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## CYWAFAP Update

The present day Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Program (CYWAFAP) evolved out of 2 NHT projects – the *Cape York Weeds & Feral Animals Project* (1998 – 2002) and *Strategic pest planning, management and community capacity building in Cape York Peninsula* (2002 – 2005)

Today CYWAFAP is a dedicated team supported by Cook Shire Council but funded independently through grants and contract work and operate throughout Cape York Peninsula. CYWAFAP undertake natural resource management involving weeds and feral animals. This can include but is not limited to the

following natural resource management streams:

- Pest Management Planning
- Capacity Building
- Resource Assessment
- On-ground Control Work

The CYWAFAP team:

Manager: Cathy Waldron  
Technical Officer (Feral Animals): Jamie Molyneux  
Pest Management Officer: Russell Graham  
Assistant Pest Management Officer: Trevor Meldrum  
Technical Officer (Planning): Sean Meldrum  
Administration Officer: Leonie Dowding.

CYWAFAP offer the following services:

- 1080 baiting
- Trapping
- Mustering
- Ground shooting
- Aerial shooting
- Aerial survey/mapping
- Weed identification
- Weed management
- Weed survey/mapping
- Technical advice
- Pest Management Planning—property and Local Government area.
- Training—Formal or informal within the CALM training package

## CYPAC evolves into CYPMAG

A meeting of the Cape York Peninsula Pest Advisory Committee (CYPAC) was held in Weipa on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

A good response to the notification of the meeting was received with registrations submitted from 10 Cape York Shire Council's and three State Government Departments. While on the meeting day not all representatives were able to attend, there was still a good representation of Council's with delegates from nine councils in attendance. While there were many new faces a consequence of the closure of most of the Land & Sea Centres over the past 18 months, there were a few familiar faces.

### Restructure of CYPAC

The proposed restructure circulated to CYPAC representatives in November 2004 was discussed at the meeting resulting in the following outcomes:

- Terms of Reference – agreed with amendments
- Sectors suggested – not agreed on
- Proposed name change to Cape York Peninsula Pest Management Advisory Group – agreed

### Amended Terms of Reference (Purpose)

The purpose of the Pest Advisory Group will be to:-  
Review and maintain the currency of the CYP Pest Management Strategy and the CYP Pest Management Plan  
Advise on the implementation of the CYP Pest and Weeds Strategy Implementation Unit work program  
Provide advice to the CYP Natural Resource Management (NRM) group on strategic pest animal and weed priorities for CYP  
Develop and coordinate strategic priorities for pest animal and weed control effort on CYP  
Communicate with the CYP Community on pest animal and weed issues  
Communicate the needs of the CYP community to State and Australian Government, research groups etc.  
Seek funding opportunities for pest animals and control on CYP  
Provide a regional network on pest animals and weed control

The revised Terms of Reference allow for non-land owners to have presentation.

### Expansion of membership

While the proposed restructure model of sector based membership was rejected it was proposed to expand the stakeholders to include a conservation representative and a community group (catchment, Landcare and marine) representative on the new committee.

## New project work funded under NHT



Natural Heritage Trust  
Helping Communities Helping Australia

CYWAFAP through Cook Shire Council was successful in tendering for the delivery of the weeds and feral animal management sub-program under the CYP NRM Plan. This sees a major shift in the NHT funding process moving away from a straight grant system to a service delivery system where service providers (CYWAFAP/CSC) enter into contracts with the governing funding agency (currently the Dept of Communities) to deliver agreed outcomes for a certain price. This new system allows greater flexibility for CYWAFAP staff and other Council employees to undertake various of tasks funded by a range of sources - NHT, State and Australia

lian Government grants, Cook Shire's pest management program and contracts.

The agreed tender price was \$440,032. This amount is nearly \$65,000 less than the amount allocated for pest management in a Government press release earlier this year. Officially this project commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> September, although the funding was not received until the end of October.

The weed and feral animals sub-program is divided into 4 categories - pest management planning, capacity building, resource management and on-ground works. Under the NHT Contract 50% of

the funding has to go into on-ground control work..

Agreed tasks include completion of the Draft CYP Pest Management Plan (combining all the CYP Local Government PMPs), assistance with and review of property pest management plans, continuation of the Incentive Scheme, continue weed and feral animal mapping, support for the following on-ground control work: Cooktown Environs & Lakeland - integrated pig control; CYP Integrated baiting; Threatened species (turtles) pig control; West Coast Parkinsonia control; Palmer River Bellyache Bush control; East Coast Hy-menachne control

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## Have you seen this weed?



### Siam weed

#### *Chromolaena odorata*

Considered to be one of the world's most invasive weeds, Siam Weed has the potential to spread across northern Australia and down both the eastern and western coastlines. This is due to its quick invasion, easy establishment and ability to smother existing vegetation. In many countries Siam weed is out competing pastures, crops, and invading environmentally sensitive areas.

In Australia, Siam weed has the potential to seriously degrade large areas of the wet/dry tropic savanna grasslands, subtropical, coastal and conservation areas. Siam weed is a perennial that has a phenomenal growth rate (20 mm/day or 5 m per year) and ability to scramble up into taller plants to a height of 20 m. It also produces huge numbers of wind borne seeds (>80 000 seeds per plant per season).

Siam weed will grow in similar areas to lantana so it readily invades rain-forest, creek and riverbank vegetation. Young regrowth of Siam weed contains very high nitrate levels and in other tropical countries has caused cattle deaths and abortions where stock has been handfed with contaminated fodder. In the dry season dense thickets of Siam weed can cause intense bushfires and Siam weed may also cause skin complaints and asthma in allergy prone people.



Siam weed was first identified in Australia in 1994, as several large infestations along the Tully River and at Bingil Bay near Mission Beach in Far North Queensland. More recent surveys have identified Siam infestations in Townsville- Thuringowa, and in Mossman and Mt Garnet areas. Early detection and eradication are vital if you find this weed in your area. If you may have seen this weed in Cape York Peninsula please report it to your local government weed officers. For further information and enquiries please contact Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Program on (07) 40 695 020 or Cook Shire Coun-