Longreach Regional Council

PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN 2010 to 2014

Photos used are from QPIF and NRW

Longreach Regional Council

Pest Management Plan

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Executive Summary

The Longreach Regional Council Pest Management Plan (PMP) was developed for the benefit of the whole community and is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* Queensland.

With the implementation of the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* very clear responsibilities are identified for local government and land owners. Longreach Regional Council has recognised its responsibilities and roles within the Act and has put forward a Pest Management Plan that not only addresses current legislation, but also endeavours to raise community awareness of pest management issues. Resourcing pest management continues to be an inhibiting factor to achieving desired goals however, it is anticipated that this plan will become an aid not only for pest management planning but in achieving external funding to achieve set objectives.

Summary of Longreach Regional Council

Background
Longreach Regional Council was formed in 2008 by the amalgamation of Longreach, Ilfracombe and Isisford Shires. Its area is 40,638 sq km. It encompasses the townships of Longreach, Ilfracombe, Isisford and Yaraka with a total population of approximately 4,500 that dramatically fluctuates with tourism to an estimated 6,000 during the winter months.
Longreach Regional Council's northern boundary is near Muttaburra where several watercourses converge as the Thomson River. Flowing south, the Thomson River passes through the town of Longreach, gathering flows from Aramac Creek and other streams until entering the Cooper's Creek system. East of the Thomson River, the Barcoo River flows south-west, passing through Isisford and exiting the Longreach Regional Council's area near the former railway terminus at Yaraka. It, too, joins the Cooper's system. Longreach Regional Council's dominant industries are sheep and cattle.

Ecology
Longreach region contains examples of Mitchell grass downs, often associated with floodplains, riparian areas, seasonal streams and waterholes. These landscapes have high fauna habitat values and provide connectivity across the landscape in areas where the adjoining private land has been modified. There are 69 species of fauna with greater than 50% of their recorded range in the region. Of these species, 37 species have 100% of their recorded range in the region. The recognized threats to biodiversity in Longreach region are exotic weeds, feral animals.

Cultural heritage
Cultural heritage (European and indigenous) occur in many areas of the region. Stone tools, stone scatters and hearths are commonly seen relics of indigenous communities. Some areas were major transport corridors in the past especially Longreach Winton, Longreach Muttaburra and Longreach Jundah, and there are clearly identifiable sites of small townships and Cobb & Co. change stations. Gravesites and old drover's camps are also significant historical relics.

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this four year Pest Management Plan (PMP) 2010 to 2014 is to bring together all sectors of the local communities to provide for the management of declared pests in this local government's area. In so doing, the PMP:

- lists known high risk pest animals and invasive weeds in the shire
- sets strategies, priorities, activities and responsibilities for control of high risk pest animals and invasive weeds at a local scale
- ensures resources are targeted at the highest priority pest management activities and those most likely to succeed
- sets achievable objectives for the local community that address the economic, environmental and social impacts of weeds and pest animals
- incorporates monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the plan
- informs regional planning processes on local pest management priorities.

1.1 BACKGROUND

Weeds and pest animals are in every local government area. Weeds and pest animals cost Queensland more than $600 million every year in lost production and control costs. They also cause degradation of natural resources, including vegetation, threaten biodiversity values and interfere with human health and recreational activities.

1.2 GOAL OF PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

The goal of Longreach Regional Council plan is:

To involve and make all community residents aware of pest management responsibilities, having special regard for the areas regional biodiversity, agricultural, economic base and cultural values.

The Longreach Regional Council Pest management Plan incorporates six strategies and associated desired outcomes, for managing pests in its local government area:

1. To increase stakeholder awareness and knowledge of pest impacts, and pest management skills
2. To establish long-term stakeholder commitment and compliance to pest plant and animal management

3. To collect relevant pest data to increase knowledge of pests enabling the improvement of pest management practices

4. To create a holistic planning framework for pest management by reviewing, evaluating and implementing integrated pest management strategies and plans, and to adequately resource management actions

5. To prevent the introduction and establishment of new pest animals and plants; and to minimise the spread of existing pest plants and animals to new areas

6. To reduce pest populations and impacts through the adoption and development of best practice pest control methods; protect environmentally significant areas from pest animal and weeds; and offer stakeholder pest management incentives

1.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUP

The Longreach Regional Council established a working group to advise on the preparation of a draft Pest Management Plan. The working group was established by inviting key stakeholders in pest management to attend pest management planning workshops. Representatives from Longreach Regional Council, DEEDI, DERM, Main Roads, QPWWS National Parks, landowners, NRM groups, pest control contractors and Landcare made up the working group.

A number of priority pest species requiring attention within the Council area were identified by the Longreach Regional Council Working Group. These species fall under four management categories:

1. Prevention of introduction
2. Early detection and eradication
3. Containment
4. Undeclared species

The priority pest species were further categorised into high priority pest species and individual background and control information have been included in the plan for each species of high priority. The annual action plan outlines species specific operational objectives and actions for high priority species, and resource allocation and budgets.

1.4 MISSION STATEMENT

To facilitate the cooperative management of weeds and pest animals, involving all stakeholders, within the Longreach Regional Council and adjoining Local Governments.

1.5 KEY OBJECTIVES

- To improve weed and pest animal management strategies within Longreach Regional Council to mitigate and minimise their local and regional impacts.

- To contribute and review on a wider scale the Queensland Government strategy for reducing the impact of weeds and pest animals.

1.6 OBSTACLES TO ACHIEVING OUR OBJECTIVES

- Lack of funding.
- Weather conditions.
- Lack of resources.
- Lack of cooperation between other councils with similar pest problems.
- Isolation/ access to infested areas
- Lack of commitment.
- Lack of training, awareness and education among the stakeholders in relation to pest management.

1.7 ANNUAL PEST DISTRIBUTION SURVEY

An annual Pest Survey Program will be conducted. Longreach Regional Council in conjunction with Desert Channels Queensland and QPIF will collect and collate this information and map all high priority weed species listed in this plan.

Annual actions plans

Annual actions plans will be developed that tie in with this Four year pest management plan. The Action plans will encompass the following:

- Pest plan implementation programme calendar
- Outline of pest management roles and responsibilities
- Pest survey program
- Pest survey program time table
- Method of prioritisation of pest control
- Classes and prioritisation of pests
- High priority declared pests
- Terrestrial pest plants
- Water weed pest plants
- Pest animals
- Resources

Monitoring and evaluation

1.8 REVIEWING THE PLAN

This Council will review this PMP at our own discretion or when review is mandatory such as:

- annual review – at least 3 months before the start of each financial year (s.33(2)); and
- if a State pest management strategy is amended to ensure it is consistent with the full review – when a state pest management strategy is amended (s. 33(3)).

1.9 OTHER LEGISLATION AND PLANS

In addition to preparing this PMP in accordance with the Act, it is also important that other relevant legislation was adhered to including:

- *Vegetation Management Act 1999* (e.g. permits for clearing native vegetation to control weeds)

- *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (e.g. protection of dingoes in conservation areas) *Water Act 2000* (e.g. the impact of management activities in watercourses)
- *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (e.g. the release of contaminants when undertaking pest management actions)
- *Wild Rivers Act 2005* (e.g. permits for clearing native vegetation to control weeds) *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994* and the *Land Title Act 1994* (e.g. managing road reserves that extend beyond identified state-controlled roads)
- *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* (e.g. providing seized pest animal with appropriate food, shelter and water)
- *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Queensland) Act 1994* (e.g. using pesticides appropriately).

