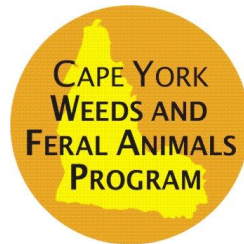


GUIDELINES FOR PROPERTY PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN



NOTES TO COMPLETING THE PROPERTY PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN TEMPLATE

This document has been produced by the Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Project (CYWAFAP) to assist property owners/managers to produce a property pest management plan. The layout is only a suggestion and you are at liberty to change any part of this document to suit your own needs.

The information in () or *italics* is provided to assist you with completing the Pest Management Plan. This information should be deleted as you complete the sections with your property information.

This template is available in electronic format (MS Word) so that you can simply fill in the information related to your own property. If you require an electronic version, please contact the CYWAFAP on 4069 5020 and one will be sent to you by email or on disc.

If you do not have access to a computer, CYWAFAP can supply a hard copy, without the information notes so that you can write in the information required.

PROPERTY PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR (Property Name) CAPE YORK PENINSULA

Introduction

Write a bit of background information here. Where the property is located (Lot on Plan). How long have you owned/managed the property and what pest management strategies have you been using to date. How you perceive the pests on the property (easily controlled/ increasing and very costly ect).

GOAL:

Needs to be clear and concise

Some examples of what you could write for your goal:

- *To protect the economy and environment of (Property Name) from the adverse impacts of weeds and feral animals*
- *To have a productive property with no declared or environmental pest plants or pest animals.*
- *To manage the land of (Property Name), in a sustainable way, by controlling weeds and pest animals, to ensure economic and environmental viability.*
- *To have no declared plants or environmental weeds actively growing on (property name) and to have a workable management plan to control declared and other feral animals*

PERIOD OF PLAN: *Period that the plan covers – i.e. March 2008 to February 2013*

OBJECTIVES: TO BE ACHIEVED WITHIN THE LIFE OF THE PLAN

Objectives are set for achieving the goal and become the basis for planning and implementing effective action. They need to be to the point, achievable and have a set time frame to be completed. As a general rule objective being with “To”.

Examples:

1. *To prevent the introduction of any new weeds in the next 5 years.*
2. *To eradicated all high priority weeds within 3 years.*
3. *To contained or reduced in area other weeds within 4 years.*
4. *To reduce the number of feral pigs to 50% of current population within 3 years.*
5. *To complete the boundary fencing within 12 months to prevent the entry of brumbies. Any brumbies on the property are then removed.*

PRINCIPLES:

You can include what you like here or leave it out altogether if you choose.

Examples:

- *Weed management is an integral part of land management on (Property Name)*
- *Every effort will be made by (Property Name) managers to cooperate with regional, sub-regional and catchment pest management programs. These include:*
 - *Cook Shire Pest Management Plan*
 - *Annan Endeavour Catchment Management Plan*
 - *Cape York Peninsula Pest Management Plan*
- *This pest management plan will be reviewed annually and will have a life of 5 years.*

OBSTACLES / ISSUES TO ACHIEVING OUR OBJECTIVES:

Include here the things that make it difficult to achieve what you have listed under the Objectives.

Examples:

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

MAPPING OF PESTS

The mapped weeds of *(Property Name)* 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:

- Potential threat the species imposes
- Achievability rating
- Strategic importance
- Declaration category (if any)
- 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.

Include in this table the names of all pests that have been identified on the property. Scientific names are available on Pest Facts sheets or through the CYWAFAP. Then apply the prioritising process to rate their importance. You can add more “areas” if you need to divide your property into more areas for management purposes.

When working out priorities first identify what weeds or pest animals you have an obligation under legislation to control (i.e. is it declared). These need to be considered for a higher priority so that you are complying with your obligation. This applies even if you don't think it is much of a problem or is easy to manage (i.e. with rust in Rubbervine).

