DRAFT
Gold Coast Biosecurity Management Plan 2018–2023

A collaborative approach – August 2018

CITY OF GOLDCOAST.

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Foreword

The Gold Coast is one of Australia's most biodiverse cities and its world-class natural environment underpins our way of life. The city's natural environment is an extraordinary asset and an integral part of the coast's local identity and culture with 57 kilometres of coastline, 161 kilometres of navigable waterways, more than 2,000 parks covering approximately 16,474 hectares and 4,524.8 hectares of World Heritage Gondwana rainforests.

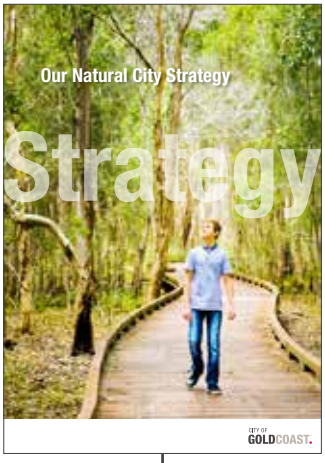
The long-term protection of the city's natural environment has many benefits for the Gold Coast, these include providing wonderful places and resources for the people who live and visit here, a cultural identity, attraction of new residents and visitors and boosting economic performance in tourism, construction, fisheries and agriculture.

This plan replaces the Gold Coast Pest Management Plan 2013–2017 and continues to reinforce a collaborative approach and recognition that biosecurity is everybody's responsibility. The new Gold Coast Biosecurity Management Plan 2018-2023 (the plan) is a statutory requirement of the Queensland *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act) and highlights Council of the City of Gold Coast's (the City) commitment to partnering with stakeholders to help reduce pest impacts.

The plan adopts a triage approach to managing pest plants and animals by determining the priority of treatment based on the severity of the infestation, the likelihood of control and the risk posed by the pest. This approach will ensure that value for money considerations are overlaid with the level of risk posed by pests to the city. Scientifically-based data will inform decisions and monitoring of progress over time will aim to reduce uncertainty in pest distribution and management methods.

Develop and implement a Biosecurity Plan to protect local ecosystems is a key program of work under *Gold Coast 2022*

The plan aligns with *Our Natural City Strategy*



OUTCOME

1.2

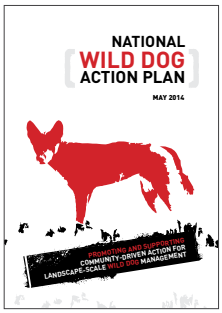
We live in balance with nature.

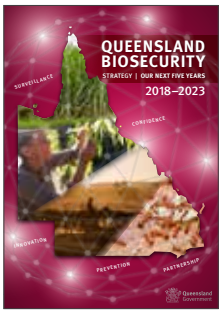
IMPLEMENTATION

3.4

Continue to work collaboratively with stakeholders and landowners to coordinate bushfire, pest plant and animal management in the city.

Relevant supporting plans and strategies





Biosecurity for us is about trying to stop pest plants and animals from establishing and spreading – and when they do – protecting communities, our lifestyle, businesses and the environment.

Queensland Biosecurity Strategy 2017–2022

10%

Nearly 10% of Queensland's weed species are listed 'pest plants', which means that landowners have a general biosecurity obligation to manage them on their properties.

Queensland Biosecurity Strategy 2017–2022

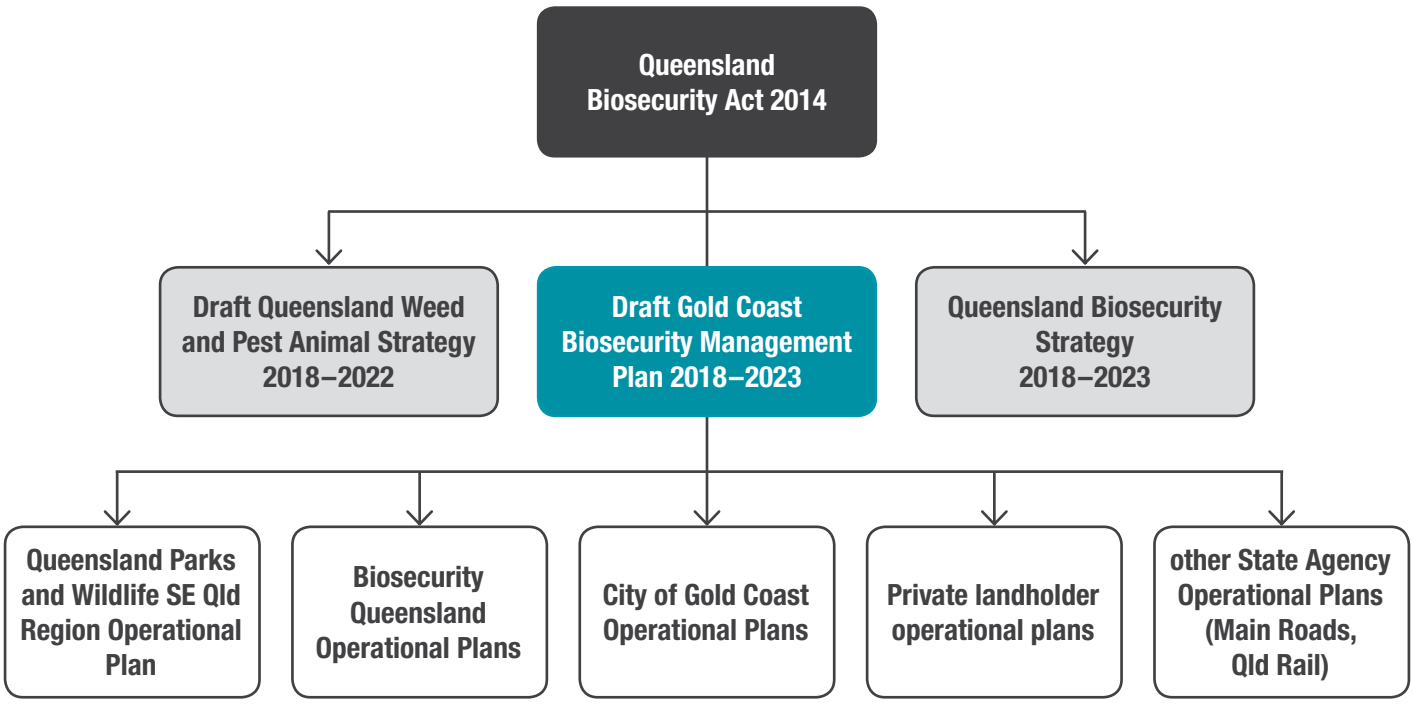
Executive summary

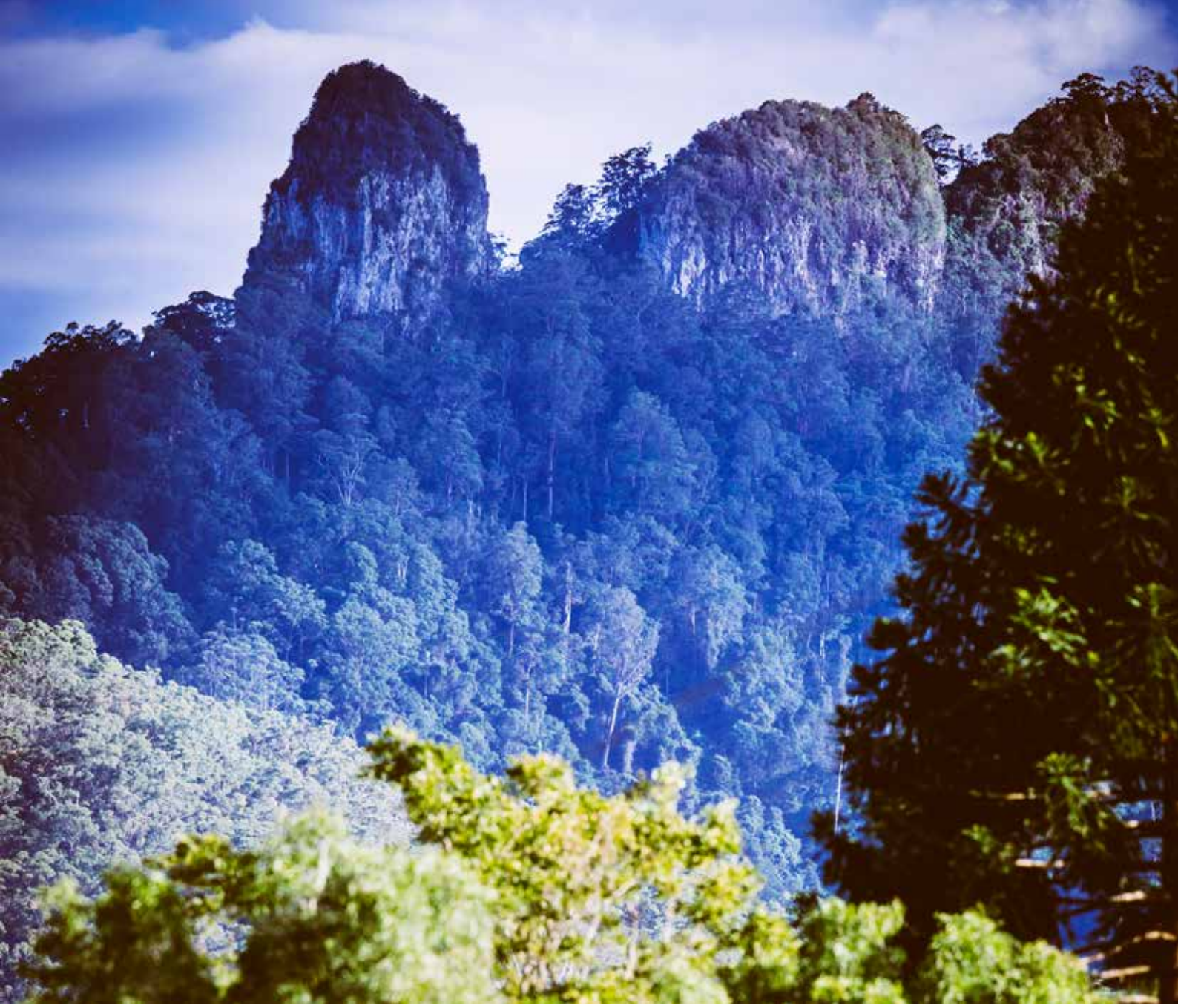
The plan supports existing programs and advances new and cost effective solutions to ensure the City meets its statutory obligations under Queensland *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act) while helping to preserve the coast's lifestyle and environment. The Gold Coast Biosecurity Management Plan 2018–2023 (the plan) is centred on six expected outcomes.

