice methods to control infestations.

Or You are required to control all identified pond apple plants on your property where practical to do so.

You are responsible to ensure materials or products leaving your property are free from Hiptage seed or plant material.

You are responsible for ensuring machinery and vehicles avoid known infestation areas or undertake appropriate wash down prior to leaving site.

For more information on using this biosecurity action plan fact sheet, and further information on control tools, refer to the Douglas Shire Biosecurity Management Plan available at [douglas.qld.gov.au](http://douglas.qld.gov.au) and customer service centres.



# Hiptage benghalensis (Hiptage)

## Management objectives and actions



Local laws apply

Must not propagate

Must not sell or supply

Control



Spread



Prevention Eradication Containment Asset protection

Flowering												
Seeding												
Spray												
Cut												
Hand pull												
Best time	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

**Key**

- Peak ●
- First/last flush ●
- Occasional ●
- Optimal ●
- Good ●
- Marginal ●

# Miconia species (Miconia)

**Description:** Small tree (up to 15 m) with large leaves up to 70 cm long. The underside of the leaves is a distinct, deep iridescent purple. Produces clusters of small white flowers followed by red/purple berries. *M. nervosa* has distinctive pointed leaves with prominent veins with a red/maroon hue.

**Distribution:** Current incursions occur in Whyanbeel Valley and Mossman.

**Impacts:** Miconia produces hundreds of small berries every year which are attractive to birds and are spread long distances. It forms dense thickets in rainforest understoreys, potentially replacing native plants and affecting wildlife populations

**Key projects:** A National eradication program is underway on all known infestations. Bi-annual surveys are conducted to monitor all known infestations and to ensure no new outbreaks have gone undetected. Birds can disperse the small seeds out to many hundreds of metres. All Miconia in the Douglas Shire area have been introduced by gardeners and subsequently spread by birds. A community education and awareness program is an important part of the eradication program. Managing risk of spread to new areas through hygiene protocols for impacted nurseries and growers play an important role in prevention. Hygiene protocols are also in place for survey and control operations.

## Biosecurity obligations and legal requirements

### Obligations relating to restricted matter

Under the Act Miconia must not be kept, moved, given away, sold, or released into the environment. All sightings of Miconia must be reported.

### General Biosecurity Obligation

The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with Miconia under their control.

#### In the prevention zone

All persons are required to report plants they think may be Miconia within 24 hours to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

#### In the eradication zone

All persons are required to report plants they think may be Miconia within 24 hours to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

If you have a known infestation on your property, you can assist the survey and control team by maintaining property access points and tracks.

Do not disturb or remove soil and plant material from a known infestation location, even if no plants are visible, until Biosecurity Queensland are consulted on 13 25 23.

You are responsible to ensure materials or products leaving your property are free from Miconia seed or plant material if your property has a known infestation location.

For more information on using this biosecurity action plan fact sheet, and further information on control tools, refer to the Douglas Shire Biosecurity Management Plan available at [douglas.qld.gov.au](http://douglas.qld.gov.au) and customer service centres.



# Miconia species (Miconia)

## Management objectives and actions



*M. nervosa*



Biosecurity Act  
Restricted matter category

- 2** Must be reported
- 3** Do not distribute
- 4** Do not move
- 5** Do not keep

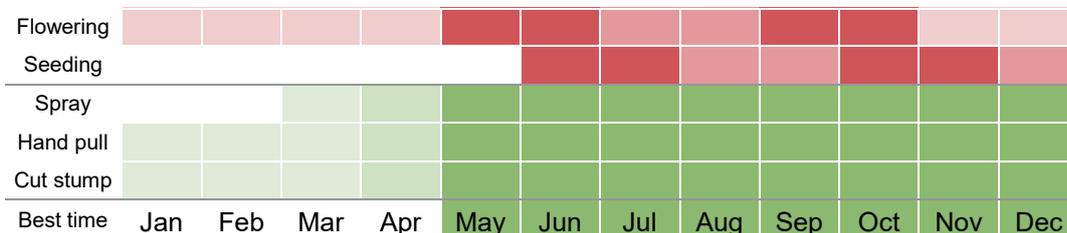
*M. calvenscens*



Control



Spread



- Key**
- Peak ●
  - First/last flush ●
  - Occasional ●
  - Optimal ●
  - Good ●
  - Marginal ●

# Peuaria lobata (Kudzu)

**Description:** A perennial scrambling vine with alternate leaves. The large lobed leaves form in groups of three (like a dinosaur footprint). It produces purple pea like flowers and spreads rapidly when vines come in contact with the ground.

**Distribution:** All currently known infestations occur in the Mossman River catchment. Seed pods can be spread by sticking to clothing and the fur of animals.

**Impacts:** A fast growing vine which has the potential to encroach into thick rainforest and riparian zones smothering native vegetation. It poses a significant threat to agriculture and infrastructure. Can grow to over 30 metres in height smothering vegetation and infrastructure.

**Key projects:** A delimitation survey is in operation which aims to determine the full extent of Kudzu across Douglas Shire.

## Biosecurity obligations and legal requirements

### Obligations relating to restricted matter

Under the Act kudzu must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment. Penalties apply.

- Under the Regulation kudzu may be disposed of by:
- Deep burial,
- Transporting to a waste facility securely (contact DSC 07 4099 9444),

### General Biosecurity Obligation

The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with kudzu under their control.

#### In the prevention zone

Contact DSC to report any suspect plants on 07 4099 9444.

Wherever practical ensure agricultural and raw materials are sourced from a reliable supplier and are from a kudzu free area.

#### In the containment zone

Contact DSC to report any suspect plants on 07 4099 9444.

You are responsible to ensure materials or products leaving your property are free from kudzu seed or plant material.

Landowner's or occupiers can assist DSC by maintaining easy access to infestations and by assisting with control activities.

Do not disturb or remove soil and plant material from a known infestation location, even if no plants are visible.

You are responsible for ensuring machinery and vehicles avoid known infestation areas or undertake appropriate wash down procedures prior to leaving site.

For more information on using this biosecurity action plan fact sheet, and further information on control tools, refer to the Douglas Shire Biosecurity Management Plan available at [douglas.qld.gov.au](http://douglas.qld.gov.au) and customer service centres.



# Peuria lobata (Kudzu)

## Management objectives and actions



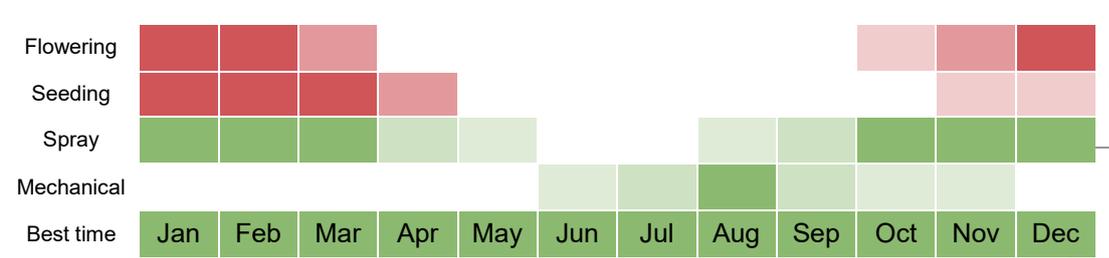
Biosecurity Act Restricted matter category

**3**  
Do not distribute

Control



Spread



**Key**  
 Peak ●  
 First/last flush ●  
 Occasional ●  
 Optimal ●  
 Good ●  
 Marginal ●

# *Pistia stratiotes* (Water lettuce)

**Description:** A free-floating aquatic weed which resembles an open head of lettuce. The leaves are spongy, light green and repel water. Water lettuce develops small green flowers and reproduces from seeds or division.

**Distribution:** Isolated to water features and artificial water ways particularly in Wonga Beach area. It prefers slow moving water bodies with high nutrient levels.

**Impacts:** Water lettuce floats on still or slow-moving water and can grow rapidly to cover the entire water surface. The thick mat of vegetation shades out any submerged plant life and limits oxygen exchange, making the water unsuitable for fish and other animals. It can provide breeding opportunities for mosquitoes.

**Key projects:** A top of catchment down approach is being used to systematically remove water lettuce from the water features and artificial waterways where it occurs in Douglas Shire. Water lettuce can spread on flood water so operations will focus on areas at risk following major weather events.

## Biosecurity obligations and legal requirements

### Obligations relating to restricted matter

Under the Act water lettuce must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment. Penalties apply.

Under the Regulation water lettuce may be disposed of by:

- Deep burial,
- Transporting to a waste facility securely (contact DSC 07 4099 9444),
- Sealing the matter in plastic and leaving the matter in the sun until any vegetative material being disposed has decomposed.

### General Biosecurity Obligation

The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with water lettuce under their control.

Contact DSC to report any suspect plants on 07 4099 9444.

#### In the prevention zone

You are responsible to know what you are buying online or at local markets to ensure you don't unintentionally introduce water lettuce from a contaminated source.

Be responsible and do not dump garden pond or fish tank contents into waterways.

Remove and bag specimens from water features and contact DSC to arrange disposal on 07 4099 9444.

#### In the eradication zone

Ensure soil or vegetation from known infestations is not moved from the site unless it is disposed of in accordance with the regulation.

