

Biosecurity

Management Plan 2025-2030



**Longreach
Regional
Council**

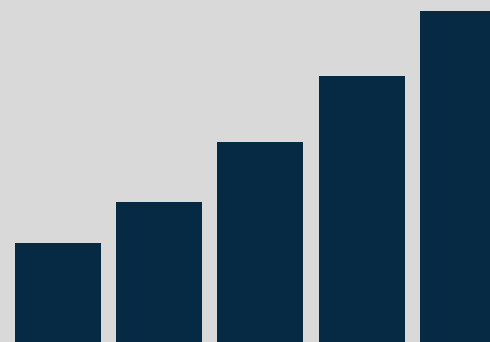
Ilfracombe Isisford Longreach Yaraka





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Executive Summary

The purpose of the Longreach Regional Council Biosecurity Plan (the Plan) is to assist the community and landholders understand and meet their General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO) under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* and protect local values from Invasive plants and animals.

Invasive plants and animals are recognised as a significant threat to Australia's biodiversity, agricultural productivity, and public health. The management of these species is a challenge and requires strong commitment, cooperation, and collaboration from all stakeholders.

In Queensland, the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act) provides the legal framework for managing the impacts of invasive species, including invasive plants and animals. The Act, mandates that all local governments in Queensland prepare and adopt a Biosecurity Plan that outlines a strategic direction for the management of invasive species within their respective government area.

The management of invasive species is a shared responsibility of land managers, industry, the community and all levels of government. While the primary responsibility rests with the land manager, collective action which engages all stakeholders is considered best practice, to allow effective and efficient management practices.



The values of our region

The Longreach region in Central Western Queensland is situated approximately 700 kilometres from the coast, west of Rockhampton, and covers an area of 40,638 square kilometres. The region is home to approximately 3647 people across the townships of Ilfracombe, Isisford, Longreach, and Yaraka. These vibrant communities enjoy the multiple inherent values that are provided within our region, such as the cultural heritage, environmental/biodiversity, natural resources, River and Channel systems.

The largest contributor to annual economic output in the Longreach Regional Council area is Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, representing approx. 21.7% of total economic output for the region and also represents 15.4% of local employment*.

The Longreach Regional Council area contains examples of Mitchell grass downs, often associated with floodplains, riparian areas, seasonal streams, and waterholes. These landscapes have high fauna habitat values and provide connectivity across the landscape. The Mitchell Grass Downs Bio-region has areas that are listed as *Endangered* or *Of Concern* for their biodiversity.

Invasive plants and Animals significantly impact the values of the Longreach Regional Council, reducing grazing land, productivity loss, land value loss and overall reduced viability of agricultural areas. They can also reduce the amenity and function of community spaces, and can cause harm and health issues for livestock, people and pets, damage infrastructure and increase land management costs.

*ABS 2021 Census Place of Work Employment (Scaled), ABS 2021 / 2022 National Input Output Tables, and ABS June 2024 Gross State Product.