Plans also taken into consideration were:
- Regional natural resource management plans
- Regional pest management plans
- Integrated catchment management strategies

Acronyms

BQ	Biosecurity Queensland
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
DCQ	Desert Channels Queensland
DERM	Department of Environment and Resource Management
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Environmental Significant Area
LRC	Longreach Regional Council
LG	Local Government
RLO	Rural Lands Officer (Local Government)
NRM	Natural Resource Management
PMP	Pest Management Plan

2.0 . STAKEHOLDER RESPONSIBILITIES

Key stakeholder responsibilities for implementing this Plan are outlined below:

Stakeholder	Key roles and responsibilities			
	Class 1	**Class 2**	**Class 3**	**Other**
Longreach Regional Council	Surveillance, early detection/notification and raising awareness	Compliance, surveillance, local planning, mapping and raising awareness. Encourage good pest management eg vehicle wash down, weed vendor declaration etc	Local planning, mapping and raising awareness. Encourage good pest management eg vehicle wash down, weed vendor declaration etc	Local laws. Contribute financially through the precept system for pest control and research services. Source more support for more support and resources in pest management. Foster a more regional approach to pest management. Develop policy on council vehicle and machinery wash down.
Biosecurity Queensland, Primary Industries and Fisheries	Early detection, destruction of infestations, compliance, state wide planning, mapping, coordination, raising awareness and research	Supply 1080 to local government and administer, monitor, record and enforce proper use of 1080. Research into improved pest management. Provide extension and technical skills in pest management and provide best practice guides to managing Class 2's	Compliance, state wide planning, raising awareness and research	Operate the Wild Dog Barrier Fence. Research control techniques. Support local government planning, extension and education services.
Department of Environment and Resource Management		Landholder responsibilities and provide resources for best practice pest management on National Parks	QPWS would support work in class 3's as the majority of their land falls under environmentally significant areas - might check with them on their commitment	Ensure the conservation of biodiversity, monitor and regulate environmental impact of weed and pest animal management.

			here?	
Department of Health		Granting approval for use of 1080 and strychnine.		Lead role in maintaining public health and safety in issues associated with poisons
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Australia		Regional consultation in setting policy on pest management		National border protection and surveillance, funding support for programs dealing with WONS
Natural Resource Management Group		Regional planning, mapping, GIS training and education, and funding support for pest management programs. Lobbing and participation at all levels of Govt. Raising community awareness, Surveillance and monitoring		Regional planning, mapping and funding support for resource management work programs
Landholders (including state landholding agencies eg Main Roads. QR, Ergon, LG, Native Title etc)	Early detection, destruction of infestations	Containment and control of weeds and pest animals. Encourage good pest management eg vehicle wash down, weed vendor declaration etc	Weed control in environmentally significant areas	

2.1 Scope of a PMP

This PMP covers all land within the boundaries of this local government area, including state land. By agreement, land owned by the Australian government or held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities under a Deed of Grant in Trust is also included.

Pest species targeted in this PMP are exotic species and some indigenous species such as locusts. Pests are defined as species declared under the three declaration classes identified by the Act (refer Table 1), local laws, or other species that are having or has the potential to have an impact in the area.

Table 2: Classes of declared pests under the Act

Class*	Description
1	A Class 1 pest is one that is not commonly present in Queensland, and if introduced would cause an adverse economic, environmental or social impact. Class 1 pests established in Queensland are subject to eradication from the state. Landowners must take reasonable steps to keep land free of Class 1 pests.
2	Class 2 pests are established in Queensland and have, or could have, an adverse economic, environmental or social impact. Management of these pests requires coordination and they are subject to programs led by local government, community or landowners. Landowners must take reasonable steps to keep land free of Class 2 pests.
3	Class 3 pests are established in Queensland and have, or could have, an adverse economic,

	environmental or social impact. Landholders are not required to control Class 3 pests unless their land is adjacent to an environmentally significant area

- Declared pest species are identified in *Schedule 2 of the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Regulation 2003* – visit on line at http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/L/LandPrPSRMR03.pdf

3.0 Declared and Other Locally Significant Weeds and Pest Animals Present in Longreach Regional Council

Priority rating

- **High** potential detrimental impact to the Region of not doing anything to control the pest based on predictive pest management models
- **Medium** beneficial impact of spending money NOW to control the pest (e.g. weed present in very small numbers in a Region which could be eradicated with a small amount of money and effort)
- **Low** present but not economical to control too widespread.

Priority Rating of Numbers

1. Council will invest heavily in controlling the pest
2. Council will invest moderately in controlling the pest
3. Council will only invest if the pest looks like getting out of control or becoming an emergent threat.

3.1 List (prioritised) of pest animals and plants in Longreach Regional Council

Name of Pest	Priority	Level of control	Declaration status
Pest Animals			
Wild dogs (*Canis familiaris*)	High 1	Containment with reasonable level of control	Class 2
Foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*)	High 2	Containment with reasonable level of control	Class 2
Feral cats (*Felis catus*)	Medium 2	Containment with reasonable level of control	Class 2
Feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*)	High 1	Containment with reasonable level of control	Class 2
Rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*)	Medium	Containment with reasonable level of control	Class 2
Locusts	Low	Identification and notification	Class 2
Feral goat	Low	Containment with reasonable level of control	Class 2
Talapia; Starlings; Carp; Cane Toad			Unclassified

Weeds			
Prickly acacia (*Acacia nilotica*)	High	Eradication of isolated, strategic infestations/populations Control in other areas	Class 2
Mesquite (*Prosopis spp*.)	High	Eradication of infestations/populations	Class 2
Parkinsonia (*Parkinsonia aculeata*)	High	Eradication of isolated, strategic infestations/populations Control in other areas	Class 2
Parthenium (*Parthenium hysterophorous*)	High (To prevent spread)	Eradication of infestations/populations	Class 2
Cactus (*Cylindropuntia* species)	High	Eradication of isolated, strategic infestations/populations	Class 1 or 2
Rubber vine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*)	Medium	Map infestations/populations Promote awareness and control any isolated, strategic infestations/populations	Class 2
Bellyache Bush (*Jatropha gossypifolia*)	Medium surveillance	Surveillance Promote awareness and control any isolated, strategic infestations/populations	Class 2
Mother of Millions (*Bryophyllum delagoense*)	Low	Surveillance Promote awareness and control any isolated, strategic infestations/populations	Class 2
Leucaena (*Leucaena leucocephala*)	Low	Surveillance Promote awareness and control any isolated, strategic infestations/populations	Not declared
Noogoora Burr , Saffron thistle and others	Low	Surveillance Promote awareness and control any isolated, strategic infestations/populations	Not declared

3.2 Longreach Regional Council Policies

Policy on woody weeds in town:
Prickly Acacia, Parkinsonia, Mesquite and Coral cactus will be eradicated from town backyards over the next 4 years. Council will provide a cut down and clean up service for their removal for 2 years. There after a notice will be served and if the owner does not comply the cost of the total job will be billed to the property owner

Policy on class 3 weeds:

- In council gardens class 3 weeds will no longer be planted, and

- Private gardens to be encouraged to replace class 3 weeds
- Class 3 environmental weed brochures to be distributed

Policy on Property Inspections and Declared Plant Management
All properties to have Pest Management Plans in place over the life of this Plan and the implementation of these Plans is to be enforced if necessary.
Any Special Leases or Permit to Occupy within the Shire that come up for renewal will be inspected and agreements put in place.
The minimum form of control of declared plants within this area that will be accepted by Longreach Regional Council will be a 200 m buffer zone free of all declared plants adjoining their boundary line. In developing a plan for control, priority should be given to watercourses posing a threat to neighbouring properties. A larger buffer may be imposed in watercourse areas. Properties that have an emerging problem need to have a separate policy (so as not to let an emerging problem grow into an uncontrollable situation ie where a 200 meter buffer would be meaningless)

Either a copy of the Property Pest Management Plan or the requirement to prepare or update a PPMP to be provided with a rate search on rural properties.

Rural Landholder Assistance Policy
Property generally to be outside the Prickly Acacia containment line or for control within 200 meters of the boundary and acting as a buffer to infestations outside the containment line.
Property must have been mapped and have a declared plants agreement with Longreach Regional Council. Other plant management works inside the containment area may also be subsidized at the discretion of the SRLO/CEO.
The actual area that the control is to be used on will be inspected, before and after treatment, by the Shire.
Subsidy will only be paid on completion of the work and on presentation of receipted invoices for the control work
Maximum amount paid in subsidy per landholder (individual ABN no) will be $500.00 per year.
The subsidy not to be applied in addition to any other external funding.
Properties within the containment line can apply and be declared “clean” for the application of this policy

A PPMP will be prerequisite
- to gain the LRC subsidy for declared plant control including borrow pits
- to gain Council sponsored external funding for declared plant control
- recommended to other levels of government and non-government organisations also.

Policy on borrow pits:
- Pre approved by application by landholder to LRC
- Must have current Property Pest Management Plan
- 50% subsidy for declared plant eradication

Policy on undeclared plant eradication on reserves
(eg Noogoora and Bathurst burr)
Council may treat these. To be considered by Council on a case by case basis.

Policy on declared plant eradication on reserves
That Council will progressively eradicate infestations and follow up treated areas.

Policy on declared plants eradication on stock route waters:
Until eradication, continue to control regrowth to a 200m clearance zone. To be carried out as part of water maintenance and be part of the water agreement for shared facilities including shared responsibility for control.

***Policy on dingo, wild dog, and fox scalps*:**
Longreach Regional Council will pay a dingo and fox bounty with a decision being made on a yearly basis to continue and or review the bounty.