If you have water lettuce in your possession do not share contaminated material including aquatic plants and do not dump garden pond or fish tank contents into waterways.

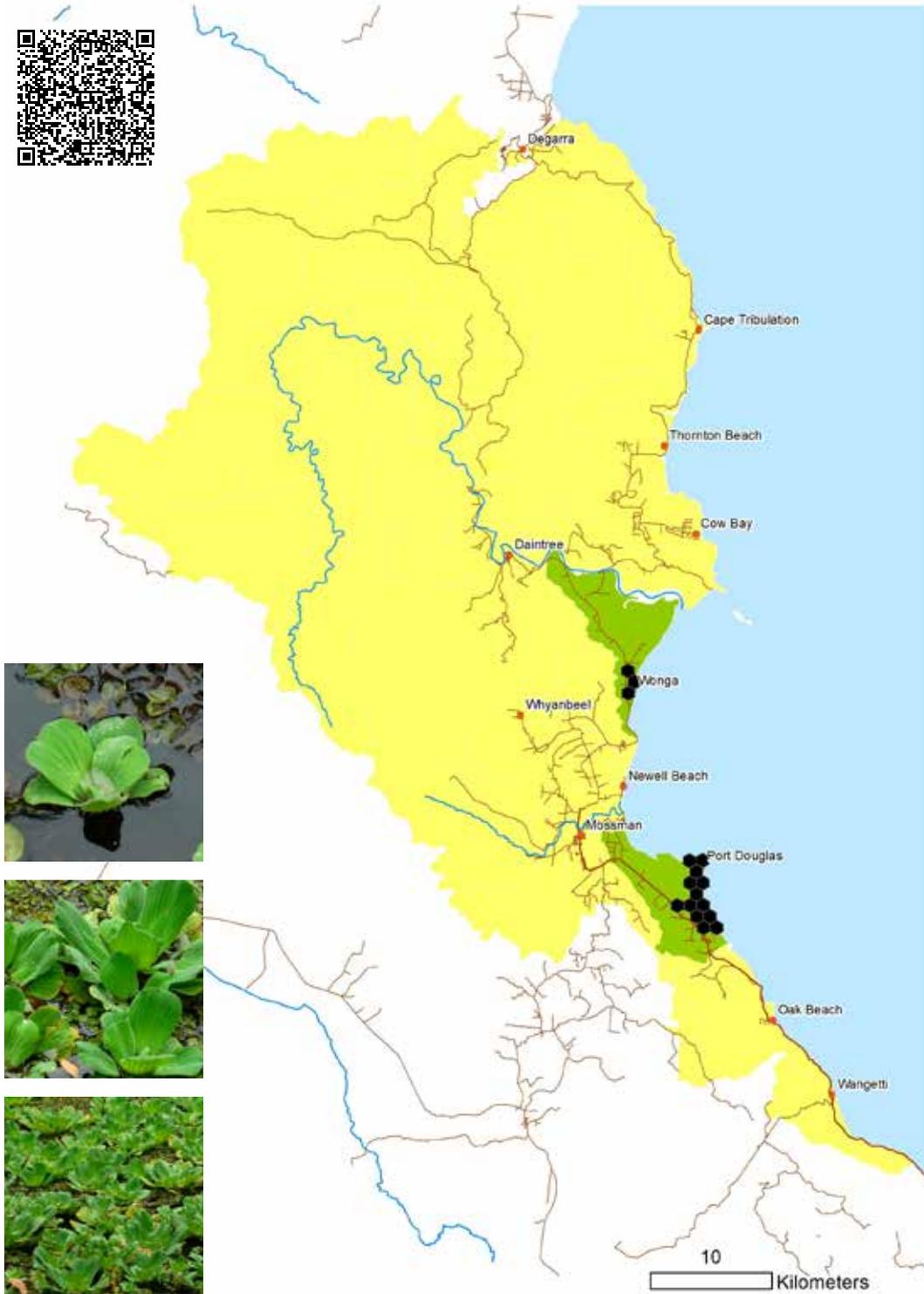
You are responsible to know what you are selling online or at local markets to ensure you don't unintentionally spread water lettuce.

For more information on using this biosecurity action plan fact sheet, and further information on control tools, refer to the Douglas Shire Biosecurity Management Plan available at [douglas.qld.gov.au](http://douglas.qld.gov.au) and customer service centres.



# Pistia stratiotes (Water lettuce)

## Management objectives and actions



Biosecurity Act Restricted matter category

**3**  
Do not distribute

Control



Spread



Flowering	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Vegetative	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Seeding	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Spray	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Manual	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Best time	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Key

- Peak
- First/last flush
- Occasional
- Optimal
- Good
- Marginal

# Salvinia molesta (Salvinia)

**Description:** A floating fern with small, coarsely hairy oval leaves which repel water. As the plant matures it turns from bright green to brown and bunches up into tight rafts. Salvinia reproduces by rapidly dividing into smaller plants.

**Distribution:** Salvinia is widespread and occasional in disturbed creek systems in Port Douglas and Wonga Beach. It is commonly detected in water features, garden ponds, and aquariums.

**Impacts:** Salvinia floats on still or slow-moving water and can grow rapidly to cover the entire water surface with a thick mat of vegetation. The thick mat of vegetation shades out any submerged plant life and limits oxygen exchange, making the water unsuitable for fish and other animals.

**Key projects:** Long-term management projects and taking place in Wonga Beach and Ferndale Wetlands reserve. A top of catchment down approach is being used to systematically remove Salvinia from the water features and artificial waterways where it occurs in Douglas Shire. Salvinia can spread on flood water so operations will focus on areas at risk following major weather events.

## Biosecurity obligations and legal requirements

### Obligations relating to restricted matter

Under the Act Salvinia must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment. Penalties apply.

Under the Regulation water lettuce may be disposed of by:

- Deep burial,
- Transporting to a waste facility securely (contact DSC 07 4099 9444),
- Sealing the matter in plastic and leaving the matter in the sun until any vegetative material being disposed has decomposed.

### General Biosecurity Obligation

The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with Salvinia under their control.

Contact DSC to report any suspect plants on 07 4099 9444.

#### In the prevention zone

You are responsible to know what you are buying online or at local markets to ensure you don't unintentionally introduce Salvinia from a contaminated source.

Be responsible and do not dump garden pond or fish tank contents into waterways.

Remove and bag specimens from water features and contact DSC to arrange disposal on 40999444.

Ensure soil or vegetation from known infestations is not moved from the site unless it is disposed of in accordance with the regulation.

#### In the eradication zone

If you have Salvinia in your possession do not share contaminated material including aquatic plants and do not dump garden pond or fish tank contents into waterways.

You are responsible to know what you are selling online or at local markets to ensure you don't unintentionally spread Salvinia.

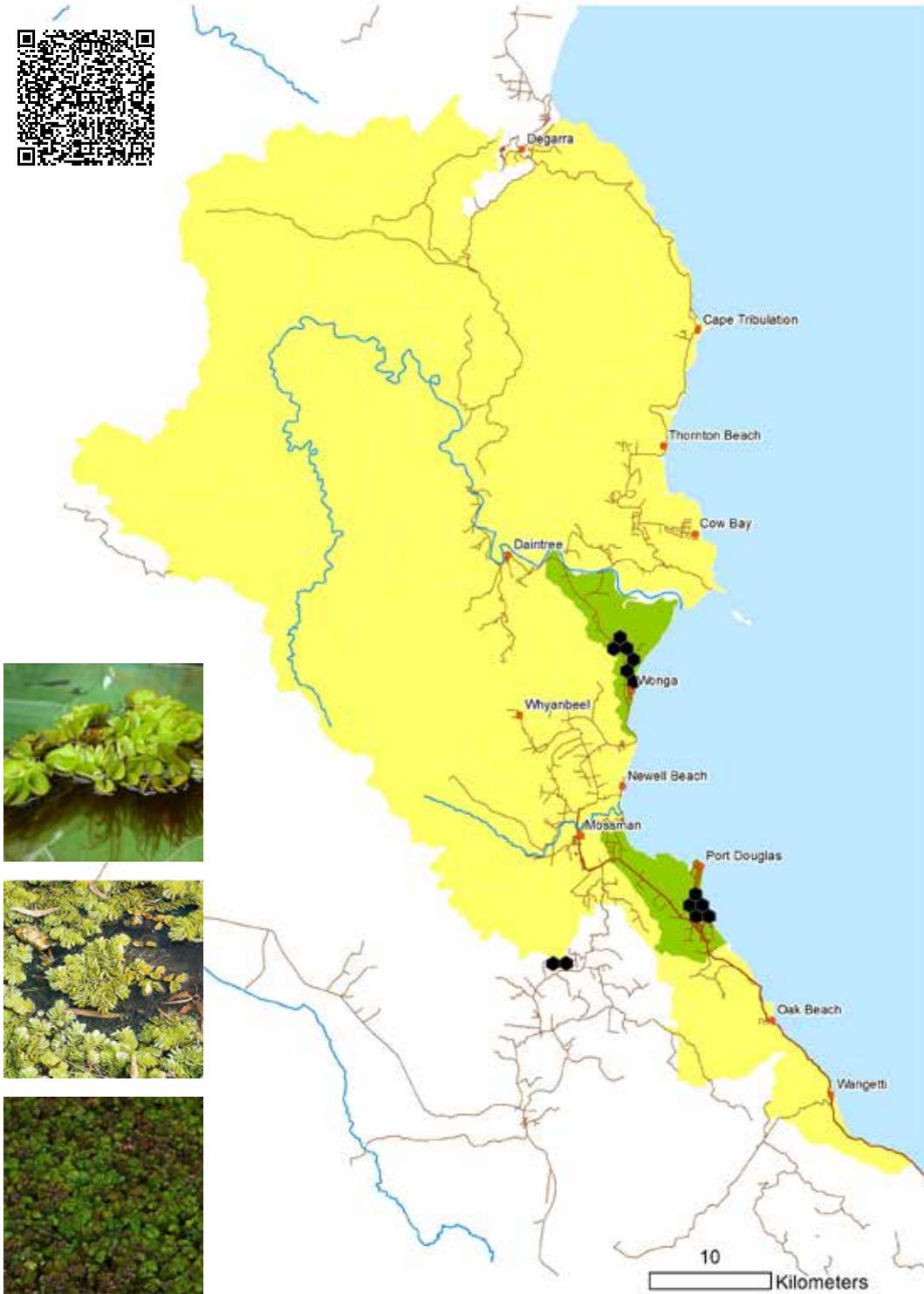
For more information on using this biosecurity action plan fact sheet, and further information on control tools, refer to the Douglas Shire Biosecurity Management Plan available at [douglas.qld.gov.au](http://douglas.qld.gov.au) and customer service centres.