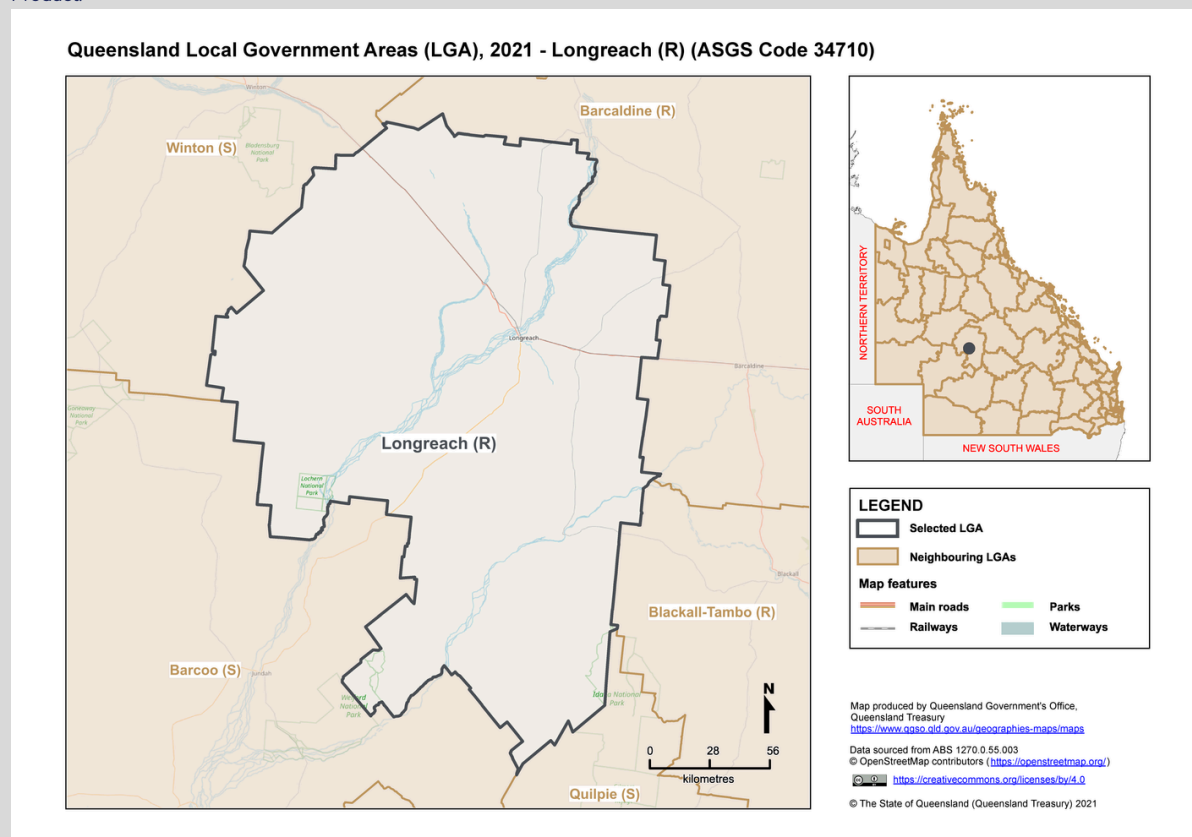


Figure 1 - Longreach Regional Council Local Government Area - Queensland Government's Office, Queensland Treasury

Invasive Species Impacts

The Longreach Region environment and climatic conditions support the establishment of a range of invasive plants and animals. Plants and animals are invasive as they have the ability to spread and multiply to the point where they cause damage, impacting the economy, natural environment, and important social and cultural values of communities. Invasive plants and animals can have profound impacts on ecosystem function, reduction of biodiversity, decrease productivity and profitability of our primary industries and threaten human and animal health.

On top of the environmental impacts of invasive species, they also pose a significant financial toll on all Australians. In 2021 the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) estimated the economic cost of invasive species across Australia to be \$25 billion a year with the costs increasing each year, noted to be up to a sixfold increase each decade since the 1970s*. It is important to note that this does not include the additional costs which are due to the environmental impacts, ecological damage, erosion of ecosystem services and loss of cultural values.

*csiro.au/en/news/all/articles/2021/august/pest-plants-and-animals-cost-australia-around-25-billion-a-year



National and State Legislation

All levels of Government assume the responsibility for the management of invasive plants and animals. This plan was developed in accordance with the legal framework provided by the Biosecurity Act 2024. Other national and state government legislation and strategies were considered in development of this Plan and include:

National Legislation

- Biosecurity Act 2015
- National Biosecurity Strategy 2022-2032
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- Australian Weeds Strategy 2017-2027
- Australian Pest Animal Strategy 2017-2027
- Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019 – 2030

Queensland State Legislation

- Biosecurity Act 2014
- Queensland Biosecurity Strategy 2024-2029
- Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2025-2030
- Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2022
- Queensland Wild Dog Management Strategy 2021-2026
- Queensland Feral Deer Management Strategy 2022-2027
- Threat abatement plan for predation, habitat degradation, competition and disease transmission by feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*) 2017
- Threat abatement plan for predation by feral cats 2024
- Nature Conservation Act 1992 (Prohibited wildlife)