1. Individuals, community and organisations partner to ensure the impact of pests on the city's lifestyle and environment we cherish are minimised.
2. Pest information and resources are shared and the community is supported to deliver positive on ground pest management results.
3. Pest populations are reduced and assets protected from widespread and abundant pests.
4. Pest management decisions are based on the level of risk to the Gold Coast combined with value for money considerations.
5. Decisions are informed by the best possible available information.
6. Compliance programs support successful pest management and help to inform the community about pest management.

Development of these outcomes was guided by the principles of effective pest plant and animal management identified in the Draft Queensland Weed and Pest Animal Strategy 2018–2022 prepared by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Figure 1: Context of Gold Coast Biosecurity Plan 2018–2023 in relationship to legislation and State planning documents





Key actions have been developed to support the implementation of the six expected outcomes. In addition, performance measures for the key actions have been developed. It will be the responsibility of the City and each of its partners to develop and contribute to operational and business plans that deliver activities that will contribute to the key actions and achieving the plans expected outcomes.

To ensure consistency with the objectives of the Act, the City has utilised an evidence-based risk assessment to prioritise management of listed pest plants and animals. The risk assessment has considered the pest's likelihood of occurring in the city, the potential impact across a triple bottom line, feasibility of available control measures and the pest's known abundance in the city.

Plan background

3.1 Gold Coast City

The Gold Coast is Australia's sixth largest city, located within one of the country's fastest growing regions. As one of Australia's most biodiverse cities, the city's beautiful beaches and sub-tropical rainforests with breathtaking scenery lay the foundation for our enviable lifestyle and global reputation.

One of the City's priorities is to ensure the Gold Coast is the best place to live, visit and stay. The implementation of this plan will contribute to the protection of local ecosystems, improved condition of vegetation and safeguarding of the city's liveability. The plan will contribute to a number of key priority actions in *Our Natural City Strategy* by working with landholders and stakeholders to coordinate and deliver land management activities that address threats posed by pest plants and animals.

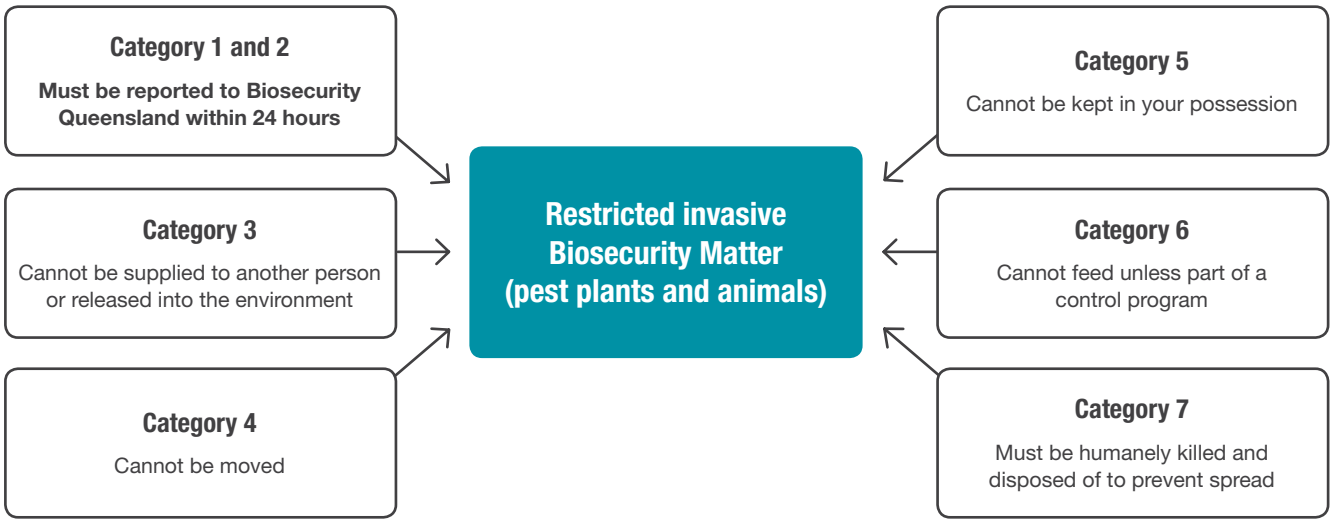
3.2 Legislative requirements

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act) commenced on the 1 July 2016. The Act imposes an overarching general biosecurity obligation (GBO) on each person to manage biosecurity risks in their control and prevent biosecurity events from occurring. This preventative approach relies on everybody adopting a duty of care and implementing measures to prevent or minimise biosecurity risks, such as problems caused by pest plants and animals. To assist our partners have a clear understanding of what is required and as a guide to meeting the GBO, city specific management objectives have been identified in Section 9 for all pest plants and animals identified in the plan.

In addition to the GBO requirement the Act lists pest plants and animals as prohibited or restricted matter. Prohibited matter is a pest plant or animal that is not known to occur or occurs in very low numbers in Queensland. All prohibited matter must be reported to Biosecurity Queensland within 24 hours of identifying the pest, it is also illegal to possess prohibited matter without a permit.

Restricted matter includes pest plants and animals that have established populations in Queensland and have a significant impact on human health, social amenity, the economy or the environment. The State has allocated specific actions to restricted matter (Figure 2) that provide guidance on how people who encounter the pest on public or private land can minimise the spread and adverse impact of the biosecurity matter.

Figure 2: Restricted matter categories and State mandated actions (categories) to minimise biosecurity risks



C1 **Category 1** includes insects such as red imported fire ants, electric ants and Asian honey bees. This restricted matter must be reported to Biosecurity Queensland by stakeholders within 24 hours of identifying the pest.

C2 **Category 2** includes certain noxious fish, weeds and pest animals such as Miconia weed and red-eared slider turtle. This restricted matter must be reported to Biosecurity Queensland by stakeholders within 24 hours of identifying the pest.

C3 **Category 3** includes pest plants and animals, examples of this category of restricted matter are tilapia, groundsel and foxes. This category of restricted matter 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 (must not be distributed).

C4 **Category 4** includes specific pest plants and animals such as the giant cichlid, bitou bush and feral pig. This restricted matter must not be moved or transported to ensure that it does not spread into other areas of the state.

C5 **Category 5** includes certain noxious fish, pest plants and animals such as carp, Mexican feather grass and rabbits. This restricted matter cannot be possessed or kept under your control. These pests have a high risk of negatively impacting on the environment.

C6 **Category 6** includes certain pest animals such as feral deer, rabbits and wild dogs and noxious fish such as tilapia. This restricted matter must not be fed (feeding for the purpose of preparing for or undertaking a control program is exempted).

C7 **Category 7** includes the noxious fish carp, climbing perch and tilapia. This restricted matter must be killed and disposed of by burying the whole carcass (no parts removed) in the ground above the high tide water mark or by placing it in a sealed bin.

3.3 Responsibilities

While acknowledging that there is a shared responsibility in managing pest plants and animals, success of the plan ultimately relies on stakeholders understanding and committing to their responsibilities in managing listed pest plants and animals. These responsibilities are outlined below in Table 1.

T1 Table 1:

Responsibilities in meeting the purpose of the Queensland *Biosecurity Act 2014*
(draft Qld Weed and Pest Animals Strategy 2018–2022)

Stakeholder	Responsibility	Policy	Engagement	Compliance
Australian Government	• Border protection • Incursion management	• National Framework • National policies and programs • Emergency response coordination		
Biosecurity Queensland	• State research capability • State responses • State component of national responses • GBO for Biosecurity Matter	• Legislation • Strategies • Policy • Programs • Reporting • Codes of practice	• Awareness • Extension and education programs • Collaborative management facilitation	• Inspectors • Authorised persons
Other State Agencies	• Pest/weed management on state lands • Assist with identification of response requirements	• Complementary Strategies • Policy • Biosecurity Programs • Reporting	• Awareness • Extension and education programs • Collaborative management	
Local Government	• Local government land management • Community management plans • GBO for invasive biosecurity matter	• Biosecurity Plans • Biosecurity programs	• NRM, community and landholder engagement	• Authorised persons
NRM Groups	• Act as delivery agents under the regional stream of the National Landcare Programme	• Facilitate regional and local strategies by contributing to regional pest planning processes	• Community awareness • Technical advice • Incentives • Landholder engagement	
Landholders	• Management activities • Best management practice • GBO for Biosecurity Matter	• Property plans • Farm biosecurity plans		
Industry	• Facilitate management for local priorities • Fund research • Codes of practice		• Landholder engagement • Lead Best Management Practice	
Researchers	• Weed and pest animal research, development and extension		• Best Management Practice training and education	
Community Groups	• Management activities and advice	• Assist in shaping relevant policies	• Landholder engagement	

3.4 Scope

Under the Act the City has been devolved the responsibility for ensuring pest plants and animals listed as prohibited and restricted invasive biosecurity matter are managed consistently with the principles of the Act. The City will achieve this by managing City land and by undertaking engagement and regulatory functions to enable residents and occupiers of private and public land to meet the desired outcomes and management objectives identified in this plan.

This plan applies to all land and waterways within the city including land owned or controlled by the State Government, public utilities, council, private companies, corporations and individuals. However the scope excludes nuisance or overabundant native species, marine pests and public health pests (mosquitos, rats, cockroaches etc.) and land managed by the Federal Government.

The plan has also identified prohibited matter and other biosecurity matter (e.g. pest fish species, red imported fire ants and rabbits) that are known to exist within the city and have management programs led by the State or Darling Downs–Moreton Rabbit Board.

Plan vision

Pests are acknowledged as a priority in many existing management documents and work programs undertaken by the City and its partners. Through establishing new and growing existing partnerships the impact of pests will continue to be minimised.

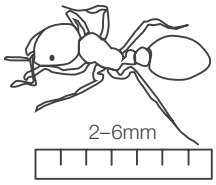
Building on these successes the Gold Coast Biosecurity Management Plan's 2018–2023 vision is to

protect the city's lifestyle, community, natural environment, built assets and local industries through effective and collaborative management of pest plants and animals.

To help achieve the vision, a key target identified in the development of the plan, is to achieve by 2028 the eradication of all known infestations of the ten pest species identified below. These pest species have been selected due to their limited distribution and the availability of effective controls to remove all known individuals.

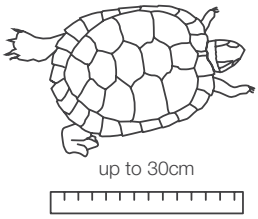
10 in 10 years

Fire Ants



- Small ant 2–6mm long (each nest contains ants of various sizes).
- Head and body are coppery brown, abdomen darker.

