

Sunshine Coast Council Local Government Area Biosecurity Plan 2017 Overview

A coordinated and collaborative approach to invasive plant and animal management.

What is a biosecurity plan?

A biosecurity plan guides the management of invasive plants and animals.

It aims to bring all sectors of a local community together to collectively respond to the highest priority invasive species through feasible management activities and available resources.

Why do we need a biosecurity plan?

The development of a biosecurity plan is a legislative requirement of the Queensland Government's *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act) for local governments.

Invasive plants and animals impact the region's natural environments, agriculture and production areas, and community and residential areas, all of which are critical to our valued lifestyle and the liveability of our region.



Who should read the *Sunshine Coast Council Local Government Area Biosecurity Plan*?

Under the Act everyone has a general biosecurity obligation to manage biosecurity risks under their control.

The biosecurity plan assists the community to understand and embrace its responsibilities to manage invasive species and to contribute through coordinated and collaborative actions.

Although local governments are responsible for ensuring that invasive plants and animals are managed in accordance with a biosecurity plan, the whole community has a responsibility to take action.



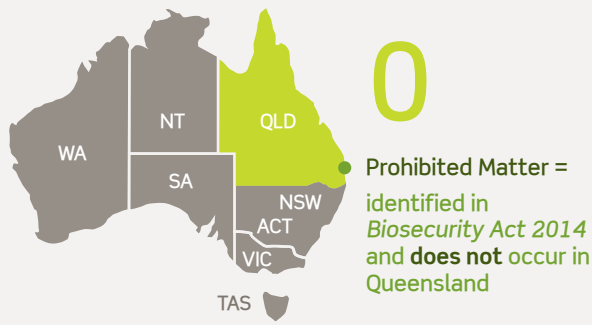
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What is the focus of the plan?

The Act requires local governments to consider **invasive plants and animals** in a biosecurity plan.

Invasive plants and animals can be identified as either **Prohibited Matter**, **Restricted Matter** or as **locally significant**.

In total, 287 invasive plants and animals occurring within the Sunshine Coast Council local government area have been considered in the preparation of the biosecurity plan.



What are the priorities for the Sunshine Coast Council local government area?

The Act allows for a flexible approach to biosecurity planning with an emphasis on shared responsibilities and risk based decision making.

A regional risk assessment to understand the potential impact and spread of the 287 invasive plants and animals was undertaken.

This process identified **88 Priority Invasive Plants and Animals** as the highest risk to the region.

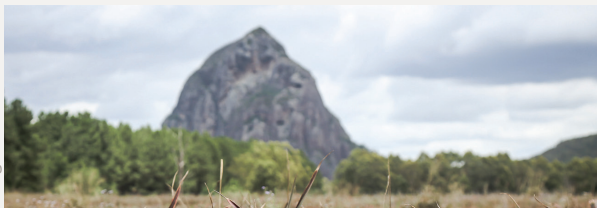
The plan also identifies:

- threats on our local government border – ‘Restricted’ invasive plants and animals known to occur in adjoining local government areas
- threats from within Queensland – all other Restricted Matter
- threats from outside of Queensland – Prohibited Matter.



A catchment management response

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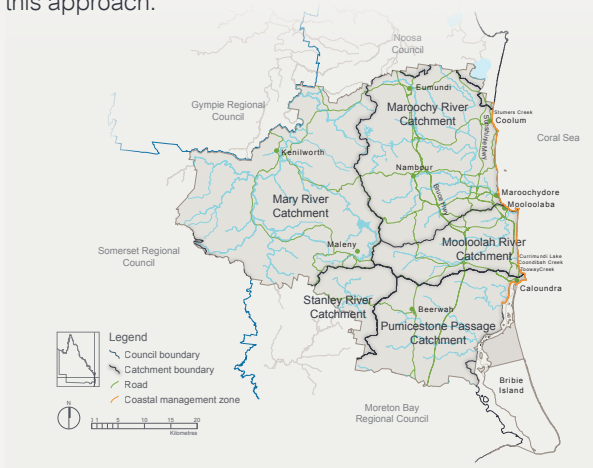


The plan identifies catchment management responses for each of the region's five major catchments.

A catchment scale management approach:

- recognises the different communities, land uses and pressures in each catchment
- allows management responses to be more relevant and targeted
- integrates and complements other catchment management and planning activities
- fosters community ownership and implementation of the plan.

In addition to the five major Sunshine Coast catchments, the coastal environment which focuses on the beaches, dunes and adjacent lands (including other reserves and private properties directly adjoining the coastal dunal system) from the northern tip of the local government area through to Bells Creek in the south, has been recognised as an additional management unit as part of this approach.



There are five different management responses for the **Priority Invasive Plants and Animals**.

Eradicate	Aims to reduce the extent of identified priority invasive species in the catchment area to below detectable limits in all habitats across all tenures.
Working towards eradication	Aims to significantly reduce the extent of the identified priority invasive species in the catchment in all habitat areas across all tenures.
Contain spread and protect sites	Aims to prevent the ongoing spread of the identified priority invasive species in the catchment, protect sites of high economic, environmental and social value and to progressively reduce the overall distribution/density.
Targeted landscape management	Aims to reduce the overall impacts of the identified priority invasive species through targeted management where feasible.
Localised management	Identifies priority invasive species that would be targeted for coordinated management if it is likely to impact the function of the site and/or as part of broader project.

The Plan also identifies:

- **strategic actions** which aligns with the Queensland Government's *Weed and Pest Animal Strategy 2016-2020*
- **roles and responsibilities** of all the major stakeholders.

What is not considered in the plan?

The biosecurity plan does not consider aquatic, animal or plant diseases, parasites or viruses, noxious fish and tramp ants. The Queensland Government Department of Agriculture and Fisheries – Biosecurity Queensland coordinates the government's efforts to prevent, respond to, and recover from these invasive biosecurity matter that threaten the economy and environment. The role of local government is to assist with a response where and when required.

Domestic or public health pests such as vermin, mosquitos, biting midges, cockroaches and pathogens of humans and domestic animals are likewise not considered in this plan.



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