Policy on 1080 distribution
100% wet hire of aircraft paid for by a levy on all rural rate payers.
To get maximum effect throughout the shire, this assistance is only available to landholders who have formed syndicates. Longreach Regional Council will pay 100% of the cost for the wet hire of the aircraft to lay the baits, two baiting per year and only for dates approved by Council.
There are eight groups that form a buffer zone. These groups participate in two organized baitings per year. These baitings are coordinated so as the groups all bait in the same period, The Campaign is organized by the SRLOG, so as groups from Cunnamulla up to Hughenden, out to the Northern Territory border bait at a similar time.
The first baiting is normally in May/June and the second in September/October.

Policy on purchase of manufactured baits
- eg; Doggone and Foxoff baits will be kept on hand in limited supply
- To be sold at the same price as purchased. Shed fee to be subsidized by LRC

Policy on purchase of Herbicide and other chemicals for use by landholders:
Council will continue to purchase and store chemicals where bulk purchasing offers a price advantage. Council will absorb storage costs.

Policy on Parthenium monitoring and control;
- RLO to treat small infestations immediately on report
- Monitor and control small infestations
- coordinate an eradication program in conjunction with DERM if a large infestation is discovered

Policy on External funding
RLO to administer externally funded projects with Landcare and catchment groups.
To assist groups to fill out application forms as required
To carry out property inspections and report on work carried out
To help groups fill out completion reports
To facilitate the transfer of funds from Longreach Regional Council's trust account to landholders
LRC will be the sponsoring incorporated body and administer funds held on behalf of unincorporated Landcare and catchment groups

Recommendation on Leucaena:
That property owners to be recommended that Leucaena to be grown within guidelines of Leucaena Growers Association Guidelines and that it be recommended as an inappropriate town plant.

Policy dealing with Australian Plague and spur throated Locust –
LRC to respond to reports of above locusts
Liaise with DERM and Australian Plague Locusts commission to gauge seriousness / threat of reports
Assist APLC with band and swarm treatment of Australian Plague Locusts
Assist Biosecurity Queensland with swarm control of spur throated locusts
RLO - distribute extension material on locust species

Enforcement Policy
If necessary enforcement measures may be used to ensure landholders control declared weeds on their lands.
This should be seen as the final option undertaken only after other avenues to achieve cooperation have failed

3.3 Standard Operating Procedures for the indentified animal and plant pests

Following are Standard Operating Procedures for each pest animal and declared weed and other 'locally significant' weeds listed above.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR WILD DOGS (*CANIS FAMILIARIS*)

Description of problem
Wild dogs are non-domestic dogs, including dingoes and dingo hybrids. They are present throughout the state and kill, harass or maim sheep and cattle, domestic pets, native wildlife and other domestic animals and are known vectors for other diseases capable impacting humans and livestock.

Status of the pest
Wild Dogs are a Class 2 declared pest and have a very high priority within Longreach Regional Council .

Local distribution of the pest
Develop distribution map

Program objectives
To manage, control and work towards reducing the impact on the sheep and cattle industries.
To foster increased participation amongst all landholders, neighbours and government agencies.
To better coordinate a strategic control program across all Councils in the region.
To reform dog syndicates and local wild dog eradication committees.
To adopt best practice methodologies and most recent scientific findings.
To continue to lobby government for improved control methodologies

Who is responsible
Landowners*:* accepting lead role and responsibility for wild dog control; destruction and control of wild dogs; responsible use of livestock guarding animals.
Local government*:* compliance, surveillance, local planning, mapping, and raising awareness; and promoting responsible dog ownership; formation of Wild Dog Coordinating Committee.
Encourage participation in Shire Rural Lands Officer Group
Continue assistance in wild dog control.
Animal welfare organizations**:** promoting responsible pet ownership.
State Government Departments**:** statewide planning, mapping, coordination, legislation, raising awareness, and research; maintenance of the Wild Dog Barrier Fence.
Natural Resource Management Groups – support research and dissemination of information.

Will do what
1. Trap, shoot or bait on an identified needs basis.
2. Longreach Regional Council continue to develop strategies and provide advice to landholders
3. Encourage landholders to form syndicates where there is not an existing one to encourage landholders to appoint a local coordinator
4. Maintain and expand wild dog education program throughout the Council region.

5. Encourage adoption of best practice for guardian animals eg Maremmas.
6. Source more support from the state government for increased resources for control.
7. Continue to strengthen the regional perspective on wild dog control
8. Continue to map wild dog activity, attacks, areas of control and scalp returns
9. Share mapping and other relevant information about wild dog control with neighbouring local governments and other agencies.

Resources needed
Financial, human and capital resources as determined by Council budget and policies
Rural Lands Officer with Fluoroacetate acid (1080) and strychnine approval
Landholder support in coordinated baiting programs and other control programs
State government support – research, coordination, poison

Performance Indicators
Numbers of wild dogs reduced.
Reduced sightings by landowners.
Reduction in number of dog attacks.
Formation and effective operation of wild dog syndicates and regular distribution of data from syndicates.
Level of participation in coordinated control campaigns

Monitoring and Review

Feedback from syndicates; Review the effectiveness of money invested into wild dog control.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

FOR

FERAL PIGS (*SUS SCROFA*)

Description of problem

Feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*) have a significant impact on the environment and agricultural production and are a potential reservoir and vector of exotic diseases. Control methods include poisoning, trapping, exclusion fencing, ground shooting and shooting from helicopters. Feral pigs are omnivorous, opportunistic feeders.

They kill and eat lambs, damage pasture and crops by grazing, trampling, and uprooting the ground, and damage stored grain facilities, fence lines and watering points. They are carriers of endemic diseases such as leptospirosis, Q fever, brucellosis, and sparganosis, and are also susceptible to a wide range of exotic diseases and could act as reservoirs or vectors should these diseases enter Australia. Feral pigs have a significant impact on the natural environment through wallowing, grazing, rooting and predation.

Status of the pest

Feral Pigs are a Class 2 declared pest and have a high priority within Longreach Regional Council

Local distribution of the pest.

Develop distribution map

Program objective

To control and manage population numbers

Who is responsible

Landowners: destruction and control of pest animals.
Local governments: compliance, surveillance, local planning, mapping, and raising awareness.
DPI&F: statewide planning, mapping, coordination, raising awareness, and research.

Will do What

Poisoning and trapping are the most effective control techniques. Small isolated populations of pigs may be removed by shooting from the ground or from helicopters and/or by the use of dogs to flush them from their cover.
However, control is difficult for several reasons:

1. • Pigs are intelligent, adaptable and secretive.
2. • Breeding occurs year-round under favourable conditions.
3. • Commitment to control varies.

Resources needed

Financial, human and capital resources as determined by Council budget; Landholder support.

Performance Indicator

Population numbers reduced, support local commercial controls, map distribution.
Impact such as lamb losses from predators reduced.

Monitoring and Review

Ongoing mapping and control measures

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE
FOR
FOXES (*VULPES VULPES*)

Description of problem
European red foxes are adaptable and can be found in a variety of habitats that range from deserts to urban environments but exclude the tropics, depending on the local availability of food and shelter. Foxes are opportunistic feeders that will eat fruit, invertebrates, small mammals, frogs, fish, and birds. They are a threat to the survival of many ground-dwelling native animals, such as rock wallabies. In rural Australia, foxes kill a significant number of lambs and goat kids. Poisoning with 1080 is the most effective large-scale control option; trapping and shooting are also effective when used appropriately.

Status of the pest

Foxes are a Class 2 declared pest and have a high priority within Longreach Regional Council .

Local distribution of the pest.

Develop distribution map

Program objective

To control and manage population numbers

Who is responsible - the lead agency
Landowners: destruction and control of pest animals.
Local governments: compliance, surveillance, local planning, mapping, and raising awareness.
DPI&F: statewide planning, mapping, coordination, raising awareness, and research.

Will do What
1. Conduct road patrols on regular basis.
2. Acquire and set traps around specific areas within Council area.

Resources needed
Financial, human and capital resources as determined by Council budget and policies
Rural Land Officer with Fluoroacetate acid (1080) and strychnine approval
Landholder support in baiting programs and other control programs
State government support – research, coordination, poison

Performance Indicator
Reduction in population numbers

Monitoring and Review

Ongoing

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE
FOR
FERAL CATS (*FELIS CATUS*)

Description of problem
Feral cats are distributed throughout Queensland. They are highly adaptable animals that can survive and reproduce in all habitats. Few environmental factors limit their distribution. They are opportunistic predators and studies of their diet have shown that they take as prey many native animals including small mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects, and fish. Through predation, feral cats can cause disruption to ecosystems and are implicated in the elimination of some species from areas such as islands.

Feral cats are able to increase numbers quickly under favourable conditions – female cats have three litters per year with an average of five kittens per litter. Domestic cats are continuously adding to the stray and feral cat population numbers (a cat's status is not constant – an owned cat may become feral).