Red Eared Slider Turtles



- Freshwater turtle up to 30cm long.
- Ears have distinctive red strips behind them.
- Head can retract head back into shell (unlike native turtles).
- Mature turtles are aggressive and bite.

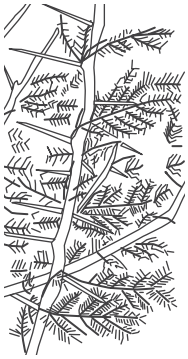
European Rabbit
(including domestic forms)

- Small mammal, weight about 1.3–2.3kg.
- Fur is usually grey-brown with pale belly, black or ginger also common.
- Hind legs are long, front legs are short.
- Ears are long, eyes are large.

Telegraph Weed

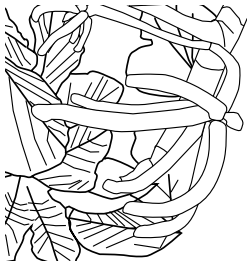
- Flowering herb up to 2m tall.
- Leaves are ovate to oblong, 2–8cm long, 1–3.5cm wide, arranged alternately.
- Stems are thick, densely hairy, 5–20cm long.
- Flowers are small, yellow, daisy-like, 15–22mm wide.and each flower head produces many seeds.

Yellow Fever Tree



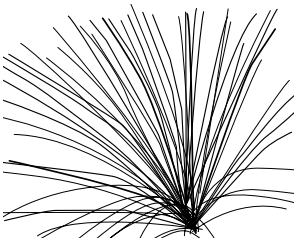
- Quick-growing tree 10-25m tall.
- Bark is smooth, slightly flaking, coated with distinctive greenish-yellow powder.
- Leaves are bipinnate, with 4-7 pairs of pinnae and 10-17 pairs of leaflets per pinnae.
- Spines are white, straight, strong, arranged in pairs.
- Flowers are yellow, spherical, fragrant, clustered on slender stalks where spines join stems.

Mexican Bean Tree



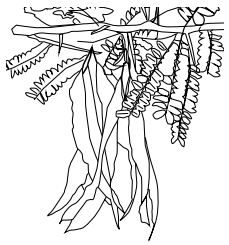
- Fast-growing tree 10–20m tall, sometimes up to 25m tall.
- Leaves are alternate, 10–50cm wide, resemble paw-paw leaves and lower surface is densely covered with white hairs.
- Leafstalks are usually 23–30cm long.
- Hollow stems, flowers and fruits are key features.
- Yellow flowers are arranged in clusters of spikes, 12–18cm.

Mexican Feather Grass



- Densely tufted perennial tussock grass up to 70cm tall.
- Leaves are thread-like, 0.25–0.5mm in diameter, about 60cm long.
- Flowers have single, bisexual floret per spikelet, surrounded by 2 persistent bracts or glumes.

Honey Locust



- Deciduous, leguminous tree up to 20m tall.
- Leaves are prolific, green, up to 20cm long, with about 12 opposite paired leaflets.
- Trunk and limbs of wild trees bear very large crucifix-like spines, up to 15cm long.
- Flower stalks are creamy, yellow, 10cm long.

Kudzu

- Perennial vine climbing up to 30m.
- Flowers are purple-pink, fragrant, about 1–1.5cm long.
- Leaves are compound with three broad leaflets each up to 10cm across.
- Pods are brown, flat, hairy, 5cm long, containing 3–10 small, hard, oval seeds.

Athel Pine

- Spreading tree up to 15m tall with pendulous, jointed branches.
- Leaves are dull green and resemble pine needles.
- Flowers are small, pinkish-white, no stalks, grow on spikes 30-40mm long.
- Fruit is bell-shaped with a hairy tuft containing numerous small cylindrical seeds.

Expected outcomes and performance measures

The six expected outcomes along with their key actions, performance measures, targets and examples of signature projects that contribute to the success of the plan are listed below.

E01 Expected outcome one

Individuals, community and organisations partner to ensure the impacts of pests on the city's lifestyle and environment are minimised.

No.	Key action	Performance measure	Target
1.1	Proactively engage community to actively participate in biosecurity programs	Increase in partnerships with community	Year 1: Baseline established Years 2–4: Increase on baseline
1.2	Support existing partnership programs	Increase in number of individuals and organisations involved in biosecurity programs	Year 1: Baseline established Years 2–4: Increase on baseline

What this means for the city:

1.	Private landholders play a crucial role in managing and conserving the city's natural values. The City will continue to offer support and programs to help protect native animals and wildlife habitat on private land.
2.	Beaches to Bushland Landcare is a platform for the community to assist with managing the city's natural assets. The City will support the program by providing community members with an opportunity to learn how to identify and control weeds, maintain sites and other related pest management activities.
3.	Tilapia is a pest fish that outcompetes and replaces native fish. In partnership with Gold Coast Fishing Fanatics and local businesses the biannual Tilapia Busters Community fishing event educates the community and helps remove pest fish from the city's waterways.

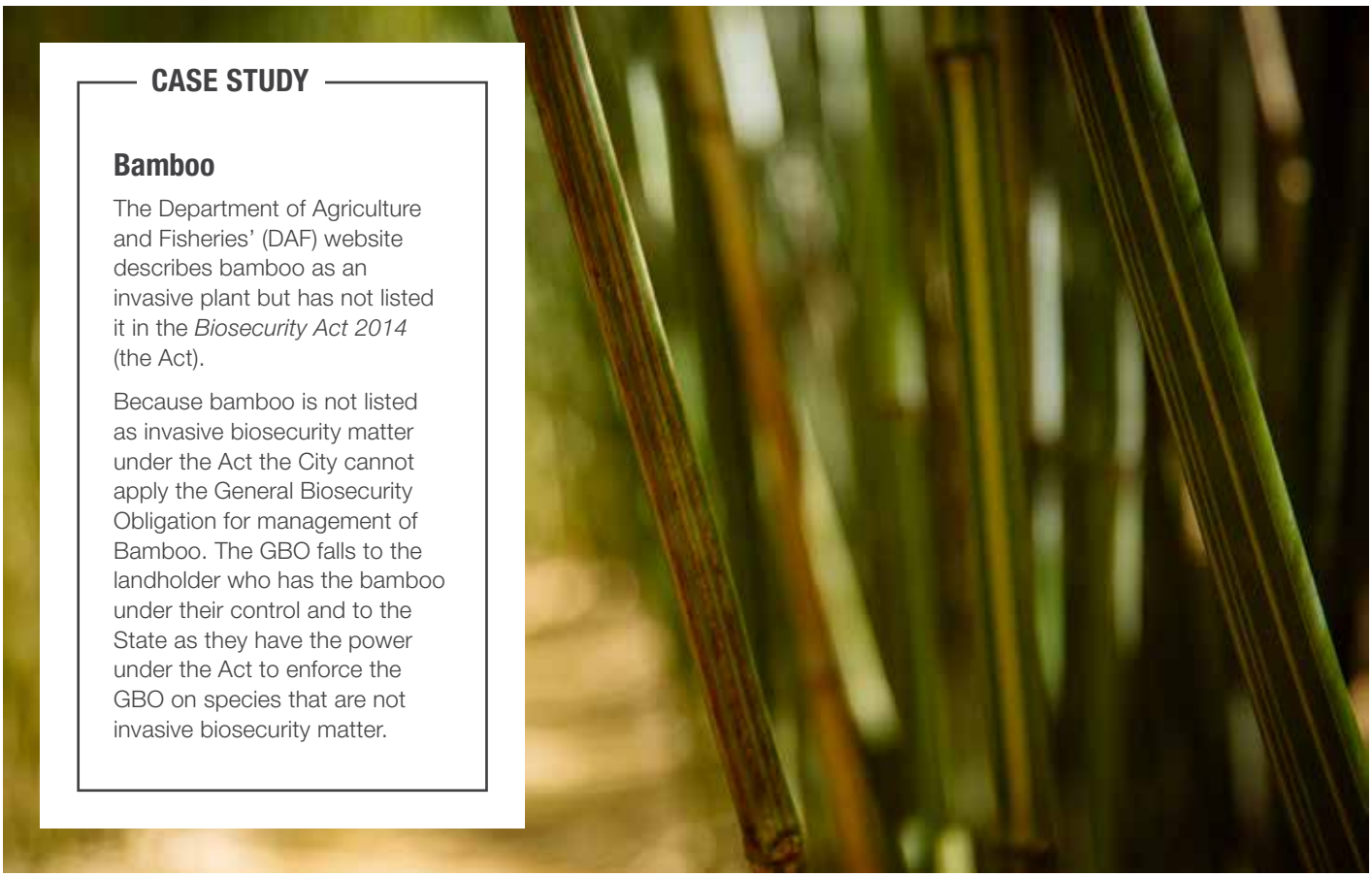
E02 Expected outcome two

Pest information and resources are shared and the community is supported to deliver positive on ground pest management results.

No.	Key action	Performance measure	Target
2.1	Develop and implement innovative approaches for increasing capacity to reduce biosecurity risks	Increased competence in reducing biosecurity risks	Year 1: Baseline established Years 2–4: Increase on baseline
2.2	Information sharing occurs at a State, regional and local level to benefit local communities	Number of pest programs sharing information	Year 1 – Baseline established Year 2 – 100% Year 3 – 100% Year 4 – 100%

What this means for the city:

4.	4. The city contains one of the most significant populations of koalas within south east Queensland. Targeted pest animal management programs are implemented to help reduce impacts to koalas as part of the City's Koala Conservation Plan.
5.	Ormeau Bottle tree *Brachychiton* sp. is a critically endangered plant that has only ever been recorded in the city. The City and community groups are managing pest plants that prevent the recruitment of juvenile bottle trees and alter fuel loads and fire intensity.



CASE STUDY

Bamboo

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' (DAF) website describes bamboo as an invasive plant but has not listed it in the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act).

Because bamboo is not listed as invasive biosecurity matter under the Act the City cannot apply the General Biosecurity Obligation for management of Bamboo. The GBO falls to the landholder who has the bamboo under their control and to the State as they have the power under the Act to enforce the GBO on species that are not invasive biosecurity matter.

E03 Expected outcome three

Pest populations are reduced and assets protected from widespread and abundant pests.