Next work out what weeds and feral animals you have are high treat and that are manageable (i.e. small isolated infestations or easy to control or won't need many resources). You may wish to rate these as high also. The remaining pests will need to be prioritised according to your recourses. If you rate something high you should have the capability to do the control work you list in your action. Pests given a medium rating should be controlled if you have the recourses available after you have allocated resources to the high priority ones. Low priority pests will only get work done that does not take specific resources or if you have a windfall.

PESTS ON (PROPERTY NAME)

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	THREAT		ACHIEVABILITY	DECLARATION CATEGORY	PRIORITY <small>(Overall rating)</small>
		<small>Natural areas</small>	<small>Agriculture areas</small>			
Plants						
Animals						

Add more lines as required

ACTION PLANS

What you will do to overcome the obstacles and achieve your Objectives. Each Objective requires an Action Plan. You can use the templates provided below or create your own layouts, but you need to include similar information as provided for in these templates. Some examples have been provided for you to see what type of information should be included. Copy the templates you wish to use so that you completed one for each objective.

Template 1 – General Objective

Objective :			
Current situation:			
<i>Include here the problems/causes and any obstacles to managing those problems</i>			
<p style="text-align: center;">Strategies / Actions</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(What you will do to overcome the obstacles and achieve the objective)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">By Whom</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(This is optional - you probably only need to complete this if some one from off property is going to do the action)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">When</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Use this to set priorities – i.e. you might put in year 1, year 2 etc. or it might be next wet/dry season or the action might need to be “on-going”)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Performance Indicator</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(A way of measuring that the action is working)</i></p>
<p>Resources Needed</p> <p><i>(List here what is required to do the actions – i.e. \$800 to buy herbicide, boom spray, 4 workers for 2 weeks etc.)</i></p>			

Example:

Objective 1: Prevent the introduction of any new weeds over the life of this plan.

Current situation: Weeds have been brought in to the property in hay and chicken feed as well as on cars coming from other areas. Often we have not been aware that a new weed has arrived until it is well established. We also have a lot of feral horses, which may also bring new weeds onto our property. Some neighbouring properties have weeds that we don't have, and they might not be aware of the problems they can cause or be prepared to control them. Not all of our neighbours are aware of the need for pest management or what pests could threaten our properties.

Strategies / Actions	By Whom	When	Performance Indicator
1. Require Voluntary Vendor Declaration Form when purchasing feed or grain.	Manager	As required	No feed from off-property purchased without declaration form.
2. Establish a parking area for visitors and insist they do not drive their own vehicle around the property. Check that area and the driveways for weeds at regular intervals. Treat any weeds that germinate.	Station staff	Parking area by May 03; checked every month	Visitors cars are only driven on driveway and carpark; all weeds in these areas are destroyed.
3. Establish a wash down area ensure it is used after vehicles/machinery has been used off-property. Treat any weeds that germinate.	<i>Etc.</i>	<i>Etc.</i>	<i>Etc.</i>
4. Implement a control program for feral horses in coordination with the Feral Animals Officer at CYWAFAP.			
5. Send samples of any unknown plants that could be a weed to the Qld Herbarium, CYWAFAP or NR&M staff for identification.			
6. Ensure chookpens and feeding areas are regularly monitored for weed germination.			
7. Only use hay cut from the property or from a known weed free source (local if possible). If off-property source ensure hay is fed in regular confined areas that are monitored for weeds.			
8. When the opportunity arises discuss weed problems with neighbours and share resources on weed identification. Suggest they have someone from the CYWAFAP check their property for weeds.			

Resources Needed

Money to fence off carpark area and make signs.
 Staff for making wash-down area and car park (2 x 5 days).
 Plant press for herbarium samples
 Control measures for brumbies (staff, guns, ammo, traps, etc.)

Template 2 – Specific pest objective: suitable for this type of Objective

Objective _: All high priority weeds/pests are eradicated within 3 years.

List the weeds/pests that were rated a HIGH priority and then create specific action plans for their management. A layout template is provided and an example is included.