Status of the pest

Feral cats are a Class 2 declared pest and have a high priority within Longreach Regional Council .

Local distribution of the pest.

Develop distribution map

Program objective
To continue to reduce population numbers
To continue with a bounty for cats

Who is responsible - the lead agency
Landowners: destruction and control of pest animals.
Local governments: compliance, surveillance, local planning, mapping, and raising awareness.
DPI&F: statewide planning, mapping, coordination of management, raising awareness, and research.
Local governments, RSPCA, animal welfare groups: encouraging responsible pet ownership.

Will do What
1. Conduct road patrols on regular basis especially around known breeding sites like refuse dump.
2. Acquire and set feral cat traps around specific areas within Council and territories to scope the effectiveness of capturing feral cats.
3. Report on success of feral cat control works
4. Council to create by-law to restrict number of cats per household to two and for all cats to be de-sexed.
5. Community wide education strategy needs to be undertaken to encourage responsible cat ownership.

Resources needed
Local Resources

Performance Indicator
Reduction in Feral cat numbers
Continued control of isolated populations

Monitoring and Review

Ongoing

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE
FOR
RABBITS (*ORYCTOLAGUS CUNICULUS*)

Description of problem
Rabbits have spread throughout Queensland, with the largest populations found in the granite belt, south-western Darling Downs, Maranoa, southern Warrego and the far southwest. Their pest status is mostly due to their enormous breeding capacity (18–30 young per female per year), which enables them to repopulate rapidly after droughts or control campaigns. By competing for food and burrow space, they have contributed to the reduction in number and extinction of many native animals. They also reduce the quantity and quality of pasture for grazing animals, and are a primary cause of soil erosion by preventing the regeneration of native vegetation.

Status of the pest

Rabbits are a Class 2 declared pest and have a medium priority within Longreach Regional Council .

Rabbits are one of Australia's worst agricultural and environmental pests, estimated to cost the nation between $600 million and $1 billion annually.

Local distribution of the pest.

Mapping to be developed indicating the spread and range of Rabbits

Program objective

To identify local population and continue to contribute to R&D

Who is responsible - the lead agency
Landowners: destruction and control of rabbits.
Local governments: compliance, surveillance, local planning, mapping, and raising awareness outside the DD–MRB area.
DPI&F: statewide planning, mapping, coordination, raising awareness, and research. **Darling Downs – Moreton Rabbit Board (DD–MRB):** compliance, surveillance, local planning, mapping, and raising awareness inside the DD–MRB area; maintenance of the DD–MRB fence.

Will do What
A range of techniques is available for their control in Queensland. After consideration of animal welfare issues and non-target impacts, choice of control technique should be based on an understanding of rabbit behaviour, social structure, habitats and food preferences. Best results are achieved through a combination of control techniques and sustained follow-up.

Resources needed
Local and individual resources supported by government when necessary.

Performance Indicator
Continue to map and control local populations
Increased level of involvement in major rabbit control programs.

Monitoring and Review
Ongoing

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE
FOR
LOCUSTS

Description of problem
Three species of locust have been declared for their capacity to rapidly build up in numbers, migrate, and severely affect parts of Queensland. The development of plagues depends on the amount, distribution, and timing of rainfall throughout Queensland. Certain combinations of these factors can make significant plagues possible. The APLC accepts responsibility for any locust situation in Queensland that represents a threat to southern states.
Local governments in crop production areas that are at risk currently make annual payments into a Plague Pest Contingency Fund. This fund has a ceiling of $500 000 with a commitment of matching funding from the Queensland Government of up to $250 000 in any financial year, and is used to fund control activities. Control of locusts must take into consideration the economic, practical, and technical feasibility of control methods. Reactive control is expensive and largely unproductive, whereas preventative control based on monitoring, prediction, and strategic chemical or myco-insecticide *Metarhizium*) applications are effective and economically feasible.

Status of the pest

Locusts are a Class 2 declared pest and have a low priority within Longreach Regional Council however under certain seasonal conditions locusts can have a major impact on grazing land and therefore needs to be monitored and control taken when feasible.

Local distribution of the pest.

Varied seasonally and intervention is dependent on population numbers and distribution

Program objective

To identify population as early as possible and notify the appropriate authority.

Who is responsible - the lead agency
Responsibility for locust management in areas outside the APLC's area of responsibility is shared between landholders (for locusts that can be controlled within the resources of individual landholders), local governments (advice and coordination), and QPIF (advice, coordination, and control of swarms).
Landowners: localized control of locusts;
Local governments: control of locusts in places such as roadsides and reserves.
DPI&F, Australian Plague Locust Commission (in defined areas): broad-scale strategic and preventative locust control as well as surveillance and mapping.
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): locust control, and monitoring any adverse effects of control, on EPA estates.

Resources needed
Local and individual resources only

Performance Indicator
Notification prior to plague development to relevant authority

Monitoring and Review
Ongoing

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE
FOR

- **PRICKLY ACACIA (*ACACIA NILOTICA*),**
- **MESQUITE (*PROSOPIS* SPP.) and**
- **PARKINSONIA (*PARKINSONIA ACULEATA*)**

Description of problem

Prickly acacia is a thorny tree introduced from India that has been recognised as a Weed of National Significance (WoNS). Six million hectares of Queensland are presently infested, and a further 50 million hectares are at risk of invasion, including the Mitchell grass downs and surrounding areas of tropical savanna. Cattle are the primary agent of dispersal for the seeds and cattle movement to the shire from infested areas can result in new outbreaks. Prickly acacia forms dense thickets that render land unproductive and increase management costs. The *Prickly Acacia Strategic Plan* has adopted a national containment line to safeguard uninfested areas – Longreach Regional Council is located outside of this line meaning all known occurrences of this weed should be eradicated. No major infestations have established in the shire to date.

Description of problem

Mesquite is a highly invasive thorny shrub native to North and Central America, which has been recognised a Weed of National Significance (WoNS) in Australia. The genus *Prosopis* contains 35–40 species.

Four species of mesquite are present in Australia – *P. velutina*, *P. glandulosa*, *P. pallida* and the hybrid (*Prosopis spp. hybrid*). Large infestations in the shires of McKinlay, Flinders and Cloncurry cover over 120 000 hectares, with small, isolated infestations throughout much of western Queensland. No major infestations have established in the shire to date. Enforced management and control is necessary to prevent mesquite from forming dense thickets across its potential range of at least 60 per cent of arid and semi-arid Queensland. In the United States of America, it causes an estimated US$200–500 million in lost grazing production per annum. The long-term objective is to eradicate mesquite from Queensland.

Description of problem

Parkinsonia (*Parkinsonia aculeata*) is a thorny shrub native to South and Central America, which has been named a Weed of National Significance (WONS) in Australia. In Queensland, parkinsonia is found in at least 35 local government areas and covers over 1 million hectares. Heavy infestations are present within the upper Lake Eyre Catchments. Isolated infestations in central and western Queensland have the potential to spread across large areas aided by flood movement of pods. Under favourable conditions, it can form dense thickets along creeks and rivers and around dams, replacing any pasture grasses and hindering stock movement. Complete eradication from Queensland is not practical, given the size and remoteness of infestations; possible and desirable, however, is reducing its rate of spread and adverse effects, and protecting areas at risk through enforced management and control. Some infestations have established along major creek and river systems within Longreach Regional Council.

Status of the pest

Weed of National Significance (WONS) in Australia. Class 2 declared weed and classed a high priority within Longreach Regional Council .

Local distribution of the pest.

Develop distribution map

Contribute to regional and state based surveys and mapping initiatives

Program objective

To progressively reduce mesquite and prickly acacia infestations, ultimately leading to eradication from the shire

To contain parkinsonia infestations, and where possible, implement catchment buffer zones to prevent downstream infestation establishment

Actively manage all small, isolated and outlying infestations.

Maintain monitoring on known infestations that have been controlled.

Seek to maintain stock routes free of infestations

Educate landholders regarding identification, threat and spread prevention

Lobby industry and government to get better voluntary use of weed hygiene declarations

Who is responsible
Landowners: Control and reduction of infestations. Lobby peers and government
Local governments: compliance, surveillance, local planning, mapping, raise awareness, provide subsidised herbicide and encourage weed control. Perform weed control on council controlled land.
State Government Agencies: statewide planning, mapping, coordination, raising awareness, and research. Perform weed control on state agency controlled land.
Local NRM groups: facilitate control of infestations; contribute resources; mapping; local knowledge; planning;

Will do What
1. Monitor all infestations and produce maps of the distribution, spread and treated areas
2. Establish and maintain containment lines around core infestations
3. Encourage and assist in developing individual pest management plans in conjunction with DCQ and other agencies
4. Control infestations outside containment lines
5. Promote best practice procedures/guidelines in core infestations
6. Disseminate best practice information through tourist information centres and other community facilities.