# Salvinia molesta (Salvinia)

Douglas Shire Biosecurity Management Plan 2022-26

## Management objectives and actions



Biosecurity Act  
Restricted matter category

**3**  
Do not distribute

Control



Spread



Vegetative												
Spray												
Biocontrol												
Manual												
Best time	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Key

- Peak ●
- First/last flush ●
- Occasional ●
- Optimal ●
- Good ●
- Marginal ●

# Thunbergia grandiflora (Thunbergia vine)

**Description:** A rapidly growing vine which forms large underground tubers. Thunbergia climbs and smothers native vegetation. Thunbergia has lavender-blue trumpet shaped flowers. The leaves may vary from a choko-like shape to an oval with a narrow-pointed tip.

**Distribution:** Several isolated outbreaks occur across the Douglas Shire. Many sites are in monitoring towards eradication. The main method of spread for Thunbergia vine has been through the sharing plants between gardeners so most infestations are associated with house gardens.

**Impacts:** Thunbergia vine climbs and smothers native vegetation, killing and often pulling down mature trees with the weight of the vine.

**Key projects:** All known infestations are under active management.

## Biosecurity obligations and legal requirements

### Obligations relating to restricted matter

Under the Act Thunbergia vine must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment. Penalties apply.

Under the Regulation Thunbergia vine may be disposed of by:

- Deep burial,
- Transporting to a waste facility securely (contact DSC 07 4099 9444),
- Sealing the matter in plastic and leaving the matter in the sun until any vegetative material being disposed has decomposed.

### General Biosecurity Obligation

The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with Thunbergia vine under their control.

#### In the prevention zone

Contact DSC to report any suspect plants on 07 4099 9444.

#### In the eradication zone

Contact DSC to report any suspect plants on 07 4099 9444.

Landowner's or occupiers can assist DSC by maintaining easy access to infestations and by assisting with control activities.

If your property has an active infestation, make sure your green waste does not contain thunbergia and is disposed of in accordance with the regulation.

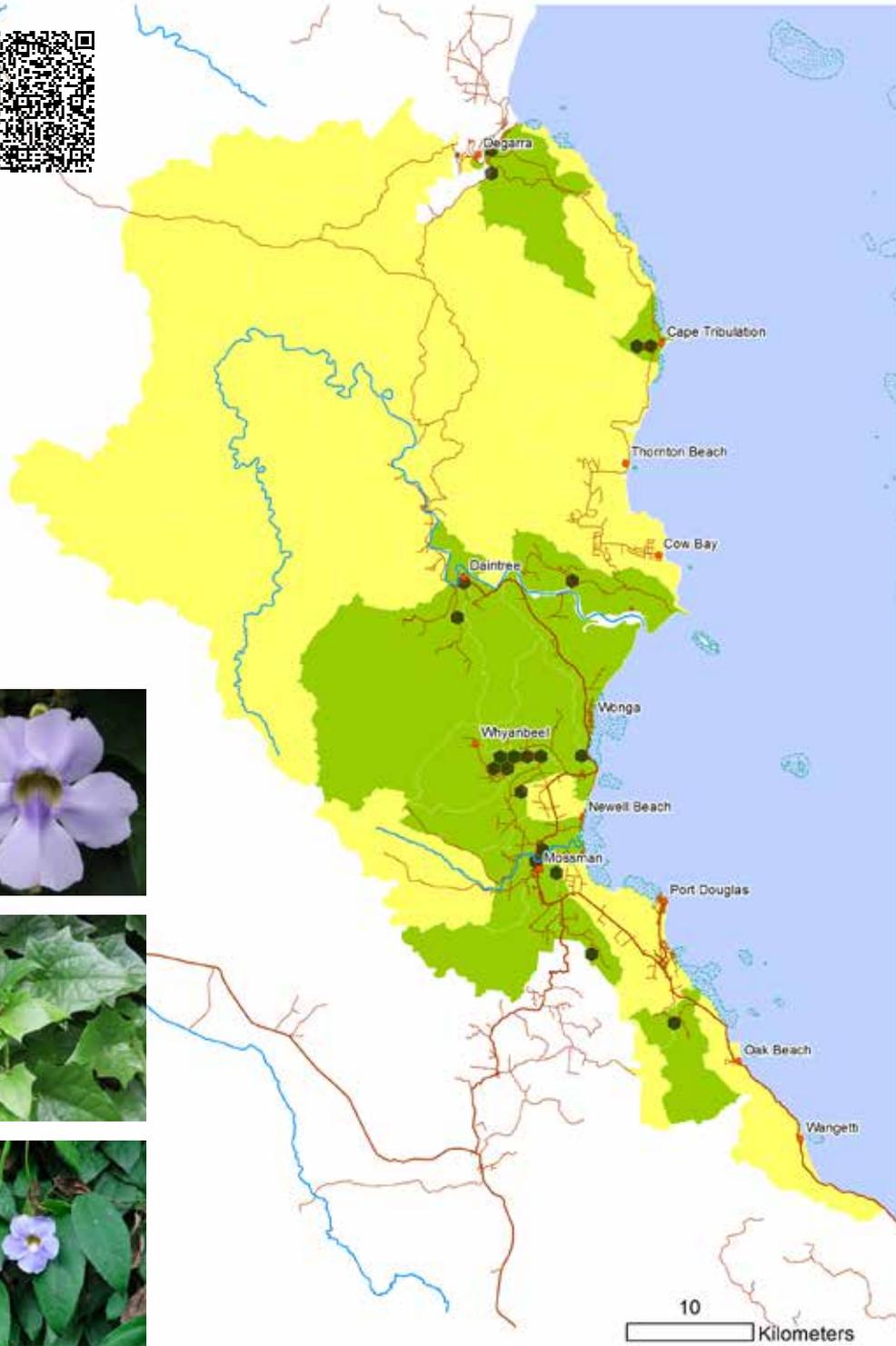
Manage risk of spread from your property and protect priority assets using best practice methods to control infestations where practical to do so.

For more information on using this biosecurity action plan fact sheet, and further information on control tools, refer to the Douglas Shire Biosecurity Management Plan available at [douglas.qld.gov.au](http://douglas.qld.gov.au) and customer service centres.



# Thunbergia grandiflora (Thunbergia)

## Management objectives and actions



Biosecurity Act Restricted matter category

**3**  
Do not distribute

Control



Spread



	Prevention	Eradication	Containment	Asset protection
Flowering	Red	Red	Red	Red
Seeding	Red	Red	Red	Red
Spray	Green	Green	Green	Green
Chop	Green	Green	Green	Green
Hand pull	Green	Green	Green	Green
Cut stump	Green	Green	Green	Green
Best time	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

**Key**

- Peak ●
- First/last flush ●
- Occasional ●
- Optimal ●
- Good ●
- Marginal ●

# Turbina corymbosa (Turbina vine)

**Description** Turbina vine can form vine towers ( 20m+) over native vegetation with thick (30cm), rope-like stems. Stems of new growth are smooth, green, cylindrical and hairless while older stems are thicker, pale grey and roughly cylindrical. Leaves are oval and heart-shaped at the base with a pointed tip, 3–10cm long. Turbina vine has sprays of fragrant, white, bell-shaped flowers. The fruit is a papery beaked capsule 80mm–1cm long and full of brown, hairy seeds.

**Distribution** Turbina vine occurs in the Mowbray catchment.

**Impacts** Invasion of rainforest areas, displacing native vines and shrubs. Dried fruits and seeds float readily in water and have a high level of dormancy.

**Key projects** works are underway on infestations in the Mowbray Valley.

## Biosecurity obligations and legal requirements

### Obligations relating to restricted matter

Turbina is a locally declared plant under Douglas Shire Council Local Laws. It is an offence under Local Law to distribute or propagate. Penalties apply

### General Biosecurity Obligation

The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with Turbina under their control.

#### In the prevention zone

Contact DSC to report any suspect plants on 07 4099 9444.

