Richmond Shire Area Biosecurity Plan

2020 – 2024

- **For invasive biosecurity matter**
- **For pest species listed under Local Law No. 3**

Executive Summary

I am writing this introduction to acknowledge the efforts of Richmond Shire's Councillors and staff who have contributed to the production of our Community Biosecurity Plan 2020 – 2024, and endorse the adoption of the plan throughout the Shire.

Richmond Shire area has a diverse natural beauty, history and resources that has paved the way for industry development and enduring community values. Centred on livestock/agriculture production the region also shares mining and tourism interests to bolster economic certainty.

The landscape of Mitchell Grass Downs, basalt, red sandstone ridges and forest country captures the natural assets in biodiversity, flora and fauna that exists in the Shire.

The Richmond Shire Area Biosecurity Plan's purpose is to establish and promote the co-operative management of the impact of weeds and pest animals. This will be achieved by outlining the key roles, responsibilities and management targets as required to reduce the economic, environmental and social threats these pest species pose.

The benefits of this plan will see Council lead a range of stakeholders to plan for a co-operative management of pests on all land within the Shire boundaries. By engaging all sectors of the local community, it will achieve greater acceptance, involvement and understanding of the issues of pest management.

The key objectives of the plan are:

- To establish and perpetuate co-operative management of weeds and pest animals within the Richmond Shire.
- To reduce the economic, environmental and social impact of weeds and pest animals.
- To increase public awareness and public participation in the identification, reporting and control of weeds and pest animals.
- To improve the use of resources and expertise available for managing weeds and pest animals within the Shire.
- To proactively prevent the introduction of new weeds and pest animals. As the Mayor of the Richmond Shire and after a lifetime on a property and in the livestock industry, I strongly endorse this Plan. This is a document that should be placed in a prominent position around the office, allowing a quick reference to any questions on Biosecurity issue within our Shire.

Mayor John Wharton AM

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Biosecurity Program - A separate RSC annual work plan is developed to inform on staff and other resources to implement and lead this plan.

Introduction

The Richmond Shire covers 26,790 square kilometres. The town of Richmond is situated on the Flinders Highway, approximately half way between Townsville and Mount Isa. The 2016 census data showed Richmond Shire has a population of 791, with gender ratios of 52% male and 48% female. There is 177 pastoral landholdings in shire which represents the majority of the shire land use.

Vegetation types range from Mitchell and Flinders grass, known as Downs Country, in the south through to basalt, forest country and Red sandstone ridges in the North.

There are a range of land tenures comprising a variety of land uses. There are no National Parks within the Richmond Shire. Major industries are Agriculture and Tourism and there are developing industries in Irrigation Farming, Mining and Sandalwood.

The long-term goal of the RSABP is to manage the impacts of invasive weeds and pest animals by implementing a co-operative and strategic management approach.

Weeds and pest animals threaten our local economy in lost production and control costs. They cause degradation of natural resources including vegetation, threaten biodiversity values and interfere with human health and recreational activities.

1. Impacts and supporting legislation

The Richmond Shire acknowledges these impacts and that these are supported by being listed in state legislation under *the Biosecurity Act 2014.* In section 48 (s48) it states - each local government is to ensure that biosecurity matters (invasive biosecurity matter as listed) is managed within the local government's area in compliance with this Act.

The majority of land tenure in the shire is leasehold and as land stewards, landholders/land managers there is an underlying obligation to manage the land sustainably. It is acknowledged that drought does impact on land condition and a balance is required with land use demands.

In addition, the Biosecurity Act 2014 promotes the need for shared responsibility and that persons/landholders/government have a general biosecurity obligation (GBO) to manage biosecurity risks under their control and take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the likelihood of causing a biosecurity risk and minimise the adverse effects of dealing with a biosecurity matter or carrier.

This plan will inform on reasonable and practical measures to manage invasive biosecurity risk that is identified in this shire.

Council acknowledges that eradication of most pest species in the shire based on current understanding of distribution/population is not realistic. However building on past effort and adopting a coordinated, strategic management approach can stop and reduce spread/population build up, thus further land degradation.

Council is also cognisant of the need to address land sustainability matters along with industry and the broader community. Many graziers have and will continue to manage land condition

associated with drought, fire and flood and this peer approach needs to incorporate invasive species spread management across the landscape.

The Shire area has been divided into three management zones – Northern Zone 1, Central Zone 2 and Southern Zone 3. The co-operative and strategic management approach is based on land use, hydrology (catchment drainage – Gulf and Lake Eyre), known biology/ecology data of pest movement and spread vectors. The following principles apply to long term strategic management of pests (i.e. enduring beyond the timeframe of this plan):-

- Co-operation and a level of engagement/compliance is critical
- Property management approach adopted – paddock by paddock, make a start.
- Decisions made on accurate pest distribution knowledge – pests are mapped – paddock, property, sub-catchment, shire and catchment levels.
- Control priority based on seed/pest dispersal mechanism – seed in livestock, wind, humans or water as vectors.
- Control priority based on top of catchment approach – top of sub-catchments, hydrology of paddock.
- Control priority based on stopping density/population change – e.g. scattered, low, and medium to high.
- Control priority based on controlling high seed producing infestations along with scattered weeds first. (e.g. bore drains, tanks)
- Best management practice is available and is applied for each pest species.
- Integrated control options apply using all techniques – mechanical, chemical, fencing, fire, bio-control, pasture health/competition.
- Expansion of good neighbour principles applies.
- Opportunities to commence a specific control project to share resources are identified.
- Adaptive management of a cycle of – plan, act, reflect to progressively improve outcomes can apply.
- Sound weed/biosecurity hygiene protocols are implemented by all stakeholders.

2. Administration and Plan Timeframe

A number of groups, government agencies and individuals manage land within the Richmond Shire and, as such have a General Biosecurity Obligation with regard to controlling weeds and pest animals on their land. These stakeholders formed a working group to provide advice on the draft plan and helped prioritise pest plants and animals in the region.

The Richmond Shire Area Biosecurity Plan Working Group

The stakeholders of the RSABP consists of: RSC chairperson, RSC Councillor, Rural Lands Officer, RSC Officers, Zone landholder representatives, Biosecurity Qld Officer, DAF Officer, DNRME Officer, TMR Officer, SGNRM Officer, Qld Rail Officer, Ergon Energy Officer, Agforce Officer and Wanamara Aboriginal Corporation.

A working group was formed and this group will advise and report to Council on management recommendations. External stakeholders from each of the management zones were selected

to participate in the consultation process to ensure all areas of RSC were represented and provided the opportunity to reflect issues in their area. These stakeholders contributed advice on the draft plan and helped prioritise weeds and pest animals in the region.

The plan is a four year plan (2020 - 2024) which will commence from the date of Council adoption. The plan will remain in force until 2024 and be reviewed annually.

The community were invited to comment on the RSABP during the public submission period (fourteen day period). A notice was placed in the Council newsletter (distributed to all residents) and the RSC website. The RSABP was available to view in the RSC office, library and on the RSC website.

Submissions/feedback could be submitted via the RSC website or through a letter or email. All submissions received during the public submission period were reviewed, considered and incorporated into the RSCBP where appropriate.

Adoption at Council Meeting
The Plan was presented to RSC for adoption at the final stages of development. The final RSCBP was adopted on 10th December 2019.

Review Process for Plan
The plan will be reviewed annually by members of the Richmond Shire Council Biosecurity Plan working group. Changes will be made to the RSABP where require.

3. Stakeholders – Roles and Responsibilities

Stakeholder	Roles and responsibilities
Richmond Shire Council	• Develop and administer local government area biosecurity plan, surveillance program and prevention and control program. • Manage pests on local government controlled land • Mapping of pest infestations throughout the Shire • Coordinate community pest management programs • Encourage best practice environmental management to prevent spread of weeds • Contribute financially for pest control and research services
Department of Agriculture & Fisheries	• Develop and implement pest management policy through legislation and research • Work with LG and the regional oversight group to help steer the LG precept investment in research • Provide ongoing support to local government • Awareness raising • State wide mapping of infestations • Guide, encourage and assist other stakeholders in pest management • Supply 1080 to Council and administer, monitor, record and enforce proper use of 1080

Department of Natural Resources and Mines and Energy	• Ensure the conservation of biodiversity, monitor and regulate environmental impact of weed and pest animal management • Promote pest control through leasehold land agreements
Department of Transport and Main Roads	• Detection, control and eradication of weed infestations on road corridors they are responsible for • Best practice of environmental management to prevent spread of weeds • Conduct good weed hygiene on works projects
Department of Health	• Lead role in maintaining public health and safety issues associated with poisons
Southern Gulf Natural Resource Management	• Assist with the development and implementation of eradication, containment and management programs • Provide funding/resources
Landholders	• Follow best practice for pest management on land they have responsibility for • Discharge your GBO • Assist with the development of Local Government Biosecurity Plans • Follow On-Farm Biosecurity Plan.
Ergon Energy	• Follow best practice for pest management on land they have responsibility for • Conduct good weed hygiene on works projects
QLD Rail	• Follow best practice for pest management on land they have responsibility for • Conduct good weed hygiene on works projects
Community Groups	• Promote weed hygiene for public events e.g. sourcing hay, clean down of vehicles prior to and after attending event
Wanamara Aboriginal Corporation	• Follow best practice for pest management on land they have responsibility for • Conduct good weed hygiene on works projects
Agforce	• Assist with the development and implementation of eradication, containment and management programs • Provide funding/resources

4. Management Zones

The Richmond Shire has been divided into 3 management zones (figure 1) for the purpose of the RSABP. This is largely based on the land and vegetation type.

Northern Zone 1 in the northern section of the Shire is forest country with some basalt country in the north east corner.

Central Zone 2 in the central section of the Shire is a mixture of lightly timbered areas, as well as some grasses and also river country.

Southern Zone 3 in the southern section of the Shire is downs country, with predominantly Flinders and Mitchell grasses.

Pest management priorities for the zones will be established by the RSABP working group by scoring each pest on existing priorities, impacts/threats and capacity to manage.

Figure 2 shows a map of the catchments the catchments of the Richmond Shire. Almost all the shire's catchments flow into the Flinders River and out into the Gulf. There is a very small area to the South West that flows into the Cooper Creek Basin.

The major source of domestic and stock water in the Richmond Shire Area is the Great Artesian Basin.

Figure 1 - Map of Richmond Shire Properties/ Management Zones 1,2 &3

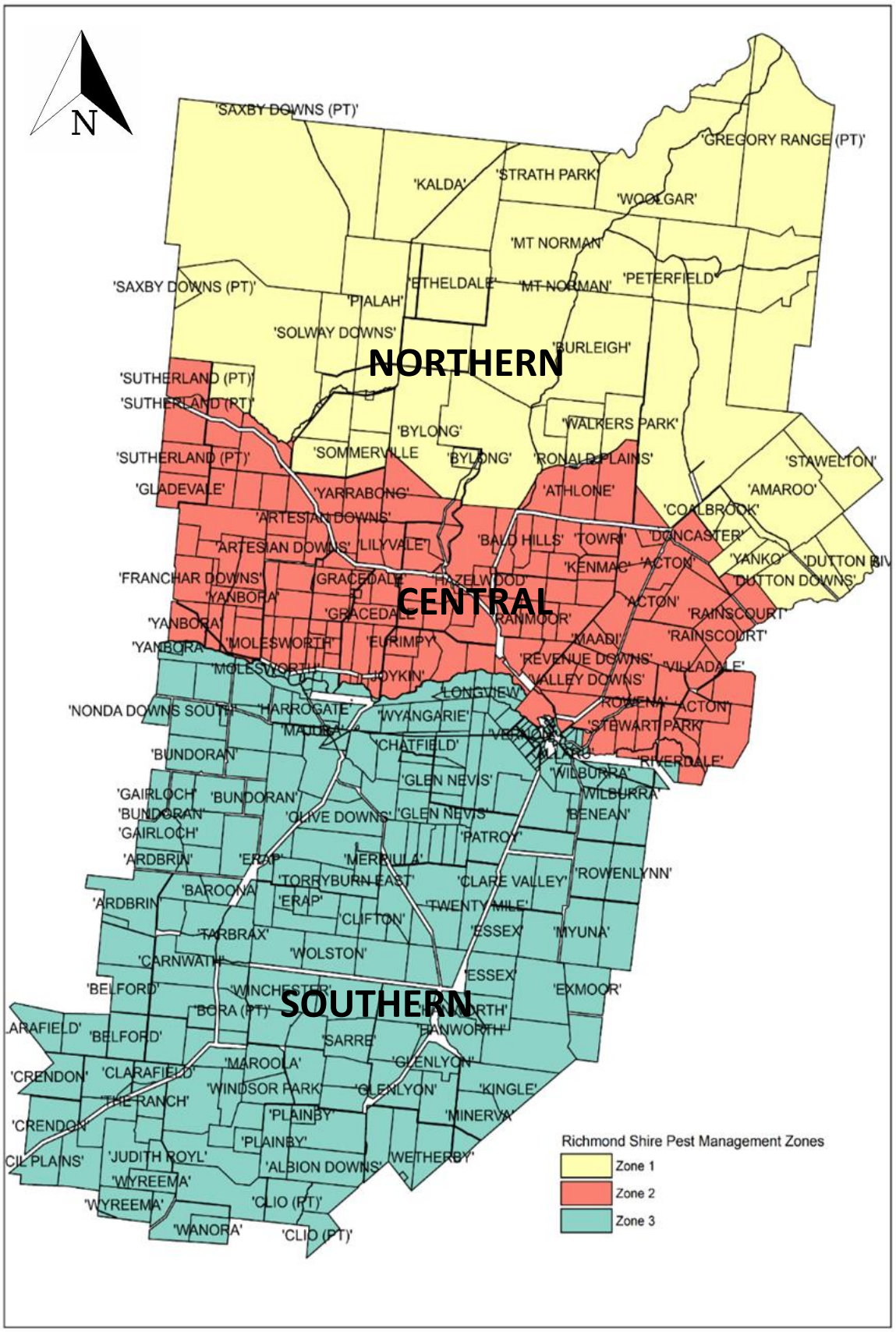
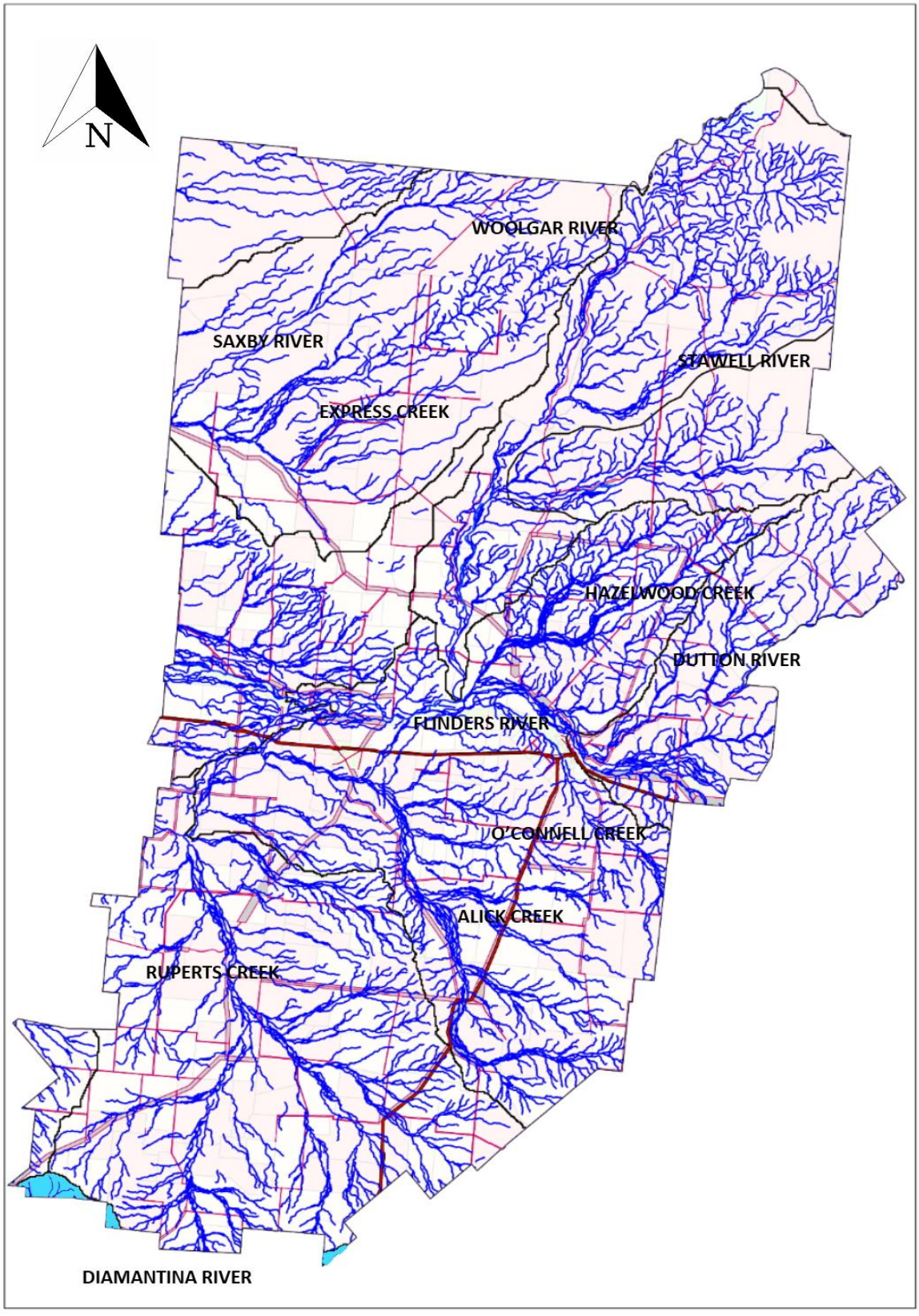