When
Ongoing with an evaluation and review of this procedure every year

Resources needed
Registered herbicides and Equipment - Spray pack, spray tank, Quad bike and trailer
4WD vehicle, personal protective equipment (PPE), responsible chemical handling training, secure chemical storage facility/ shed, chainsaws and other weed management equipment.
Financial support from Council, Government, other agencies, landholders.
Employment agencies/ initiatives, conservation volunteers

Performance Indicator
Al known infestations are reduced or contained to prevent spreading into uninfected areas

Monitoring and Review
Ongoing

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE
FOR
PARTHENIUM WEED (*PARTHENIUM HYSTEROPHOROUS*)

Description of problem

Seeds are easily spread in mud, fodder, earthmoving equipment and grain-harvesting machinery. Restrictions on the movement of contaminated machinery and materials are therefore necessary to prevent spread to vulnerable areas. Under favourable conditions, parthenium can form dense stands that exclude other plants, including crops and pastures. All parts of the plant, including pollen and dry material, can produce allergic responses in humans. Parthenium costs Queensland more than $14 million per annum in control and lost agricultural production. Complete eradication is no longer feasible; however, preventing or reducing its spread into new areas of the state and managing its adverse effects are feasible and desirable.
Key priority areas have been identified by National Parthenium Weed Management Group aimed at long-term eradication.

Status of the pest

Weed of National Significance (WONS); Class 2 declared weed and classed a high priority within Longreach Regional Council .

Need to support, build partnerships with other key NRM stakeholders – regional NRM organisations, State Govt and other local Governments to coordinate activities that link with national priorities to target strategic control at regional and local levels

Local distribution of the pest.
Develop mapping showing distribution showing key priority areas for parthenium weed.

Program objective

To immediately address any emerging population;

Actively manage all small, isolated and outlying infestations.

To assist with the maintenance of existing population where funding permits;

Maintain monitoring on known infestations that have been controlled. Monitoring during spring/summer needs to occur every 4-5 weeks to ensure activity can occur BEFORE plants seed

To provide assistance to landholders where funding permits.

Encourage industry and government to get better voluntary use of weed hygiene declarations

Who is responsible
Landowners: Control and reduction of infestations. Lobby peers and government
Local governments: compliance, surveillance, local planning, mapping, raise awareness, provide subsidised herbicide and encourage weed control. Perform weed control on council controlled land.
Monitoring of infestations on private lands
Provide advice to landholders on best management practices for parthenium weed
State Government Agencies: statewide planning, mapping, coordination, raising awareness, and research. Perform weed control on state agency controlled land.
Local NRM groups: facilitate control of infestations; contribute resources; mapping; local knowledge; planning;

Will do What

1. Monitor all infestations and produce maps of the distribution, spread and treated areas Establish and maintain containment lines around core infestations
2. Encourage and assist in developing individual pest management plans in conjunction with DCQ and other agencies
3. Control infestations outside containment lines in endeavour to achieve eradication or be an eradication target.
4. Promote best practice procedures/guidelines in core infestations
5. Disseminate best practice information through tourist information centres and other community facilities.
6. Continue to build partnerships with other key NRM stakeholders' to seek pest plant funding; to control any existing infestations; and to manage any emerging populations

When

Ongoing with an evaluation and review of this procedure every year

Resources needed

Registered herbicides and Equipment - Spray pack, spray tank, Quad bike and trailer
4WD vehicle, personal protective equipment (PPE), responsible chemical handling training, secure chemical storage facility/ shed, chainsaws and other weed management equipment.
Financial support from Council, Government, other agencies, landholders.
Employment agencies/ initiatives, conservation volunteers

Performance Indicator

Core infestations are managed to current populations and within containments;
Any emergent population is immediately controlled.

Monitoring and Review

Spring/summer – inspect known infestation sites every 4-5 weeks to ensure activity can occur BEFORE plants seed (dependant on rainfall activity & site conditions)
Autumn/Winter - Monitoring should occur every 8-10 weeks – dependant on rainfall activity and site conditions

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE
FOR
RUBBER VINE (*CRYPTOSTEGIA GRANDIFLORA*)

Description of problem
Rubber vine is a woody climber native to Madagascar, which was introduced to Australia in the 1860s. It and is one of Queensland's worst environmental weeds, distributed over some 700 000 hectares of the state. It forms dense thickets, especially along the banks of watercourses. This weed replaces native riparian vegetation on a massive scale, and severely affects pasture production. Key priority areas have been identified by National Rubber Vine Management Group aimed at long-term eradication.

Status of the pest

Weed of National Significance (WONS); Class 2 declared weed and classed a medium priority within Longreach Regional Council .

Need to support, build partnerships with other key NRM stakeholders – regional NRM organisations, State Govt and other local Govts to coordinate activities that link with national priorities to target strategic control at regional and local level

Local distribution of the pest.

Develop mapping showing distribution and Rubber Vine Containment Line for Qld & key priority areas

Program objective

To clearly map the distribution – define target date

To control local populations. Include aspects of current best practice methods

Who is responsible
Landowners: destruction of infestations on their land.
Local governments: compliance, surveillance, local planning, mapping, and raising awareness.
DPI&F: statewide planning, mapping, coordination, raising awareness, research and monitoring
Councils to see these actions are being completed?

Will do What
1. Develop map of current distribution ;
2. Control existing populations using current best practices.
3. What about raising awareness – identification, reporting & best practice approaches

Resources needed
Registered herbicides and Equipment - Spray pack, spray tank, Quad bike and trailer
4WD vehicle, personal protective equipment (PPE), responsible chemical handling training, secure chemical storage facility/ shed, chainsaws and other weed management equipment.
Financial support from Council, Government, other agencies, landholders.
Employment agencies/ initiatives, conservation volunteers

Performance Indicator
No new populations
No growth spread from existing populations

Monitoring and Review

Ongoing – need to commit to monitoring areas every 2 years as rubber vine as a relatively short seed viability up to 3 years….

Monitoring should be done around April/May periods as flowering is evident at this time

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE
FOR
BELLYACHE BUSH (*JATROPHA GOSSYPIFOLIA*)

Description of problem:
Erect shrub 2.5 – 3m tall with thick sappy stem. Young leaves are deeply divided into three rounded lobes and are purple coloured and sticky. Older leaves bright green about 10cm in diameter and may have up to five lobes. Flowers small red with yellow centres. Seed pods smooth, oval and the size of a cherry.

Will out-compete native vegetation. Places a specific chemical into the soil to kill other plants. Becomes a monoculture. Seeds toxic to animals and humans.

Status of the pest:

Weed is a declared Class 2 pest and classed a medium priority within Longreach Regional Council . There are no known infestations in Longreach Regional Council but it still needs to be carefully monitored for any new infestation.

Local distribution of the pest:

Develop map of distribution

Program objectives:

To immediately address any emerging population;

Actively manage all small, isolated and outlying infestations.

To assist with the maintenance of existing population where funding permits;

Maintain monitoring on known infestations that have been controlled. Monitoring during spring/summer needs to occur every 4-5 weeks to ensure activity can occur BEFORE plants seed

To provide assistance to landholders where funding permits.

Encourage industry and government to get better voluntary use of weed hygiene declarations

Who is responsible
Landowners: destruction of infestations.
Local governments: compliance, surveillance, local planning, mapping, and raising awareness.
State Government Agencies: statewide planning, mapping, coordination, raising awareness, and research.
Local NRM groups: destruction of infestations; contribute resources; mapping; local knowledge; planning;

Will do what

1. Monitor all infestations and produce maps of the distribution, spread and treated areas Establish and maintain containment lines around core infestations
2. Encourage and assist in developing individual pest management plans in conjunction with DCQ and other agencies
3. Control infestations outside containment lines in endeavour to achieve eradication or be an eradication target.
4. Promote best practice procedures/guidelines in core infestations
5. Disseminate best practice information through tourist information centres and other community facilities.
6. Continue to build partnerships with other key NRM stakeholders' to seek pest plant funding; to control any existing infestations; and to manage any emerging populations

Resources needed
Registered herbicides and Equipment - Spray pack, spray tank, Quad bike and trailer
4WD vehicle, personal protective equipment (PPE), responsible chemical handling training, secure chemical storage facility/ shed, chainsaws and other weed management equipment.
Financial support from Council, Government, other agencies, landholders.
Employment agencies/ initiatives, conservation volunteers

Performance Indicators
No change in population

Monitoring and Review
Ongoing

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE
FOR
MOTHER OF MILLIONS (*BRYOPHYLLUM DELAGOENSE*)

Description of problem

Mother of Millions is a perennial herb to 1 m high. Mother of millions are escaped ornamental plants originating from Madagascar. Five species are commonly naturalised in Queensland with one species and a hybrid increasing over substantial areas.