No.	Key action	Performance measure	Target
3.1	Pest programs are implemented to improve the quality of the city's outdoor lifestyle	Percentage of pest programs achieving their objectives	Year 1 – Baseline established Year 2 – 100% Year 3 – 100% Year 4 – 100%
3.2	Protect natural assets from prioritised, widespread and abundant pests that threaten ecosystem function	Percentage of pest programs achieving their objectives	Year 1 – Baseline established Year 2 – 100% Year 3 – 100% Year 4 – 100%
3.3	Implement pest programs to reduce impacts to domestic animals and livestock	Percentage of pest programs achieving their objectives	Year 1 – Baseline established Year 2 – 100% Year 3 – 100% Year 4 – 100%
3.4	Pest programs improve water quality for the health and safety of the community	Pest programs enhance the city's freshwater bodies and high value natural assets	Maintenance implemented based on monthly inspection of all urban lakes and biennial inspection of high value natural assets

What this means for the city:

6.	Introducing wild rabbits and selling domestic rabbits in Queensland is illegal and penalties apply. The City will support the Darling Downs–Moreton Rabbit Board which is responsible for ensuring wild rabbits and domestic rabbits are eradicated from the city.
7.	Aquatic weeds, for example *Salvinia molesta,* can interfere with recreational activities such as fishing and canoeing, and reduce the aesthetic value of lakes and streams. Through its urban lake maintenance program the City aims to reduce infestations and actively control the spread of aquatic weeds.

EO4 Expected outcome four

Pest management decisions are based on the level of risk to the Gold Coast's economy, environment and lifestyle combined with value for money considerations.

No.	Key action	Performance measure	Target
4.1	Pest programs have defined objectives and are prioritised through a risk based approach	Percentage of pest programs with defined objectives	Year 1 – Baseline established Year 2 – 100% Year 3 – 100% Year 4 – 100%
4.2	Deliver integrated pest management programs	Number of pest plans that improve resilience of our natural assets	Year 1 – Operational pest plans developed Year 2 to 4 – 100% plans implemented in accordance with their delivery schedule
4.3	Eradicate or contain incursions of new pests and pests with limited distribution based on a prioritised risk assessment	Eradication programs funded and implemented within the city	By 2028 eradicate all known infestations of ten pest species

What this means for the city:

8.	Kudzu is a rapid growing (up to 20cm a day) vine that can smother entire forests. The City will continue to lead an eradication program to remove this pest plant from the city.
9.	Mexican Bean Tree has the ability to invade the city and will be expensive to remove. The City will support Biosecurity Queensland's early detection and eradication program.
10.	Bitou bush threatens coastal ecosystems that are of high conservation and tourism value. The City will continue to support the Bitou bush eradication program led by Biosecurity Queensland. This program dates back three decades and has reduced the infestation to a point where only isolated plants are now found.
11.	Red Imported Fire Ants are one of the world's worst pests, the City through training, education and monitoring will support Biosecurity Queensland to implement a 10 year eradication program to ensure the city remains a great place to live and visit.

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act) continues the long tradition of including provisions that allow the State to seek payments from local government for services provided or to be provided by the State.

The co-investment model is a new approach negotiated between the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Local Government Association of Queensland. The model's intention is to facilitate joint decision making between local government and the State and investment by external parties.

The model has been adopted to improve transparency and accountability through the development of agreements that incorporate identifiable performance criteria and measures that are reported on a six monthly basis.

E05 Expected outcome five

Decisions are informed by the best possible available information.

No.	Key action	Performance measure	Target
5.1	Partner with research organisations and State and Federal agencies to stay at the forefront of best practice knowledge	Research programs to improve management of pest plants and animals in the city are established	4 programs annually
5.2	Develop and implement methodologies that increase capability to monitor and evaluate the performance of eradication and containment programs	Percentage of pest programs being evaluated	Year 1 – 25% Year 2 – 50% Year 3 – 75% Year 4 – 100%

What this means for the city:

12.	Projects that align directly with identified priorities in the plan are submitted to Department of Agricultural and Fisheries for funding via the State's new co-investment model (see text box below left).
13.	Continue to collaborate and build partnerships with local universities to deliver research projects relevant to managing pest plants and animal impacts.

E06 Expected outcome six

Compliance programs support successful pest management and help inform the community about pest management.

No.	Key action	Performance measure	Target
6.1	Develop and implement compliance and enforcement programs for pest plants and animals	Pest compliance and enforcement programs meet their legislative requirements	100% programs annually
6.2	Conduct investigations relating to reports of community concerns	Investigations are actioned	80% within 10 working days 100% within 20 business days

What this means for the city:

14.	The City will undertake pest plant and animal surveillance programs to monitor compliance with the Act. Property inspections will be completed to confirm the presence or absence of pest species and City officers will assess the effectiveness of measures taken to reduce the impact of pest plants and animals.
15.	Biosecurity Queensland will undertake a prevention and control program to prevent the entry, establishment or spread of pest plants and animals in the city and to ensure any identified pest populations are reduced or eradicated.

Partnerships

Coordination, collaboration and on-ground delivery

One of the most important influences on successfully achieving pest species management objectives is the substantial coordination, collaboration and on-ground delivery by private individuals and groups. With government, industry and the community committing to work together, the likelihood of successfully mitigating the impact of pest species is increased.

While the Plan provides management objectives, responsibility for implementing the actions will be shared amongst stakeholders. The Act establishes this principle of shared responsibility through the general biosecurity obligation (GBO)[1]. **https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/about-biosecurity/biosecurity-act-2014/information-and-resources-about-the-act/overview-and-foundation-principles/general-biosecurity-obligation**

This plan will achieve shared responsibility and collaboration through either informal networks or more formal partnerships providing:

- Greater efficiency through ensuring the best use of resources
- Improve access to additional incentives and resources
- Improve service coordination
- Greater innovation and additional expertise
- Improved capacity to demonstrate best practice

Examples of the partnerships critical to the success of this plan include:

- Community partners including individuals and groups (bush care, conservation partners and schools) who are responsible for their own land and/or undertake works on public land.
- Darling Downs–Moreton Rabbit Board the entity responsible for ensuring rabbits are managed within the city in compliance with the Act.
- Biosecurity Queensland manages prohibited matter and administers the Land Protection Fund to provide research and services to assist local government.
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service are responsible for managing pest plants and animals within National Parks, Conservation Parks and State Forests.
- Healthy Land and Water NRM Group – Support and develop funding mechanisms to protect and where necessary, restore SEQ's natural asset base through practical, evidence based, outcomes and solutions focussed initiatives.

It is fundamental to the plan that the City and its partners continue to work collaboratively in implementing best practice management as pests know no boundaries.

[1] This means that everyone is responsible for managing biosecurity risks that are:
- under their control and
- that they know about, or should reasonably be expected to know about.

Under the GBO, individuals and organisations whose activities pose a biosecurity risk must:
- take all reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimise each biosecurity risk
- minimise the likelihood of causing a 'biosecurity event', and limit the consequences if such an event is caused
- prevent or minimise the harmful effects a risk could have, and not do anything that might make any harmful effects worse.

Review

There are two levels of review and reporting for the Gold Coast Biosecurity Management Plan 2018–2023.

1. An annual review which will be presented in the City's Annual Report to track progress against performance measures identified in section 5.
2. A major review will be undertaken in 2022 and be completed by 2023 to ensure consistency with the most recent and relevant information, provide opportunities to improve pest management across all land tenures and to measure performance against desired outcomes.

Assessing the risk of pests

In accordance with the Act's GBO, everyone is obliged to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise biosecurity risks posed by their activities.

In accordance with the Act's GBO, everyone is obliged to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise biosecurity risks posed by their activities. To assist meeting this obligation and determine city wide priorities and management objectives, an evidence based pest risk assessment was completed for all listed invasive biosecurity matter. The prioritisation process has been established via information provided by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in "Developing local area biosecurity plans: a guide for local government".

The risk assessment process adopted by the City to identify city wide management priorities provides a standard and transparent approach that is consistent with the foundation principles of the Act and the processes used by adjoining local governments.

The City's pest risk assessment considered the following:

Figure 3 – Key elements of assessing invasive biosecurity matter risk
(Adapted from Developing local area biosecurity plans, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, July 2016)

8.1 Risk assessment process

The initial step was to develop an inventory of pest plants and animals listed by the State as invasive biosecurity matter (invasive biosecurity matter only includes pest plants and animals listed in the Act). This was done via a desktop assessment of the Atlas of Living Australia, Biosecurity Queensland pest central dataset, Queensland Herbarium flora dataset and the City's pest datasets. Peer reviews and professional opinions will be sought via the public consultation process ensuring any range extensions, new incursions or unknown observations will be captured.

Step two then involved allocating a score of one, three or five to each pest based on the likelihood of the pest occurring in the city (Table 8). The likelihood score is based on current knowledge and distribution of pest species, due to the city's diverse array of vegetation types it was determined that all listed pests could survive in the city.

T8

Table 8:

Likelihood of entry, establishment and spread of pest plants and animals
(adapted from "Developing local area biosecurity plans, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, July 2016")

5	3	1
High Occurs or has occurred in city	**Medium** Not known to occur in city. Found in adjoining local government areas or is compatible with our climatic zones	**Low** Not known to occur in city, neighbouring local government areas or in similar climatic zones

Step three involved assessing the most credible and worst case threat – existing or potential – posed by each pest against a triple bottom line framework – environment, economy and community and lifestyle (Table 9–11). To help reduce ambiguity surrounding the scores for each of the criteria, clear definitions of the differences between each of the levels were developed and finally to ensure credible and accurate scoring each of the pests scores have undergone community and industry review.

T9

Table 9:

Assessing ecological consequence and potential impact of pest plants and animals
(adapted from "Developing local area biosecurity plans, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, July 2016")

5	4	3	2	1
• Potential to drastically outcompete native species, transform ecosystems and impact on biodiversity in a broad range of natural areas, including areas of intact and high value vegetation.	• Potential to drastically out-compete native species and impact on biodiversity with impacts limited to areas of the pests' suitable habitat.	• Potential to invade forest edges and disturbed systems, and impact on areas/ecosystems that are already disturbed or degraded.	• Potential to develop a presence in natural areas without the potential to out-compete species or alter ecosystems.	• Unlikely to establish effectively in natural areas unless by isolated infestations, rubbish dumping or urban escapes.
• Preys or displaces on many native animals.	• Displaces many native animals.	• Uncertain whether able to predate on native animals	• Uncertain capacity to displace native animals	• Unlikely to penetrate undisturbed areas. • Unlikely to predate or displace native animals

T10

Table 10:

Assessing financial consequence/impact of pest plants and animals
(adapted from "Developing local area biosecurity plans, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, July 2016")

5	4	3	2	1
• Serious and long term or indefinite impact on the viability of business or industry.	• Major and medium term impact on the viability of business or industry.	• Moderate and medium term impact on the viability of business or industry.	• Minor and temporary impact on the viability of business or industry.	• None or negligible impact on the viability of business or industry.
• >$250,000/yr. loss.	• >$100,000/yr. and <$250,000/yr. loss.	• >$25,000/yr. and <$100,000/yr. loss.	• >$5,000/yr. and <$25,000/yr. loss.	• <$5000/yr. loss.
• Does not include management costs	• Does not include management costs	• Does not include management costs	• Does not include management costs	• Does not include management costs

Table 11:

Assessing lifestyle and community consequence/impact of pest plants and animals
(adapted from "Developing local area biosecurity plans, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, July 2016")

5	4	3	2	1
• Fatality/Fatalities	• Long term hospitalisation • Serious respiratory reaction	• Short term hospitalisation • Serious adverse reaction	• Medical treatment • Adverse reaction	• No injuries or First Aid treatment
• Serious and long term disruption to infrastructure and property	• Major and medium term disruption to infrastructure and property	• Moderate and medium term disruption to infrastructure and property	• Minor and temporary disruption to infrastructure and property	• None or negligible disruption to infrastructure and property
• Serious and whole of city impact to visual amenity	• Major and wide spread impact to visual amenity	• Moderate and localised impact to visual amenity	• Minor and isolated impact to visual amenity	• No or negligible impact on visual amenity

Step four assessed the feasibility – availability of suitable control methods – and management cost of each pest with respect to the current distribution of the pest (Table 12). In assessing each pest it has been assumed that there will be coordinated control and commitment from all stakeholders and landowners/managers.