Wherever practical ensure raw materials are sourced from a reliable supplier and are from an Turbina free area.

#### In the containment zone

Contact DSC to report any suspect plants on 07 4099 9444.

Manage risk of spread from your property and protect priority assets using best practice methods to control infestations where practical to do so.

You are responsible to ensure materials or products leaving your property are free from Turbina seed or plant material.

Landowner's or occupiers can assist DSC by maintaining easy access to infestations and by assisting with control activities.

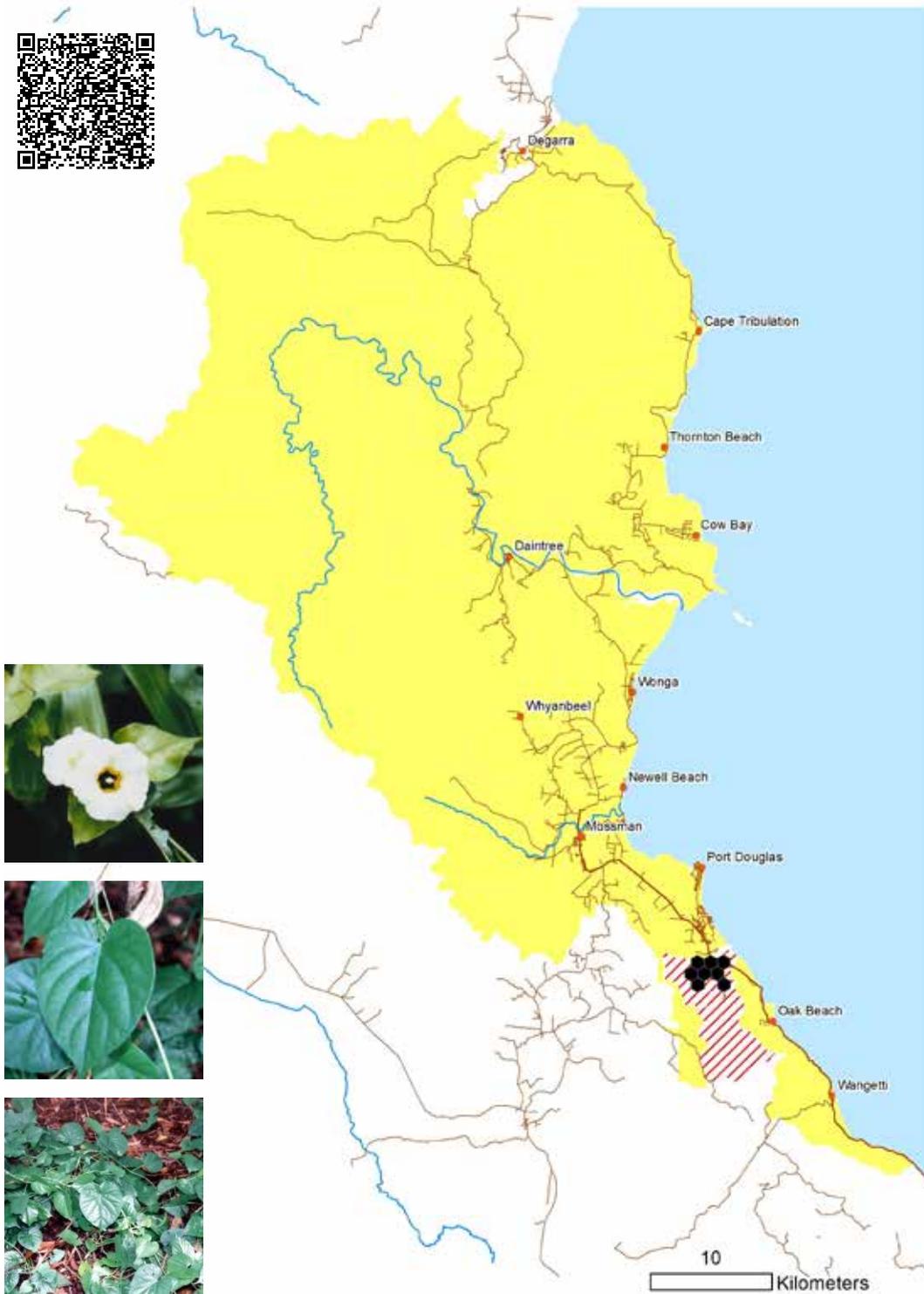
If your property has an active infestation, make sure your green waste does not contain Turbina and is disposed of responsibly

For more information on using this biosecurity action plan fact sheet, and further information on control tools, refer to the Douglas Shire Biosecurity Management Plan available at [douglas.qld.gov.au](http://douglas.qld.gov.au) and customer service centres.



# Turbina corymbosa (Turbina vine)

## Management objectives and actions



Local laws apply

Must not propagate

Must not sell or supply

Control



Spread



	Prevention	Eradication	Containment	Asset protection								
Flowering	Occasional	Occasional	Occasional	Occasional								
Seeding	Occasional	Occasional	Occasional	Occasional								
Spray	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal								
Slash	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal								
Burn	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal								
Graze	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal								
Best time	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

**Key**

- Peak (Red circle)
- First/last flush (Pink circle)
- Occasional (Light pink circle)
- Optimal (Green circle)
- Good (Light green circle)
- Marginal (Very light green circle)

# Canis lupis familiaris (Wild dog)

**Description:** Wild dogs include dingoes, wild domestic dogs and hybrids.

**Distribution:** Wild dogs are widespread in both the agricultural and natural landscape. They also frequently exist on the outskirts of towns and even within urban areas.

**Impacts:** Wild dogs can cause stock losses in calving season. They also often carry parasites and pathogens. Near towns they can cause nuisance and impact on domestic animals.

**Key projects:** In urban and settled areas Douglas Shire Council will respond to individual issues as they arise on a case by case basis. Wild dogs are generally not aggressive to people however they may display threatening behaviour in urban areas such as attacking domestic dogs, scavenging or stalking. Domestic pets and poultry are best protected by dog mesh fencing. Fencing also restrains your domestic animals and may assist in preventing other animals such as wallabies or pigs entering your property.

## Biosecurity obligations and legal requirements

### Obligations relating to restricted matter

Under the Act you must not move, keep, feed, give away, sell or release wild dogs into the environment. Penalties may apply.

The biosecurity plan does not include management of straying or problematic domestic dogs (including hunting dogs). These animals are domestic animals and are managed in accordance with Douglas Shire Councils Local Laws.

For domestic dog queries contact Council on 07 4099 9444.

### General Biosecurity Obligation

The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with wild dogs under their control.

#### In the asset protection zone

Dog proof fencing is by far the most effective method of reducing the impacts of wild dogs on domestic stock and pets.

If you have grazing animals then targeting control activities to reduce wild dog numbers prior to calving is the best way to reduce impacts.

Property managers should coordinate control activities with neighbours.

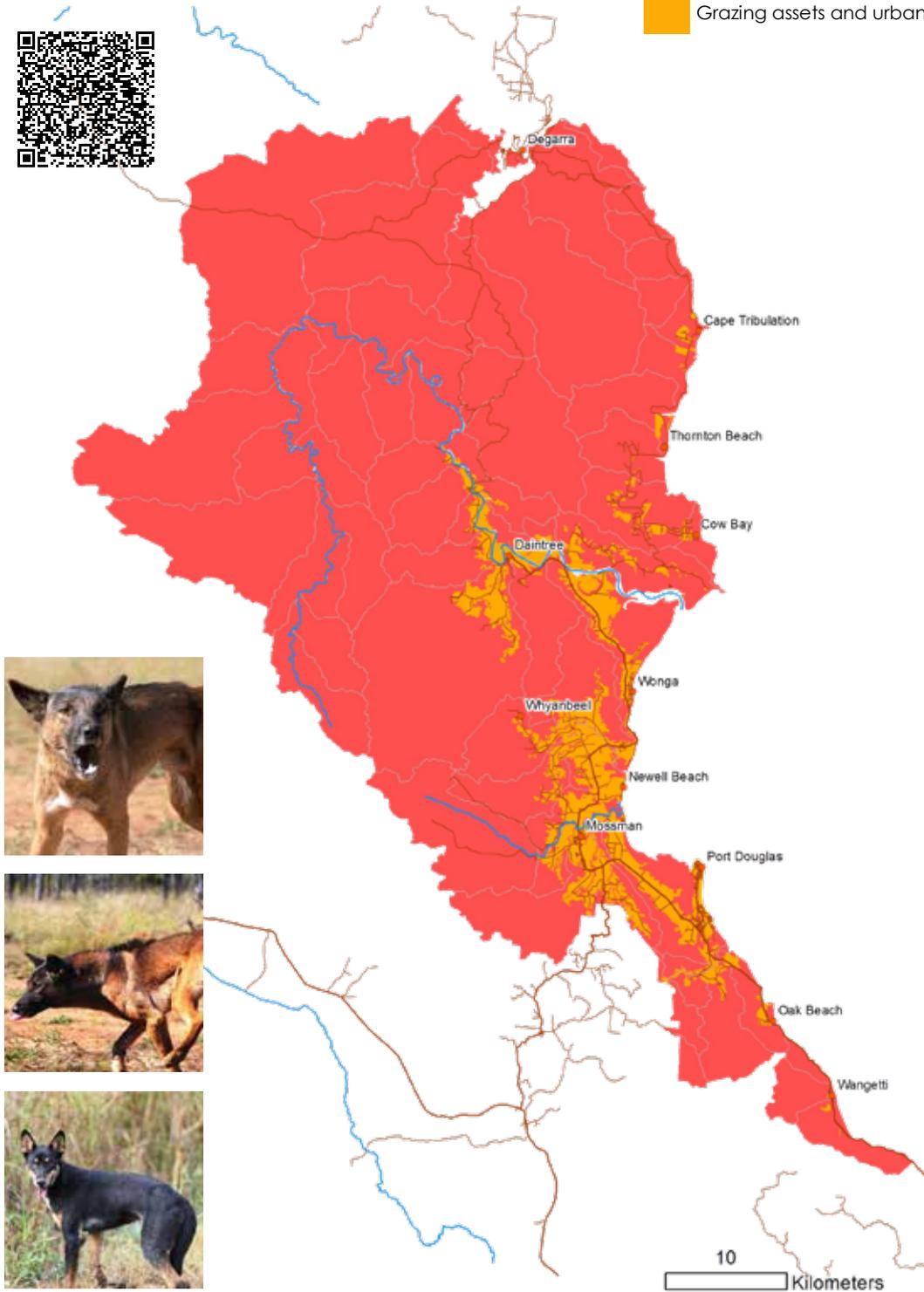
For more information on using this biosecurity action plan fact sheet, and further information on control tools, refer to the Douglas Shire Biosecurity Management Plan available at [douglas.qld.gov.au](http://douglas.qld.gov.au) and customer service centres.