Mother of millions is highly toxic to stock and because of its succulent features is well adapted to dry areas.

As the name suggests one plant can reproduce a new general from masses of embryoids (plantlets) that are formed on the leaf edges. This makes these plants hard to eradicate. Mother of millions are erect, smooth, fleshy succulent plants growing to one metre or more in height. All species form tall flower spikes in winter with clusters of bell shaped flowers. Each species has a distinctive leaf-shape, but all produce small plantlets along the edges of the leaves. These plantlets drop readily, develop roots, and establish quickly to form a new colony.

Status of the pest

Weed is a declared Class 2 pest and is in given a low priority by the Longreach Regional Council .

Local distribution of the pest.

Develop map of distribution

Program objective

To contain existing populations

Who is responsible

Landowners: destruction of infestations.
Local governments: compliance, surveillance, local planning, mapping, and raising awareness.
DPI&F: statewide planning, mapping, coordination, raising awareness, and research.

Will do What

1. Control existing populations from spreading;
2. Treat and emergent and isolated populations.

Resources needed

Registered herbicides and Equipment - Spray pack, spray tank, Quad bike and trailer
4WD vehicle, personal protective equipment (PPE), responsible chemical handling training, secure chemical storage facility/ shed, chainsaws and other weed management equipment.
Financial support from Council, Government, other agencies, landholders.
Employment agencies/ initiatives, conservation volunteers

Performance Indicator

Manage local populations
Treat emergent populations

Monitoring and Review

Ongoing

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE
FOR
CACTUS (*CYLINDROPUNTIA* SPECIES)

Description of problem

This category encumbers tree pear, coral cactus, rope cactus and other succulents that have become weeds of significance.


Status of the pest

Class1 or 2 declared weed and a very high priority invasive weed in Longreach Regional Council

Program objective

To eradicate isolated populations

Who is responsible

Landowners: Control and reduction of infestations. Lobby peers and government
Local governments: compliance, surveillance, local planning, mapping, raise awareness, provide subsidised herbicide and encourage weed control. Perform weed control on council controlled land.
State Government Agencies: statewide planning, mapping, coordination, raising awareness, and research. Perform weed control on state agency controlled land.
Local NRM groups: facilitate control of infestations; contribute resources; mapping; local knowledge; planning;

Will do What

1. Landholder remain vigilant in treating isolated populations
2. Council treat all isolated populations on land under their control
3. QPIF and DCQ map infestation, coordinate control, raise awareness, and research

Resources needed

Registered herbicides and Equipment - Spray pack, spray tank, Quad bike and trailer
4WD vehicle, personal protective equipment (PPE), responsible chemical handling training, secure chemical storage facility/ shed, chainsaws and other weed management equipment.
Financial support from Council, Government, other agencies, landholders.
Employment agencies/ initiatives, conservation volunteers

Performance Indicator

Reduction in local population
Eradication of isolated populations

Monitoring and Review

Ongoing

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE
FOR
FLORESTINA (*FLORESTINA TRIPTERIS*)

Description of problem

Small isolated (but spreading) patch to the south of Barcaldine. Scientific community is yet to advise as to best approach, this plan is deciding to wait for their advice. Suspected to be similar to parthenium in how it spreads.


Photo Michelle Rogers

Status of the pest

Unclassified weed, population growing and classed a low priority within Longreach Regional Council . No known infestations in Longreach Regional Council.

Local distribution of the pest.

No known infestations in Longreach Regional Council.

Program objective

Monitor for any new emerging infestation.

Who is responsible
Landowners: Monitor for any new emerging infestation and destruction of that infestation.
Local governments: compliance, surveillance, local planning, mapping, and raising awareness.
DPI&F: statewide planning, mapping, coordination, raising awareness, and research.

Will do What
Nil

Resources needed
Nil

Performance Indicator
Longreach Regional Council remain free of the infestation.

Monitoring and Review
Ongoing

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE
FOR
LEUCAENA (*LEUCAENA LEUCOCEPHALA*)

Description of problem

Native to Central and South America, leucaena (*Leucaena leucocephala)* is a small tree that has been planted for fodder in many tropical areas of the world, including Queensland. Unless heavily grazed or otherwise controlled, it is able to rapidly spread to adjacent areas.

Will out-compete native vegetation. Places a specific chemical into the soil to kill other plants. Becomes a monoculture

Status of the pest

Undeclared, planted as a fodder crop by its invasive nature is being carefully monitored and classed a low priority within Longreach Regional Council .

Local distribution of the pest.

Is becoming alarmingly wider spread, map distribution

Program objective
Nil

Who is responsible
Landowners: destruction of infestations.
Local governments: compliance, surveillance, local planning, mapping, and raising awareness.
DPI&F: statewide planning, mapping, coordination, raising awareness, and research.

Will do What
To spray large infestations with broadleaf herbicide

Controlled burning

To opportunistically hand-pull isolated infestations in the course of performing other garden duties.

Map Leucaena for work planning

Resources needed
Local

Performance Indicator
No new populations

Monitoring and Review

Ongoing

6.0 Pest-specific management programs

This part of the plan sets out individual pest programs for weeds and pest animals identified for the Longreach Regional Council.

Standard Operational procedures have been developed on what actions can be given for each known pest species in LRC and actual actions and timing will be set out in the Annual Action Plan.

Programs will include;

- Spraying declared plant pests on Council controlled roads and reserves
- Feral animal baiting programs
- Pest survey programs
- Compliance
- Educational and awareness programs
- Assist landowners where they are having difficulty on their own

7.1 Pest survey Program

The Land Protection (Pest and Stock Routes Management) Act 2002 requires that inspections of private land be undertaken with the consent of the owner or by a Pest Survey Program. A Pest Survey Program is the most practical method as all properties can be inspected even when the owner may be absent.

A Pest Survey Program must be adopted by Council resolution and run for a period of not more than three (3) months. It is to be advertised in a newspaper / newsletters etc. generally circulating in the area. A Pest Survey Program must commence not less than 14 days and not more than 28 days of the advertisement of the intended Pest Survey Program.

The Annual Works Program will be divided into four blocks of (3) monthly periods, resolutions for each Pest Survey Program can be planned in advance and cover all areas of the region and in particular where priority pests occur, areas for pest surveys will be nominated in the Annual Action Plan.

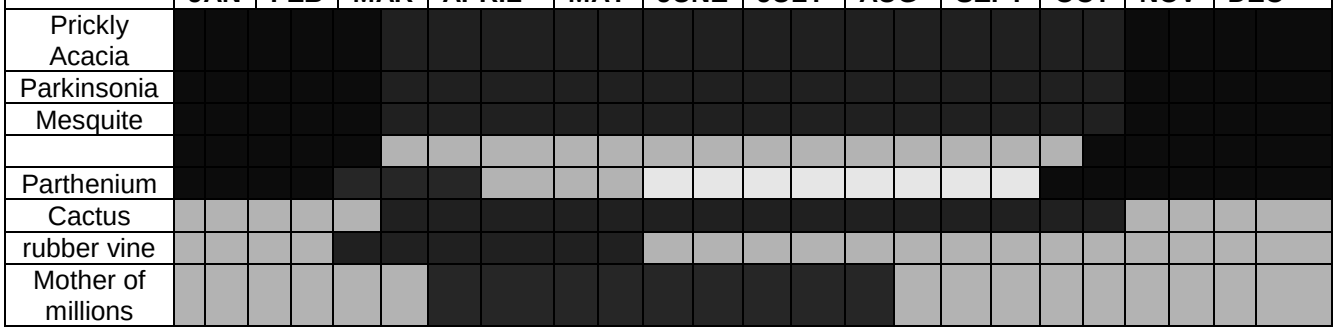
Notices will be served under the Act as a result of these inspections of privately owned land where it is apparent that no control types are being used. Controls will be carried out by Council where a landholder has neglected to comply and costs recovered.