Table 12:

Assessing feasibility of successfully managing the pest
(adapted from "Developing local area biosecurity plans, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, July 2016")

10	6	4	2	1
• Pest is not known to occur or infestation is small, localised.	• Pest is naturalised to a catchment or geographic region that is unlikely to become reinfested.	• Pest is naturalised in majority of catchments or geographic regions and are likely to be reinfested	• Pest is naturalised throughout the city	• Pest is naturalised throughout the city
• Effective management tools and approaches available.	• Effective management tools and approaches available.	• Effective management tools and approaches available.	• There is no effective management tools or approaches available. • Reinfestation of managed areas is likely but can be reduced.	• There is no effective management tools or approaches available.

Scoring each species

The scores for each species from the four steps were then combined to obtain a total score. This score was then used to determine the city wide management priority for mitigating the risk posed by listed pest plants and animals (invasive biosecurity matter). Listed below are the tiered priority classes:

Critical priority = **>21**

High priority = **18–20**

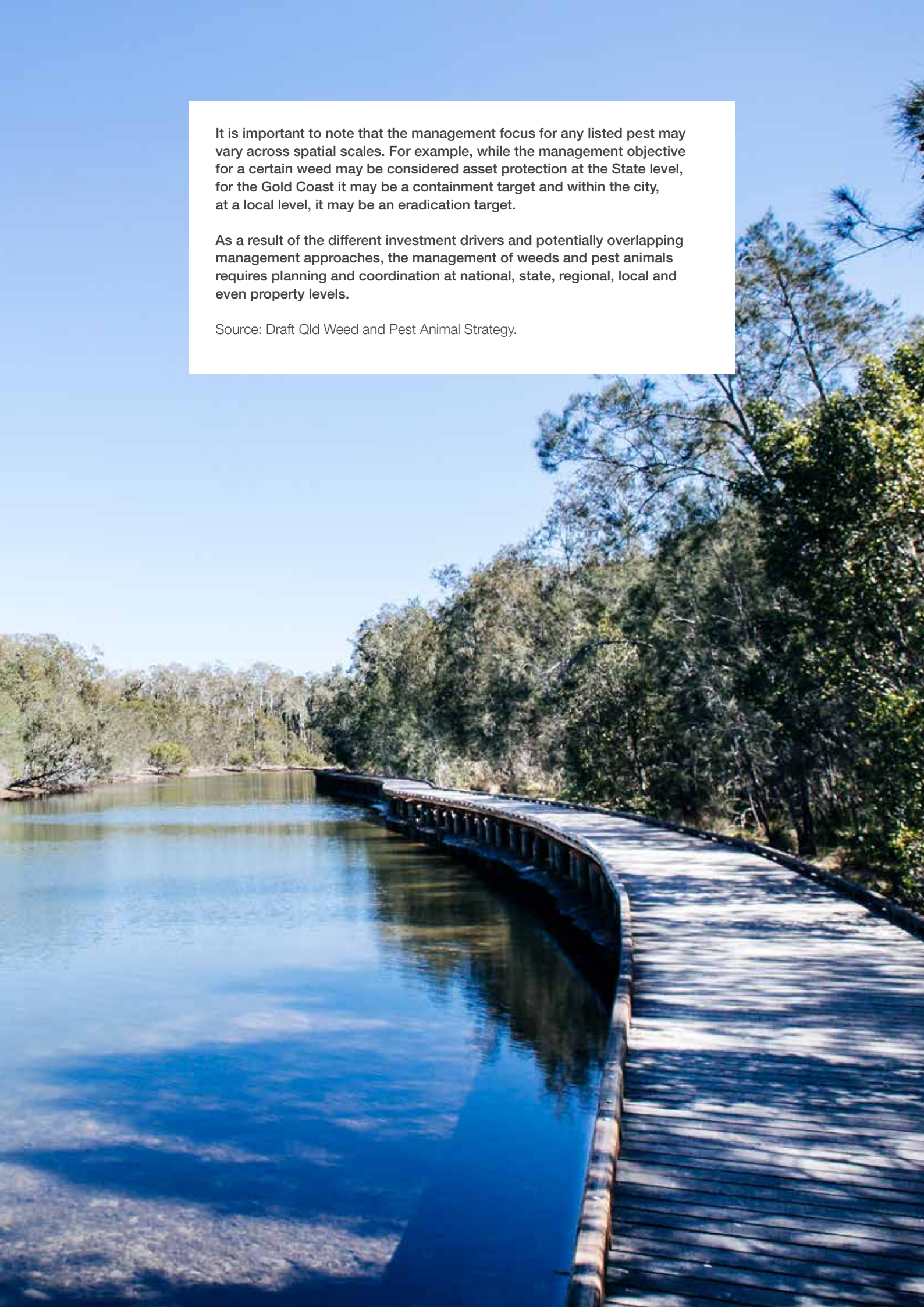
Medium Priority = **15–17**

Low Priority = **<15**

The below infographic provides a snapshot of outcomes from our city wide pest risk assessment.

KEY ACTION	PEST ANIMAL SPECIES OR GROUPS OF SPECIES	PEST PLANT SPECIES OR GROUPS OF SPECIES
Risk assessment completed	45	130
Identified for eradication	6	11
Identified for containment	7	14
Identified for asset protection	4	27
Identified for advice and support	9	3
Identified for prevention	19	75

By 2028 eradicate all known infestations of ten pest species



It is important to note that the management focus for any listed pest may vary across spatial scales. For example, while the management objective for a certain weed may be considered asset protection at the State level, for the Gold Coast it may be a containment target and within the city, at a local level, it may be an eradication target.

As a result of the different investment drivers and potentially overlapping management approaches, the management of weeds and pest animals requires planning and coordination at national, state, regional, local and even property levels.

Source: Draft Qld Weed and Pest Animal Strategy.

Locally significant pests and management actions

Following the application of the risk assessment to prioritise the management of listed pests, a further step was completed so that appropriate management actions – potential treatment responses – could be assigned to each pest.

This involved evaluating a species current stage of invasion – known as the area occupied by each species – against the generalised invasion curve (Figure 4). As a result of this evaluation each listed pest (invasive biosecurity matter) has then been allocated to one of the following city wide management objectives;

- **eradication**
- **containment**
- **asset protection**
- **advice/support or**
- **surveillance.**

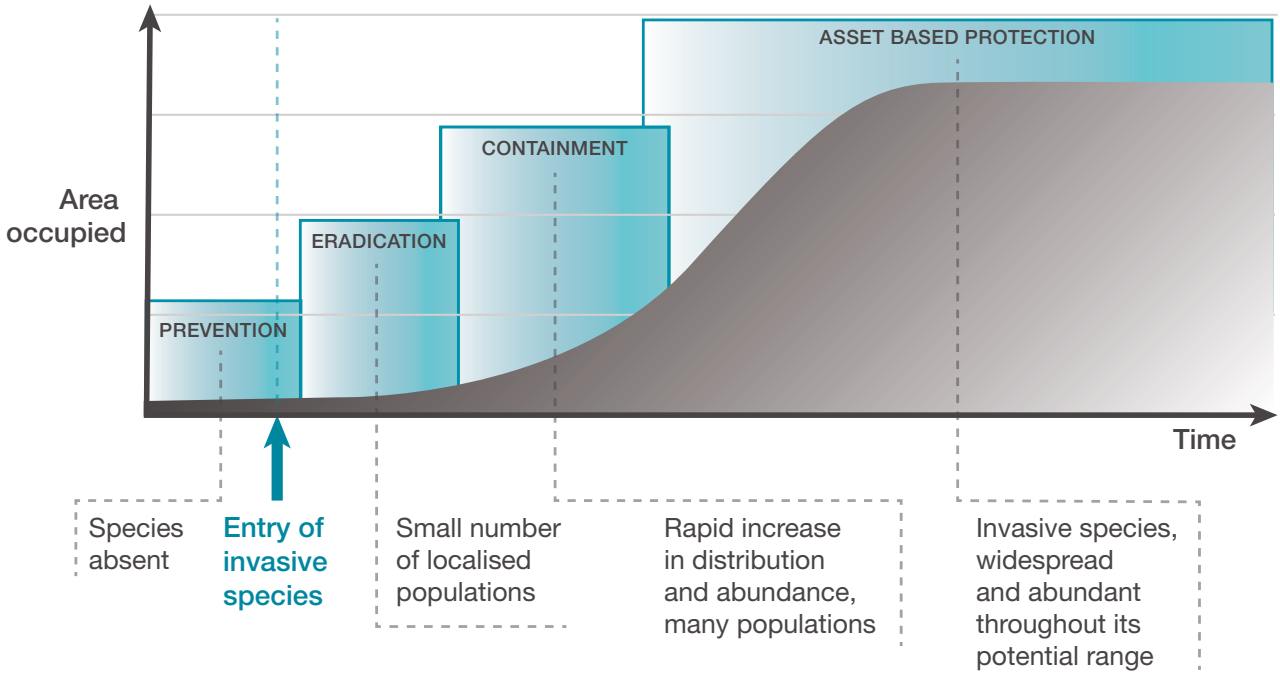
This evaluation is based on the premise that distribution of the pest and its capacity to spread at a city wide scale defines the feasibility of achieving the management objective. While economic, environmental, community & lifestyle drivers can influence management objectives, ongoing cost of management is the major limiting factor in reducing pests that are widely distributed.

