PROPERTY PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Bunata

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Introduction

Executive Summary

To protect the economy and environment of Bunata from the adverse impacts of weeds and feral animals.

Goal

- *To manage the land of Bunata, in a sustainable way, by controlling weeds and pest animals and to ensure economic and environmental viability.*
- *To have no declared plants or environmental weeds actively growing and unmanaged on Bunata.*
- *To have a workable management plan to control declared and other feral animals.*

Period of the Plan **2013 - 2017**

Objectives

The objectives for weed and feral animal management in Bunata over the next 4 years are:

1.   All high priority weeds are reduced in area and density.

2.   Other weeds are contained or reduced in area.

3.   Prevent the spread of existing weeds and the introduction of any new weeds onto our property.

4.   To reduce the number of feral animals within the life of the plan.

Obstacles to achieving our objectives

- *Time and money.*
- *Long viability of some weeds seeds.*
- *Visitors' vehicles bringing in weed seeds.*
- *New weeds arriving in feed and stock*
- *Birds and other seed carriers*
- *Weather.*
- *Attitudes of neighbours.*

Declared Pests

The Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002 and the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Regulation 2003 provide legislative measures to manage pests and address the impacts they have on the environment. This Act and its regulation commenced on July 1, 2003. There are three classes of declared pests, which cover both plants and animals. Class 3 requires pests to be controlled on environmentally significant areas or on land adjacent to them.

Under this legislation economic, environmental and social impacts of pests are recognised. Environmental weeds, weed seed and spread of animal pests, as well as Local government and State land pest management, including planning requirements, are included. A declared pest cannot be offered for sale, traded, or given away without a permit. Persons are required to take reasonable steps to not spread the pest by their activities. Pest management planning activities for land and fresh water bodies in Queensland are to take note of all declared pests. The Act requires declared plants and animals to be controlled by the land holder.

There are three declaration categories, common to both plants and animals. Categories and species included under them are listed in Schedules of the Regulations. The categories of declaration are:

CATEGORY	*DESCRIPTION*	*EXAMPLES*
Class 1	Not generally established in Queensland and has potential to cause an adverse economic, environmental or social impact.	Giant Sensitive Tree See note below for animals
Class 2	Established in Queensland and can cause significant adverse economic, environmental or social impact (including in another State).	Sicklepod Hymenachne Dingo Feral pig
Class 3	Established in Queensland and has or could have adverse economic, environmental or social impact (including in another State).	Lantana Singapore daisy

Other Relevant Management Plans

There are several other plans and strategies that deal with pest management that need to be read in conjunction with this Plan. They are:
- *Queensland Weeds Strategy 2002-2006*
- *CYP Pest Management Plan*
- *Cook Shire PMP*

Current Situation with Pests on Bunata.

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	THREAT Natural areas	Agriculture areas	ACHIEVABILITY	DECLARATION CATEGORY	PRIORITY (Overall rating)
Plants						
Sicklepod	*Senna obtusifolia*	1	1	2	Class 2	High
Lantana	*Lantana camara*	3	4	2 & 4	Class 3	High

Grader Grass	*Themeda quadrivalvis*	1	1	1	-	High
Snake Weed	*Stachytarpheta cayennensis*	3	2	2	-	Low
Sida	*Sida sp*	3	2	3	-	Low
Common Sensitive Plant	*Mimosa pudica*	3	3	3	-	Low
Pink Burr	*Urena lobata*	3	2	3	-	Low
Blue top	*Ageratum conyzoides*	3	2	3	-	Low

Animals

Feral Pigs	*Sus scrofa*	1	1	2	Class 2	High

Wild dogs/ Dingo	*Canis familiaris* *C. familiaris dingo*	2	2	3	Class 2	High

Strategies to achieve objectives and overcome the obstacles

Objective 1: All high priority weeds are reduced in area and density.

Current situation:
There are currently Three (3) high priority weeds on. These are Sickle pod, Grader grass, Lantana. All of these weeds have the ability to spread quickly if left unchecked. The possible seed viability of some of these weeds is of particular concern. The Cooktown - Hopevale road runs through our property increasing the chance of seed spread due to seeds falling off vehicles while they pass through our property.