Figure 2 - Map of Richmond Shire Catchments

Flinders River – Sub catchments (Dutton River, Stawell River, Woolgar River, Saxby River, Express Creek, Hazelwood Creek, O'Connell Creek, Alick Creek and Ruperts Creek)

Coopers Creek – Sub catchments (Diamantina River)



5. Invasive pests - Pest classifications, Risk Assessment and Prioritisation Process

Weed	Existing Priorities			Impacts/threats					Capacity to manage		Total
	National	State	Local	Conservation and biodiversity	Riparian and aquatic	Agriculture and production areas	Community and residential	Potential health/ wellbeing issues	Achievability/ feasibility of success	Current extent	
Parthenium	2.5	1.5	5	3	5	1	1	5	3.5	4	31.5
Prickly Acacia	2.5	1.5	5	5	5	5	2	1	2.5	1	30.5
Bellyache Bush	2.5	1.5	3.5	2.5	5	1	1	5	3.5	4	29.5
Coral Cactus	2.5	1.5	5	5	1	1	1	1	5	5	28
Rubbervine	2.5	1.5	5	2.5	5	2	1	1	2.5	3	26
Parkinsonia	2.5	1.5	1.5	2.5	4	2.5	1	1	3.5	3.5	24
Athel Pine	2.5	1.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	5	20
Chinee Apple	0	1.5	2	1	3	1	1	1	3.5	4	18
Mesquite	2.5	1.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	5	15
Mimosa Bush	0	0	1.5	2.5	1	1	1	1	2	2.5	12.5
Feral Pig	0	1.5	5	5	5	5	2.5	3	2.5	3	32.5
Feral Cat	0	1.5	3	5	5	5	5	2.5	2.5	2	30
Wild Dog	0	1.5	5	4	4	4	4	1	2.5	1	23
Rabbit	0	1.5	1.5	2	1	1	1	1	5	5	19
Feral Chital Deer	0	1.5	1.5	1	1	1	1	1	5	5	18
Feral Rusa Deer	0	1.5	1.5	1	1	1	1	1	5	5	18
Fox	0	1.5	1.5	1	1	1	1	1	5	5	18

Invasive Plants and Animals present in the Richmond Shire Area.

Common Name	Restricted Matter Category						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Must be reported to DAF	Must be reported to RSC	Must not be distributed or released to the environment	Must not be moved	Must not be kept without a permit	Must not be fed (except to trap)	Must be destroyed
Wild Dog			X	X		X	
Feral Cat			X	X		X	
Feral Pig			X	X		X	X
Feral Chital Deer			X	X		X	
Feral Rusa Deer			X	X		X	
Fox			X	X	X	X	
Rabbit			X	X	X	X	
Prickly Acacia			X				
Mesquite			X				
Parkinsonia			X				
Parthenium			X				
Bellyache Bush			X				
Athel Pine			X				
Chinee Apple			X				
Coral Cactus			X				
Rubber Vine			X				
Calotrope							
Mimosa Bush							
Mother of Millions			X				
Plague Locust							
Spur-throated Locust							

Prioritisation

Resources across local government are limited and identifying the most important impacts to target is essential for the community to optimise the best management gains.

The following are critical factors to consider for the working group and all stakeholders:-

Identification of pest species	**Accurate mapping data is available**	**Accurate density(L,M,H)/scale data is available**	**Biology & ecology knowledge is available**
Prevention species that threaten are identified	**Impacts of each species is known**	**Prioritise species**	**Management framework is in place i.e. Zones**
Working group oversees implementation of zonal projects	**Project goals identified in view of timely management**	**Monitor outcomes, progress and report**	**Evaluate outcomes by the working group associated with timeframe.**

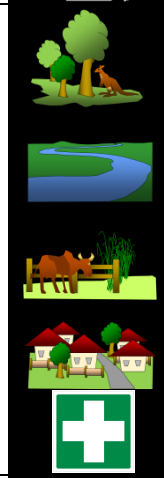
Theme		Category	Description	Key questions	Score
Existing priorities		National	Weeds of National Significance and National Eradication Programs	Is it a Weed of National Significance (WONS) or under a National Cost Shared Eradication Program	Yes =5 No =0
		State	State declared weeds	Is it declared under Queensland Legislation?	2-5
		Local	Local priorities from previous plans	Was it in your last pest management plan? What priority was it?	2-5
Impacts and threats		Biodiversity and conservation (plants and animals)	Plants, animals and ecosystems	How does it or how is it likely to impact on plants, animals and ecosystems?	1= not so bad, can live with it 5 = real bad, must do something
		Aquatic and riparian (water resources and habitats)	Rivers, creeks, springs, wetlands and dams.	How does it or how is it likely to impact rivers, creeks, springs, wetlands and dams?	1= not so bad, can live with it 5 = real bad, must do something
		Agriculture and production	Farms, crops, grazing or harvesting	How does it or how is it likely to impact farms, crops, grazing or harvesting?	1= not so bad, can live with it 5 = real bad, must do something
		Community and residential	Community areas, housing, living places, lifestyle properties, parks, gardens and public areas	How does it or is it likely to impact on the places people live?	1= not so bad, can live with it 5 = real bad, must do something
		Potential health/ wellbeing issues	Impact on human/animal health	How does it or how is it likely to impact human/animal health?	1= not so bad, can live with it 5 = real bad, must do something
Capacity to manage		Current extent	Current distribution and suitable habitat	Is it just in one place or is it all over the place? Can it spread more?	1= widespread and common 5= localised and rare
		Feasibility of control/ success	Herbicides and other tools, easy to find or ID, seed life, reproduction rate	Are there effective tools and approaches to manage it? Is it affordable and do you have the skills and the time do the job well?	1= lowest or poor feasibility 5= highest or best feasibility

Table 1 - adapted version of the prioritisation framework used in identifying pests and weeds for inclusion in the biosecurity plan[1]

[1] Prioritisation framework adopted from FNQROC's – FNQ Local Government Area Biosecurity Planning Framework: Biosecurity plan management objectives and zoning – processes, definitions and reporting guidelines. Version revision 1.8 (December 2017)

6. Management Targets - Goal Setting, Objectives and Strategies.

The four desiried outcome underpinning the RSC Biosecurity Plan:

- Commitment, Roles and Responsibilities
- Management Targets, Prevention, Early Intervention and Strategic Management Approach.
- Awareness and Education
- Monitoring and Assessment

DESIRED OUTCOME 1 – Commitment, Roles and Responsibilities

All stakeholders in the shire are motivated to reducing the impacts of invasive species and limiting land degradation. A shared responsibility approach can provide for planned, coordinated and effective teamwork across the shire to allow for land management improvements.			
Strategic action	Success Indicator	Responsible	Timeframe
Assist landholders with Property Biosecurity Plan development and compliance	Provision of technical advice, and advice regarding statutory obligation	RSC, MLA	Ongoing
Distribute best practice publications to stakeholders	All landholders with PBP are supplied with publications where available	RSC	Ongoing
Adopt timely and effective integrated best practice management for priority pests	Percentage of priority pest operations based on best practice	RSC, DAF, SGNRM, Landholders	Ongoing
Coordinate impact reduction programs for established pest animals, e.g. baiting	Number of participants attending coordinated programs and scalps claimed.	RSC	Ongoing
Investigate new monitoring and control techniques and incorporate best practice management as appropriate	Investigate possible new controls	RSC, DAF, SGNRM, AGFORCE, Landholders, Stakeholders	Ongoing
Identify improvements in existing pest management and adopt practices as required	Number of improvements recommended	RSC, DAF, SGNRM, AGFORCE, Landholders, Stakeholders	Ongoing
Revise or introduce suitable new weed and pest animal incentives	Introduction of new pest incentives	RSC, DAF, SGNRM, AGFORCE, Landholders, Stakeholders	As appropriate

DESIRED OUTCOME 2 - Management targets - Prevention, Early Intervention and Strategic Management approach.

Prevention and early detection, eradication, strategic control and asset protection .			
Strategic action	Success Indicator	Responsible	Timeframe
High risk species and their potential pathways of entry identified	• Regional weed list developed through NRM or ROC and persuade neighbouring LGAs to have a completed Biosecurity Plan to gain knowledge of high risk species. • Contributed to APDS • Knowledge of high risk species and pathways • Alert Species List developed and promoted as a part of awareness and educational activities. • Reporting responsibilities identified and promoted in awareness/extension activities.	RSC, Landholders, DAF, SGNRM, Agforce, Stakeholders	Ongoing
Species or stakeholder specific obligations developed to prevent entry	• Obligations implemented to prevent entry, (i.e. Weed Hygiene declarations, weed awareness built into property inductions) • On farm-biosecurity plans developed and implemented	RSC, Landholders, DAF, SGNRM	Ongoing
Early Detection programs established 30 sentinel sites at high risk areas (tourist hot spots, wash-down bays and sale yards)	• Sentinel Sites to be established throughout the shire, surveyed and controlled based on high risk areas.	RSC, DAF, SGNRM	July 2023
Land Audit	• Extent and presence of weed and pest animal species established in Richmond.	RSC, Landholders	Annually
Consider pest impacts, and pest control costs in the local declaration and prioritisation of pest species	Percentage of priority pests determined with reference to information on impact and control costs	RSC, DAF, SGNRM	Ongoing
Maintain, promote and use wash-down facilities	Use of wash down facilities	RSC	Ongoing

Adopt weed prevention protocols, and support their use by other local stakeholders	Usage of weed prevention protocols by key stakeholders	RSC, SGNRM, DAF	Ongoing
Promote use of weed hygiene declarations (template at back) for: - Stock entering stock routes - Movement of livestock transporters, harvesters and construction equipment - Movement of fodder, soil & turf	Use of weed hygiene declarations by key stakeholders	RSC, DAF, Industry, Landholders	Ongoing
Prevent the introduction along transport corridors, for example, by ensuring that road construction contracts include weed prevention conditions	Transport corridors with weed seed prevention programs	RSC, TMR, QR	As required
Maintain partnerships and collaborative strategies with neighbouring Council's to identify and target emerging infestations of pest plants and animals	Participate in SRLOG and GCPTF meetings	RSC	Ongoing
Promote and participate in Rapid Response protocol	All confirmed new weeds responded to in a timely fashion. No incursions of new weeds established	RSC, DAF	As required
Encourage data sharing between and adjoining Local Governments state agencies for proactive and coordinated approaches to pest management	Data sharing and cooperative proactive approaches established	RSC, DAF, SGNRM	Ongoing
Ensure all management zones are represented on the RSA Biosecurity plan working group	The area is well represented on the RSA biosecurity plan working group	RSC, Stakeholders	Ongoing
Ensure consistency between the Plan and related State, Regional and Local Pest Management strategies and plans	Alignment of the plan to the related State, Regional and Local Pest Management Plans	RSC, Stakeholders	Ongoing

Coordinate with adjoining shires to align priority pests contained within Local Government area Pest Management Plans along boundaries	Negotiation of a buffer along Richmond Shire boundaries. Gulf Catchments Pest Task Force Meetings.	RSC, DAF, SGNRM, AGFORCE	Ongoing
Ensure the plan is integrated into the Council's Corporate plan	Biosecurity plan is incorporated and pest management issues are part of Council's core business	RSC	Ongoing
Communication with Council staff and elected Councillors to raise awareness of Council legal responsibilities in relation to pests	Staff and Councillors are educated with regards to their responsibilities to pest management	RSC	Ongoing
Assess non-restricted matter weeds for local declaration under Council's local laws	Pest species assessed	RSC	Ongoing
Richmond Shire Area Biosecurity plan reviewed annually	Plan reviewed and amended if necessary	RSC, stakeholders	Annually