Weed Name		
Threat	Achievability	Priority
Impact/Current situation:		
Infestation type: dense / scattered / isolated		
Goal:	Performance Indicators:	
Obstacles:		
Actions	By Whom	When
Pest Monitoring Process:		
RESOURCES		
People	Operating funds	
Vehicle	Equipment	

Example of Weed Specific Strategy

Grader Grass (<i>Themeda quadrivalvis</i>)		
Risk 1	Achievability 1	Priority HIGH
<p>Impact/Current situation:</p> <p>Grader grass is edible to stock only between sprouting and flowering, which is only a short period of the season. At present there isn't much grader grass on the property and we want to stop it contaminating the pasture areas. We see grader grass as a serious threat to productivity as it has the ability to spread quickly.</p> <p><u>Distribution:</u> There are 5 patches near the house that originated from seed off cars.</p>		
<p>Goal: To eradicate the 5 small patches of Grader Grass</p>		<p>Performance Indicators: No further seeds germinate in the areas treated and no new outbreaks are detected.</p>
<p>Obstacles:</p> <p>Vehicles coming to our property must be restricted to specific areas, which are regularly checked for new weed outbreaks.</p>		
<p>Actions If plants have seeded, cut off seeds and burn.</p> <p>Handpull small clumps Spray larger clumps with Round-up</p> <p>Wash down vehicles at the spot by the house and monitor for new weed growth</p> <p>Apply to CYWAFAP incentive scheme for round-up</p>	<p>By Whom Farm hand</p> <p>Farm hand Manager</p> <p>Everyone</p>	<p>When After rains when the plants have flowered.</p> <p>As identified (same time as Gamba Grass) Ongoing</p> <p>Annually.</p>
<p>Pest Monitoring Process: Visually check areas of known outbreaks and along tracks for new outbreaks.</p>		
<p>RESOURCES</p>		
<p>People Farm hand: 3 days initially, then as required Manager: 1 day for initial spraying, then as required</p>	<p>Operating funds Fuel Roundup</p>	
<p>Vehicle To tow spray unit</p>	<p>Equipment 12V spray unit</p>	

This table layout provided can also be used for pest animals.

Template 3: Suitable for a number of low to medium priority pests requiring different management strategies such as:

Objective _ : Other weeds are contained or reduced in area within 4 years.

This table layout may be useful in writing up strategies for this type of objective. Some examples have been included.

NAME	STRATEGIES	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES
<i>Dark Blue Snake Weed</i>	<i>Ensure pasture is not overgrazed. Spray snakeweed present with 24D and allow pasture grass to grow over area before introducing stock again. Sow grass seed if necessary.</i>	<i>Manager directs pasture rotation. Farm hand conducts spraying and sewing seed when required.</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>Herbicide, spray unit, grass seed as required. 1 worker</i>
<i>Candle Bush</i>	<i>Isolated outbreaks are hand pulled</i>	<i>Farm hand</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>Labour only</i>
<i>Singapore Daisy</i>	<i>Spray dense areas with Brushoff; handpull any regrowth</i>	<i>Station hands</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>Brushoff; spray unit, 1-2 workers</i>

APPENDIX 1

Map 1: Location and extent of weeds on (Property Name)

Map 2: Distribution of feral animals on (Property Name)

These 2 maps can be combined if you prefer.

You may wish to include other things of interest here such as areas of conservation interest.

APPENDIX 2

Methodology for Prioritising Pests.

Although not essential it is recommended that you use this system for prioritising your pest plants and animals so that there is consistency throughout the Cape York Peninsula area. This will greatly assist the development of regional scale management plans and the application for and allocation of Government funding.

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

- Potential threat the species imposes
- Achievability rating
- Declaration category (if any)
- 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** for declared pests was obtained from the *Queensland Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management Act 2002) Regulation 2003* and Cook Shire Council Pest Management Plan.