

# PROPERTY PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR

## MAITLAND DOWNS

### CAPE YORK PENINSULA

#### GOAL:

To manage the land of Maitland Downs, 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.

#### PERIOD OF PLAN:

**February 2013 to January 2017**

#### OBJECTIVES: TO BE ACHIEVED WITHIN THE LIFE OF THE PLAN

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 utilize wash down facility on property to minimize weed seed spread.
4. To contain or reduce in area all medium priority weeds.
5. To reduce the number of feral animals within 5 years.

## PRINCIPLES:

- ◆ Weed and feral animal management is an integral part of land management on Maitlands
- ◆ Every effort will be made by owners to cooperate with regional, sub-regional and catchments pest management programs. These include:
  - The Cook Shire Pest Management Plan
  - CYP Pest Management Plan (under development)
- ◆ This pest management plan will be reviewed annually and will have a life of four (4) years.

## OBSTACLES / ISSUES TO ACHIEVING OUR OBJECTIVES:

- ◆ Time and money.
- ◆ New weeds arriving in feed and stock.
- ◆ Long viability of some weeds seeds.
- ◆ Visitors' vehicles bringing in weed seeds.

## MAPPING OF PESTS

The mapped weeds of **Maitland Downs** are shown in Map 1 (Appendix 1). The distributions of the major populations of feral animals (where known) are shown in Map 2 (Appendix 1).

## PRIORITISING PESTS

Pest plants and animals were prioritised for future action as high, medium or low priority based on the following criteria:

- 1\* Potential threat the species imposes to the environment.
- 2\* Achievability rating.
- 3\* Declaration category (if any)

4\* Operational, technical, administrative, financial and social feasibility

The methodology used for prioritising pests is at Appendix 2. The following table is a result of this process.

## PESTS ON **MAITLAND DOWNS**

| <b>COMMON NAME</b> | <b>SCIENTIFIC NAME</b> | <b>THREAT</b>                    | <b>ACHIEVABILITY</b> | <b>DECLARATION CATEGORY</b> | <b>PRIORITY OVERALL RATING</b> |
|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                    |                        | <b>Natural Agriculture Areas</b> |                      |                             |                                |

| Plants                |   |   |   |   |         |      |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|---------|------|
| Sicklepod             | <i>Senna obtusifolia</i>                              | 1 | 1 | 2 | Class 2 | High |
| Lantana               | <i>Lantana camara</i>                                 | 2 | 2 | 2 | Class 3 | High |
| Rubber vine           | <i>Cryptostegia grandiflora</i>                       | 2 | 2 | 3 | Class 2 | High |
|                       |   |   |   |   |         |      |
|                       |   |   |   |   |         |      |
|                       |   |   |   |   |         |      |
| Animals               |   |   |   |   |         |      |
| Feral Pigs            | <i>Sus scrofa</i>                                     | 1 | 1 | 2 | Class 2 | High |
| Wild dogs/<br>dingoes | <i>Canis familiaris</i><br><i>C. familiaris dingo</i> | 2 | 2 | 2 | Class 2 | High |
|                       |   |   |   |   |         |      |
|                       |   |   |   |   |         |      |
|                       |   |   |   |   |         |      |

## ACTION PLANS

### **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:**

| <b>Strategies / Actions</b>   | <b>By Whom</b> | <b>When</b> | <b>Monitoring processes</b>   |
|---|----------------|-------------|---|
| Monitor roadsides for any new or declared weed outbreaks and notify Cook Shire Council.         | Landholder     | On going    | Roadsides visually monitored  |
| Purchase stockfeed and pasture seed from local areas. Obtain vendor declaration where possible. | Landholder     | As required | Stock -feed areas to be visually monitored  |
| Keep any new livestock in the yards for at least 7 days prior to releasing.                     | Landholder     | As required | Yards monitored for any new weed species. Sight inspection after every rain event |
| Designate a wash down area on the property.   | Landholder     | Ongoing     | Designated area established   |
| <b>Performance indicator</b><br>No new areas of weeds established on property                   |                |             |   |
| <b>Resources required</b><br>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.

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

**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.

| <b>Strategies/actions</b>   | <b>By whom</b> | <b>When</b> |
|---|----------------|-------------|
| Continue spraying/slashing  | Landholder     | Ongoing     |
| Monitor for impact on pastures  | Landholder     | Ongoing     |
| <b>Performance indicator</b><br>All medium priority weeds have not spread any further than their current infestations.  |                |             |
| <b>Pest Monitoring Process</b><br>Visually check areas of known outbreaks and along tracks for new outbreaks.<br>Introduce GIS mapping of all outbreaks to monitor size of areas. |                |             |
| <b>Resources required</b><br>Sprayunit<br>Grazon DS<br>Round-up and wetting agent<br>Labour   |                |             |

**Objective 4:**

To reduce the number of feral animals within 5 years.

| <b>Animal</b>  | <b>Threat</b>                       | <b>Achievability</b>         | <b>Priority</b> |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Feral Pigs   | 1                                   | 2                            | High            |
| Wild dogs/dingoes  | 2                                   | 2                            | High            |
| <b>Impact/Current situation:</b>   |                                     |                              |                 |
| 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. |                                     |                              |                 |
| <b>Strategies / Actions</b>  | <b>By Whom</b>                      | <b>When</b>                  |                 |
| Apply for incentive scheme support for ammunition  | Owner                               | January 2006                 |                 |
| <u>Feral pigs</u>  |                                     |                              |                 |
| Shoot feral pigs when they are sighted   | Landholder                          | Ongoing                      |                 |
| <u>Wild dogs/dingoes</u>   |                                     |                              |                 |
| Continue 1080 baiting program  | Owner and employees / CYWAFAP staff | September/ October each year |                 |
|  | Owner/staff                         | As required                  |                 |
| Shoot Wilddogs/dingoes when sighted  |                                     |                              |                 |
| <b>Performance indicator</b>   |                                     |                              |                 |
| The number of feral animals has been reduced.  |                                     |                              |                 |
| <b>Pest Monitoring Process</b>   |                                     |                              |                 |
| Visually check paddocks, creek lines for movement and disturbance, record on data sheet all animals that are destroyed.  |                                     |                              |                 |
| <b>Resources</b>   |                                     |                              |                 |
| 1080   |                                     |                              |                 |
| Meat for baits   |                                     |                              |                 |
| Rifle and Ammunition   |                                     |                              |                 |
| Vehicles   |                                     |                              |                 |
| Labour   |                                     |                              |                 |



## APPENDIX 1

### **Map 1:**

**Map 2:**

## APPENDIX 2

### Methodology for Prioritising Pests.

Pest plants and animals are rated or prioritised for future action as high, medium or low priority based on the following criteria:

- 1\* Potential threat the species imposes
- 2\* Achievability rating
- 3\* Strategic importance
- 4\* Declaration category (if any)
- 5\* Operational, technical, administrative, financial and social feasibility

#### Potential threat

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

- 1 = High threat
- 2 = Medium threat
- 3 = Low threat
- 4 = No threat

#### Achievability rating

An "achievability" rating is assigned to each pest as follows:

(Those species where there is no possibility of achieving any positive outcomes from control measures are not included).

- 1 = Could be **eradicated** from the property or specific area
- 2 = Could be significantly **reduced** in area (plants) or numbers (animals) in the property or 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 biocontrol or fire

#### Declaration Status

The Declaration Category is listed in the Queensland *Rural Lands Protection Act 1985* [*Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002 when proclaimed*] and the local government pest management plan.