Strategies / Actions	By Whom	When	Performance Indicator
1. Hand pull isolated patches	Property Owner	Ongoing	Hand pulling weeds completed
2. Slash weeds to limit seed set		Ongoing	Slashing completed
3. Spray thick areas		Ongoing	Thick areas sprayed
4. Lobby Council to continue roadside spraying programs		Before wet season	Cook Shire notified
5. Use biological control if available		Ongoing	Biological control in use

Pest Monitoring Process
Visually check areas of known outbreaks and along tracks for new outbreaks. Introduce GIS mapping of all outbreaks to monitor size of areas. Introduce assessment process for density recording.

Resources Needed
Herbicide, boom spray, land cruiser, tractor, labour.

Objective 2: Other weeds are contained or reduced in area.

Current situation:
There are currently four (4) lower priority weeds on bunata. These are snake weed, Sida, Common sensitive weed & Pink Burr. All of these weeds have the ability to spread quickly if left unchecked. The possible seed viability of some of these weeds is of particular concern.

Strategies / Actions	By Whom	When	Performance Indicator
1. Hand pull isolated patches	Property Owner	Ongoing	Hand pulling weeds completed
2. Slash weeds to limit seed set		Ongoing	Slashing completed
3. Spray thick areas		Ongoing	Thick areas sprayed
4. Lobby Council to continue roadside spraying programs		Before wet season	Cook Shire notified
5. Use biological control if available		Ongoing	Biological control in use

Pest Monitoring Process

Visually check areas of known outbreaks and along tracks for new outbreaks. Introduce GIS mapping of all outbreaks to monitor size of areas. Introduce assessment process for density recording.

Resources Needed
Herbicide, boom spray, land cruiser, tractor, labour.

Objective 3: Prevent the spread of existing weeds and the introduction of any new weeds onto our property.

Strategies / Actions	By Whom	When	Performance Indicator
Limit the movements of visitor's cars around the property.		As required.	Farm vehicles used
Use farm vehicles to convey around the property wherever possible.		Ongoing	Local hay and pasture seed purchased
If buying hay or pasture seed ensure it comes from the local area or obtain a vendor declaration that states that the product is free of contamination.		As required	New stock kept in yards for 2 days
		As required	Equipment washed down
		Ongoing	Weed hygiene measures commenced
Keep any new stock in the yards for 2 days prior to turning out into paddocks.			Designated area established
If using equipment from outside the local area ensure it is washed down before use			
Practice good weed hygiene with vehicles and equipment			
Designate wash down area for all equipment and machinery			

Pest Monitoring Process

New species are generally observed quite quickly due to highly developed sense of spotting the unusual in paddocks or along fences. Introduce GIS Mapping to monitor area of infestations.

Resources Needed

Farm vehicles available for visitor use; Vendor declarations

Objective 4: To reduce the number of feral animals within the life of the plan.

Animal	Threat	Achievability	Priority
Feral Pigs	1	2	High
Wild dogs/dingoes	2	3	High

Impact/Current situation:

Strategies / Actions	By Whom	When	Performance Indicator
1. Apply for incentive scheme support for ammunition	Owner	Annually	Incentive application submitted
Feral pigs 2. Shoot feral pigs when they are sighted	Landholder/ Local pig hunters	Ongoing	Number of pigs sighted is reduced and damage is reduced
Wild dogs/dingoes 3. Shoot Wilddogs /Dingoes when sighted	Owner and employees	As required	Number of wild dogs sighted is reduced

Pest Monitoring
Visually check paddocks, creek lines for movement and disturbance. Random counts in known areas.

Resources
 Rifle and ammunition / vehicles / Labour

APPENDIX:

Appendix 1:

Map 1:

NB: Infestations are only in close proximity as described by the landholder and have not been mapped by GPS.

Appendix 2:

Methods for Prioritising Pests

Based on the pests' biology, ecology and distribution, each pest plant and animal is rated according to its potential "threat" to areas of high value or importance. The threat rating can be different for different areas or habitat. The rating categories are:

> *1 = High threat*
> *2 = Medium threat*
> *3 = Low threat*
> *4 = No threat*

An "<u>achievability</u>" rating is then assigned to each pest as follows:

1 = could be eradicated from the specific area
2 = could be significantly reduced in area (plants) or numbers (animals) in the specific area
3 = could be contained / prevented from spreading (plants) or could prevent major / rapid increase in numbers (animals)
4 = could be managed effectively with bio-control or fire

Declaration
Status

The local and state wide declaration status for each pest is noted. Considering all of the information above, each species is rated for future action as of high, medium or low priority.

This rating reflects:
1* ***Strategic importance***
2* ***Achievability rating***
3* ***Declaration category (if any)***
4* ***Operational, technical, administrative, financial and social feasibility***