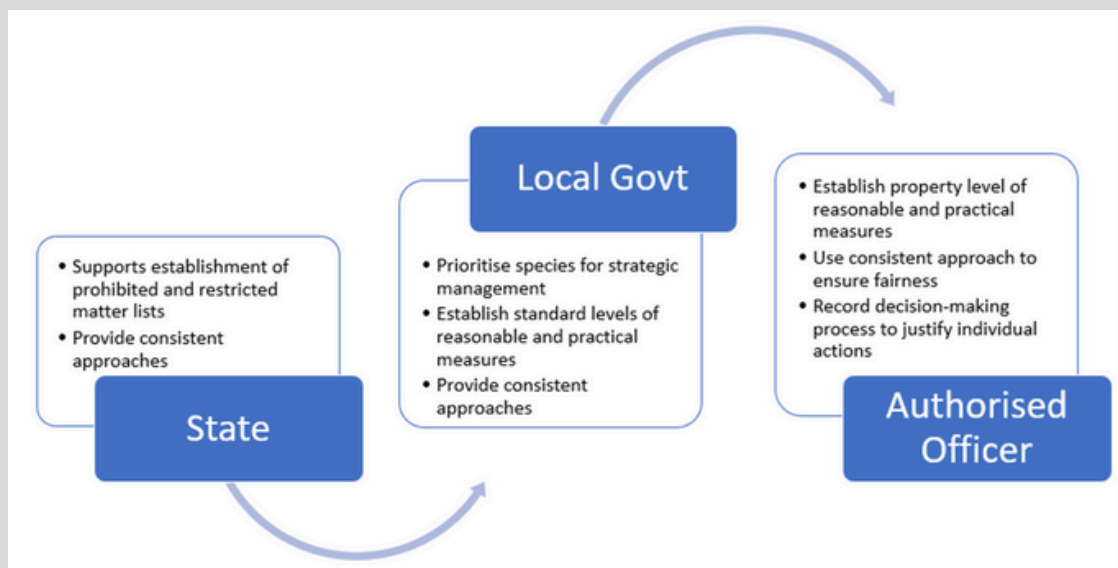


Figure 2 – Risk-based decision-making applied at the State, Local Government and Authorised Officer Levels

The Plan establishes a framework for managing invasive plants and animals at the local government level.

It includes information on the:

- importance of managing invasive plants and animals
- management objectives of the local government
- reasonable and practical measures to reduce risk
- use of compliance to support management.

Roles and Responsibilities

A 'nil tenure' approach is taken in the Plan, which means that people work together, across public and private land, to manage invasive plants and animals. This gives a better result than individual, uncoordinated efforts. The responsibility, actions and costs of biosecurity management are shared by all (shared responsibility). All land and waterways within the boundaries of the local government are included.

Stakeholder	Role and Responsibility
Biosecurity Queensland	State research capability State invasive plant and animal responses State component of national responses Awareness, extension and education programs to support State priorities Technical advice Legislation, strategies, policy, programs and reporting to support State policy objectives Facilitation of collaborative management Compliance to support State responses
Other state agencies e.g. Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR), Department of Primary Industries (Environment, Land and Water; Stock Routes); State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation)	Management of invasive plants and animals on state lands Assistance with identification of response requirements Complimentary strategies, policy, programs, reporting Awareness, extension and education programs to support agency priorities Facilitation of collaborative management
Regional working groups and committees Land and pest management advisory Committee - LAPMAC Central West Region Pest Partnership Group - CWRPPG Central West Region Pest Management Group - CWRPMG Shire Rural Lands Officer Group of Western Queensland - SRLOG	Collaborative Community Education and awareness Guide implementation of plan Review priority invasive plants and animal Identify emerging threats Outline strategic responses Assist with reporting on implementation of the plan Technical advice Land manager engagement
Natural resource management (NRM) groups	Facilitation of management for regional priorities Facilitation of regional and local strategies by contributing to regional planning processes Community awareness Technical advice Incentive Land manager engagement Contribution to best practice management
Industry	Application of best management practices to meet their GBO Good neighbour policy Industry-level biosecurity planning Awareness/education of stakeholders Implementation of quality assurance for commodities
Land managers	Application of best management practices to meet their GBO Good neighbour policy Property biosecurity planning

Table 1 - Summary of Stakeholder roles and responsibilities

General Biosecurity Obligation

GBO

The **General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO)** is the principal obligation under the Act and requires a person to take action to minimise or prevent the biosecurity risks under their control.

To fulfill their GBO, a person must:

- 1.meet the requirements of any of the prescribed obligations (prohibited and restricted matter requirements) that are relevant (see details below), and
- 2.undertake any other reasonable and practical actions that are required in the circumstances to minimise or prevent the biosecurity risk under their control. This may include active management of priority invasive plants and animals.