## Management objectives and actions



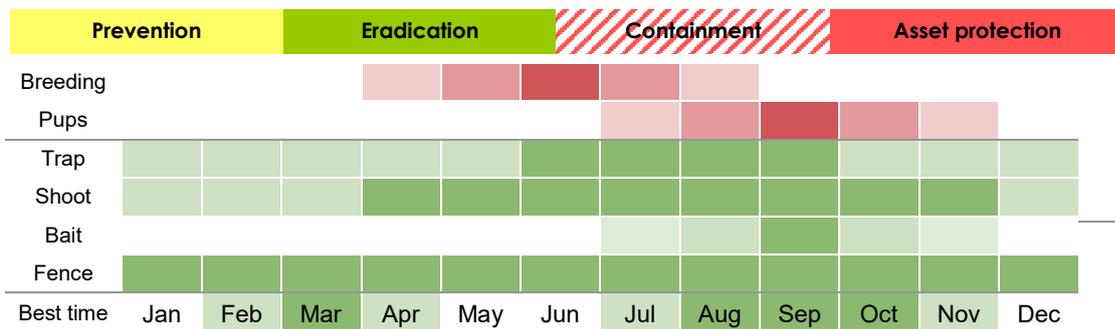
Grazing assets and urban areas



Biosecurity Act Restricted matter category

- 3** Do not distribute
- 4** Do not move
- 5** Do not keep
- 6** Do not feed

Control



**Key**

- Peak
- First/last flush
- Occasional
- Optimal
- Good
- Marginal

# Sus scrofa (Feral Pig)

**Description:** Feral pigs include all pigs ranging from typical black wild pigs to buff or spotted black or white which may resemble a typical farmed pig. By definition a feral pig is any pig which is not domesticated and is living in a wild state. They are generally nocturnal, and camp in thick cover during the day. Feral pigs are omnivorous and can range from 5 to 50 square kilometres. Feral pigs breed throughout the year often producing two weaned litters per year.

**Distribution:** Common and widespread within the Douglas Shire, particularly in the lowlands.

**Impacts:** Feral pigs damage crops, stock, property and the natural environment. They transmit disease and could spread exotic diseases such as foot and mouth if this was introduced to the country.

**Key projects:** A long-term shire wide program has been set up to assist the community to minimise the environmental, social and economic impacts of feral pigs.

## Biosecurity obligations and legal requirements

### Obligations relating to restricted matter

Under the Act you must not move, feed, give away, sell or release wild dogs into the environment. Penalties may apply.

### General Biosecurity Obligation

The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the biosecurity risks associated with feral pigs under their control.

#### In the asset protection zone

Pig proof fencing is by far the most effective measure of reducing the impacts of feral pigs on domestic gardens and small crops.

Property managers should coordinate control activities with neighbours.

A range of control options from shooting, to trapping and baiting are used to control feral pigs when required. Douglas Shire Council operates a series of traps along the coastal lowlands and in the Daintree to reduce the number of feral pigs.

Landholders wishing to participate in the program should contact Douglas Shire Council on 07 4099 9444.

For more information on using this biosecurity action plan fact sheet, and further information on control tools, refer to the Douglas Shire Biosecurity Management Plan available at [douglas.qld.gov.au](http://douglas.qld.gov.au) and customer service centres.

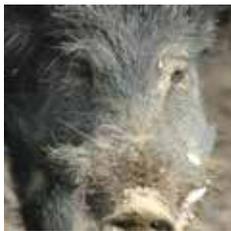
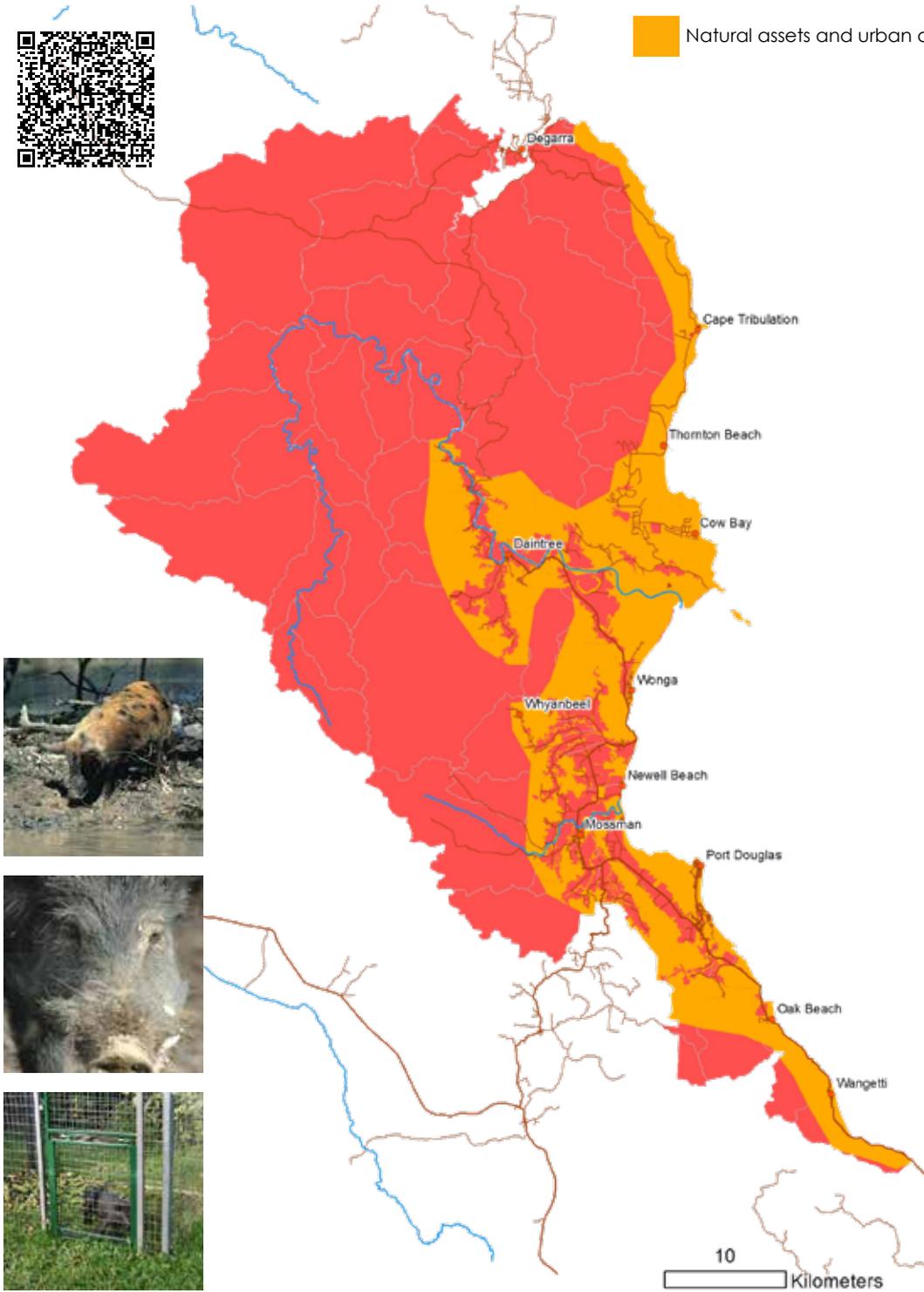


# Sus scrofa (Feral Pig)

## Management objectives and actions



 Natural assets and urban areas



Biosecurity Act  
Restricted matter category

**3**  
Do not distribute

**4**  
Do not move

**6**  
Do not feed

Control



	Prevention			Eradication			Containment			Asset protection		
Breeding	Peak											
Piglets	First/last flush											
Trap	Optimal											
Shoot	Optimal											
Bait	Optimal											
Fence	Optimal											
Best time	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