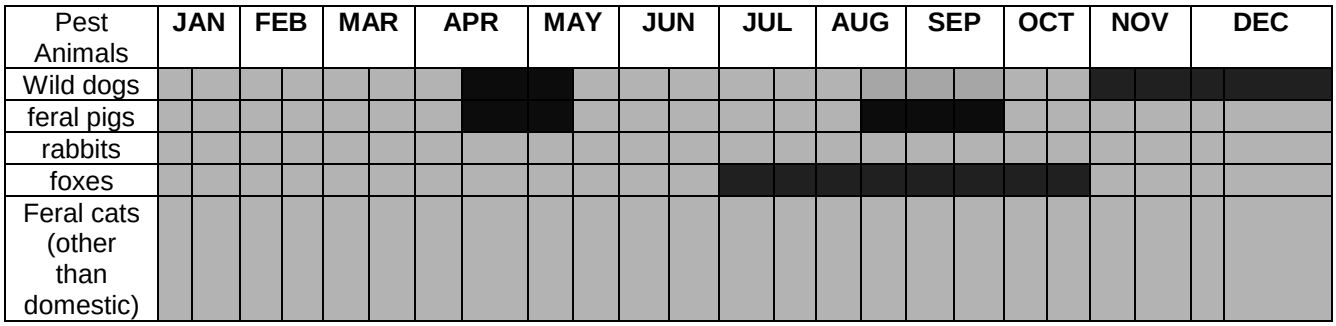
8.0 Calendar for Awareness and Educational Activities

Pest Plan Action Time Frames																								
									Activity operational times															
Activities	Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec	
Pest Survey Programs																								
Public Education & Awareness																								
Longreach show display																								
Weedbuster Week																								
Training																								

9.0 Calendar for pest species of desired control times

Pest Plants	No work required during this period	Normal programmed controls with desirable effects	Most effective period for control where more concentrated works to targeted species





Annual Action Plan

Operational Objectives: General awareness and Education				
Actions	**By Whom**	**When**	**Measure of success**	**Status Started/ Done**
General awareness and education of Pests	**RLO**		*Local community is aware of current high priority pests and have knowledge of their impact and management.*	
Stakeholder commitment and compliance to pest plant and animal management				
Collect relevant pest data to known the extent of the infestation and success of control				
Plan pest management strategies and action and				

ensure adequate resource are available to do the task.				
To prevent the introduction and establishment of new pest animals and plants;				
To minimise the spread of existing pest plants and animals to new areas				
To reduce pest populations and impacts by using best practice pest control methods; and offer stakeholder pest management incentives				
Offer stakeholder pest management incentives				

Section B

4.0 STRATEGIES USED IN THIS PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

4-Year Operations Plan

Activity: TO INCREASE STAKEHOLDER AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE OF PEST IMPACTS, AND PEST MANAGEMENT SKILLS

ACTION	COMPLETED BY WHOM	COMPLETED BY WHEN
Public Awareness 4.1 Public awareness The strategy to be used to increase awareness of pests and their impacts include: • Field days and information days so that the public are able to identify the weed or pest species and have knowledge of their impacts and management • Target awareness campaigns at landholders in areas at risk of the introduction/invasion of a species to prevent its establishment) • Alert the public to any inclusion of Class 1 and other new pests using the local media • Undertake pest awareness activities, e.g. participation in Weedbuster Week, field days and practical demonstrations, information & or links on council website, etc • Distribute weed and pest animal information to the community (e.g. through local print, radio, and television media) *Desired Outcomes:* • *Local community is aware of current high priority pests and have knowledge of their impact and management.* • *Local community is aware of the PMP outcomes against the Plan objectives.*	RLO Local gov't media officer RLO Local Gov't Officer	At least one field day per year Press release within one month of incursion Weekbuster week Ongoing
4.1.2 Education and training Strategy to be used to increase stakeholder knowledge of pest impacts and improve skills in pest management • Provide professional training to council officers and other stakeholders in relation to pest identification and best management practices • Accredited training (e.g. nationally accredited competency	RLO RLO	Attend at least one professional training workshop per year Do retrain of

based training in weed and pest management, Workplace health and safety training, approved training in the use of sodium fluoroacetate (1080) etc) • Increase land manager knowledge and skills in weed and pest management *Desired Outcomes;* • Number of pest management courses attended • Percentage of officers accredited to national competency standards • Number of pest management workshops, conferences and forums attended • Number of training initiatives delivered to stakeholder groups		1080/Strychnine approval every 2 years
Activity: TO ESTABLISH LONG-TERM STAKEHOLDER COMMITMENT AND COMPLIANCE TO PEST PLANT AND ANIMAL MANAGEMENT		
Commitment and Partnerships 4.2.1 Long term commitment *Establish long-term stakeholder commitment to weed and pest animal management* • Build working partnerships between stakeholders to generate a holistic approach to pest management and a sense of community ownership of the problem • Include resource allocations in annual work programs *Desired Outcomes* • Number of other local government plans that include pest management actions	RLO and Local Govt Officers	By 2013 PMP incorporated into other relevant LG plans
4.2.2 Roles and Responsibilities *Establish roles and responsibilities for weed and pest animal management that are accepted by landholders, community, industry and government* • Establish, through consultation, agreed roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders in the implementation of the program • Requirement for actions for all stakeholders to be developed in consultation with them and included in annual action programs *Desired Outcomes* • MOU signed between stakeholders defining roles and responsibilities	CEO, RLO, Govt Dept reps and NRM group	2013
4.2.4 Compliance and Enforcement *Ensure compliance with the Act in weed and pest animal management* • Enforce compliance when landowners do not take reasonable steps to control pests • Adopt/refine/implement operational procedures developed by QPI&F, e.g. seizures; quarantine; confiscation and destruction of declared pests; entering land, vehicles and property; recovering costs; survey and inspections; straying dogs	CEO & RLO RLO	June 2012 June 2012

• With stakeholders, develop and implement a compliance program, including e.g. communication; education; incentives and persuasion; warnings; revocation and suspension of rights. • Appointment/register of authorised officers for the purposes of the Act • Provision for a register of enforcement activities, as required by the Act *Desired Outcomes* • Number of enforcement actions • Percentage of compliance • Authorised officers, local government delegations, and compliance actions included in register • Percentage of local government compliance officers participating in state-wide networking	CEO	June 2010
Activity: TO COLLECT RELEVANT PEST DATA TO INCREASE KNOWLEDGE OF PESTS ENABLING THE IMPROVEMENT OF PEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES		
4.3.1 Data collection & assessment *Collect, use, and make available data relevant to weed and pest animal management* • Map all Class 1 and priority Class 2 declared pests • Contribute pest data to state wide mapping of all declared species (Biosecurity Queensland Annual Pest Survey) *Desired Outcomes* o Percentage of Class 1 and priority Class 2 declared pests mapped o Percentage of pest control activities for which monitoring and evaluation data is recorded	RLO	June 2011
4.3.2 Availability of Information • Make printed weed and pest animal information available to stakeholders through outlets such as libraries, tourist information centres, schools, and other educational institutions • Using media such as local newspapers, radio, television, and web sites to disseminate pest information to the community • Making other maps available to the community (e.g. of pest distribution, containment lines, environmentally significant areas, and survey programs) *Desired Outcomes:* • *Number of outlets where pest information is available to local community* • *Number of media releases dissemining pest information to the community*	RLO and other LG Officers	June 2010
Strategic directions 4.4.1 Planning *Create and maintain a planning framework for weed and pest*		