In the following section Tables 14 to 22 display the city's prioritised list of locally significant pest plants and animals with corresponding recommendations for successful management. Furthermore these tables meet the City's legislative requirements under the Act and provide guidance to stakeholders on their biosecurity obligations.

The success of the Plan is conditional on sufficient resourcing being made available from land managers and risk owners to undertake programs for the pests listed in this section.

In addition to presenting the city's priority pest species, the tables include each pest's restricted matter category as defined by the Act. This is included to help raise awareness of legislative responsibilities.

Figure 4 – Generalised Invasion Curve – showing actions appropriate to each stage
(illustration based on image from Agriculture Victoria – agriculture.vic.gov.au (accessed 12/12/17)



9.1 Eradication

Eradication is a cost-effective strategy when pests are initially establishing in the region (limited distribution and density, or in small numbers) as resources required to achieve the objective are at their lowest.

The objective for this category is the eradication of all known individuals of the identified pest species. This level of management is not feasible for all pest species in the city and has only been nominated for species with a very restricted distribution, very low abundance and multiple effective control techniques.

Species included in this category are shown in Table 13 and 14.

To meet the General Biosecurity Obligation once becoming aware of the location of pest plants or animals that have been identified in Table 13 or 14:

- Report it to the City within 24 hours, unless you are aware that it has already been reported
- Take all reasonable steps to minimise the risks posed by the pest plant or animal and not make the situation worse
- Implement a safe and effective program to remove all known individuals
- Document and undertake monitoring to identify reinfestation
- Abide by the specific categories that apply to these pests.

For assistance in the identification of a pest plant or animal, do not hesitate to contact the City for information.

The City can be contacted via our report a problem online service **goldcoast.qld.gov.au/report-a-problem-24142.html** or by phoning **1300 GOLDCOAST (1300 465 326).**

T13 Table 13:

Pest animal species to be ERADICATED from the city.

Scientific name	Common name	Citywide management priority	Biosecurity Act category
Solenopsis invicta	Fire Ants	Critical	Prohibited Matter **Program led by Biosecurity Queensland**
Trachemys scripta elegans^	Red Eared Slider turtles	High	Restricted Matter **Category 2, 3, 4, 5**
Boa spp.^	Boa constrictors	Critical	Prohibited Matter
Oryctolagus cuniculus#	European Rabbit (including domestic forms)	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3, 4, 5, 6**
Elaphe guttata^	Corn snakes	High	Prohibited Matter
Lampropeltis getula californiae^	California kingsnake	High	Prohibited Matter

Table 14:

Pest plant species to be ERADICATED from the city.

Scientific name	Common name	Citywide management priority	Biosecurity Act category
Austrocylindropuntia subulata	Eve's pin cactus	High	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Vachellia xanthophloea^	Yellow Fever Tree	High	Prohibited Matter
Cecropia pachystachya, C. palmata and *C. peltata)*	Mexican Bean Tree	High	Restricted Matter **Category 2, 3, 4, 5**
Chrysanthemoides monilifera subsp. *rotundata*	Bitou Bush	Critical	Restricted Matter **Category 2, 3, 4, 5**
Cryptostegia grandiflora^	Rubber Vine	Critical	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Gleditsia triacanthos including cultivars and varieties	Honey Locust	Critical	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Heterotheca grandiflora	Telegraph Weed	High	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Nassella tenuissima^	Mexican Feather Grass	Critical	Restricted Matter **Category 2, 3, 4, 5**
Pueraria montana var. lobata, syn. *P. lobata, P. triloba*	Kudzu	Critical	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Tamarix aphylla	Athel Pine	High	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Opuntia microdasys	Bunny Ears	High	Restricted Matter **Category 2, 3, 4, 5**

^ = populations previously known to occur in the city and their continued presence needs to be determined.

= Under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* the City is not responsible for managing wild or domestic European Rabbits *(Oryctolagus cuniculus).* The City provides funding to the Darling Downs–Moreton Rabbit Board and supports the coordinated management of this species by the Board.

9.2 Containment

The objective for this category is to contain the pest species identified, delaying further spread in the city. Satellite and outlying populations will be eradicated and core populations contained to lessen the risk posed by these pests. Containment is the most effective strategy when the pest has a core population within part of the city but can still be eradicated from new sites. It has been identified that it is not feasible to eradicate these species from the city as their distribution within the core is too large.

Species included in this category are shown in Table 15 and 16.

To meet the General Biosecurity Obligation once becoming aware of the location of pest plants or animals that have been identified in Table 15 or 16:

- Take all reasonable steps to minimise the risks posed by the pest plant or animal and not make the situation worse
- Document and implement a safe and effective program to minimise the risk of spread
- Abide by the specific categories that apply to these pests.

It should be noted the City may stipulate additional requirements via authorised Biosecurity Programs (e.g. areas to be managed) or via the fencing requirements in the City's Local Law No. 12 (Animal Management) 2013.

T15

Table 15:

Pest animal species to be CONTAINED within the city.

Scientific name	Common name	Citywide management priority	Biosecurity Act category
Anoplolepis gracillipes	Yellow Crazy Ant	Critical	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Sus scrofa	Feral* Pig	High	Restricted Matter **Category 3, 4, 6**
Dama dama	Feral* Fallow Deer	Critical	Restricted Matter **Category 3, 4, 6**
Cervus elaphus	Feral* Red Deer	Critical	Restricted Matter **Category 3, 4, 6**
Cervus timorensis	Feral* Rusa Deer	Critical	Restricted Matter **Category 3, 4, 6**
Axis axis	Feral* Chital Deer	Critical	Restricted Matter **Category 3, 4, 6**
Capra hircus	Feral* Goat	Critical	Restricted Matter **Category 3, 4, 6**

*The *Biosecurity Act 2014* defines feral, in relation to an animal that is a deer, goat or pig—

1. A feral animal is an animal that—

(a) is living in a wild state; and

(b) is not being farmed or kept for any other purpose.

2. For paragraph 1(b), an animal is being farmed or kept for another purpose only if it is kept in an escape-proof enclosure, cage or other structure.

Table 16:

Pest plant species to be CONTAINED within the city.

Scientific name	Common name	Citywide management priority	Biosecurity Act category
Alternanthera philoxeroides	Alligator Weed	Critical	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Baccharis halimifolia	Groundsel Bush	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Dolichandra unguis-cati syn *Macfadyena unguis-cati*	Cat's Claw Creeper	High	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Eichhornia crassipes	Water Hyacinth	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Gymnocoronis spilanthoides	Senegal Tea	High	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Hygrophila costata	Hygrophila	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Opuntia monacantha syn. *Opuntia vulgaris*	Drooping Tree Pear	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Opuntia stricta; syn. *O. inermis*	Common pest pear, spiny pest pear	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Opuntia tomentosa	Velvety Tree Pear	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Pistia stratiotes	Water Lettuce	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Salvinia molesta	Salvinia	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Thunbergia grandiflora syn. *T. laurifolia*	Thunbergia, Blue thunbergia, Laurel Clockvine.	Low	Restricted Matter **Category 3**

9.3 Asset protection

Asset-based protection is the most cost-effective strategy once the pest plant or animal is too widespread and can reinfest areas at will. The objective for this category is to protect lifestyle, natural environment and built assets of the city.

To meet the General Biosecurity Obligation once becoming aware of the location of pest plants or animals that has been identified in Table 17 and 18:

- Take all reasonable steps to minimise the risks posed by the pest plant or animal and not make the situation worse
- Document and implement a safe and effective program to improve the value and reduce the vulnerability of affected assets
- Abide by the specific categories that apply to these pests.

The City may stipulate additional requirements via authorised Biosecurity Programs focussed on supporting industry and community leadership and actions.

Table 17:

Pest animal species identified for ASSET PROTECTION within the city.

Scientific name	Common name	Citywide management priority	Biosecurity Act category
Canis familaris dingo	Dingo	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3, 4, 6**
Canis lupis familiaris	Dog, other than domestic dog	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3, 4, 5, 6**
Felis catus and Prionailurus bengalensis x Felis catus	Cat other than a domestic cat	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3, 4, 6**
Vulpes vulpes	European Red Fox	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3, 4, 5, 6**

Table 18:

Pest plant species identified for ASSET PROTECTION within the city.

Scientific name	Common name	Citywide management priority	Biosecurity Act category
Ambrosia artemisiifolia	Annual Ragweed	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Anredera cordifolia	Madeira Vine	High	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Aristolochia spp. other than native species	Dutchman's Pipe	High	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Asparagus aethiopicus	Ground asparagus	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Asparagus africanus	Climbing asparagus fern	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Asparagus plumosus	Feathered asparagus fern	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**

Scientific name	Common name	Citywide management priority	Biosecurity Act category
Asparagus scandens	Asparagus fern	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Bryophyllum delagoense syn. B. tubiflorum, Kalanchoe delagoensis	Mother of millions	Low	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Bryophyllum x houghtonii	Mother of millions hybrid	Low	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Cabomba caroliniana	Cabomba	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Cardiospermum grandiflorum	Balloon Vine	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Cascabela thevetia syn. Thevetia peruviana	Captain Cook Tree	Low	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Celtis sinensis	Chinese Celtis, Chinese elm	Low	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Cinnamomum camphora	Camphor Laurel	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Cryptostegia madagascariensis	Ornamental Rubber Vine	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Hedychium coronarium	White Ginger	Low	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Hedychium gardnerianum	Kahili Ginger	Low	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Lantana camara	Lantana	Low	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Lantana montevidensis	Creeping Lantana	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Ligustrum lucidum	Broad-leaf Privet	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Ligustrum sinense	Small-leaf Privet	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Rubus anglocandicans, and *R. fruticosus agg*	Blackberry	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Saggitaria platyphylla	Saggitaria	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Senecio madagascariensis	Fireweed	Low	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Schinus terebinthifolius	Broad-leaved Pepper Tree	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Spathodea campanulata	African tulip tree	Low	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Sphagneticola trilobata; syn. Wedelia trilobata	Singapore Daisy	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Sporobolus pyramidalis and *S. natalensis*	Giant Rat's Tail Grass	Low	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Tecoma stans	Yellow Bells	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**

9.4 Advice and support

For pest plants and animals listed under this category the City and its partners will meet the GBO by providing advice and support to help people understand the biosecurity risk posed by the pest and how the General Biosecurity Obligation applies.

Under the Act everyone has a general biosecurity obligation (GBO) to take reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive plants and animals under their control. However the Act, and specifically the General Biosecurity Obligation, **cannot** be used by local governments to enforce the management of species other than those that are listed as invasive biosecurity matter under the Act.

This same restriction is not placed on State government meaning that the GBO can be used to address new and emerging species that are not already listed in the legislation, or for other species that might be causing a biosecurity risk for another reason in a particular situation.