**Key**  
 Peak   
 First/last flush   
 Occasional   
 Optimal   
 Good   
 Marginal 

Douglas Shire Biosecurity Management Plan 2022-26

## Appendix 1

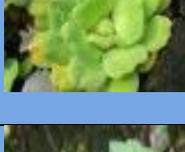
The current Biosecurity Working Group consists of representatives from the following groups:

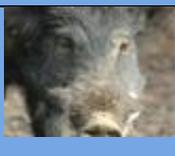
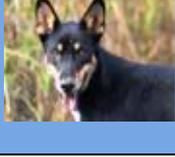
NAME	ORGANISATION
<b>Peter Logan</b>	Douglas Shire Council
<b>Bradley Everett</b>	Douglas Shire Council
<b>Travis Sydes</b>	FNQ Regional Organisation of Councils
<b>Michael Graham</b>	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
<b>Kim Erbacher</b>	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
<b>David Leyden</b>	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
<b>Brendan Malone</b>	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
<b>Jeff Arneth</b>	Jabalbina Aboriginal Corporation
<b>Drew Watson</b>	Mossman Canegrowers
<b>Nikki Hoffmann</b>	AgForce Townville
<b>Nicky Swan</b>	Mossman Botanical Gardens
<b>Vanessa Drysdale</b>	Terrain NRM

## Appendix 2

The Biosecurity prioritisation framework utilised by the DSBWG in assessing and assigning the priorities of Biosecurity matter within this plan was developed within local government and adopted regionally by the FNQROC in May 2021. The process of determining priorities was conducted by members of the DSBWG prior to going to wider consultation to ensure that all stakeholders are strongly committed to implementing effective biosecurity management.

Douglas Shire Council Weed Prioritisation		Impacts and Threats							Management Feasibility				Management Objectives	
		Economic Impact	Social amenity Impact	Human health Impact	Environmental Impact	Invasiveness	Potential distribution	Risk Score	Current Distribution	Cost of Control	Effectiveness of control	Feasibility Score		
														Feasibility of Control
	Miconia species	3	2	1	4	4	3	48	1	4	2	8	Eradication	
	Hiptage	3	3	1	4	3	3	48	2	2	2	8	Eradication	
	Pond Apple	2	2	1	4	3	3	48	3	3	3	27	Asset Protection	
	Siam Weed	2	2	2	3	4	3	36	2	2	3	12	Containment	
	Gamba grass	2	1	1	3	2	2	12	1	1	1	1	Eradication	

	<b>Mexican bean tree</b>	2	2	1	3	3	3	27	1	2	2	4	<b>Eradication</b>
	<b>Tobacco Weed</b>	2	2	1	3	4	2	24	2	2	4	16	<b>Asset Protection</b>
	<b>Limnocharis</b>	3	2	1	3	3	2	18	1	1	1	1	<b>Eradication</b>
	<b>Ivy Gourd</b>	2	2	1	2	3	2	12	1	2	2	4	<b>Eradication</b>
	<b>Water Hyacinth</b>	3	3	1	3	3	1	9	1	1	1	1	<b>Eradication</b>
	<b>Kudzu vine</b>	2	2	1	3	2	2	12	1	2	3	6	<b>Containment</b>
	<b>Turbina</b>	2	2	1	3	2	2	12	1	1	2	2	<b>Containment</b>
	<b>Salvinia</b>	2	2	1	3	3	1	9	1	2	2	4	<b>Containment</b>
	<b>Water lettuce</b>	2	2	1	3	3	1	9	1	1	1	1	<b>Containment</b>
	<b>Thunbergia Species</b>	2	2	1	2	2	2	8	1	2	2	4	<b>Containment</b>

Douglas Shire Council Pest Animal Prioritisation		Impacts and Threats							Management Feasibility				Management Objectives
		Economic Impact	Social amenity Impact	Human health Impact	Environmental Impact	Invasiveness	Potential distribution	Risk Score	Current Distribution	Cost of control	Effectiveness of control	Feasibility Score	Feasibility of Control
	<b>Electric Ants</b>	3	3	3	4	3	4	48	1	2	2	4	<b>Eradication</b>
	<b>Feral pigs</b>	3	3	2	3	4	3	36	2	3	3	18	<b>Asset Protection</b>
	<b>Wild dogs</b>	2	2	2	2	2	3	12	2	2	3	12	<b>Asset Protection</b>

Invasive plant and animal fact sheets for the species list can be found at:

[Invasive plant and animal fact sheets | Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Queensland \(daf.qld.gov.au\)](http://daf.qld.gov.au)

[Other invasive plants | Business Queensland](#)





**Proof of entry**  
Any action the recipient must take to show the recipient is complying with the biosecurity order.  
**Describe the action taken below and the location:**

Proof of action must be undertaken by: \_\_\_\_\_

**Re-entry if applicable**  
Section 37(1c) of the Act provides that a biosecurity order may state proposed times or intervals that an authorised officer may enter the following places to check compliance with the order:

- the place to which the order relates
- a vehicle of which the recipient is the person in control
- localities of which the recipient is the occupier

Places for entry

Date of intended entry: \_\_\_\_\_ Location of intended entry: \_\_\_\_\_

**Authority**  
**Authorised officer details**

First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of issue: \_\_\_\_\_

**Issuing authority details**  
**Douglas Shire Council**  
Council Chambers: 64-68 First Street, Mossman  
Postal Address: PO Box 723 Mossman QLD 4873  
Phone: (07) 4039 2624 or 1800 336 316  
FAX: (07) 4039 2622  
ABN: 71 241 237 800

**Consentance with the biosecurity order**  
Section 36J of the Act gives an authorised officer the power to enter the place to which this biosecurity order relates to check compliance with the biosecurity order.

**In the event of non-compliance with the order, an authorised officer may take the steps stated in the order**  
If the person to whom this order was given does not take the steps set out in the order to remove or reduce the biosecurity risk or prevent the disease to which this order relates, section 36J of the Act gives an authorised officer the power to enter the place to which the biosecurity order relates and take the steps stated in the order.

In addition, under section 36C, the issuing authority for a biosecurity order may consider the action that the issuing authority properly and reasonably must take to take the steps under section 36J as a matter payable to the issuing authority, by the person who issued the order.

**Under section 87T of the Act it is an offence for you to not comply with this order unless you have a reasonable excuse. Penalties may apply in the case of non-compliance.**

**Information notice**  
Section 27B of the Biosecurity Act 2014 (the Act) requires that an information notice is given to the recipient of a biosecurity order.

**Decision**  
In my capacity as a delegate of the chief executive officer under section 37(1) of the Act, I am giving you a biosecurity order in respect of:

Biosecurity matter or animal health: \_\_\_\_\_ place: \_\_\_\_\_

**Facts**  
In reaching this decision I have considered the following facts:  
(Example: "In the region listed in paragraph 2(a), regarding plants, animals, You have a General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO) to: \_\_\_\_\_")

**In addition:**

**Expiry date**  
This must now have all actions stated in the biosecurity order which necessitates this information notice to: \_\_\_\_\_

**Authorised officer/ delegate details**

First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of issue: \_\_\_\_\_

**Privacy statement**  
Under section 37B of the Act the chief executive officer of Douglas Shire Council must keep a register of biosecurity orders. The register must contain details of the place to which the biosecurity order relates, the day the order was given, information about the biosecurity matter or any other thing to which the order relates, the action required to be taken and the period stated in the order for taking the action.

The Act (section 37B (2)) provides that the register of biosecurity orders may be published on the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries website, [www.daf.qld.gov.au](http://www.daf.qld.gov.au) and a person may, on payment of a fee, inspect a register kept by a chief executive officer of a local government, at the local government's principal place of business.

**Review rights**  
As the person to whom this information notice applies, if your interests are adversely affected and you are dissatisfied with the decision you have a right to apply for internal review of the decision under section 36J of the Act. Under section 36J of the Act the application for review must be:

- made in the approved form;
- supported by enough information to enable the review decision to be made; and
- made within 14 days of you being given this information notice.

You are encouraged to seek your own advice about your review rights. However, should you wish to seek an internal review of this decision, you may do so by lodging an internal review application to Douglas Shire Council. Further information regarding the review process, including an application for internal review form may be obtained by visiting the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries website at [www.daf.qld.gov.au](http://www.daf.qld.gov.au) or by contacting the OMR Customer Service Centre on 13 25 22.

If applying for an internal review, you may also apply to the Queensland Civil Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) or Magistrates Court for an immediate stay of the decision while the review is being conducted.

Under section 36J of the Act, an internal review decision will be made within 30 days of Douglas Shire Council receiving your application. This will be notified of the outcome within 10 days of the internal review decision being made.

The internal review will be conducted by someone other than yourself. If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review you may seek an external review of the decision by QCAT. The internal review decision will state your rights in this regard.



# DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL INVASIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

2022-2026

**DOUGLAS** SHIRE  
COUNCIL

*Engaging, Planning, Partnering*

*Muruku Kirraji - Eastern Kuku Yalanji*

*Nganyji pina ngunda-lum ... Ma:Inyirri-yngku - Yirrgandyji*

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# Biosecurity Program

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## PROGRAM NAME

The biosecurity surveillance program for invasive biosecurity matter for the Douglas Shire Council local government area, will be known as the **Douglas Shire Council Invasive Plants and Animals Surveillance Program 2022-2026** and referred to as “**the Program**” throughout this document.