The prescribed obligations cover actions that are relevant to all situations, while the requirement to take 'reasonable and practical' actions provides flexibility that ensures the diversity of biosecurity risks can be effectively and efficiently managed.

Prohibited matter is invasive plants or animals that are not currently present in Queensland, but if it entered, could have serious impacts. Prohibited biosecurity matter must not be dealt with in any way whatsoever. The risks it poses must not be exacerbated, and if found, it must be reported to an inspector as soon as practical (and within 24 hours). This can be achieved by reporting the prohibited matter to the Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

Restricted Matter is invasive plants or animals that is already having a social, environmental or economic impact in Queensland and must be managed when it is found. Restricted matter is assigned Category numbers from 1-7 based on its characteristics and the risks it poses; it may have multiple categories assigned to it. Unless restricted matter is held under permit, it must be dealt with according to the category(s) it has been assigned.

Restricted Matter

Category 1 – immediate containment or eradication to minimise the risk of spread. It must be reported to an inspector within 24 hours (s42). This can be achieved by calling Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

Category 2 – Must be reported to an inspector or Authorised Person within 24 hours. This can be achieved by calling Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or Council on (07) 4658 4111.

Category 3 – Must not be distributed or disposed of, given as a gift, sold, traded or released into the environment (unless authorised in a regulation or under a permit).

Category 4 – Must not be moved to ensure that it does not spread to other areas.

Category 5 – Must not be possessed or kept (unless under authorisation or permit)

Category 6 – Must not be fed (unless under a control program)

Category 7 – Must be killed and correctly disposed (applies only to noxious fish and is outside the scope of this plan)

Invasive plants and animals that are not prohibited or restricted under the Biosecurity Act 2014 can also pose a threat to the community. These species are referred to as Locally Significant invasive plants and animals.

Apart from the GBO and the prohibited and restricted matter obligations, the other significant obligations included in the Act are for the management of animal and plant diseases. If you need information on aspects of biosecurity management that are not linked to invasive plant and animal management, visit the Department of Primary Industries website at: <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/> or call their Business Information Center on 13 25 23



Invasive plant and animal management

Invasive plant and animal management requires a planned and well considered approach. It considers the biology and behaviour of individual species, their comparative biosecurity risk, and the current and potential level of invasion/establishment to determine the most effective (or strategic) management approach.

The risk-based approach means a reasonable and practical response is matched to the degree of risk posed by the invasive species. What is considered reasonable and practical will depend on the seriousness of the risk, what the consequences could be and how likely they are to occur.

The standard approach is the use of the Invasive Species Assessment Framework (ISAF) and involves the 4 steps shown in Figure 1.



Figure 3 – Invasive Species Assessment Framework (Drawn from the North Burnett Regional Council (NBRC) Biosecurity Plan 2019-2024)

The risk assessment provides priority invasive species for the Longreach Regional Council area and categorises these into four management objectives:

- Prevention – Not currently found, aim to prevent entry and establishment
- Eradication – Limited distribution, aim to eliminate
- Containment – Moderate Distribution, aim to reduce impact and distribution
- Asset Protection – Wide distribution, aim to protect high value assets