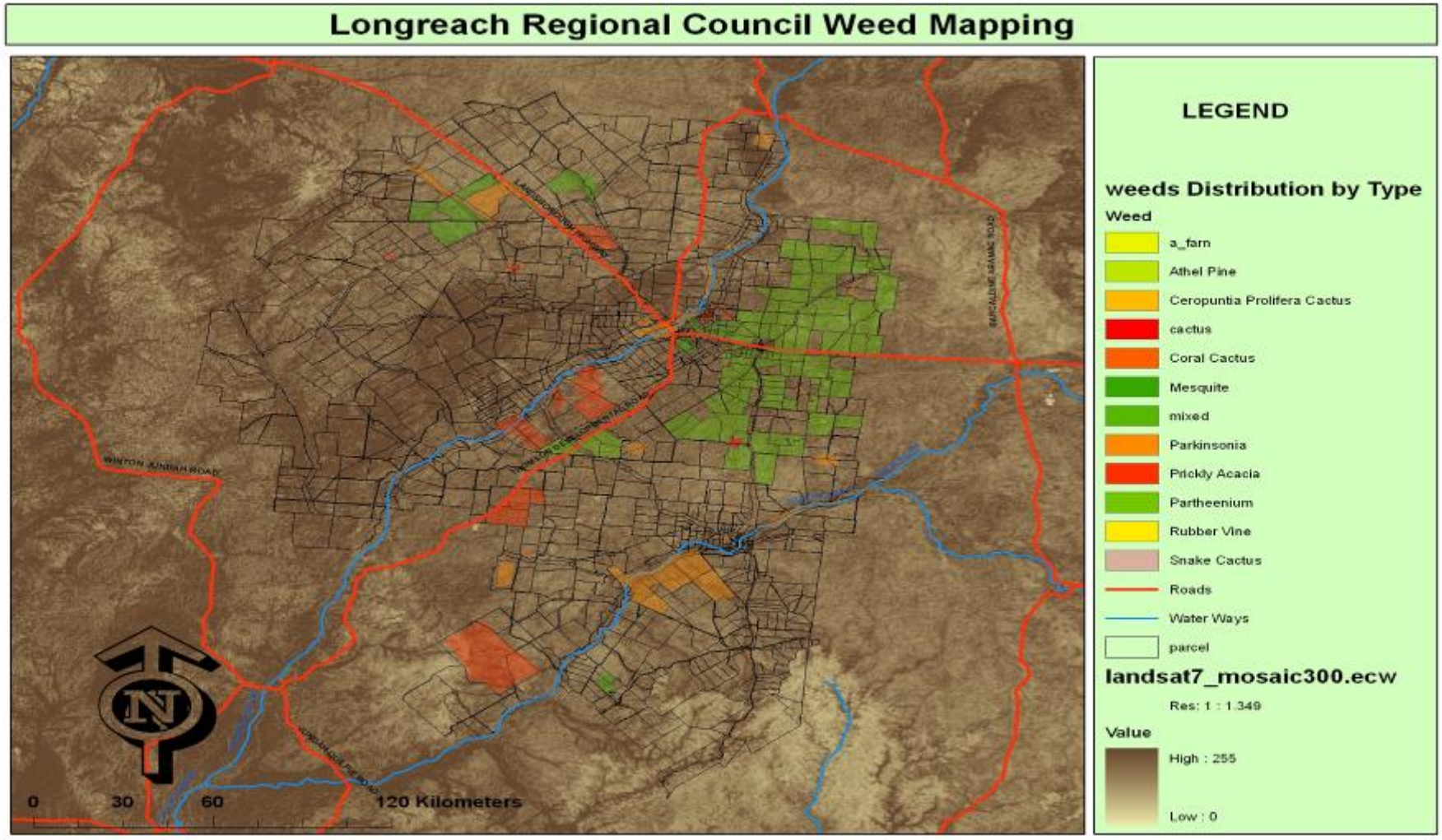
animal management • Include practical measures for the detection, eradication or management of species in the local government area • Ensure that pest management programs are consistent with similar programs in neighbouring areas • Ensure that pest management programs are consistent with other resource management and related plans (e.g. regional natural resource management plans, stock route network management plans, vegetation management plans etc) *Desired Outcomes*	CEO and RLO	June 2010
<u>6.4.2 Strategy management and coordination</u> • *Implement, evaluate, and review integrated weed and pest animal programs* • Review PMP 3 months before end of each financial year • Complete new PMP 3 months prior to the expiry of its predecessor *Desired Outcomes*	CEO and RLO	By April each year
<u>4.4.3 Resources</u> *Efficiently and adequately resource weed and pest animal management* • Secure adequately resourcing local pest management actions • Submit local government precepts to DPI&F for state-wide services such as research, extension, plague pest control, etc *Desired Outcomes* o *Adequate physical, human and financial resources to achieve the outcomes of this plan*	CEO	
<u>4.4.4 Holistic Management</u> Ensure consistency between PMP and resource management and related plans (e.g. regional natural resource management plans, catchment and sub-catchment plans, conservation management plans, regional coastal management plans, water resource operations plans, vegetation management plans, native title plans, local government corporate plans, local government planning schemes; stock route network management plans *Desired Outcomes* o Number of other local government plans including corporate plan that include pest management actions o Signed MOU between regional catchment groups To create a holistic planning framework for pest management by reviewing, evaluating and implementing integrated pest management strategies and plans, and to adequately resource management actions	CEO	June 2010

Desired Outcomes ○ Number of other local government plans including corporate plan that include pest management actions		
Activity: TO PREVENT THE INTRODUCTION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PEST ANIMALS AND PLANTS; AND TO MINIMISE THE SPREAD OF EXISTING PEST		
Prevention, eradication & containment <u>4.5.1 Prevention of introduction</u> *Prevent the introduction of new weeds and pest animals* Prohibit the cultivation, distribution, sale or other supply of pest species • Use weed hygiene declarations for stock entering stock routes, movement of harvestors and construction equipment, and movement of fodder, soil, and turf • Adopt weed prevention protocols, and support their adoption by other local stakeholders • Build, maintain, and promote wash-down facilities in strategic locations. *Desired Outcomes* • Percentage of key stakeholder groups using weed prevention protocols • Percentage of key stakeholder groups using weed hygiene declarations • Percentage of transport corridors with weed prevention programs • Number of Class 1 and new Class 2 species targeted for prevention of entry • Number of wash-down facilities available and promoted • Percentage of infrastructure development contracts that include weed prevention conditions • Number of retail outlets not selling invasive pest species	RLO	June 2012
<u>4.5.2 Early detection and eradication</u> *Prevent the local establishment of new weeds and pest animals* • Identify pests prioritised for early detection and eradication • Survey areas at risk from new infestations of Class 1 pests • Implement a rapid response program, together with state government, for handling new infestations of Class 1 pests • Destroy all infestations outside national or local containment lines • Eradicate small, isolated infestations • Establish a monitoring and identification network for weeds and plague pest animals (e.g. locusts, mice, field rats *Desired Outcomes* • Number of Class 1 pest species targeted for eradication • Percentage of the local government area covered by such programs • Percentage of Class 1 rapid response programs featuring stakeholder cooperation, and number of key stakeholder groups with roles in these programs • Percentage of new Class 2 incursions targeted by rapid response programs Number of quarantine notices issued	RLO	June 2010

4.5.3 Containment *Minimise the spread of weeds and pest animals to new areas* • Contain local Class 2 pests in core infestation areas (e.g. by maintaining national containment lines of WONS species. *Desired Outcomes* • Number of Class 2 pests targeted for containment • Number of complaints received about pest animal damage inside contained areas		
Activity: TO REDUCE PEST POPULATIONS AND IMPACTS THROUGH THE ADOPTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF BEST PRACTICE PEST CONTROL METHODS; PROTECT ENVIRONMENTALLY SIGNIFICANT AREAS FROM WEEDS; AND OFFER STAKEHOLDER PEST MANAGEMENT INCENTIVES		
Effective integrated systems *(Principles—best practice; improvement; commitment)* 4.6.1 Development of management practices *Develop new, and improve existing, weed and pest animal management practices* • Contribute to developing local best practice • Adopt timely and effective integrated best practice management for priority pest species that considers timing, integrated techniques, non-target damage, workplace health and safety *Desired Outcomes* • Number of improvements recommended • Number of research needs identified • Number of new contributions to local best practice • Number of research projects assisted • Number of adaptive management practices developed	RLO, landowners	June 2011
4.6.2 Adoption of management practices *Adopt and promote best practice in weed and pest animal management* • Collate and distribute best practice information to land managers *Desired Outcomes* • Percentage of priority pest operations based on best practice • Number of outlets distributing best practice publications • Number of refuse sites made inaccessible to pest animals	RLO	June 2011
4.6.3 Management incentives *Offer incentives to stakeholders for practicing pest management* • Continue to offer effective existing incentives • Assess the effectiveness of existing and potential incentives • Revise, or introduce suitable new, weed and pest animal incentives • Recognise efforts of those who have made significant	CEO and RLO	June 2011

contributions *Desired Outcomes* ○ Number of effective incentive programs available to land managers ○ Number of land managers using existing incentive programs		
<u>4.6.4 Population and impact management</u> *Reduce pest populations and impacts* • Coordinate plague pest animal management with stakeholders *(if relevant)* • Coordinate impact reduction programs for established pest animals (e.g. baiting, trapping, harbour removal) *Desired Outcomes* • Number of complaints received about pest species • Number of management programs undertaken for established pests, and number of participating land managers • Number of different biological control agents distributed • Reduction in the distribution, density and/or abundance of pest species	RLO	June 2010
<u>4.6.5 Environmentally significant areas</u> *Protect environmentally significant areas from weeds* • Identify environmentally significant areas • Prioritise weeds and pest animal management in environmentally significant areas *Desired Outcomes* ○ Number and extent of environmentally significant areas prioritised for weed management ○ Number and extent of priority weed work programs implemented for environmentally significant areas	EPA & RLO	June 2010

ANNEX 1


Longreach Regional Council Weed Mapping
LEGEND
weeds Distribution by Type
Weed
a_farm
Athel Pine
Ceropuntia Prolifera Cactus
cactus
Coral Cactus
Mesquite
mixed
Parkinsonia
Prickly Acacia
Partheenium
Rubber Vine
Snake Cactus
Roads
Water Ways
parcel
landsat7_mosaic300.ecw
Res: 1 : 1.349
Value
High : 255
Low : 0
0
30
60
120 Kilometers