## Requirement for a surveillance program

### PURPOSE AND RATIONALE

The main biosecurity function of Douglas Shire Council is the management of *invasive biosecurity matter* listed in schedule 1 part 3 & 4 and schedule 2 part 2 of the Act.

The **Douglas Shire Biosecurity Plan 2021 to 2026 (DSBP)** provides strategic direction for the management of invasive biosecurity matter and other priority pests on all land tenures within the Douglas Shire Council area and has been developed by and for the entire community. The plan has identified species that pose or are likely to pose a significant biosecurity risk to agricultural production and the environment in the Douglas Shire Council area.

The DSBP identifies the goal for managing biosecurity in the Douglas Shire Council as:

*“All stakeholders working together to implement ongoing, coordinated and effective biosecurity management across the Douglas Shire Council area.”*

The Program has been developed to ensure Council are meeting their legislative requirements and have the necessary authorisation to ensure that the outcomes of the DSCBP are being implemented.

The Program is directed at the following:

For all ***invasive biosecurity matter***:

- To confirm the presence, or determine the extent of the presence, of *invasive biosecurity matter* in the DSC area.
- To confirm the absence of *invasive biosecurity matter* in the DSC area.

For ***local priority invasive biosecurity matter*** (listed in tables 1 & 2 taken from the DSBP).

- To monitor compliance with requirements relating to local priority *invasive biosecurity matter*, restricted matter categories.
- To monitor compliance with the Act to ensure all people who deal with local priority *invasive biosecurity matter* or a carrier are meeting their general biosecurity obligation as identified in the DSCBP.
- To monitor the effects of measures taken to control local priority *invasive biosecurity matter* (for the purpose of improving best practice management and/or to determine if the general biosecurity obligation has or will be discharged).

### Local priority invasive biosecurity matter

These species have been selected as local priorities and subsequent action plans have been developed and can be found in the DSBP.

The action plans use catchment-based management zones to identify the location-specific management actions required to discharge ones GBO when dealing with priority weeds and/or pest animals. The management zones are based on the pest management concept of the ‘invasion curve’. The invasion curve describes how as a biosecurity issue becomes more abundant over time the management options and strategies available to manage it or its impacts also change. At each stage of the curve, as the area occupied by the pest or weed increases, the implied impact and required resources to respond also increase.

The key message is that prevention and early intervention are the most cost-effective (proactive) actions we can take. When these actions are not successful, we need to carefully consider the most strategic (reactive) management approaches to ensure local impacts and potential spread to new areas is reduced.

**Table 1**

**local priority invasive biosecurity matter** (weeds) as listed in the DSCBP pest specific action plans.

#	Common Name	Species	Restricted Matter Categories
1	Miconia	<i>Miconia spp.</i>	2,3,4,5
2	Pond Apple	<i>Annona glabra</i>	3
3	Siam weed	<i>Chromolaena odorata</i>	3
4	Gamba grass	<i>Andropogon gayanus</i>	3
5	Mexican bean tree	<i>Cecropia spp.</i>	2,3,4,5
6	Tobacco weed	<i>Elephantopus mollis</i>	3
7	Limnocharis	<i>Limnocharis flava</i>	2,3,4,5
8	Water Hyacinth	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	3
9	Kudzu Vine	<i>Pueraria montana, var lobata</i>	3
10	Salvinia / Water fern	<i>Salvinia molesta</i>	3
11	Water Lettuce	<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	3
12	Thunbergia	<i>Thunbergia grandiflora</i>	3

**Note:**

Category 2 restricted matter must be reported to an inspector or authorised person within 24 hours.

Category 3 restricted matter must not be distributed or disposed. This means it must not be given as a gift, sold, traded or released into the environment unless the distribution or disposal is authorised in a regulation or under a permit.

Category 4 restricted matter must not be moved. To ensure that it does not spread into other areas of the state.

Category 5 restricted matter must not be possessed or kept under person’s control without a permit under the Biosecurity Act 2014.

**Table 2**

**local priority invasive biosecurity matter** (pest animals) as listed in the DSCBP pest specific action plans.

#	Common Name	Species	Restricted Matter Categories
1	Pig (feral)	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	3,4,6

2	Dog (wild/feral)	<i>Canis familiaris</i>	3,4,6
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**Note:**

Category 3 restricted matter must not be distributed or disposed. This means it must not be given as a gift, sold, traded or released into the environment unless the distribution or disposal is authorised in a regulation or under a permit.

Category 4 restricted matter must not be moved. To ensure that it does not spread into other areas of the state.

Category 6 restricted matter must not be fed unless kept under a permit of the Biosecurity Act 2014 or another Act. Feeding for the purpose of preparing for or undertaking a control program is exempted.

**MEASURES THAT ARE REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE THE PURPOSE**

The key activities undertaken by the Program include but are not limited to:

Surveillance to monitor presence, absence, control measures and compliance.

- Surveillance to check for the presence, extent or levels of the presence, or absence of *invasive biosecurity matter* in the DSC area. This surveillance will be conducted by entry of ground teams onto a place using a variety of vehicles and on foot to conduct visual inspections, however, aerial survey by visual or photographic inspection using manned helicopters or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) may also be utilised. Surveillance in riparian and adjacent areas may also be undertaken utilising watercraft including but not limited to boats and amphibious vehicles.
- During surveillance and monitoring activities, Authorised Officers may take samples for identification, research and educational purposes.
  - For weed species this may require taking a whole or part of a plant specimen.
  - For animal species this may require luring and or collecting whole or parts of an animal or collecting animal leavings such as scats.
- Surveillance at suspected or existing pest infestation locations using surveillance measures such as, but not limited to, cameras using a variety of imaging techniques in order to determine prevalence, frequency of visitation and verification of control of pests.
- Monitoring of treated areas to determine the effectiveness of control, for invasive plants this is also to ensure no recruitment, by monitoring the seed bank until it is exhausted, this may take many years depending on the species.
- Surveillance to establish compliance and collection of evidence in cases of suspected non-compliance.

**POWERS OF AUTHORISED OFFICERS**

**Entry of place**

The Act provides that authorised officers appointed under the Act may, at reasonable times, enter a place situated in an area to which a biosecurity program applies, to take any action authorised by the biosecurity program<sup>1</sup>. These activities must be done in a timely and efficient manner to ensure that the measures are as effective as possible. The Program will authorise entry into places to allow these measures to be undertaken.

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<sup>1</sup> See section 261 (Power to enter a place under biosecurity program) of the Act.

In accordance with the Act a reasonable attempt will be made to locate an occupier<sup>2</sup> and obtain the occupier's consent to the entry prior to an authorised officer entering a place to undertake activities under the Program. Nevertheless, an authorised officer may enter the place if<sup>3</sup>—

- (a) The authorised officer is unable to locate an occupier after making a reasonable attempt to do so; or
- (b) The occupier refuses to consent to the entry.

If after entering a place an authorised officer finds an occupier present or the occupier refuses to consent to the entry—an authorised officer will make reasonable attempts to produce an identity card for inspection and inform the occupier of the reason for entering and the authorisation under the Act to enter without the permission of the occupier. An authorised officer under the biosecurity program must make a reasonable attempt to inform the occupier of any steps taken, or to be taken, and if steps have been taken or are to be taken, that it is an offence to do anything that interferes with a step taken or to be taken.

An authorised officer must leave a notice in a conspicuous position and in a reasonably secure way. This notice must state the date and time of entry and information addressing the reason for entry, authorisation to enter a place and the steps undertaken by the authorised officer after entry.

#### **Power to carry out aerial controls measures**

The power to carry out aerial control measures is authorised by a biosecurity program under the Act<sup>4</sup>.

#### **Obligations**

The following obligations may be imposed on a person who is an occupier of a place to which the program relates, limited to the extent of requirements in this surveillance program.

- Requirements relating to local priority *invasive biosecurity matter*, restricted matter categories.
- Pest specific obligations for local priority invasive biosecurity matter as per the pest specific strategies in the DSBP.
- Specific actions landholders can take to satisfy general biosecurity as listed in the DSBP,

#### **General powers of authorised officers**

Nothing in the Program or its associated Authorisation limits the powers of authorised officers under Chapter 10 of the Act.

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<sup>2</sup> The Act defines an **occupier**, of a place, generally to include the person who apparently occupies the place (or, if more than 1 person apparently occupies the place, any of the persons); any person at the place who is apparently acting with the authority of a person who apparently occupies the place; or if no-one apparently occupies the place, any person who is an owner of the place.

<sup>3</sup> See section 270 (Entry of place under sections 261 and 262) of the Act.

## CONSULTATION

If DSC Authorised Officers work in collaboration with authorised Officers from another organisation (i.e. Biosecurity QLD):

- Information sharing of biosecurity risks extents and locations and any documentation and identifying information required to do so will be expected to be shared. This will be limited to information that is no more than is required for those purposes.
- Authorisation will be shared between organisations (where appropriate) allowing authorised Officers to work and contribute on each other's projects.

The Program was sent to Biosecurity Queensland on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2021 for comment.

