CAPE YORK
WEEDS AND
FERAL ANIMALS
PROGRAM

1919
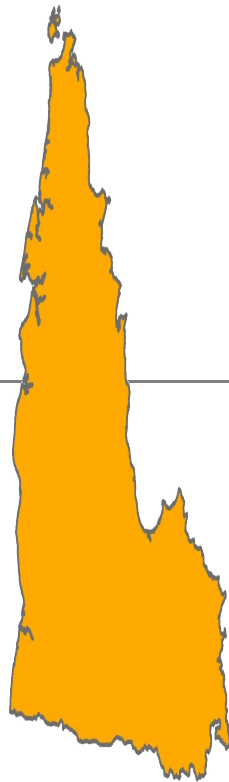COOKSHIRE
ENDEAVOUR

PROPERTY

PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Butchers Hill Station

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Introduction

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Executive Summary

> *To manage the land of Butchers Hill Station, in a sustainable way, by controlling weeds and pest animals on the property, and ensuring it's economic and environmental viability continues into the future.*

Goal

- *To manage the land of Butchers Hill Station, 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 Butchers Hill Station.*
- *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 Butchers Hill Station over the next 4 years are:

1. *To prevent the introduction of any new weed species on the property or new infestations of existing species in clean areas.*

2. *All high priority weeds to be reduced in area and/or reduced in density of current infestations.*

3. *To contain or reduce in area all medium priority weeds.*

4. *To reduce the number of feral animals within 5 years.*

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*

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Current Situation with Pests on Butchers Hill Station.

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	THREAT		ACHIEVABILITY	DECLARATION CATEGORY	PRIORITY (Overall rating)
		Natural areas	Agriculture areas			
Plants						
Sicklepod	*Senna obtusifolia*	1	1	2	Class 2	High
Grader Grass	*Themeda quadrivalvis*	1	1	1	-	High
Rubber vine	*Cryptostegia grandiflora*	2	2	3	Class 2	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

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
Horses	*Equus caballus*	1	1	2	N/A	High

Strategies to achieve objectives and overcome the obstacles

Objective 1:
To prevent the introduction of any new weed species on the property or new infestations of existing species in clean areas.

Current situation:
Constant monitoring of property to ensure no new weeds species are present.
Continue spraying all known infestations and looking out of any new occurrences and new weeds species.

Strategies / Actions	By Whom	When	Monitoring processes
Monitor roadsides for any new or declared weed outbreaks and notify Cook Shire Council.	Landholder	On going	Roadsides visually monitored
	Landholder	As required	Stock -feed areas to be visually monitored
Purchase stockfeed and pasture seed from local areas. Obtain vendor declaration where possible.	Landholder	As required	Yards monitored for any new weed species. Sight inspection after every rain event
Keep any new livestock in the yards for at least 7 days prior to releasing.	Landholder	Ongoing	Designated area established
Designate a wash down area on the property.			

Performance indicator
No new areas of weeds established on property

Resources required
Owners to undertake monitoring activities

Objective 2:
All high priority weeds to be reduced in area and/or reduced in density of current infestations.

Current situation:
Sicklepod is present on the property the long viability of the seed poses an obstacle to management of this weed.

Strategies/actions	By whom	When
Apply for Incentive Scheme to assist with cost of chemicals	Landholder	January 2013
Continue spraying and slashing programs as required	Landholder	After first storms/ When actively growing As required each year
Do follow- up treatment of areas	Landholder	

Performance indicator
All priority weeds have been reduced in area and density

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 and record all high priority weeds controlled on data sheets.

Resources required
Sprayunit Round-up Biactive Grazon DS Wetting agent Labour

Objective 3:		
To contain or reduce in area all medium priority weeds		

Current situation:
These weeds need to be monitored and controlled to reduce the areas within the yearly program. This control work will be coordinated with the spraying of the high priority weeds.

Strategies/actions	**By whom**	**When**
Continue spraying/slashing	Landholder	Ongoing
Monitor for impact on pastures	Landholder	Ongoing

Performance indicator
All medium priority weeds have not spread any further than their current infestations.

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.

Resources required
Sprayunit
Grazon DS
Round-up and wetting agent
Labour

Objective 4:

To reduce the number of feral animals within 5 years.

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

Impact/Current situation:

Feral pigs have the potential to carry disease and infest other parts of the property by transporting weed seed. Wild dogs/dingoes attack domestic animals including working dogs, cattle and calves which cause the loss of time and money.

Strategies / Actions	By Whom	When
Apply for incentive scheme support for ammunition	Owner	January 2013 (annually)
Feral pigs	Landholder	Ongoing
Shoot feral pigs when they are sighted	Owner and employees / CYWAFAP staff	September/ October (annually)
Wild dogs/dingoes		As required
Continue 1080 baiting program	Owner/staff	
Shoot Wild dogs/dingoes when sighted		

Performance indicator

The number of feral animals has been reduced.

Pest Monitoring Process
Visually check paddocks, creek lines for movement and disturbance, record on data sheet all animals that are destroyed.
Resources
1080 Meat for baits 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.

Map 2:

NB: Feral animal locations 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 "<u>threat</u>" 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***