DESIRED OUTCOME 3 - Awareness and Education

All aspects of community awareness are applied to maximise a pest management profile across the shire and the importance for effective and timely management to stop the spread of these highly impacting species.			
Strategic action	Success Indicator	Responsible	Timeframe
Educate the community about pest impacts and their GBO, • school visits, (presentation and weed buster activity) • media mail outs • meetings/forums • Best Practice demonstration sites • Richmond Shire Council Monthly Newsletter • Social Media Updates • Public Notice board displays	Richmond State School attended, presentation and education program (weed buster) delivered resulting in a sound level of interest from School, children and parents, and the community. Biosecurity plan is promoted through media/mail-outs and is available to be purchased or viewed. Richmond Shire Council hosts a Pest Management Working Group that is attended by all stakeholders with a vested interest in pest management. Best Practice Management adopted by stakeholders.	RSC, SGNRM, DAF, AGFORCE	When requested
Attend and promote public awareness of pests at Richmond Field Days through a weed and pest animal management display	Pest display undertaken at field days, public enquiries answered, and contact numbers recorded.	RSC, SGNRM, DAF, AGFORCE	Annually
Prevention and Early detection awareness programs to ensure landholders are aware of potential pest threats.	Alert Species List developed and promoted as a part of awareness and educational activities. • Through BPWG • Signage at sentinel sites • Embedded in On-farm biosecurity plans. Number of new incursions prevented or eradicated, Preventative measure being undertaken such as the use of weed hygiene declarations on-farm biosecurity plans	RSC	Ongoing, as required

Provide assistance and advice on best practice control methods to clients regarding pest management	Best Practice Management Knowledge attained through attendance at pest symposiums and regional pest meetings/forums, Promote customer call centre and record number enquiries answered. DAF factsheets available on demand.	RSC, Councillors, DAF, SGNRM, AGFORCE	As required
Incentives to encourage landholders to assist with pest management issues	Look at the possibility of a good neighbour program	RSC, DAF, AGFORCE	Ongoing
Source funding for community awareness, employment programs and specific pest management projects	Whether successful in getting funding. No of sources approached for funding	RSC, Stakeholders, DAF, SGNRM, AGFORCE	Ongoing
Encourage community to participate in managing pests • Determine the local impact of pests • Initiate local surveys of community awareness and attitudes • Report pest infestations and/or pest activity • People aware and discharging their GBO	• Percentage of priority pests for which local impact information is recorded • Level of response to surveys • Data captured in PetSmart and Weed Spotter App	RSC, Stakeholders	Ongoing
Publicise and educate stakeholders about duty of care when using herbicides and pesticides	Stakeholders are aware of their responsibilities and licenced/trained in the safe use of chemicals	RSC, DAF, QHD, SGNRM, AGFORCE	Ongoing

DESIRED OUTCOME 4 - Monitoring and Assessment

A critical component of improvement or adaptive management where a cycle of Plan, Act, Reflect and Review is applied to achieving better outcomes.			
Strategic action	Success Indicator	Responsible	Timeframe
Establish & maintain a process for dealing with compliance issues – Richmond Shire Council Surveillance Program and Richmond Shire Council Prevention and Control Program.	Enforcement actions documented and people following the RSCBP	RSC	As required
Create a register of compliance activities	Register created	RSC	As required
Offer compliance training to Local Government officers and other stakeholders	Training offered/conducted	RSC, DAF	As required
Make people aware of their GBO	The degree to which stakeholders are kept informed	RSC	Ongoing
Participate and attend Southern Gulf Catchment Pest Task Force meetings	Meetings attended	RSC, Stakeholders	Biannually
Establish and maintain an advisory group of key stakeholders to develop and review management plans and actions. Richmond Shire Council Biosecurity Plan Working Group	Meetings held and updates provided. Continued working partnerships	RSC, DAF, landholders, stakeholders	Ongoing
Contribute local pest data to the DAF A Pest Distribution Survey (APDS) and assist DAF in gathering data at local events e.g. Field Days	Richmond Shire pest data incorporated into DAF APDS and associated data bases	RSC, DAF	As required
Produce a yearly report/update including mapping on pest incursions.	Report provided at annual review meeting	RSC, SGNRM	Annually
Develop appropriate monitoring and evaluation to assess the effectiveness of current pest management programs	Survey/monitoring system developed that provides information about the success of treatments conducted. Feedback from landholders annually.	RSC	July 2020

Monsoonal flood fodder drop and supplementary feeding sites are monitored on a regular basis by landholders and unknown plant species are reported, promptly identified and controlled if required.	Survey/monitoring system developed that provides information about the success of treatments conducted. Feedback from landholders.	Landholders, DAF, RSC	Ongoing
Utilise State Government (DAF) annual pest distribution survey data for a range of prohibited and restricted matter pest species.	Grid mapping knowledge obtained by Pest Officers data on presences and abundance is available on the DAF website for working groups to utilise as base level information to allow for sound and effective decision making based on facts and not guess work.	DAF, RSC, Landholders	Annual

7. Monitoring and Review

Data collection is critical information obtained by all stakeholders during control programs. The working group can analyse data to make informed decisions in allocating resources and support to obtain BMP and partnerships. Accurate mapping data, BMP research, planning, stakeholder communication/awareness and leadership are critical components of this process.			
Common Name	Local Priority	Monitoring	Review
Wild Dog	5	• Feedback from Landholders • Biannual Baiting Program • Animal Bounty	• Effectiveness of programs, costs and resources.
Feral Pig	5	• Feedback from Landholders • Feedback from animal hunters.	• Mapping of possible outbreaks. • Research control methods. • Prepare and implement eradication program in the event of an African Swine Fever outbreak.
Feral Cat	3	• Feedback from Landholders • Animal Bounty • RSC Cat Traps (available for hire)	• Effectiveness of programs, costs and resources.
Feral Chital Deer	1.5	• Feedback from Landholders • Reported Sightings	• Mapping of possible outbreaks. • Research control methods.
Feral Rusa Deer	1.5	• Feedback from Landholders • Reported Sightings	• Mapping of possible outbreaks. • Research control methods.
Fox	1.5	• Feedback from Landholders • Reported Sightings	• Mapping of possible outbreaks. • Research control methods.
Rabbit	1.5	• Feedback from Landholders • Reported Sightings	• Mapping of possible outbreaks. • Research control methods.
Plague Locust	0	• Feedback from Landholders • Reported Sightings	• Mapping of possible outbreaks. • Research control methods.
Spur-throated Locust	0	• Feedback from Landholders • Reported Sightings	• Mapping of possible outbreaks. • Research control methods.

Prickly Acacia	5	• Map, inspect and monitor infestations on a regular basis.	• Effectiveness of programs, costs and resources.
Mesquite	1	• Map, inspect and monitor infestations on a regular basis.	• Effectiveness of programs, costs and resources.
Parkinsonia	1.5	• Map, inspect and monitor infestations on a regular basis.	• Effectiveness of programs, costs and resources.
Parthenium	5	• Inspect known infestation sight every 4-5 weeks following rainfall events. • Monitor every 8-10 weeks	• Effectiveness of programs, costs and resources. • Map outbreaks.
Bellyache Bush	3.5	• Map, inspect and monitor infestations on a regular basis.	• Effectiveness of programs, costs and resources.
Athel Pine	1.5	• Map, inspect and monitor infestations on a regular basis.	• Effectiveness of programs, costs and resources.
Chinee Apple	2	• Map, inspect and monitor infestations on a regular basis.	• Effectiveness of programs, costs and resources.
Coral Cactus	5	• Map, inspect and monitor infestations on a regular basis.	• Effectiveness of programs, costs and resources. • Ensure new infestations are eradicated.
Rubber Vine	5	• Map, inspect and monitor infestations on a regular basis.	• Effectiveness of programs, costs and resources. • Ensure new infestations are eradicated.
Calotrope	0	• Feedback from Landholders • Reported Sightings	• Mapping of possible outbreaks. • Research control methods.
Mimosa Bush	1.5	• Feedback from Landholders • Reported Sightings	• Mapping outbreaks • Ensure new infestations are eradicated.
Mother of Millions	0	• Feedback from Landholders • Reported Sightings	• Mapping of possible outbreaks. • Research control methods.
Giant Rat's Grass	Watch List	• Feedback from Landholders • Reported Sightings	• Mapping outbreaks • Ensure new infestations are eradicated.
Grader Grass	Watch List	• Feedback from Landholders • Reported Sightings	• Mapping outbreaks • Ensure new infestations are eradicated.

Feral Pig (Sus scrofa)

Strategic Importance: 32.5/50

Description:

- Smaller, leaner and more muscular than domestic pigs with well-developed shoulders and necks and smaller, shorter hindquarters
- Sparse coarse hair
- Longer larger snouts and tusks, straighter tails, smaller mostly pricked ears and narrower backs than domestic pigs.
- Mostly black, buff-coloured, or spotted black and white
- Juveniles may be striped
- Old boars (razorbacks) have large heads and shoulders and a raised prominent backbone
- Generally shy and nocturnal
- Can damage almost all crops from sowing to harvest
- Feeds in seed, grain, fruit and vegetable crops
- Lamb predation
- Damages pastures by grazing and rooting
- Can spread weeds
- Can carry many diseased and parasites
- Can have an effort on clean water available to livestock by wallowing in troughs

Distribution: Widespread throughout the Shire

General Biosecurity Obligation – Take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with pigs. RSC has a 1080 baiting levy payable in the first rates notice of the financial year providing two coordinated baiting programs annually.

Action

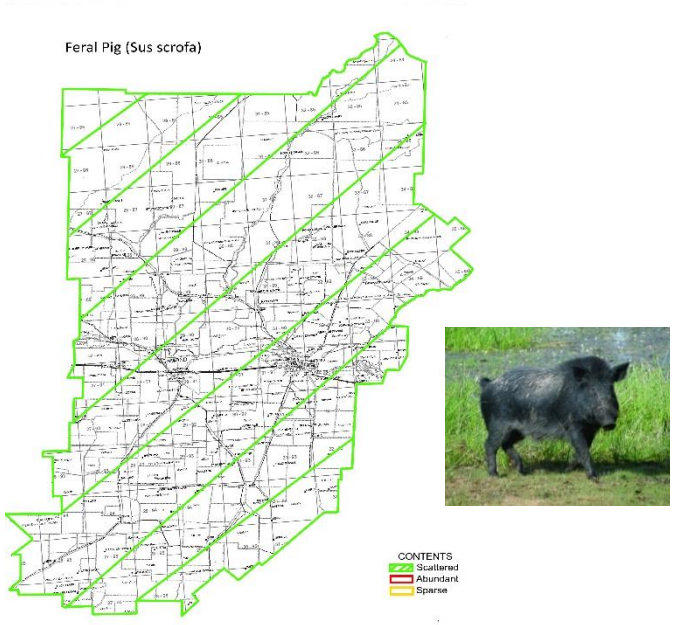
- Report signs of African swine fever

The signs of African swine fever in pigs can include: death (possibly before other signs are noticeable) blotching/reddening of the skin, high fever, lack of coordination or stiff gait, difficulty breathing, abortion, diarrhoea and vomiting.

- Carry out control work on local government land.
- In the event of an African Swine Fever outbreak implement an immediate eradication plan.
- Educate the community on Feral Pig identification and control methods
- If you suspect African swine fever, you must immediately contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888.

For more information on African swine fever call 13 25 23 or visit qld.gov.au/AfricanSwineFever Subscribe to the biosecurity alerts at daf.qld.gov.au/alerts

Refer to APPENDIX 4 for fact sheet information.



Feral Cats (*Felis catus*)

Strategic Importance: 30/50

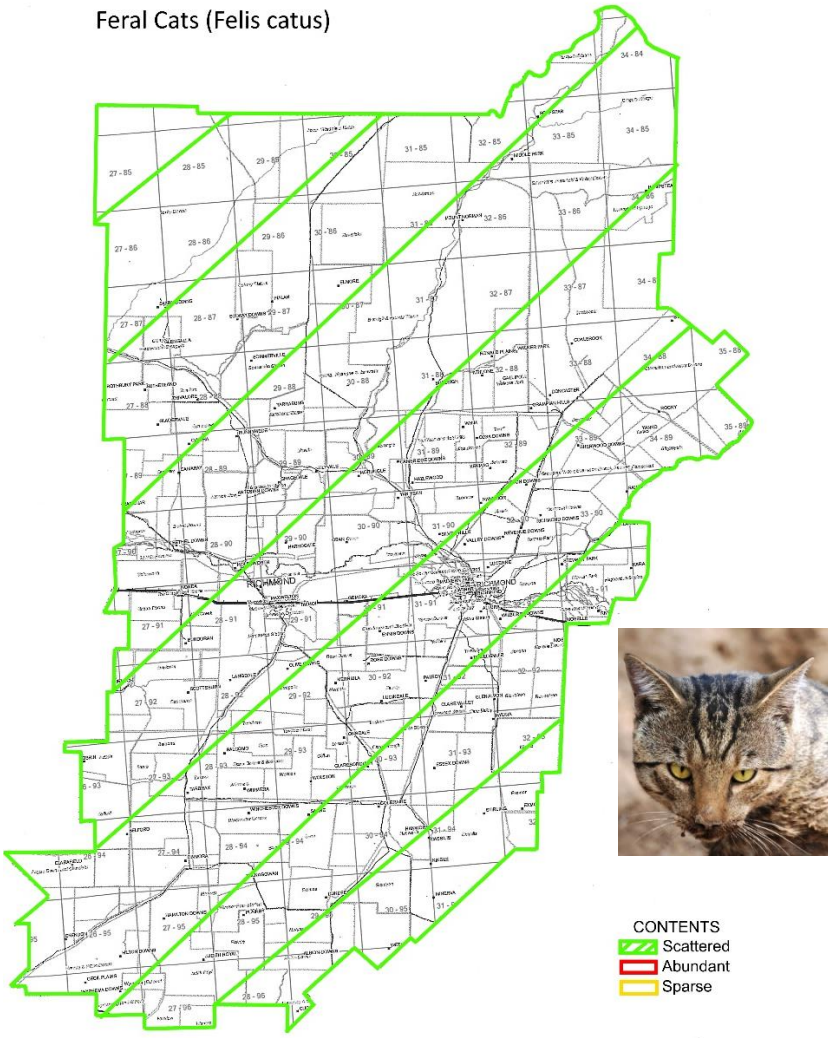
Description:

- Similar appearance to a domestic cat; however under ideal conditions will have increased muscle development, particularly around the head, neck and shoulders.
- Males weigh between 3-6kg, females 2-4kg
- Predominantly short-haired
- Coat colours range from ginger, tabby, tortoiseshell to grey and black.
- Most active at night, with peak hunting activity soon after sunset and just before sunrise.
- Has a distinctive green eye sheen under spotlight
- Opportunistic predator of small mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects and even fish
- Particularly harmful in island environments, having caused the extinction of numerous species
- Competes for prey with native predatory species such as quolls, eagles, hawks and reptiles.
- Contains a parasite that is particularly harmful to marsupials, causing blindness, respiratory disorders, paralysis, and loss of offspring.
- Can also carry rabies, should this disease ever enter Australia

General Biosecurity Obligation – Feral cats must not be moved, fed, given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit. Take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with cats.