## Authorisation of a surveillance program in the Douglas Shire Council area.

### AUTHORISATION STATEMENT

The Douglas Shire Council acting pursuant to section 235 of the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act), authorises the Program for *invasive biosecurity matter* in Douglas Shire Council Local Government area, on the basis that:

The Council is satisfied that the pests listed in the biosecurity surveillance program, the Douglas Shire Council Invasive Plants and Animals Surveillance Program 2022-2026, pose a significant biosecurity risk to biosecurity considerations in Queensland; and

The Council is satisfied that surveillance activities are required to determine the presence or absence of these pests; and

The Council is satisfied that checking compliance with the Act and enforcement are required for the restriction category requirements; and

The Council is satisfied that activities are required to monitor the effects of the measures taken in response to the biosecurity risk of the pests listed in the biosecurity surveillance program.

Council resolves to adopt the Douglas Shire Council Invasive Plants and Animals Surveillance Program as passed by council resolution on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

### BIOSECURITY MATTER

The biosecurity matter to which the Program relates:

All invasive biosecurity matter and local priority invasive biosecurity matter listed in Tables 1 and 2.

### PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

The main biosecurity function of Douglas Shire Council is the management of *invasive biosecurity matter* listed in schedule 1 part 3 & 4 and schedule 2 part 2 of the Act.

The **Douglas Shire Biosecurity Plan 2021 to 2026 (DSCBP)** provides strategic direction for the management of invasive biosecurity matter and other priority pests on all land tenures within the Douglas Shire Council area and has been developed by and for the entire community. The plan has identified species that pose or are likely to pose a significant biosecurity risk to agricultural production and the environment in the Douglas Shire Council area.

The DSCBP identifies the goal for managing biosecurity in the Douglas Shire Council as:

*“All stakeholders working together to implement ongoing, coordinated and effective biosecurity management across the Douglas Shire Council area.”*

The Program has been developed to ensure Council are meeting their legislative requirements and have the necessary authorisation to ensure that the outcomes of the DSCBP are being implemented.

The Program is directed at the following:

For all ***invasive biosecurity matter***:

- To confirm the presence, or determine the extent of the presence, of *invasive biosecurity matter* in the DSC area.
- To confirm the absence of *invasive biosecurity matter* in the DSC area.

For ***local priority invasive biosecurity matter*** (listed in tables 1 & 2 taken from the DSBP).

- To monitor compliance with requirements relating to local priority *invasive biosecurity matter*, restricted matter categories.
- To monitor compliance with the Act to ensure all people who deal with local priority *invasive biosecurity matter* or a carrier are meeting their general biosecurity obligation as identified in the DSCBP.
- To monitor the effects of measures taken to control local priority *invasive biosecurity matter* (for the purpose of improving best practice management and/or to determine if the general biosecurity obligation has or will be discharged).

## **AREA AFFECTED BY THE PROGRAM**

The Program will apply to all land's tenure within the Douglas Shire Council Area.

For priority invasive biosecurity matter both weeds and animals, sub-catchment management zones have been specified in the Douglas Shire pest Specific Action Plans as appendices to the Douglas Shire Biosecurity Plan 2022-2026. This specifies, for each of these pests, surveillance and management strategies per region within the Douglas Shire Council area. This gives direction on surveillance effort and surveillance strategy for each of these weeds in the identified areas.

As the public is an important source of information for DSC, any reported pest specific information will inform direction of investigations for extent and location of biosecurity risks.

## POWERS OF AUTHORISED OFFICERS

An authorised officer of the Program appointed under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, may enter a place—other than a residence<sup>5</sup>—without a warrant and without the occupier’s consent within the State of Queensland under the Program<sup>6 7</sup>. An authorised officer can exercise the powers of an authorised officer under the Act in relation to the Program, if the authorised officer is appointed by the chief executive<sup>8</sup>.

An authorised officer may make a requirement (a **help requirement**) of an occupier of the place or a person at the place to give the authorised officer reasonable help to exercise a general power<sup>9</sup>.

An authorised officer may carry out, or direct another person to carry out, aerial control measures for invasive biosecurity matter. Under the Program these measures include aerial survey by visual or photographic inspection using an airborne machine, person in an aircraft vehicle (i.e. plane, helicopter), Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or Satellite in line with legislative requirements for the use of such.

An authorised officer has general powers after entering a place to do any of the following<sup>10</sup>:

General powers in the Act	Measures an authorised officer may take under the Program
Search any part of the place	<i>Destroy biosecurity matter or a carrier if the authorised officer believes on reasonable grounds the biosecurity matter or carrier poses a significant biosecurity risk and the owner of the biosecurity matter or carrier consents to its destruction.</i>
Inspect <sup>11</sup> , examine <sup>12</sup> or film <sup>13</sup> any part of the place or anything at the place	<i>Searching a place to check for the presence or absence of invasive biosecurity matter.</i>
Take for examination a thing, or a sample of or from a thing, at the place	<i>Inspect, examine and film to assist with tracing of carriers to and from a place.</i>
Place an identifying mark in or on anything at the place	<i>Take samples for the purposes of diagnostic analysis, to ascertain the presence or absence of invasive biosecurity matter.</i>
Place a sign or notice at the place	<i>Identify carriers such as Hay Bales with tags, notices, flags or signs for any purpose consistent with the Program.</i>
Produce an image or writing at the place from an electronic document or, to the extent it is not practicable, take a thing containing an electronic document to another place to produce an image or writing	
Take to, into or onto the place and use any person, detection animal, equipment and materials the authorised officer reasonably requires for exercising the authorised officer’s powers under this division	

<sup>5</sup> The Act defines a *residence* to mean a premises or a part of a premises that is a residence with the meaning of section 259(2) and 259(3).

<sup>6</sup> See section 259 (General powers to enter places) of the Act.

<sup>7</sup> See section 261 (Power to enter a place under biosecurity program) of the Act.

<sup>8</sup> See section 255 (3) (Powers of particular authorised officers limited) of the Act.

<sup>9</sup> See section 297 (Power to require reasonable help) of the Act.

<sup>10</sup> See section 296 (General powers) of the Act.

<sup>11</sup> Section 296(5) defines **inspect**, a thing, to include open the thing and examine its contents.

<sup>12</sup> Section 296(5) defines **examine** to include analyse, test, account, measure, weigh, grade, gauge and identify.

<sup>13</sup> Section 296(5) defines **film** to include photograph, videotape and record an image in another way.

<p>Destroy biosecurity matter or a carrier if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the authorised officer believes on reasonable grounds the biosecurity matter or carrier presents a significant biosecurity risk; and</li> <li>the owner of the biosecurity matter or carrier consents to its destruction</li> </ul>	<p><i>Producing a written and/or electronic note(s) to support Program activities.</i></p> <p><i>Taking GPS coordinates to ensure accuracy of location details of carriers or invasive biosecurity matter.</i></p> <p><i>Take a document such as sale/movement record that are relevant to the objectives of the Program.</i></p>
<p>Remain at the place for the time necessary to achieve the purpose of the entry</p>	
<p>The authorised officer may take a necessary step to allow the exercise of a general power</p>	
<p>If the authorised officer takes a document from the place to copy it, the authorised officer must copy and return the document to the place as soon as practicable</p>	
<p>If the authorised officer takes from the place an article or device reasonably capable of producing a document from an electronic document to produce the document, the authorised officer must produce the document and return the article or device to the place as soon as practicable</p>	

**OBLIGATIONS IMPOSED ON A PERSON UNDER THE PROGRAM**

The following obligations may be imposed on a person who is an occupier of a place to which the program relates, limited to the extent of requirements in this surveillance program.

- Requirements relating to local priority *invasive biosecurity matter*, restricted matter categories.
- Pest specific obligations for local priority invasive biosecurity matter as per the pest specific strategies in the DSBP.
- Specific actions landholders can take to satisfy general biosecurity as listed in the DSBP,

**COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION OF THE PROGRAM**

The Program will begin on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and will continue until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026. The duration of the program is considered to be reasonably necessary to achieve the Program’s purpose.

**CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT PARTIES**

As required by the Act<sup>14</sup>, the chief executive officer of Douglas Shire Council has consulted, prior to the authorisation of the Program, with the chief executive, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

**NOTIFICATION OF RELEVANT PARTIES OF REQUIREMENTS**

As required by the Act<sup>15</sup>, the chief executive officer of Douglas Shire Council will give public notice of the Program 14 days before the Program starts by:

<sup>14</sup> See section 239 (Consultation about proposed biosecurity program) of the Act.  
<sup>15</sup> See section 240 (Notice of proposed biosecurity program) of the Act.

- giving the notice to each government department or government owned corporation responsible for land in the area to which the Program relates; and
- publishing the notice on the Douglas Shire Council website: <https://douglas.qld.gov.au/>

From the start of the Program, the Authorisation and the Douglas Shire Council Invasive Plants and Animals Surveillance Program 2022-2026 will be available for inspection or purchase <sup>16</sup> at the Douglas Shire Council Administration office at: 64-66 Front Street, Mossman.

On 1 January 2020, the **Human Rights Act 2019** (Qld) (the Act) commenced operation.

The **Human Rights Act 2019** requires all public entities in Queensland to act compatibly with human rights and to give proper consideration to human rights before making a decision.

***Douglas Shire Council is committed to creating a culture of human rights which benefits and protects all individuals in the Douglas Shire, as well as meeting its obligations under the Act.***

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<sup>16</sup> See section 241 (Access to authorisation) of the Act.