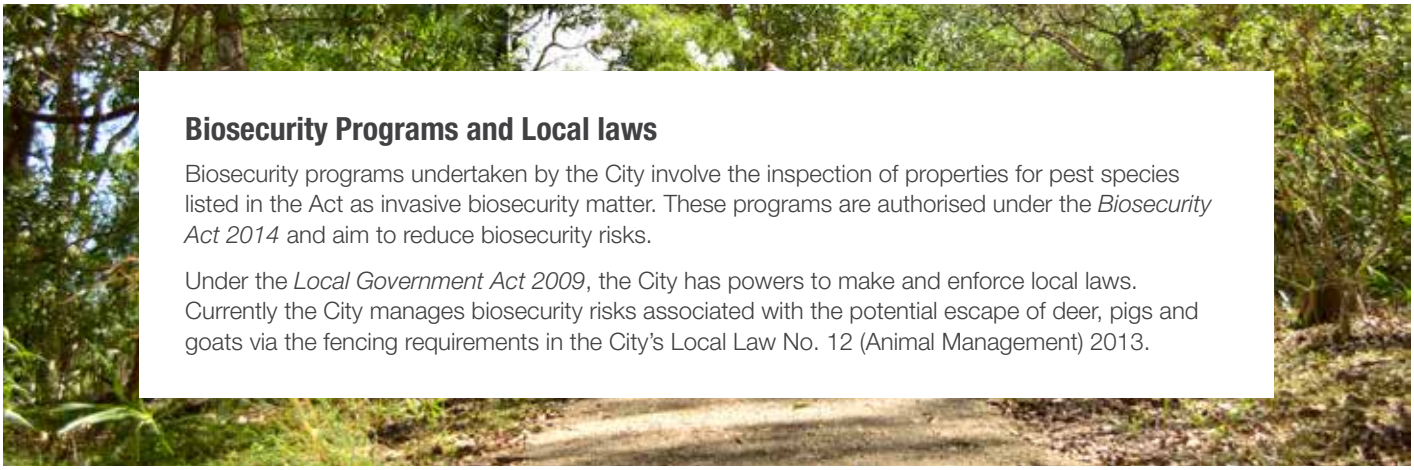
For the present time the City has no immediate plan to adopt a local law for the management of pest species that are identified in this management category. For pests identified in Table 19 the City will work with stakeholders to develop innovative solutions that are not based on the City assuming or adopting regulatory enforcement.

T19

Table 19:

Pest species identified for ADVICE AND SUPPORT within the city.

Scientific name	Common name	Citywide management priority	Biosecurity Act category
Acridotheres tristis	Common Myna	Low	Not enforced by Local Government
Limnobium laevigatum	Amazonian Frogbit	Low	Not enforced by Local Government
Oreochromis mossambicus and *Tilapia mariae*	Tilapia	High	Restricted Matter **Category 3, 5, 6, 7** Not enforced by Local Government
Heteranthera reniformis	Kidney leaf mud plaintain	Medium	Not enforced by Local Government
Erythrina crista-galli	Cockspur coral	Medium	Not enforced by Local Government
Rhinella marina	Cane toad	Low	Not enforced by Local Government



Biosecurity Programs and Local laws

Biosecurity programs undertaken by the City involve the inspection of properties for pest species listed in the Act as invasive biosecurity matter. These programs are authorised under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* and aim to reduce biosecurity risks.

Under the *Local Government Act 2009*, the City has powers to make and enforce local laws. Currently the City manages biosecurity risks associated with the potential escape of deer, pigs and goats via the fencing requirements in the City's Local Law No. 12 (Animal Management) 2013.

9.5 Prevention

Prevention is the most cost-effective strategy when the potential pest is not currently in the region. For pest plants and animals listed under this category the City and its partners will meet the GBO by identifying and managing pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.

To meet the General Biosecurity Obligation once becoming aware of the location of pest plants or animals that may have been identified in Table 20 or 21:

- Report it to the City of Gold Coast within 24 hours, unless you are aware that it has already been reported
- Take all reasonable steps to minimise the risks posed by the pest plant or animal and not make the situation worse
- Abide by the specific categories that apply to these pests.

The City may stipulate additional requirements via authorised Biosecurity Programs focussed on preventing new species establishing in the city.

For assistance in the identification of a pest plant or animal, do not hesitate to contact the City for information.

The City can be contacted via our report a problem online service **goldcoast.qld.gov.au/report-a-problem-24142.html** or by phoning **1300 GOLDCOAST (1300 465 326).**

Table 20:

Pest animals to be PREVENTED FROM ESTABLISHING within the city.

Scientific name	Common name	Citywide management priority	Biosecurity Act category
all *Anolis spp.*	Anoles	High	Prohibited Matter
all species of the genera *Bombina*	Fire bellied toads	High	Prohibited Matter
Bufo melanostictus	Asian Spined Toad	Critical	Prohibited Matter
Corvus splendens	Indian House Crow	Critical	Response led by Biosecurity Queensland
all species of the genera *Ctenosaura, Iguana, Brachylophus, Amblyrhynchus, Conolophus, Cyclura, Dipsosaurus* and *Sauromalus*	Iguanas	High	Prohibited Matter
Cuora amboinensis kamaroma	South East Asian Box Turtle	High	Prohibited Matter
all species of the genus *Cynops*	Fire bellied newts	High	Prohibited Matter
all species of the genus *Dendrobates*	Poison Arrow frogs	Critical	Prohibited Matter
all species of the genus *Funambulus*	Indian Palm Squirrels	High	Prohibited Matter
all genera of the family *Gekkonidae, Diplodactylidae, Eublepharidae, Phyllodactylidae, Sphaerodactylidae* and *Pygopodidae* that are exotic to Australia	All gecko species exotic to Australia including leopard, tokay and Madagascar gecko. (Excludes Asian House gecko).	High	Prohibited Matter
all species of the genera *Gerbillus, Taterillus* or *Meriones*	Gerbils and jirds	High	Prohibited Matter

Table 20:

Pest animals to be PREVENTED FROM ESTABLISHING within the city. / continued

Scientific name	Common name	Citywide management priority	Biosecurity Act category
all species of the family *Herpestinae*	Mongoose	High	Prohibited Matter
Mauremys sinensis	Chinese striped necked turtle	High	Prohibited Matter
all species of the genera *Mesocricetus, Cricetus, Phodopus, Cricetulus, Allocricetulus, Cansumys* and *Tscherskia*	Hamsters	High	Prohibited Matter
all species of the genus *Mustela*	Stoats, weasels and mink. Includes any form of the ferret	High	Prohibited Matter
Pycnonotus cafer	Red-vented Bulbul	High	Response led by Biosecurity Queensland
Pycnonotus jocosus	Red-whiskered Bulbul	Critical	Response led by Biosecurity Queensland
Python regius	Ball Pythons	High	Prohibited Matter
Quelea quelea	Red-billed Quelea	High	Response led by Biosecurity Queensland
Solenopsis geminata	Tropical fire ant or ginger ant	Critical	Prohibited Matter
Testudo hermanni	Hermann's tortoise	High	Prohibited Matter
Turdus merula	Common Blackbird	Critical	Response led by Biosecurity Queensland
Turdus philomelos	Song Thrush	Medium	Response led by Biosecurity Queensland
Wasmannia auropunctata	Electric Ant	Critical	Restricted Matter **Category 1** Program led by Biosecurity Queensland

Table 21:

Pest plants to be PREVENTED FROM ESTABLISHING within the city.

Scientific name	Common name	Citywide management priority	Biosecurity Act category
Acaciella spp., Mariosousa spp., Senegalia spp. and *Vachellia spp.*	Acacias non-indigenous to Australia other than Vachellia nilotica, Vachellia farnesiana	High	Prohibited Matter
Andropogon gayanus	Gamba Grass	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Annona glabra	Pond Apple	High	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Argyreia nervosa	Elephant ear vine	High	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Asparagus asparagoides	Bridal Creeper	High	Restricted Matter **Category 2, 3, 4, 5**
Asparagus declinatus	Bridal Veil	High	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Austrocylindropuntia cylindrica	Cane cactus	High	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Bassia scoparia syn. Kochia scoparia	Kochia	Medium	Prohibited Matter
Cabomba spp. other than *C. caroliniana*	Fanwort	Medium	Prohibited Matter
all *Cecropia spp.* other than *C. pachystachya, C. palmata* and *C. peltata*	Mexican bean tree	Critical	Prohibited Matter
Cenchrus setaceum	African Fountain Grass	Low	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Chromolaena spp. other than *C. odorata* and *C. squalida*	Siam Weed	Critical	Prohibited Matter
Chrysanthemoides monilifera ssp. monilifera	Boneseed	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 2, 3, 4, 5**
Clidemia hirta	Koster's Curse	Critical	Restricted Matter **Category 2, 3, 4, 5**
Cylindropuntia spp. and hybrids other than *C. fulgida, C. imbricata, C. prolifera, C. rosea, C. spinosior* and *C. tunicata*	Cholla cactus	Medium	Prohibited Matter
Cylindropuntia fulgida	Coral Cactus	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**

Table 21:

Pest plants to be PREVENTED FROM ESTABLISHING within the city. / continued

Scientific name	Common name	Citywide management priority	Biosecurity Act category
Cylindropuntia imbricata	Devil's Rope Pear	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Cylindropuntia prolifera	Jumping Cholla	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 2, 3, 4, 5**
Cylindropuntia rosea and C. tunicata	Hudson Pear	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 2, 3, 4, 5**
Cylindropuntia spinosior	Snake Cactus	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Eichhornia azurea	Anchored Water Hyacinth	High	Prohibited Matter
Elephantopus mollis	Tobacco weed	High	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Equisetum spp.	Horsetails	High	Prohibited Matter
Genista linifolia	Flax Leaf Broom	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Gleditsia spp. other than *G. triacanthos*^	Honey Locust	Critical	Prohibited Matter
Gmelina elliptica	Badhara Bush	High	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Harrisia spp. syn. Eriocereus spp. other than *H. martinii, H. tortuosa* and *H. pomanensis syn. Cereus pomanensis*	Harrisia Cactus	Medium	Prohibited Matter
Harungana madagascariensis	Harungana	High	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Hedychium flavescens	Yellow Ginger	Low	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Helenium amarum	Bitterweed	Medium	Prohibited Matter
Hymenachne amplexicaulis and hybrids	Hymenachne or Olive Hymenachne	Critical	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Jatropha gossypiifolia and hybrids	Bellyache Bush	High	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Lagarosiphon major	Lagarosiphon	Low	Prohibited Matter
Limnocharis flava	Limnocharis, Yellow Burrhead	High	Restricted Matter **Category 2, 3, 4, 5**
Ludwigia peruviana	Peruvian Primrose Bush	High	Prohibited Matter

^ = populations previously known to occur in the city and their continued presence needs to be determined.