Invasive plant and animal management

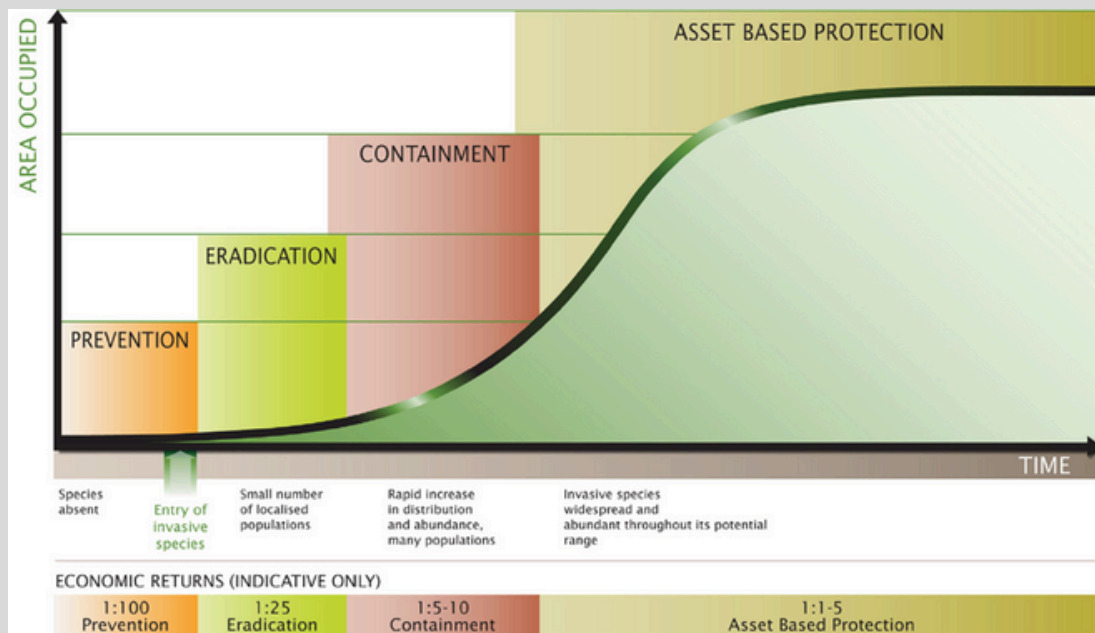


Figure 4 – The generalised invasion curve describes the four stages of invasive species invasion and the most appropriate management objective for each (Agriculture Victoria 2020).

Prevention Management Objective

The species identified for management via prevention are not currently found in the Longreach Regional Council Area, however, represent a significant biosecurity risk to our local area and have either been recorded as occurring in the past or are known to be of high risk of entering the region from neighbouring areas or via common transport routes.

Preventing entry of these invasive weeds and animals is an important objective of Council which may be achieved by increasing community and land manager awareness and encouraging early detection and responses. Any invasive weed detected in the Longreach Regional Area, not listed below, should be considered to be an emerging invasive weed to the area, and follow the same management objective as Prevention Invasive Plants.

The challenge is to identify high risk invasive species early in their appearance and before they establish, speedily assess potential invasiveness and implement effective barriers to prevent their entry. We will know that we are achieving our objective when no new species are found in the region and the number of new invasive species are identified as having an impact on our region is stable.

Prevention - Invasive Plants

Prevention – Invasive Plants		
Plant Species	Biosecurity Act 2014	
	Matter	Category
Rat's Tail Grasses (<i>Sporobolus jacquemontii</i> ; <i>S. fertilis</i> , <i>S. natalensis</i> , <i>S. pyramidalis</i>)	Restricted	3
Yellow Bells (<i>Tecoma Stan</i>)	Restricted	3
African Boxthorn (<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>)	Restricted	3
Athel Pine (<i>Tamarix Spp.</i>)	Restricted	3
Broad-leaved pepper tree (<i>Schinus terebinthifolia</i>)	Restricted	3
Captain Cook Tree (<i>Cascabela Thevetia</i>)	Restricted	3
Chinee Apple (<i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i>)	Restricted	3
Harrisia Cactus (<i>Eriocereus Spp.</i>)	Prohibited	3
Harrisia Cactus (<i>Harrisia martini</i> , <i>H. toruosa</i> and <i>H. pomanensis</i>)	Restricted	3
Mexican Feather Grass (<i>Nassella tenuissima</i>)	Restricted	2, 3, 4 and 5
Tree Pear (<i>Opuntia tomentosa</i>)	Restricted	3