Action

- Carry out control works on local government land
- Educate the community on Feral cat identification and control methods
- Encourage landholders to manage pests through Local Government bounty
- Utilise RSC Cat Traps (Available for Hire)
- RSC Cat Bounty



Wild Dogs (*Canis familiaris dingo*, *Canis lupus dingo/ Canis familiaris, Canis lupus familiaris*)

Strategic Importance: 23/50

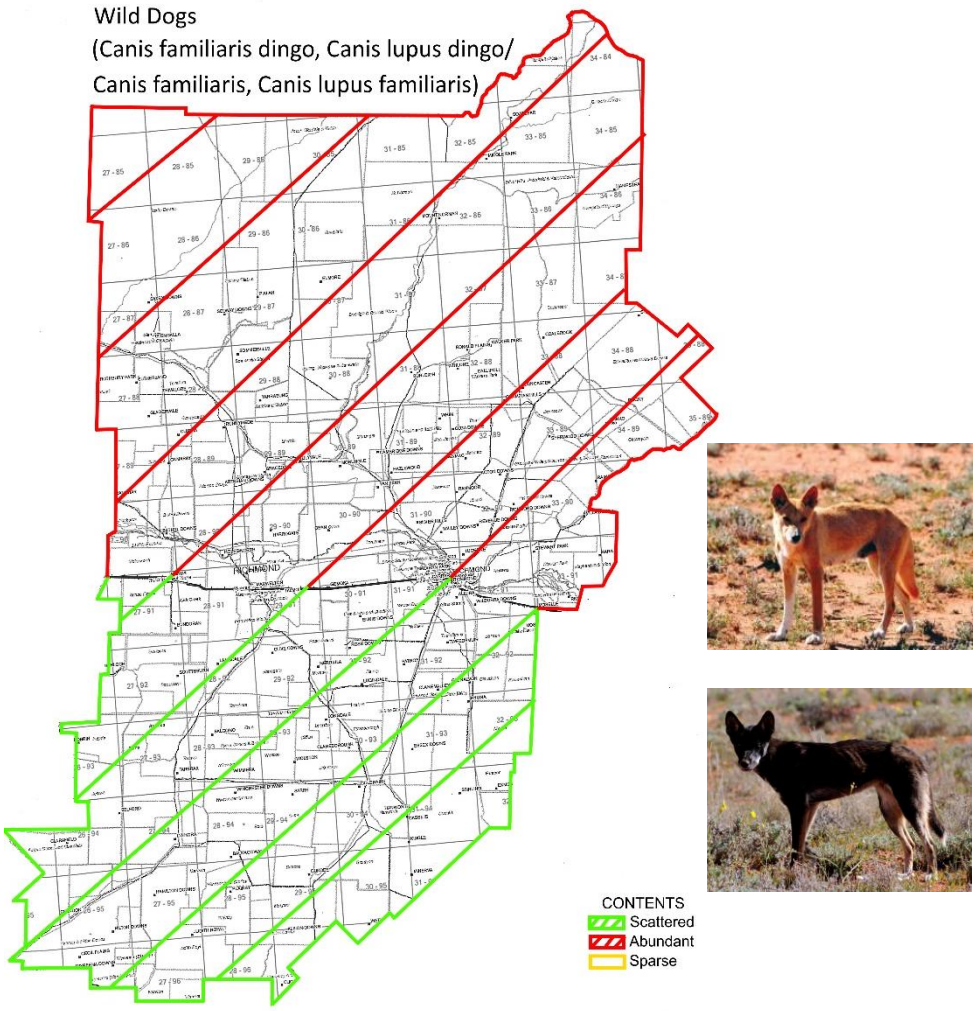
Description:

- Predominantly red, ginger and sandy-yellow, though can be white, black and tan or solid black
- Females weigh about 12kg and males 15kg. Adults reach up to 60cm in height
- Heavily boned skull and larger teeth than domestic dogs
- Naturally lean with large pricked ears and a white tip on the tail
- Can carry diseases such as distemper and parvovirus as well as parasites.
- Can harass and kill large numbers of livestock without feeding on the carcasses
- Could pose serious risk if rabies was introduced into Australia

General Biosecurity Obligation – Wild Dogs must not be moved, kept (if a wild dog), fed, given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit.Take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with Wild Dogs. RSC has a 1080 baiting levy payable in the first rates notice of the financial year providing two coordinated baiting programs annually.

Action

- Participate in biannual baiting program.
- Utilise manufactured baits if baiting is required outside of baiting program.
- Provide scalps and or data to council of dogs shot on property
- Carry out control works on local government land.
- Educate the community on wild dog identification and control methods.
- Encourage landholders to participate in the 1080 baiting program and the Local Government Bounty.



Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)

Strategic Importance: 19/50

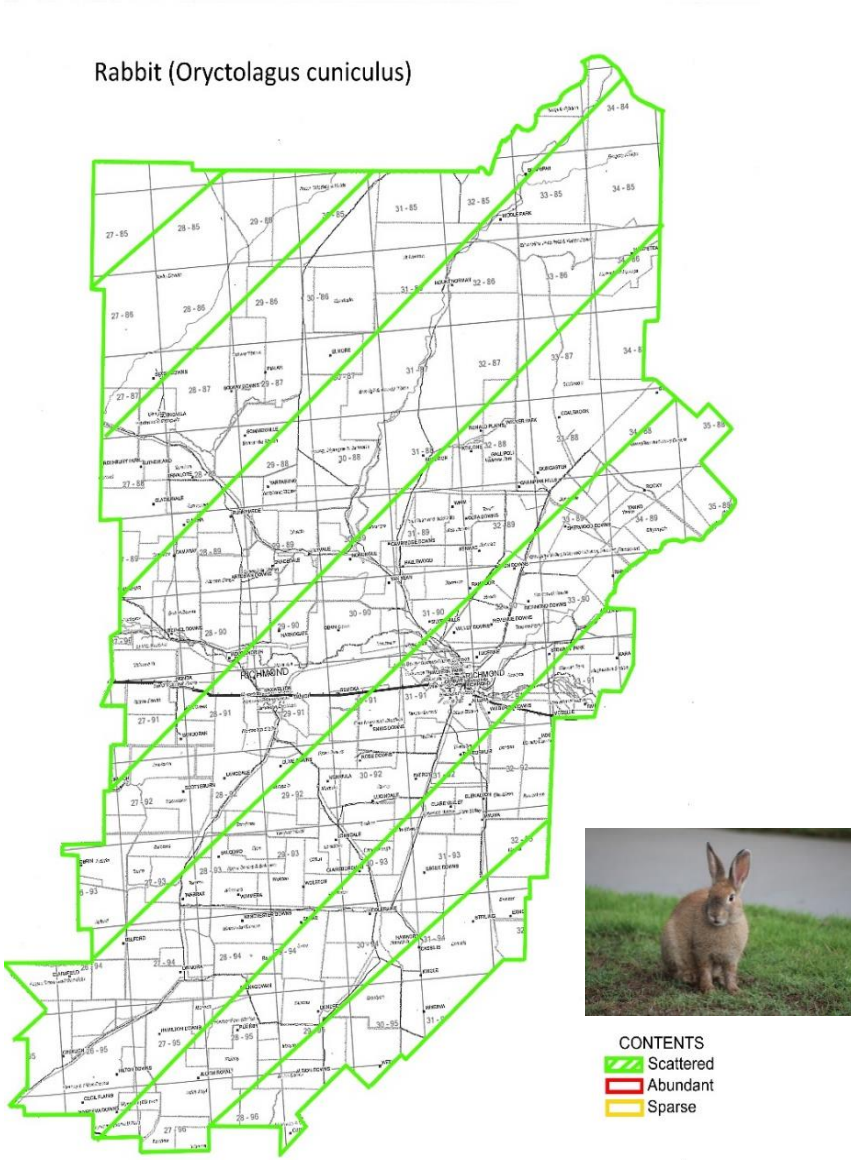
Description:

- Usually grey-brown with a pale belly, but can also be black or ginger
- Long hind legs and short front legs
- Long ears and large eyes
- Usually weighs between 1.3 – 2.3kg
- Competes with native animals for food and burrow space
- Grazing and burrowing leads to soil erosion and silting of aquatic ecosystems
- May ringbark trees in search of moisture during times of drought

General Biosecurity Obligation – Rabbits must not be kept, moved, fed, given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit. Take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with rabbits.

Action

- Carry out control works on local government land when necessary
- Educate the community on Rabbit identification and control methods
- Monitor the level of Rabbit activity in the Shire to ensure it does not become a pest management issue



Chital Deer (*Axis axis*)

Strategic Importance: 18/50

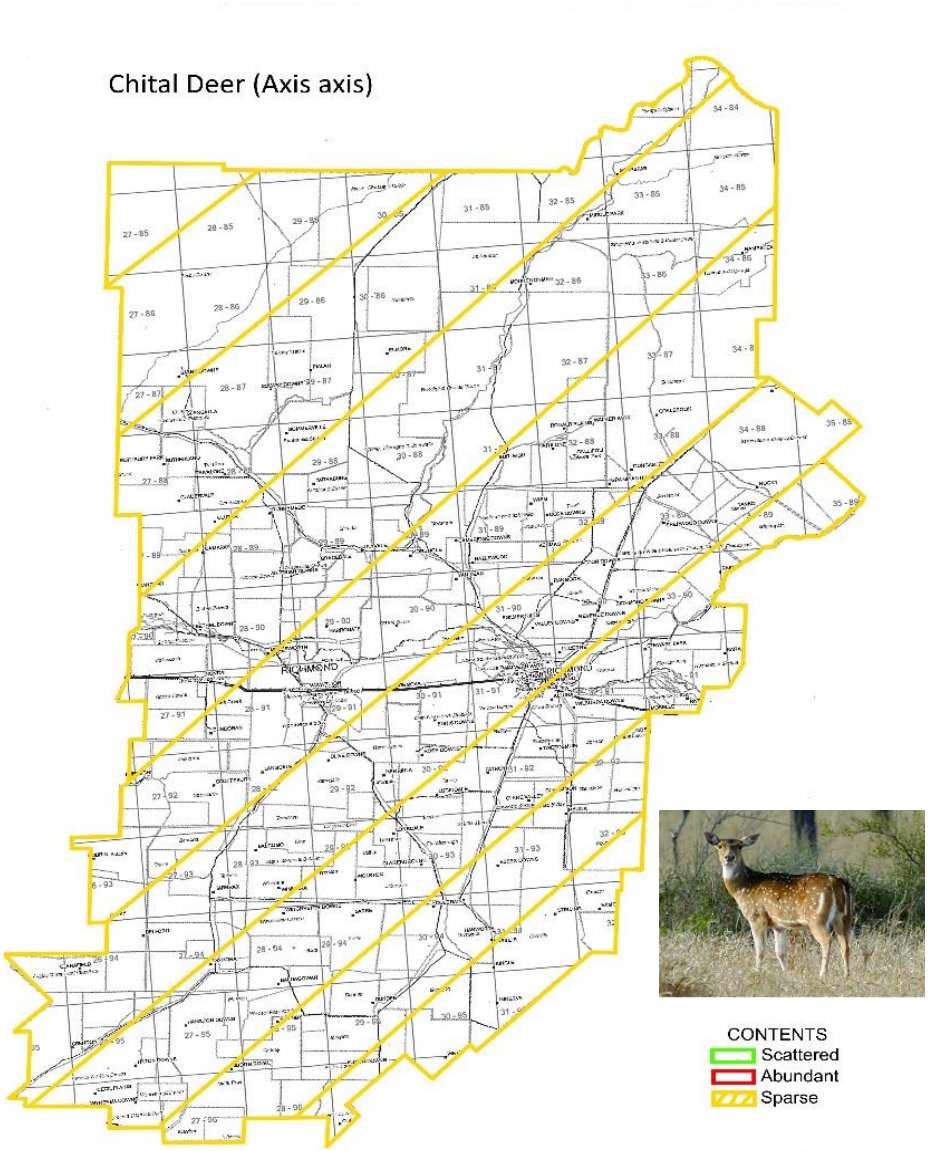
Description:

- Relatively small deer species with stags weighing up to 90kg, hinds up to 45kg
- Coat varies from rusty red to dark brown with permanent white spots and a dark dorsal stripe along the spine
- Throat is white and inner legs, stomach, and under tail are also white to beige
- Stags carry three-tined antlers on long upright beam, usually 55-70cm long
- Can damage natural environment by eating native vegetation, damaging trees, dispersing weed seeds and fouling water.
- Can damage forestry seedlings, agricultural and horticultural crops, commercial flower crops, orchards, irrigation systems, and fences.
- In dry seasons can compete for cattle for pasture and supplementary feed.
- Can be a traffic hazard

General Biosecurity Obligation – Chital Deer must not be kept, moved, fed, given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit. Take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with Chital Deer.