Scientific name	Common name	Citywide management priority	Biosecurity Act category
Lycium ferocissimum	African Boxthorn	High	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Miconia spp. other than *M. calvescens, M. cionotricha, M. nervosa* and *M. racemosa*	Miconia	High	Prohibited Matter
Miconia. calvescens, M.cionotricha, M. nervosa and *M. racemosa*	Miconia	Critical	Restricted Matter **Category 2, 3, 4, 5**
Mikania spp. other than *M. micrantha*	Mikania	High	Prohibited Matter
Mimosa diplotricha var. diplotricha	Giant Sensitive Plant	High	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Mimosa pigra	Mimosa Pigra	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 2, 3, 4, 5**
Morella faya	Candleberry Myrtle	High	Prohibited Matter
Myriophyllum spicatum	Eurasian Water Milfoil	Medium	Prohibited Matter
Nassella neesiana	Chilean Needle Grass	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Nassella trichotoma	Serrated Tussock	Medium	Prohibited Matter
Neptunia oleracea and *N. plena*	Water Mimosa	Critical	Restricted Matter **Category 2, 3, 4, 5**
Opuntia spp. other than *O. aurantiaca, O. elata, O. ficus-indica, O. microdasys, O. monacantha, O. stricta, O. streptacantha* and *O. tomentosa*	Prickly Pear	Medium	Prohibited Matter
Opuntia aurantiaca	Tiger Pear	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Opuntia elata	Prickly Pear	High	Restricted Matter **Category 2, 3, 4, 5**
Opuntia streptacantha	Westwood Pear	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Parkinsonia aculeata	Parkinsonia	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Parthenium hysterophorus	Parthenium	High	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Piper aduncum	Spiked Pepper	High	Prohibited Matter
Pithecellobium dulce	Madras Thorn	High	Restricted Matter **Category 2, 3, 4, 5**

T21 Table 21:

Pest plants to be PREVENTED FROM ESTABLISHING within the city. / continued

Scientific name	Common name	Citywide management priority	Biosecurity Act category
all *Prosopis spp.* and hybrids other than *P. glandulosa, P. pallida* and *P. velutina*	Mesquites	Medium	Prohibited Matter
Prosopis glandulosa	Honey Mesquite	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Prosopis pallida	Mesquite or Algarroba	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Prosopis velutina	Quilpie Mesquite	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
all *Salix spp.* other than *S. babylonica, S.* × *calodendron* and *S.* × *reichardtii*	Willows	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Salvinia spp. other than *S. molesta*	Salvinia	Critical	Prohibited Matter
Senna hirsuta	Hairy Cassia	High	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Senna obtusifolia	Sicklepod	High	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Senna tora	Foetid Cassia	High	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Sesbania punicea	Red Sesbania	Medium	Prohibited Matter
Solanum viarum	Tropical Soda Apple	High	Prohibited Matter
Sporobolus jacquemontii	American Rat's Tail grass	Low	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Stevia ovata	Candyleaf	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Stratiotes aloides	Water Soldiers	High	Prohibited Matter
Striga spp. other than native species	Witch Weeds	High	Prohibited Matter
Thunbergia annua	Annual Thunbergia	Low	Prohibited Matter
Trapa spp.	Floating Water Chestnuts	Critical	Prohibited Matter
Ulex europaeus	Gorse	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Vachellia nilotica	Prickly Acacia	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Ziziphus mauritiana	Chinee apple	Medium	Restricted Matter **Category 3**
Ziziphus spina-christi	Christ's Thorn	Medium	Prohibited Matter

Biosecurity programs

In accordance with the *Biosecurity Act 2014,* the Chief Executive of the City will authorise surveillance and prevention and control programs to monitor compliance with the *Biosecurity Act 2014* and the outcomes and objectives of this plan. These Biosecurity Programs will be used to check measures taken by members of the public (including land owners and managers) and State agencies to reduce the biosecurity risks posed by pest plants and animals.

The program authorisation will state:

- the purpose of the program
- the biosecurity matter, start, period, area
- objective criteria for selecting places to be entered and inspected
- the powers an authorised officer may exercise under the program
- measures an authorised officer may take under the program.

The authorisation of the Biosecurity Program will be published on the City's website and will be limited to a period reasonably necessary to achieving the programs' purpose.

10.1 Surveillance program

A surveillance program may be authorised and directed at any of the following:

- monitoring compliance with the Act
- confirming the presence, or determining the extent of or distribution of biosecurity matter
- confirming the absence of biosecurity matter
- monitoring levels of biosecurity matter or levels of biosecurity matter in a carrier.

Alternatively, a surveillance program may:

- monitor the effects of measures taken in response to a biosecurity risk or confirm the absence of biosecurity matter.

A local government may authorise a surveillance program for monitoring compliance with the Act and monitoring the effect of measures taken by landowners in response to biosecurity risk posed by pest plants and animals within its area or part of its area.

The authorised officer may determine that a person has failed to discharge a general biosecurity obligation and may issue a biosecurity order or take other enforcement action as required (e.g. Penalty Infringement Notice). The Act also enables follow up in the event of non-compliance with a biosecurity order and recovery of the cost of the local government taking the actions required by the biosecurity order.

10.2 Prevention and control program

A prevention and control program may be authorised and directed towards:

- preventing the entry, establishment or spread of listed pest plants and animals in an area; or
- managing, controlling or eradicating listed pest plants that could pose a significant biosecurity risk.

A local government may authorise a prevention and control program for a particular pest plant or animal within its area or part of its area. A local government's authorised person may enter the land following the appropriate entry procedure and give a direction to the occupier to take reasonable steps to remove or eradicate the pest plant or animal within a reasonable time.

The Act enables enforcement by the local government. In the event of non-compliance with the direction, the local government may enter and enforce the provisions of the Act to achieve compliance.

CASE STUDY

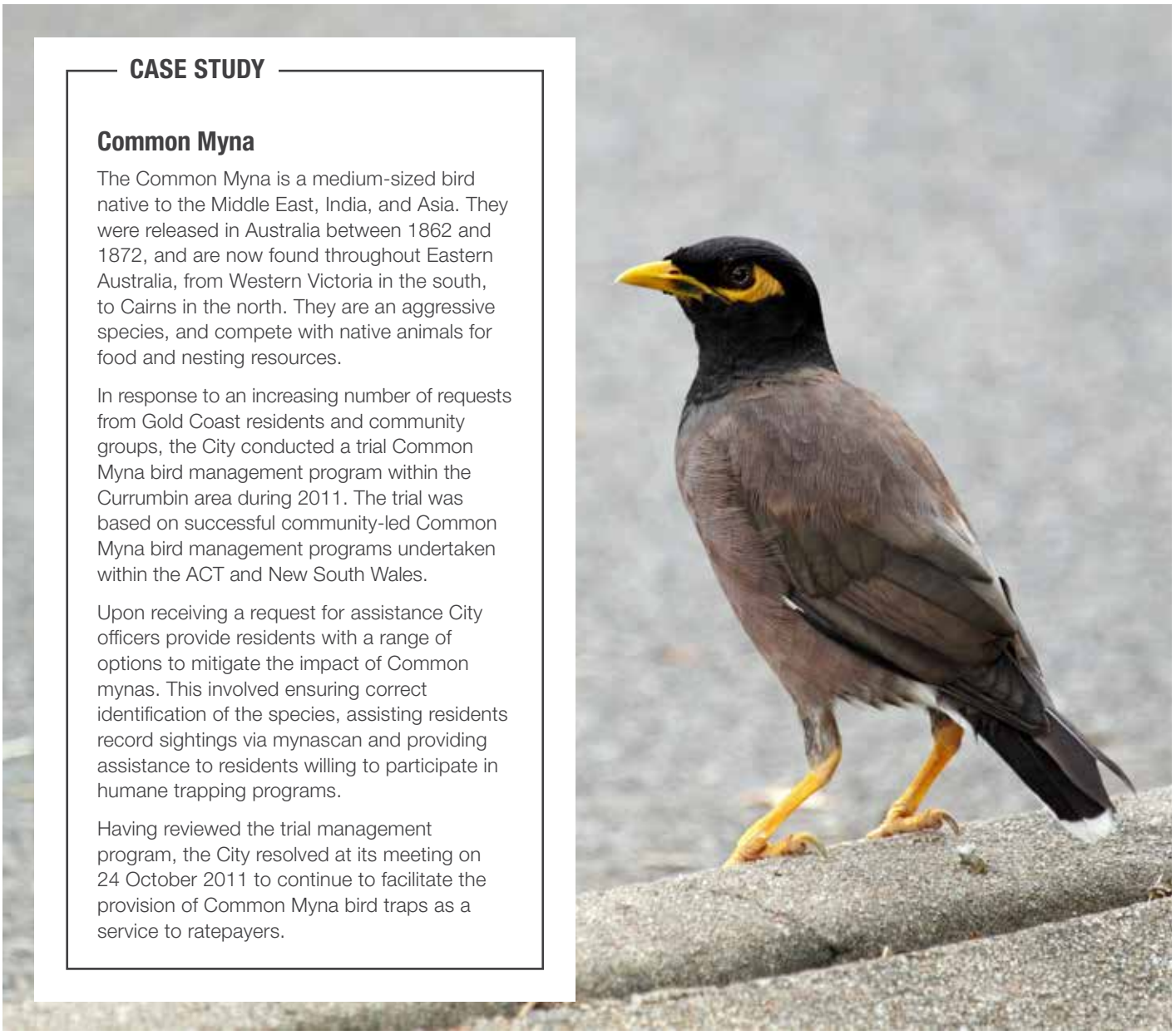
Common Myna

The Common Myna is a medium-sized bird native to the Middle East, India, and Asia. They were released in Australia between 1862 and 1872, and are now found throughout Eastern Australia, from Western Victoria in the south, to Cairns in the north. They are an aggressive species, and compete with native animals for food and nesting resources.

In response to an increasing number of requests from Gold Coast residents and community groups, the City conducted a trial Common Myna bird management program within the Currumbin area during 2011. The trial was based on successful community-led Common Myna bird management programs undertaken within the ACT and New South Wales.

Upon receiving a request for assistance City officers provide residents with a range of options to mitigate the impact of Common mynas. This involved ensuring correct identification of the species, assisting residents record sightings via mynascan and providing assistance to residents willing to participate in humane trapping programs.

Having reviewed the trial management program, the City resolved at its meeting on 24 October 2011 to continue to facilitate the provision of Common Myna bird traps as a service to ratepayers.



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