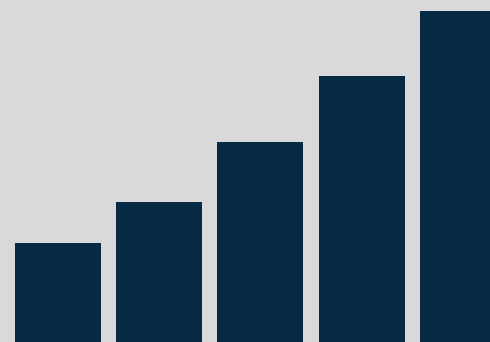
Reasonable and practical measures for the prevention of invasive plants		
Aim	Measure	Success Indicator
Awareness	Have unfamiliar plants formally identified Be aware of the prevention invasive plants	Sound local knowledge of species
Surveillance	Carry out and record area and property surveillance activities or targeted inspections, prioritizing areas of introduction such as road ways, stockyards and watering points	Early detection
Introduction	Undertake hygiene practices – wash downs, brush downs, visual inspections on vehicles, machinery, footwear and clothing. Source stock, garden and landscaping products from low risk areas and/or request a weed hygiene declaration. Spell stock in holding areas when moved from high risk areas Check that any purchased or gifted plants (including reproductive parts) are not listed under the Biosecurity Act 2014	Reduced risk of entry
Notification	All Prevention invasive plants to be reported to the Longreach Regional Council on 07 4658 4111 Invasive plants listed as Prohibited or Restricted category 2 must be reported to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23	Immediate reporting
Distribution	No Prevention invasive plants may be sold, traded, given away or released into the environment.	No spread
Control	To be advised once reported to Biosecurity Queensland and/or Longreach Regional Council.	Not applicable

Prevention – Invasive Animals



Prevention – Invasive Animals		
Animal Species	Biosecurity Act 2014	
	Matter	Category
Feral Chital Deer	Restricted	3,4,6
Feral Rusa Deer	Restricted	3, 4, 6
Feral Fallow Deer	Restricted	3, 4, 6

Reasonable and practical measures for the prevention of invasive Animals		
Aim	Measure	Success Indicator
Awareness	Be aware of the Prevention invasive animals Have unfamiliar animals formally identified	Sound local knowledge of species
Surveillance	Carry out and record area and property surveillance activities or targeted inspections	Early detection
Introduction	Check that any purchased or gifted animals are not listed under the Biosecurity Act 2014 Do not release Prevention invasive animals onto state land	Reduced risk of entry
Notification	All Prevention invasive plants to be reported to the Longreach Regional Council on 07 4658 4111 Invasive plants listed as Prohibited or Restricted category 2 must be reported to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23	Immediate reporting
Distribution	No Prevention invasive animals may be sold, traded, given away or released into the environment.	No spread
Control	To be advised once reported to Biosecurity Queensland and/or Longreach Regional Council.	Not applicable



Eradication Management objective

The species listed for Eradication Management in the Longreach Regional Area are currently present in the region, however there is a low distribution of the plant or animal, and elimination of the risk from these species is reasonable and practical for landholders to achieve.

This is one of the few management strategies that results in the long-term prevention of impact and sustained improvements to biodiversity indicators, and which does not require on-going investment. It can be costly because of the intensity of management and surveillance work required to be successful, but if factors such as small size of spread, effective containment and good demarcations are in place, eradication can prove cost effective when compared to the impacts and on-going requirements of other management strategies.

Broad-scale eradication is generally not considered feasible for wide-spread weeds because of the significant costs associated with undertaking intensive management and surveillance activities over large areas, and the low chance of achieving success. However, isolated populations of a widespread weed which demonstrate a significant risk to local assets can be tackled using this approach. When these populations sit outside of an established containment line, this is known as outlier management.

We will know when we are achieving this objective when New invasive species are effectively managed to prevent establishment in the region through the application of efficient control responses and species that have the potential to be eradicated due to isolation are effectively removed, with future monitoring identifying no further establishments,



Eradication – Invasive Plants



Eradication – Invasive Plants		
Plant Species	Biosecurity Act 2014	
	Matter	Category
Belly-ache bush (<i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i> and hybrids)	Restricted	3
Cats Claw Creeper (<i>Dolichandra unguis-cati</i>)	Restricted	3
Coral Cactus (<i>Cylindropuntia fulgida</i>)	Restricted	3
Devil's rope pear (<i>Cylindropuntia imbricata</i>)	Restricted	3
Hudson Pear (<i>Cylindropuntia rosea</i> and <i>C. tunicate</i>)	Restricted	3
Captain Cook Tree (<i>Cascabela Thevetia</i>)	Restricted	3
Jumping Cholla (<i>Cylindropuntia prolifera</i>)	Restricted	3
Snake Cactus (<i>Cylindropuntia spinosior</i>)	Prohibited	3
Harrisia Cactus (<i>Harrisia martini</i> , <i>H. toruosa</i> and <i>H. pomanensis</i>)	Restricted	3
Mesquite (<i>Prosopis glandulosa</i> , <i>P. pallida</i> , <i>P. velutina</i>)	Restricted	3
Mother of Millions (<i>Bryophyllum delagoense</i> syn. <i>B. tubiflorum</i> , <i>Kalanchoe delagoensis</i>)	Restricted	3
Prickly Pear (<i>Opuntia elata</i>)	Restricted	2, 3, 4 and 5