Action

- Monitor the level of Deer activity in the Shire to ensure it does not become a pest management issue
- Report deer sightings to RSC



Rusa Deer (*Rusa timorensis, Cervus timorensis*)

Strategic Importance: 18/50

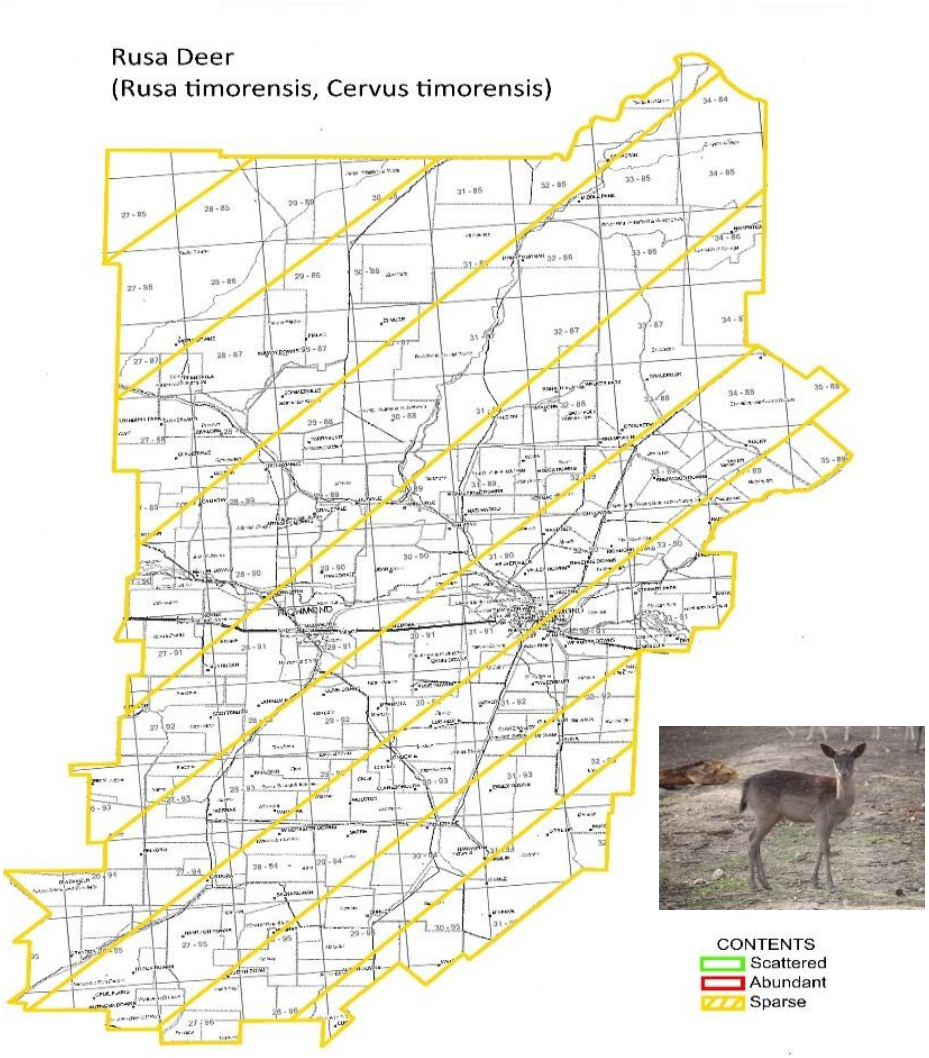
Description:

- Greyish to yellowish or reddish-brown coat. Darker brown on their hindquarters and thighs.
- Body hair is coarse and stags develop a mane during winter.
- Stags stand up to 110cm, hinds up to 95cm. Stags weigh about 120kg, hinds up to 80kg
- Chest and throat are light, chest has line of dark hair visible between forelegs
- Antlers typically 3-tined, with beams forming characteristic lyre shape.
- Can damage natural environment by eating native vegetation, damaging trees, dispersing weed seeds and fouling water.
- Can damage forestry seedlings, agricultural and horticultural crops, commercial flower crops, orchards, irrigation systems, and fences.
- In dry seasons can compete for cattle for pasture and supplementary feed.
- Can be a traffic hazard

General Biosecurity Obligation – Rusa Deer must not be kept, moved, fed, given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit. Take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with Rusa Deer.

Action

- Monitor the level of Deer activity in the Shire to ensure it does not become a pest management issue
- Report deer sightings to RSC



Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

Strategic Importance: 18/50

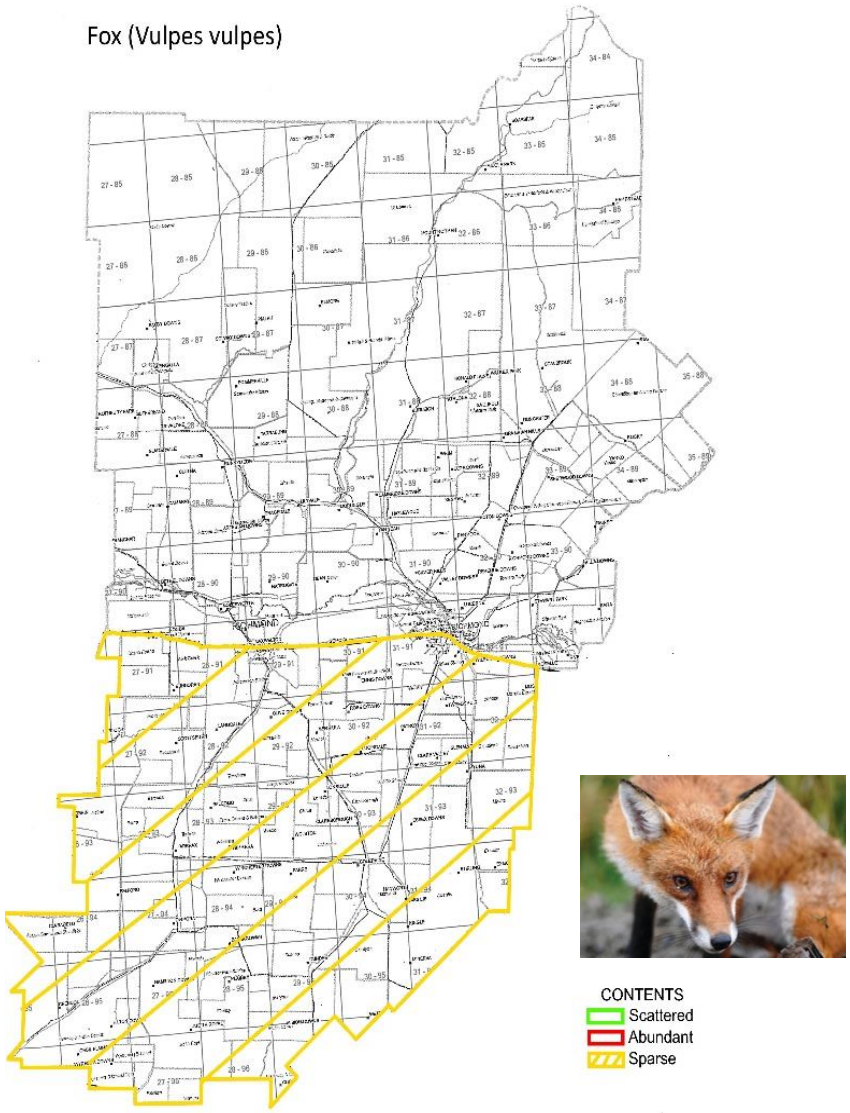
Description:

- Males weigh around 6kg and females closer to 5kg
- Muzzle is pointed
- Skull is flattened and slender
- Large ears and a long bushy tail
- Considered the greatest threat to the long term survival of many small marsupials in Australia
- Preys on lambs, kids and poultry, despite an abundance of food
- Can spread diseases to domestic animals

General Biosecurity Obligation – Foxes must not be kept, moved, fed, given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit. Take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with foxes

Action

- Carry out control works when foxes are present in the shire
- Educate the community on Fox identification and control methods
- Monitor the level of Fox activity in the Shire to ensure it does not become a pest management issue
- Utilise manufactured baits if baiting is required outside of baiting program.



Parthenium (*Parthenium hysterophorus*)

Strategic Importance: 31.5/50

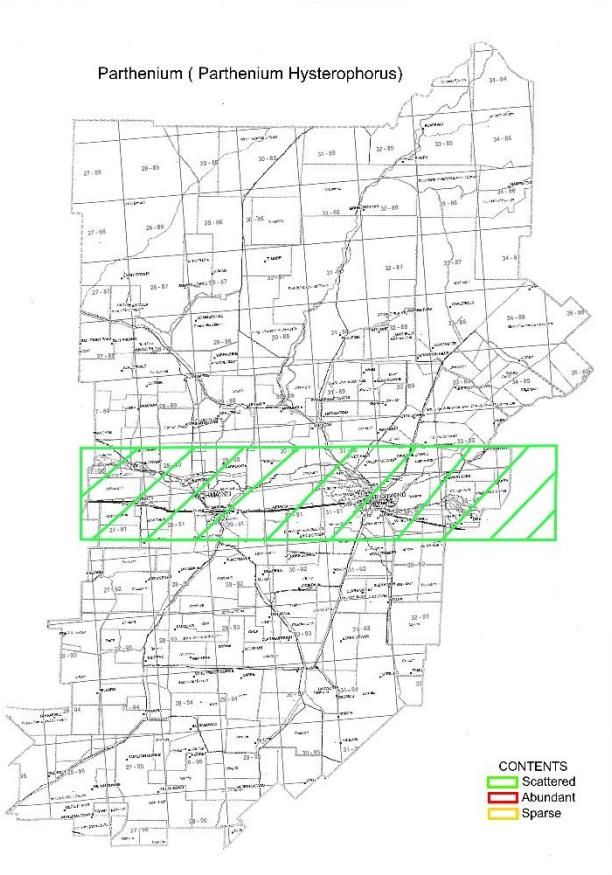
Description:

- Annual herb up to 1-1.5m, develops many branches in its top half when mature
- Leaves are pale green, up to 2mm long, deeply lobed and covered with fine soft hairs
- Flowers are small, creamy white, on stem tips 4-10mm in a 5 sided shape
- Flowers have 4-5 wedge shaped black seeds, 2mm long with 2 thin white scales
- Has a deep tap root and an erect stem that becomes woody with age.
- Invades disturbed bare areas along roadsides and heavily stocked areas around yards and watering points.
- Colonises weak pasture with sparse ground cover and can colonise brigalow, gidgee and softwood scrub soils
- Its presence reduces pasture production potential and therefore reduces beef production
- Contact with the plant or pollen can cause reactions such as hay fever and dermatitis

General Biosecurity Obligation – Parthenium must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit. Take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with Parthenium.

Action

- Report any new infestations.
- Map infestations throughout the Shire when opportunity arises
- Treat and eradicate infestations.
- Implement procedures, including wash down practices to prevent further spread.
- Educate the community on the identification and control methods for Parthenium
- Carry out control works on local government land
- Assist landholders to seek opportunistic funding for control programs
- Ensure landholders are treating infestations and consider the need for compliance activities
- Eradicate any existing infections and prevent spreading down the river system into the lower gulf.



Prickly acacia (*Vachellia nilotica*)

Strategic Importance: 30.5/50

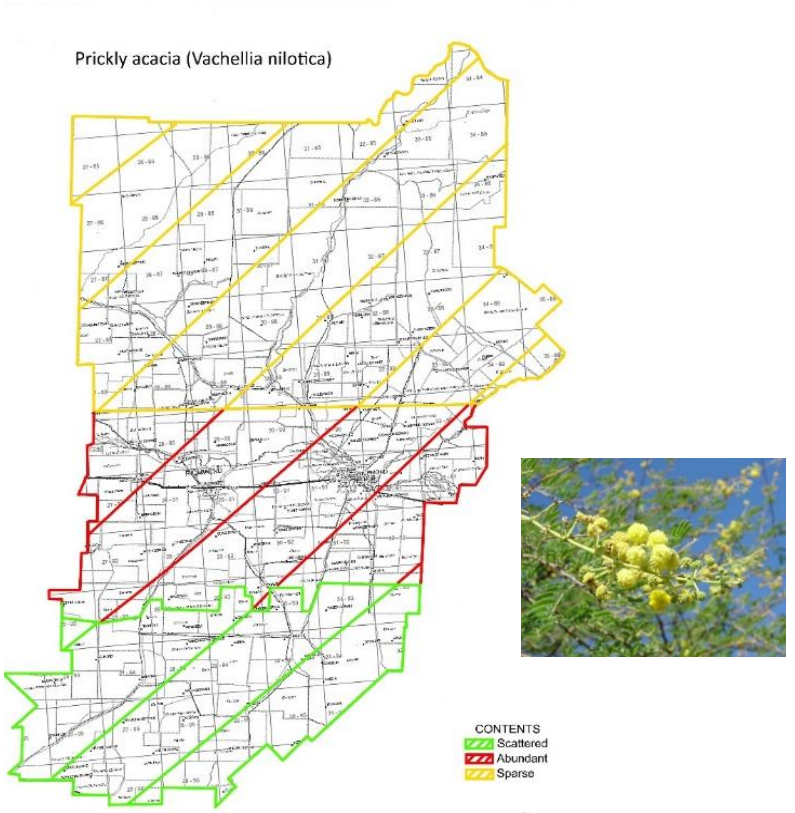
Description:

- Thorny shrub or small tree up to 5m tall (occasionally 10m)
- Has pairs of stout thorns generally 1-5cm long
- Golden yellow ball shaped flowers that grow on stems from leaf joints with 2-6 flowers per group.
- Has fern like leaves, 4-10 pairs of leaf branches, 10-20 pairs of narrow green leaflets on each branch
- Pods are flat, 10-15cm with narrow constrictions between seeds and are greyish when ripe.
- Bark on saplings has a tinge of orange and/or green, older trees have dark rough bark.
- Forms dense thorny thickets, interfering with mustering, movement of stock and access to water
- Decreases pastures and competes for water
- Degrades soil by facilitating erosion
- Threatens biodiversity through transformation of natural grasslands into thorny scrub and woodland

General Biosecurity Obligation – Prickly acacia must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit. Take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with prickly acacia.

Action

- Maintain and expand areas that are free from Prickly Acacia
- Monitor and treat watercourses to control and prevent further infestations.
- Map, inspect and monitor infestations on a regular basis
- Reduce and contain infestations in all Zones.
- Reduce, Contain and control infestations to prevent further spread in Zone 2.
- Introduce and maintain weed free buffer zones on boundary fence lines.
- Encourage best practice in long and short distance movement of livestock by encouraging wash down awareness activities and education & stock hygiene management processes
- Apply quarantine periods of at least six days and up to eight days if cattle have consumed seed pods and they are to be moved to areas free of Prickly Acacia.
- Educate the community on identification and control methods.
- Assist landholders to seek opportunistic funding for control programs
- Ensure landholders are treating infestations and consider the need for conducting compliance activities
- Goal is to greatly reduce the infestations of Prickly Acacia working towards eradication.



Bellyache Bush (*Jatropha gossypiifolia*)

Strategic Importance: 29.5/50

Description:

- Squat thick-stemmed shrub 2.5-4m tall
- Develops from a short, single-stemmed plant, with 3 or 4 young leaves sprouting from the top.
- Young leaves deeply divided into 3 rounded lobes and are purple and sticky
- Older leaves are bright green, about 10cm in diameter, having up to 5 lobes, the edges covered in coarse, dark brown hairs
- Flowers are small, red with yellow center. Flowers in small clusters throughout the upper part of the plant
- Seed pods smooth and oval, about 12mm across containing 3-4 seeds about 8mm long.
- Out competes native vegetation
- Reduces pasture growth
- Takes over extensive sections of river frontage reducing biodiversity and increasing mustering costs
- Fruit poisonous to humans and animals

General Biosecurity Obligation – Bellyache bush must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit. Take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with bellyache bush

Action

- Map infestations throughout the Shire when opportunity arises
- Inspect and monitor all infestations on a regular basis
- Educate the community on the identification and control methods for Bellyache Bush
- Carry out control works on local government land
- Assist landholders to seek opportunistic funding for control programs
- Ensure landholders are treating infestations and consider the need for compliance activities

Coral Cactus (*Opuntia fulgida*)

Strategic Importance: 28/50

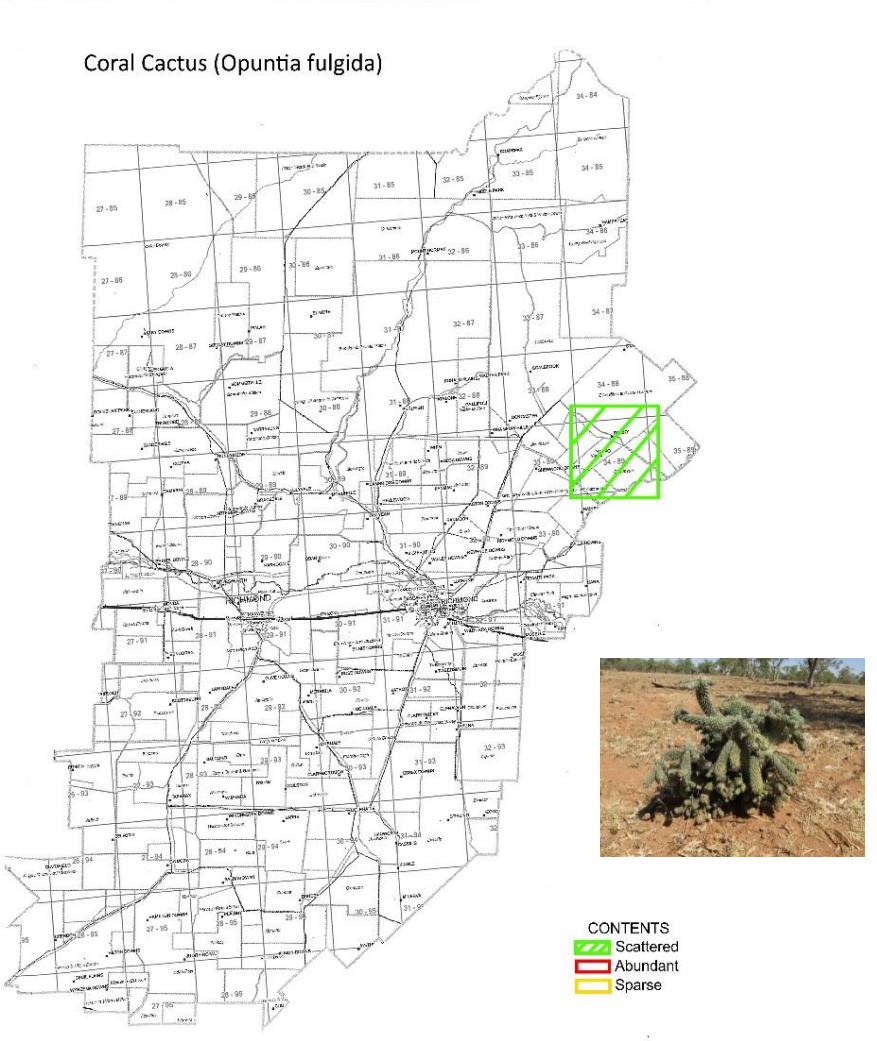
Description:

- A short to medium cactus with unusually shaped segments
- Stems widen to form unusual shape, strongly tuberculate, coloured light green
- Areoles with 2 to 6 spines, each measuring 1-2.5cm long
- Not known to flower or fruit
- Reproduce and are spread via segments breaking off the main plant and being transported by stock and wildlife
- Spreads at an alarming rate
- Competes with native vegetation, limiting the growth of small shrubs and groundcover species
- Reduces land use and pastures
- Spines can cause injury to stock and native wildlife
- Can harbour pest animals such as foxes and rabbits and limit access for mustering

General Biosecurity Obligation – Coral Cactus must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit. Take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with coral cactus

Action

- Map infestations throughout the Shire when opportunity arises
- Inspect and monitor all infestations on a regular basis
- Educate the community on the identification and control methods for Coral Cactus
- Carry out control works on local government land
- Assist landholders to seek opportunistic funding for control programs
- Ensure landholders are treating infestations and consider the need for compliance activities
- Ensure any new infestations are eradicated. Contact DAF for potential biological control assistance.



Rubber vine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*)

Strategic Importance: 26/50

Description:

- 1-2m high shrub which can climb up to 30m as a vine
- Glossy dark green leaves, 6-10cm long by 3-5cm wide in opposite pairs
- Stems, leaves and unripe pods exude a white, milky sap when broken or cut
- Flowers are large and showy with 5 white to light purple petals arranged in a funnel shape
- Seed pods are rigid and grow in pairs at the end of a short stalk
- Pods have a tuft of long white silky hairs, are 10-12cm long, 3-4cm wide and contain up to 450 brown seeds
- Invade waterways
- Smothers riparian vegetation and forms dense thickets
- Decreases biodiversity and impedes stock and native animal movement
- Infestations expand outwards from waterways, hillsides and pastures.

General Biosecurity Obligation – Rubber vine must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit. Take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with Rubber vine.

Action

- Map infestations throughout the Shire when opportunity arises
- Inspect and monitor all infestations on a regular basis
- Educate the community on the identification and control methods for Rubbervine
- Carry out control works on local government land
- Assist landholders to seek opportunistic funding for control programs
- Ensure landholders are treating infestations and consider the need for compliance activities

Parkinsonia (*Parkinsonia aculeata*)

Strategic Importance: 24/50

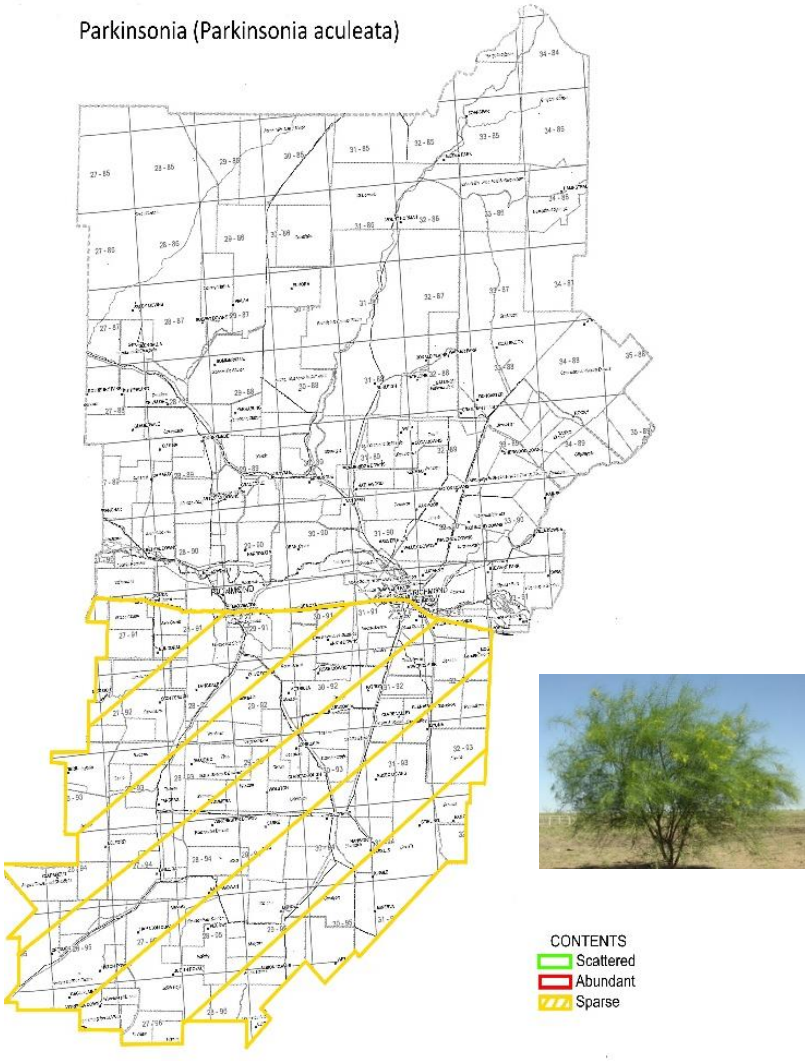
Description:

- Small hairless tree, growing up to 10m tall
- Branches are slender, zig zagged and have sharp spines
- Leaves have a short, spine-tipped stalk
- Leaf branches 20-40cm long
- Flowers are yellow, fragrant, 5 petalled, each on a long slender stalk
- Seed pods are pencil-like, 5-10cm long and constricted between seeds
- Seeds are oval, about 15mm long, with a thick and extremely hard coat which can remain viable until conditions are favourable.
- Forms dense, often impenetrable, thorny thickets along watercourses and bore drains
- Restricts stock access to water and impacts on mustering
- Provides a harbor for Feral Pigs
- Flooded country is particularly susceptible to invasion from floating seeds

General Biosecurity Obligation – Parkinsonia must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit. Take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with Parkinsonia.

Action

- Map infestations throughout the Shire when opportunity arises
- Inspect and monitor all infestations on a regular basis
- Educate the community on the identification and control methods for Parkinsonia
- Carry out control works on local government land
- Assist landholders to seek opportunistic funding for control programs
- Ensure landholders are treating infestations and consider the need for compliance activities
- Control all small and medium infestations and try to reduce large infestations.



Athel Pine (*Tamarix aphylla*)

Strategic Importance: 20/50

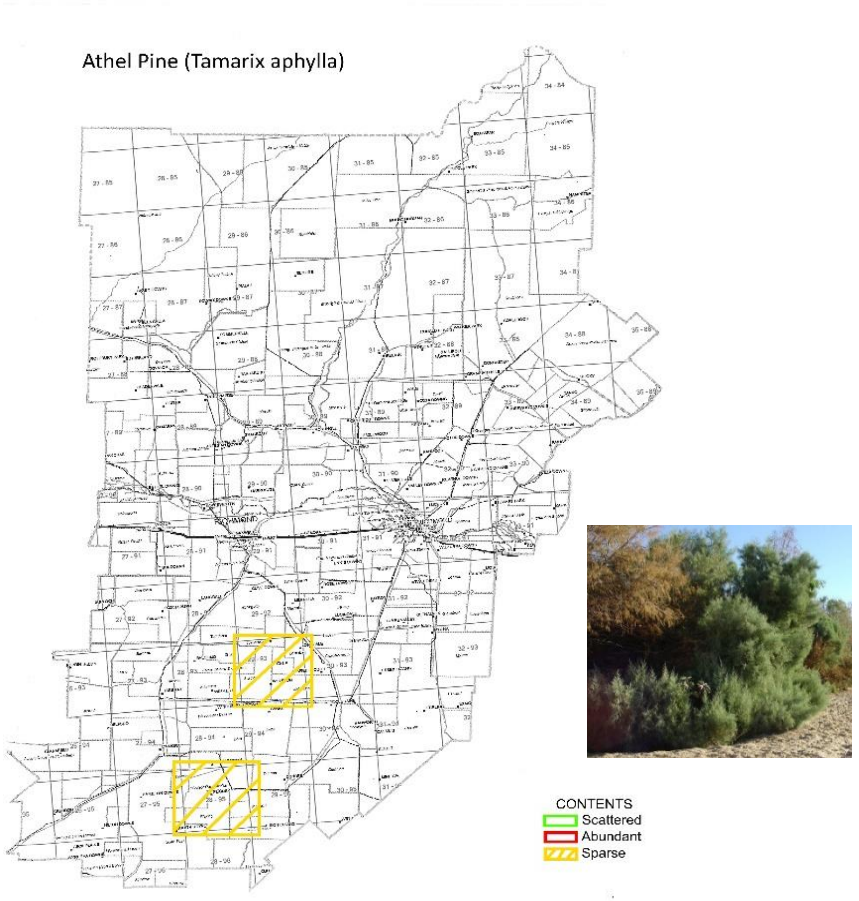
Description:

- Spreading tree up to 15m with pendulous, jointed branches
- Immature trees have light grey trunks and stems
- Mature trees have thick rough, dark grey to black bark, grey brown stems and can be up to 1m in diameter
- Dull green leaves resembling pine needles
- Small pinkish white flowers without stalks, growing on 30-40mm long spikes
- Bell-shaped fruit with a hairy tuft containing numerous small cylindrical seeds
- Seeds have tuft of fine hairs to assist dispersal
- Strong woody roots deep in the soil
- Affects pastoral industry by forming dense stands along rivers
- Consumes water more quickly than native plants, thereby reducing the number and quality of waterholes
- Concentrates and excretes salt, causing ground beneath to become salty, excluding salt sensitive plants
- Changes river flow patterns
- Causes overland flooding and bank erosion
- Reduces cultural and aesthetic value of affected land

General Biosecurity Obligation – Athel Pine must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit. Take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with Athel Pine.

Action

- Map infestations throughout the Shire when opportunity arises
- Inspect and monitor all infestations on a regular basis
- Educate the community on the identification and control methods for Athel Pine
- Carry out control works on local government land
- Assist landholders to seek opportunistic funding for control programs
- Ensure landholders are treating infestations and consider the need for compliance activities
- Ensure any new infestations are eradicated



Chinee Apple (*Ziziphus mauritiana*)

Strategic Importance: 18/50

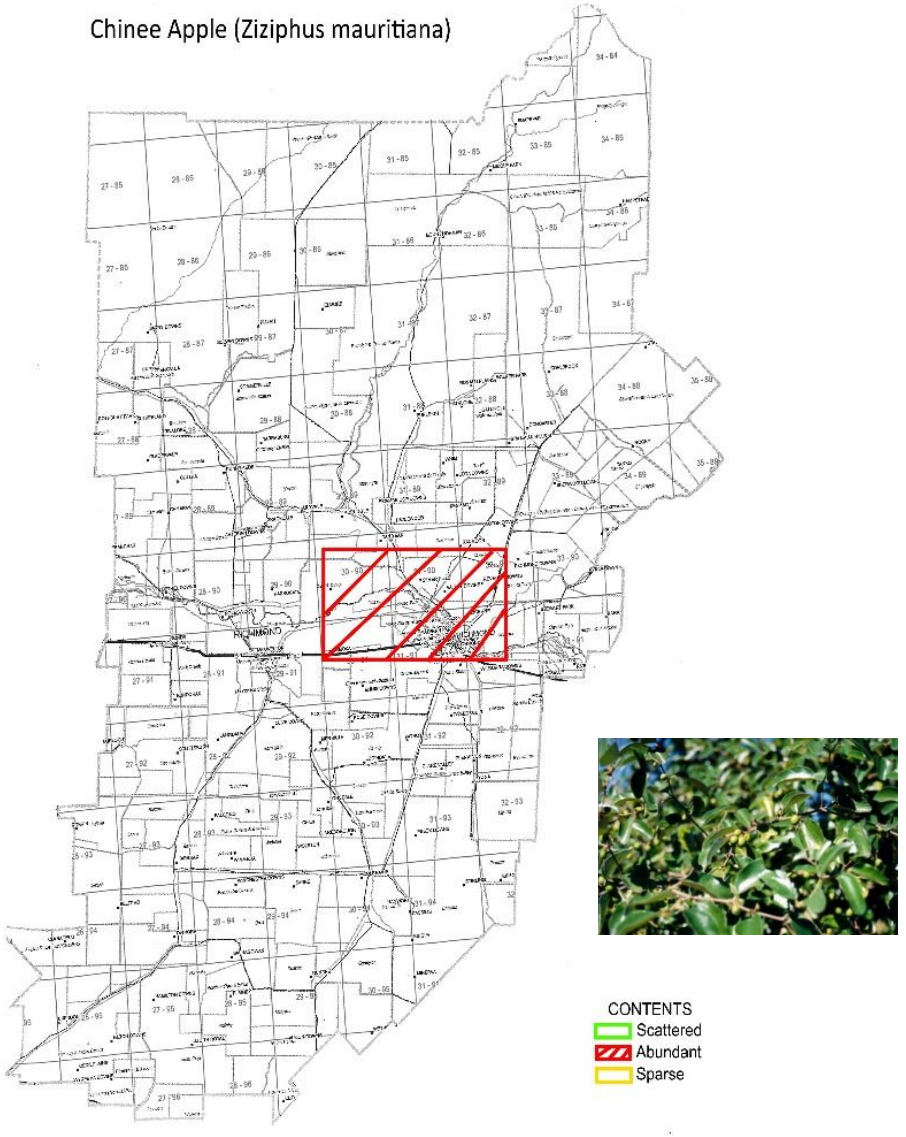
Description:

- Large shrub or small spreading tree up to 8m tall and 10m in canopy diameter
- Branches are dense, zigzagged, and have a leaf and thorn at each angle
- Leaves are rounded, glossy green on top and almost white underneath, growing on alternative sides of the braches
- Flowers are small, inconspicuous, greenish white and unpleasant smelling.
- Fruits are similar to a cherry but pale yellow or orange when ripe and are edible
- Creates impenetrable thickets
- Hampers stock management
- Reduces pasture production and accessibility

General Biosecurity Obligation – Chinee Apple must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit. Take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with Chinee Apple

Action

- Map infestations throughout the Shire when opportunity arises
- Inspect and monitor all infestations on a regular basis
- Educate the community on the identification and control methods for Chinee Apple
- Carry out control works on local government land
- Assist landholders to seek opportunistic funding for control programs
- Ensure landholders are treating infestations and consider the need for compliance activities
- Control all isolated outbreaks and individual plants



Mesquite (*Prosopis pallida*)

Strategic Importance: 15/50

Description:

- Multi stemmed shrub up to 5m or tree up to 15m
- Small branches have smooth dark red or green bark and a zigzag shape
- Fernlike leaves with 1-4 pairs of leaf branches, 6-18 pairs of individual leaflets
- Foliage is usually dark green but can vary to bluish green
- Paired thorns occur just above each axil
- Seed pods are 10-20cm long, straight to slightly curved, smooth with slight constrictions between seeds
- Forms dense impenetrable thickets
- Out competes other vegetation, quickly invades upland country
- Interferes with mustering and blocks access to watering points
- Sharp thorns can injure animals and puncture vehicle tyres

General Biosecurity Obligation – Mesquite must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit. Take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with Mesquite.

Action

- Map infestations throughout the Shire when opportunity arises
- Inspect and monitor all infestations on a regular basis
- Educate the community on the identification and control methods for mesquite
- Carry out control works on local government land
- Assist landholders to seek opportunistic funding for control programs
- Ensure landholders are treating infestations and consider the need for compliance activities

Mimosa Bush (*Vachellia farnesiana*)

Strategic Importance: 12.5/50

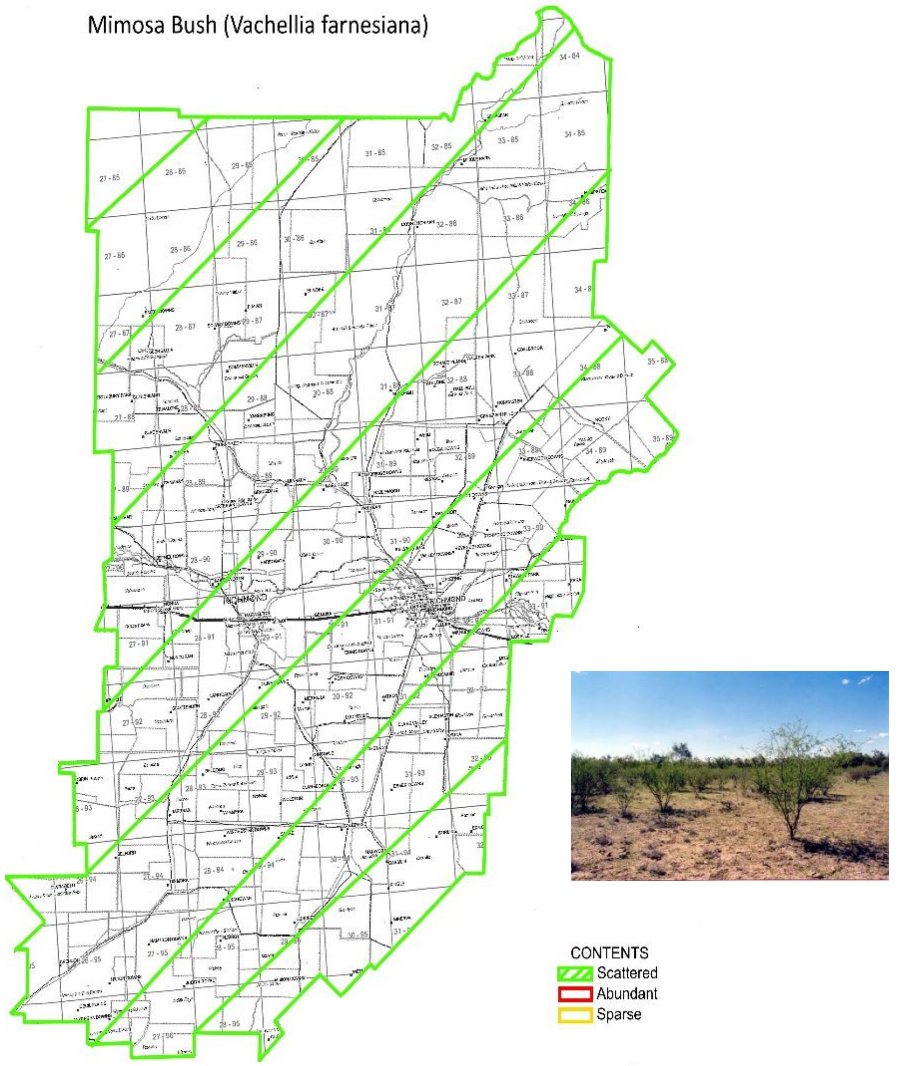
Description:

- Rounded shrub or small tree 3-5m tall.
- Branches are usually greyish-brown with prominent white spots, grow in a zigzag shape.
- Leaves are pure green or sometimes yellowish green, ferny, with 1-6 pairs of leaf 'branches' each with 5-20 pairs of narrow, rounded leaflets 4-8mm long.
- Thorns are paired at base of each leaf, up to 10cm long.
- Flowers are ball-shaped, about 1cm wide, golden yellow to orange, grow on stalks.
- Pods are dark brown or black, woody at maturity, with seeds embedded in pith.
- Prefers dry localities, and loamy or sandy soils.
- Forms thickets along watercourses.
- Withstands drought well, readily eaten by stock, has good regrowth after grazing.
- Forms thorny thickets that hinder mustering and stock access to water.

General Biosecurity Obligation – Take reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks posed by Mimosa bush.

Action

- Monitor to ensure it does not become a pest management issue
- Ensure landholders are treating infestations and consider the need for compliance activities
- Ensure any new infestations are eradicated



Australian Plague Locust (*Chortoicetes terminifera*)

Strategic Importance: Watch list

Description:

- Locust with body colour ranging from grey to brown or occasionally green.
- Adults are 25-44mm long.
- Hind wing is clear with conspicuous black smudge at tip.
- Hind legs have red shanks.
- Makes short flights just above grass.
- Often lands side-on to observer.
- Breeding occurs after good rains in Channel Country of western Queensland.
- Locusts then migrate on prevailing weather systems to invade adjacent agricultural areas (including southern Queensland).
- Nymphs can form dense bands of up to 5,000 locusts per m^2.

General Biosecurity Obligation – Take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with Australian Plague Locusts.

Action

- Report any Australian Plague Locust sightings to RSC.
- Report to the Australian Plague Locust Commission **http://www.agriculture.gov.au/pests-diseases-weeds/locusts/role**

Spur-throated Locust (*Austracris guttulosa*)

Strategic Importance: Watch list

Description:

- Nymphs and adults have conspicuous spur between front legs.
- Nymphs are green on hatching, with black stripe developing down their back as they grow.
- Adults have slim, pale brown bodies, with long, straw-coloured stripe.
- Hind wings are clear with slight blue tinge.
- Hind legs bear two rows of dark-tipped white spines.
- Adults are 50-80mm long.
- Has 1 generation per year, taking several years to build up to plague densities.
- Lays eggs October-February.
- Eggs hatch within 18-30 days.
- Nymphs develop over 47-90 days.
- Swarms are formed by immature adults during winter.
- Rainfall triggers dispersal of mature adults during spring and summer following overwintering period.

General Biosecurity Obligation – Take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with Australian Plague Locusts.

Action

- Report any Spur-throated Locust sightings to RSC.
- Report to the Australian Plague Locust Commission **http://www.agriculture.gov.au/pests-diseases-weeds/locusts/role**

Calotrope (Calotropsis procera)

Strategic Importance: Watch list

Description:

- Spreading shrub or small tree up to 4m tall.
- Plant oozes milky sap when any part is cut or broken.
- Stems are smooth, pale greyish-green.
- Mature stems have beige corrugated bark, cork-like appearance and texture.
- Leaves are grey-green, large, 10-20cm long, 4-10cm wide, with short pointed tip and heart-shaped base, attached in opposite pairs directly to stem.
- Flowers are waxy, 5-petalled, white with purple on inside of tips, have central purplish crown, grow in groups in forks of uppermost leaves with up to 15 flowers per group.
- Fruit is large, green, inflated, rounded at base and pointed at tip, similar to mango, 8-12cm long, almost as wide.
- Seeds have tufts of long, silky hairs at one end.
- Invades roadsides, watercourses, old cultivated land and heavily grazed areas.

General Biosecurity Obligation – Take reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks posed by Calotrope.

Action

- Monitor to ensure it does not become a pest management issue
- Ensure landholders are treating infestations and consider the need for compliance activities
- Ensure any new infestations are eradicated
- Report to RSC

Giant Rat's Tail Grass (*Sporobolus pyramidalis, S. natalensis*)

Strategic Importance: Watch list

Description:

- Upright grass 0.6-1.7m tall.
- Long, narrow leaf blades 20-50cm long, 2-4mm wide.
- Seed head is up to 45cm long, 3cm wide.
- Seed heads change shape from 'rat's tail' when young to elongated pyramid shape when mature.
- Difficult to distinguish from other pasture grasses and native *Sporobolus* grasses before maturity.
- Unlike Giant Parramatta Grass, Giant Rat's Tail Grass does not develop sooty spike on its seed heads.
- Seeds spread by livestock in manure and on fur and hooves.
- Also spread by feral and native animals, vehicles and machinery (especially slashers and earthmoving equipment), in hay and untested pasture seed, and by fast-flowing water over turf.

General Biosecurity Obligation – Giant Rat's Tail Grass must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit. Take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with Giant Rat's Tail Grass.

Action

- Monitor to ensure it does not become a pest management issue
- Ensure landholders are treating infestations and consider the need for compliance activities
- Ensure any new infestations are eradicated
- Report to RSC

Grader Grass (*Themeda quadrivalvis*)

Strategic Importance: Watch list

Description:

- Upright, tufted annual grass 1-2.5m tall.
- Stems are jointed, cane-like.
- Leaf blades are long, narrow, up to 60cm long.
- Flower spikes have bent, brown bristles along them.
- Seed heads are reddish-brown when young, gold at maturity, 15-60cm long.
- Invades pasture and native grassland, replaces native plants.
- Seeds spread by vehicles, machinery and animals, and on clothing.
- Also spread by soil movement along roadsides by graders.

General Biosecurity Obligation – Take reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks posed by Grader Grass.

Action

- Monitor to ensure it does not become a pest management issue
- Ensure landholders are treating infestations and consider the need for compliance activities
- Ensure any new infestations are eradicated
- Report to RSC

Mother of Millions (Bryophyllum delagoense)

Strategic Importance: Watch list

Description:

- Erect, smooth, fleshy, succulent plant up to 1m or more tall.
- Leaf shape varies depending on hybrid, from tubular to boat-shaped to flat.
- Each leaf produces small plantlets along its edge.
- Flowers are orange-red, bell shaped, in dense clusters at top of tall flower spikes.
- Forms infestations in grasslands, open woodlands and coastal dunes.
- Poisonous, with newly exposed stock especially vulnerable.
- Affects use of stock routes

General Biosecurity Obligation – Mother of Millions must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit. Take reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks posed by Mother of Millions.

Action

- Monitor to ensure it does not become a pest management issue
- Ensure landholders are treating infestations and consider the need for compliance activities
- Ensure any new infestations are eradicated
- Report to RSC

Template: Weed Hygiene Declaration Form **Form number:**

This declaration is valid for supplying the items specified below from _____ to _____

1. Item (please tick the relevant box and describe a brief description)

☐ Fodder / Grain / Seeds ☐ Sand / Gravel ☐ Machinery ☐ Other

Amount _____ Description _____

(E.g. weight, size of load, number of items) *(E.g. cattle, hay, excavator, dozer)*

2. Has the item been moved through, stored in, come from, or used in a place infested with:

Infestation	Yes	No	Maybe
Parthenium			
Giant Rat's Tail, American Rat's Tail			
Parramatta Grass, Giant Parramatta Grass			
Prickly Acacia			
Siam Weed			
Sensitive Plant			
Elephant Grass			
Heart Leaf Poison Bush			
Rubber Vine			
Singapore Daisy			
Lantana			
Other (provide details)			

3. If you answered 'yes' or 'maybe' in question 2, please tick the box outlining the control measure taken:

☐ Washing/Cleaning ☐ Chemical Treatment ☐ Certified Clean ☐ Other

Steps taken _____

4. To the best of my knowledge, the item/items listed above are free of weeds / seeds and has been cleaned thoroughly.

I, _____ of _____

Town _____ _____

Phone _____ _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Transport Details: Registration of Truck & Trailer _____

Acronyms / Abbreviations

The Act	**Biosecurity Act 2014**
BPWG	**Biosecurity Plan Working Group**
BQ	**Biosecurity Queensland**
DAF	**Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries**
DNRME	**Department of Natural Resources and Mines and Energy**
DTMR	**Department of Transport and Main Roads**
GBO	**General Biosecurity Obligation**
GCPTFG	**Gulf Catchment Pest Taskforce Group**
MLA	**Meat Livestock Australia**
NWQROC	**North West Queensland Region Organisations of Councils**
OFBP	**On-Farm Biosecurity Plan**
QHD	**Queensland Health Department**
QR	**Queensland Rail**
RSABP	**Richmond Shire Area Biosecurity Plan**
RSC	**Richmond Shire Council**
SGNRM	**Southern Gulf Natural Resource Management**
SRM	**Stock Route Management Act 2002**

Reference:

Biosecurity Queensland: https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/

Appendix 1.0

Legislation

Biosecurity Act 2014.