Reasonable and practical measures for the Eradication of invasive plants		
Aim	Measure	Success Indicator
Awareness	Have unfamiliar plants formally identified Be aware of the Eradication invasive plants	Sound local knowledge of species
Surveillance	Carry out and record area and property surveillance activities or targeted inspections, prioritizing areas of introduction such as road ways, stockyards and watering points	Early detection
Introduction	Undertake hygiene practices – wash downs, brush downs, visual inspections on vehicles, machinery, footwear and clothing. Source stock, garden and landscaping products from low risk areas and/or request a weed hygiene declaration. Spell stock in holding areas when moved from high risk areas Check that any purchased or gifted plants (including reproductive parts) are not listed under the Biosecurity Act 2014	Reduced risk of entry
Notification	All Eradication invasive plants to be reported to the Longreach Regional Council on 07 4658 4111 Invasive plants listed as Prohibited or Restricted category 2 must be reported to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23	Immediate reporting
Distribution	No Eradication invasive plants may be sold, traded, given away or released into the environment.	No spread
Control	Remove or destroy all plants and reproductive plant parts fully and continuously from the area, following approved control and disposal practice methods for each species – refer Queensland Government Restricted invasive plants . May include chemical treatment, physical or mechanical removal, removing contaminated soil or turf, maintaining competitive vegetation, or using biological controls. Establish an ongoing monitoring to measure progress towards eradication.	Ongoing removal and no spread

Eradication - Invasive Animals

Eradication – Invasive Animals		
Animal Species	Biosecurity Act 2014	
	Matter	Category
European Fox (<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>)	Restricted	3,4, 5 and 6

Reasonable and practical measures for the Eradication of invasive Animals		
Aim	Measure	Success Indicator
Awareness	Be aware of the Eradication invasive animals Have unfamiliar animals formally identified	Sound local knowledge of species
Surveillance	Carry out and record area and property surveillance activities or targeted inspections	Early detection
Introduction	Check that any purchased or gifted animals are not listed under the Biosecurity Act 2014 Do not release Eradication invasive animals onto state land. Remove waste and unused infrastructure that may provide shelter and habitat for invasive animals.	Reduced risk of entry
Notification	All Eradication invasive animals to be reported to the Longreach Regional Council on 07 4658 4111 Invasive animals listed as Prohibited or Restricted category 2 must be reported to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23	Immediate reporting
Distribution	No Eradication invasive animals may be sold, traded, given away or released into the environment.	No spread
Control	Participate in an invasive animal control program that may include verification of presence, risk assessment, land manager consent and neighbour notification. Establish an on-going monitoring program to measure progress toward eradication.	Ongoing Removal and no spread

Containment Management objective

The species listed for Containment Management in the Longreach Regional Area are distributed in parts of the region but are not everywhere. Eradication from the area may not be feasible, however minimization of the biosecurity risk presented is reasonable and practical.

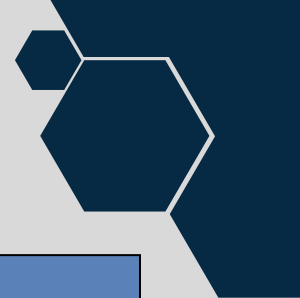
The aim of Containment is to actively restrict where a species grows so that it does not spread to occupy all suitable habitat within its potential range, thus reducing or delaying the negative impacts on agriculture and natural ecosystems.

In practice there are two forms of containment: total or absolute containment, where borders are strictly maintained and any outlying incursions are treated as small eradication programs; and partial or relative containment, where the objective is to slow the rate of spread and to prevent the establishment of new core infestations.

The challenge is to identify areas free of invasive species and develop and deploy approaches to contain the invasive species to a known area. We will know when we have achieved Containment Objective when existing invasive species infestations are contained to the known area and prevented from becoming widespread throughout the region.