Under *the Biosecurity Act 2014* s48 each local government is to ensure that the following biosecurity matters (invasive biosecurity matter for the local government's area) are managed within the local government's area in compliance with this Act-

a) Prohibited matter mentioned in schedule 1, parts 3 and 4
b) Prohibited matter taken to be included in schedule 1, parts 3 and 4 under a prohibited matter regulation or emergency prohibited mater declaration
c) Restricted matter mentioned in schedule 2, part 2
d) Restricted matter taken to be included in schedule 2, part 2 under a restricted matter regulation.

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

https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/B/BiosecurityA14.pdf

Biosecurity Programs

Biosecurity programs enable the state, local government to be proactive in identifying and responding to invasive biosecurity matter that poses a significant risk. Two types of Biosecurity programs exist being surveillance programs and prevention and control programs.

The Richmond Shire Council invasive plants and animals surveillance program is intended to provide a mechanism for undertaking proactive surveillance to determine the presence or absence of stated invasive biosecurity matter, monitoring compliance with the Act or assessing the effectiveness of measures taken to manage the biosecurity matter within the local government area.

The Richmond Shire Council invasive plants and animals prevention and control program/s is aimed at managing, reducing or eradicating a high priority pest that pose a significant and immediate biosecurity risk and is undertaken by or managed by government.
Richmond Shire Council and the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries have collaborated to carry out programs for both Surveillance and Prevention and control.
These Programs have been authorised by a resolution of a local government and by the Chief Executive of DAF.

Appendix 2.0

Stock Routes

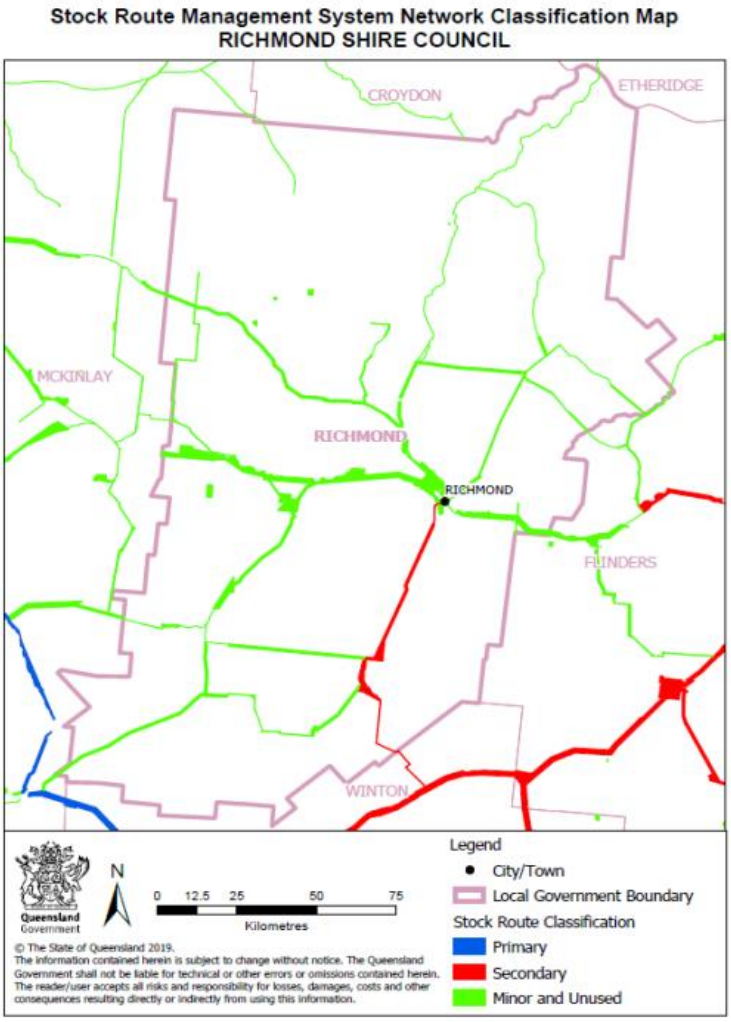
The stock route network in Richmond Shire Council exists as roads that are declared as stock routes, or roads that are ordinarily used for travelling stock, and Reserves. As administrator of the *Biosecurity Act 2014* local government hold primary responsibility for the regulation of biosecurity matter within the shire. These responsibilities include pest and weed management along local roads and trustee reserves. Richmond Shire Council will manage these roads and reserves to minimise the spread of pests and disease while maintaining the functionality of the stock route network.

As per section 136 of the *Stock Route Management Act 2002*, stock route travel permits will only be issued if the travel is not likely to spread a declared pest or weed. Richmond Shire Council will implement practices to allow the continued use of the stock route network while minimising the spread of weeds. Practices include (but are not limited to):

- Utilising yards to withhold cattle that may have ingested weed matter for a digestive period before continuing their travel
- Erecting temporary fencing around small patches of weeds to allow stock to travel without spreading the weed

Local Government can issue emergency quarantine notices over land in its Local Government area for any travelling stock found to be at risk of spreading Biosecurity risks.

Richmond Shire Council will ensure travelling stock owners are aware of their obligation to complete NLIS transfers onto the Stock Route PIC within 48 hours of entering the stock route.



Appendix 3.0

Definitions

General Biosecurity Obligation

The General Biosecurity Obligation requires everyone (State, LGA & Landowners) to manage biosecurity risks under their control and take all reasonable and practical measures to minimise the likelihood of causing a biosecurity risk and minimise the adverse effects of dealing with a biosecurity matter or carrier.

Biosecurity Matter

Invasive Biosecurity Matter

Invasive biosecurity is the collective term given to “prohibited matter” and “restricted matter”.

Prohibited Matter

Prohibited Matter is biosecurity matter not currently present or known to be present in Queensland and there are reasonable grounds to believe it may have a significant adverse effect on a biosecurity consideration if established.

Restricted Matter

Restricted Matter is biosecurity matter found in Queensland that may have adverse effects on a biosecurity consideration if conditions to reduce, control or contain it under the Act were not imposed.

Deal With

Deal With, biosecurity matter or a carrier, includes any of the following-

a) keep or possess
b) conduct experiments with
c) produce or manufacture
d) breed
e) propagate
f) use in the course of manufacturing a thing that is not the biosecurity matter or carrier.

Appendix 4.0

General information

Australia is free from African swine fever.

Queenslanders need to remain on alert for African swine fever as the serious disease of pigs continues to spread in neighbouring countries.

African swine fever is an infectious viral disease of domestic and feral pigs. People cannot be infected. African swine fever can result in a very high mortality rate in infected pigs and no vaccine or treatment is available. If it were introduced to Australia, African swine fever would significantly impact pig health and production.

How can pigs become infected?

Pigs can become infected with African swine fever virus by:

- eating contaminated pork products and feed
- close contact with infected pigs
- contact with contaminated equipment.

The greatest risk of introduction is from people illegally bringing pork or pork products into Australia from overseas and the products being fed to or eaten by pigs.

Australia does not import fresh pork and the Australian Government has strengthened requirements for importing pork products from countries with African swine fever.

You can help reduce the risk of African swine fever being introduced by complying with the requirements for what can and can't be brought into Australia—visit agriculture.gov.au

Never feed pigs swill—people food is not pig food

The spread of African swine fever internationally has been linked to domestic and feral pigs eating food or food waste containing meat or meat products.

You can help protect against African swine fever by:

- always disposing of food waste and scraps properly so pigs can't access and eat them.
- never feeding pigs swill, which is food or food scraps that has come into contact with or contains animal matter such as meat and meat products. It is best to feed pigs commercially available feed.

Swill feeding is illegal in all states and territories of Australia, including Queensland.

If you suspect the presence of African swine fever, you must report it to **Biosecurity Queensland** on **13 25 23** or contact the **Emergency Disease Watch Hotline** on **1800 675 888**.

Queensland Government

Protect Australia's pigs

Everyone has a role to play to protect against African swine fever.

For pig keepers, the following actions should be undertaken to protect your animals:

- Have a biosecurity plan in place.
- Ensure all workers and visitors are aware of your biosecurity rules.
- Do not feed pigs swill—it is best to feed pigs commercial pig feed.
- Ensure items and equipment coming on to or going off of your farm are clean. Clean and disinfect any equipment shared with other farms.
- Practise good hygiene—wear clean clothes and footwear on a property with pigs.
- Prevent visitors from having unnecessary contact with your pigs.
- Prevent contact between farmed and feral pigs.
- Notify Biosecurity Queensland immediately if you suspect African swine fever.
- You must be registered as a biosecurity entity with Biosecurity Queensland. Visit qld.gov.au/BiosecurityRegistration to learn more.

For pig farm biosecurity plans and templates visit farmbiosecurity.com.au

For everyone:

- Keep illegal imports of pork or pork products out of Australia.
- Declare all meat and meat products when returning to Australia from overseas.
- Don't feed pigs swill.
- Dispose of food waste and scraps properly so pigs can't access and eat them.

Report signs of African swine fever

The signs of African swine fever in pigs can include:

- death (possibly before other signs are noticeable)
- blotching/reddening of the skin
- high fever
- lack of coordination or stiff gait
- difficulty breathing
- abortion
- diarrhoea
- vomiting.

If you suspect African swine fever, you must immediately contact **Biosecurity Queensland** on **13 25 23** or the **Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline** on **1800 675 888**.

More information?

For more information on African swine fever call **13 25 23** or visit qld.gov.au/AfricanSwineFever

Subscribe to the biosecurity alerts at daf.qld.gov.au/alerts

If you suspect the presence of African swine fever, you must report it to **Biosecurity Queensland** on **13 25 23** or contact the **Emergency Disease Watch Hotline** on **1800 675 888**.

Queensland Government

Information for feral pig hunters

About African swine fever

African swine fever is an infectious viral disease of domestic and feral pigs. It can result in a very high mortality rate in infected pigs and no vaccine or treatment is available.

People cannot be infected.

Australia is free from African swine fever.

If it were introduced to Australia, African swine fever would significantly impact pig health, production and the feral pig population.

It's important to remain on alert for African swine fever as this serious disease of pigs continues to spread in neighbouring countries.

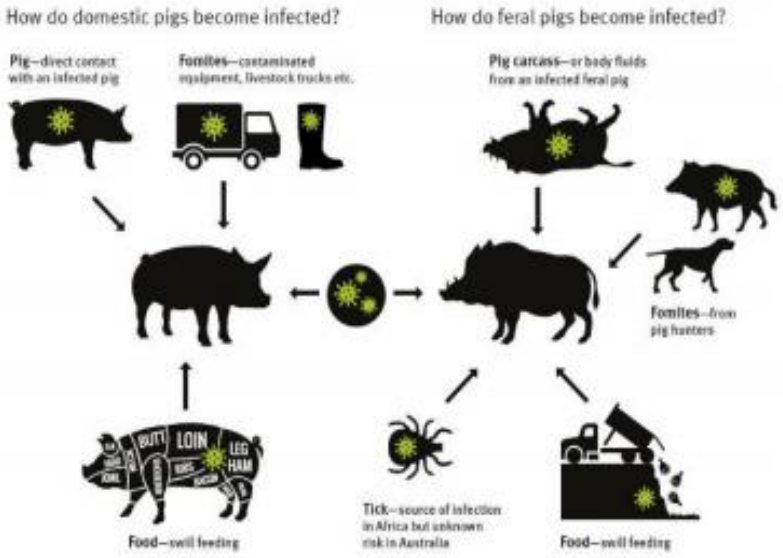
How pigs can become infected

Feral and domestic pigs can become infected with African swine fever virus by:

- eating contaminated pork products and feed
- close contact with infected pigs
- contact with contaminated equipment.

The greatest risk of introduction is from visitors and residents illegally bringing pork or pork products into Australia from overseas and the products being fed to or eaten by pigs. The virus can remain for long periods in blood, faeces and tissues, particularly in chilled and frozen meat.

Transmission of African swine fever



If you suspect the presence of African swine fever, you must report it to **Biosecurity Queensland** on **13 25 23** or contact the **Emergency Disease Watch Hotline** on **1800 675 888**.

Queensland Government

Report signs of African swine fever

Early detection is vital.

The signs of African swine fever in pigs can include:

- death (possibly before other signs are noticeable)
- blotching/reddening of the skin
- high fever
- lack of coordination or stiff gait
- difficulty breathing
- abortion
- diarrhoea
- vomiting.

Inspect carcasses for:

- pinpoint reddening in organs such as heart and kidneys
- reddening of the skin
- excess fluid around the heart
- enlarged lymph nodes resembling blood clots
- enlarged, fragile and/or dark-coloured spleen.

People food is not pig food

The international spread of African swine fever has been linked to feral and domestic pigs eating food waste.
You can help protect against African swine fever by:

- always disposing of food waste and scraps properly so pigs can't access and eat them.
- never feeding pigs swill, which is food or food scraps that has come into contact with or contains animal matter such as meat and meat products.

Swill feeding is illegal in all states and territories of Australia, including Queensland. If you suspect swill feeding, report it to **Biosecurity Queensland** on **13 25 23.**

To prevent the spread of disease:

- wear disposable or washable protective clothing (aprons / gloves / overalls) when dressing feral pigs
- inspect all carcasses and carcass parts for evidence of disease or illness
- clean and disinfect all equipment on site
- respect all quarantines, biosecurity plans and restrictions that are in place
- only hunt on one property each night
- thoroughly clean and disinfect vehicle after each night's harvesting.

Do not

- have contact with domestic pigs if you hunt feral pigs
- move live animals (including piglets) to new locations
- keep feral pigs at home
- use swill to feed or trap feral pigs
- leave leftovers from your meals in the hunting area
- feed raw feral pig meat to dogs.

What should I do if I notice unusual clinical signs

If you suspect African swine fever, you must immediately contact **Biosecurity Queensland** on **13 25 23** or the **Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline** on **1800 675 888.**

More information?

For more information on African swine fever call 13 25 23 or visit qld.gov.au/AfricanSwineFever

Subscribe to the biosecurity alerts at daf.qld.gov.au/alerts

If you suspect the presence of African swine fever,
you must report it to **Biosecurity Queensland** on **13 25 23**
or contact the **Emergency Disease Watch Hotline** on **1800 675 888.**

Queensland Government