Containment – Invasive Plants



Containment – Invasive Plants		
Plant Species	Biosecurity Act 2014	
	Matter	Category
Sticky Florestina (Florestina Tripteris)	Locally Significant	
Parthenium (Parthenium hysterophorus)	Restricted	3
Parkinsonia (Parkinsonia aculeata)	Restricted	3
Rubber Vines (Cryptostegia Grandiflora)=	Restricted	3
Prickly Acacia (Vachellia nilotica)	Restricted	2, 3, 4 and 5
Leucaena (Leucaena Leucocephala)	Locally Significant	

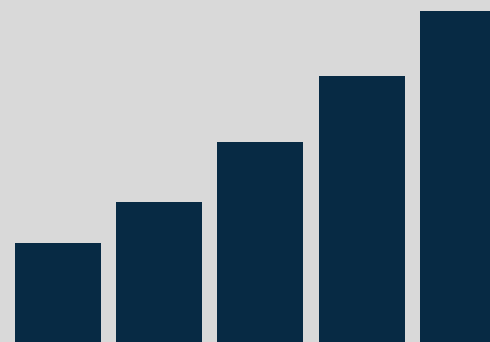
Reasonable and practical measures for the Containment of invasive plants		
Aim	Measure	Success Indicator
Awareness	Have unfamiliar plants formally identified Be aware of the Containment invasive plants	Sound local knowledge of species
Surveillance	Carry out and record area and property surveillance activities or targeted inspections, prioritizing areas of introduction such as roadways, stockyards and watering points	Early detection
Introduction	Undertake Hygiene practices – wash downs, brush downs, visual inspections on vehicles, machinery, footwear and clothing. Source stock, garden and landscaping products from low risk areas and/or request a weed hygiene declaration. Spell stock in holding areas when moved from high risk areas Check that any purchased or gifted plants (including reproductive parts) are not listed under the Biosecurity Act 2014	Reduced risk of entry
Notification	Not required	Not Applicable
Distribution	No Containment invasive plants may be sold, traded, given away or released into the environment. When leaving areas infested with Containment invasive plants, undertake hygiene practices – wash downs, brush downs, visual inspections on vehicles, machinery, footwear and clothing. Minimise seed spread of these species from your property (slash to prevent seeding, remove fruit, establish buffer zones). Spell stock in holding areas when leaving areas invested with containment plants. Do not bale/hay make pastures containing Containment invasive plants. Do not provide stock feed and garden products from areas infested with these species.	No spread
Control	Remove or destroy all plants and reproductive plant parts fully and continuously from the area, following approved control and disposal practice methods for each species (new establishing plants and established infestations)– refer Queensland Government Restricted invasive plants . May include chemical treatment, physical or mechanical removal, removing contaminated soil or turf, maintaining competitive vegetation, or using biological controls. Establish an ongoing monitoring to measure progress towards eradication, including inspection by Longreach Regional Council Rural Land Offices to ensure compliance.	Ongoing removal, and no spread Distribution and density of existing invasive species infestations in the known area is decreasing.

Containment - Invasive Animals



Containment – Invasive Animals		
Animal Species	Biosecurity Act 2014	
	Matter	Category
Feral Goat (<i>Capra hircus</i>)	Restricted	3,4, 5 and 6
European Rabbit (<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>)	Restricted	3, 4, 5 and 6

Reasonable and practical measures for the Eradication of invasive Animals		
Aim	Measure	Success Indicator
Awareness	Be aware of the Containment invasive animals. Have unfamiliar animals formally identified.	Sound local knowledge of species
Surveillance	Carry out and record area/property surveillance activities or targeted inspections.	Early detection
Introduction	Check that any purchased or gifted animals are not listed under the Biosecurity Act 2014. Do not release Containment invasive animals onto state land. Remove waste and unused infrastructure that may provide shelter and habitat for invasive animals.	Reduced risk of entry
Notification	All Containment invasive animals to be reported to the Longreach Regional Council on 07 4658 4111	Immediate reporting
Distribution	No containment invasive animals may be sold, traded, given away or released into the environment.	No spread
Control	Participate in an invasive animal control program that may include verification of presence, risk assessment, land manager consent and neighbour notification. Establish an on-going monitoring program to measure progress toward eradication.	Ongoing Removal and no spread



Asset Protection Management Objective

The species listed for Asset Protection Management in the Longreach Regional Area are widely distributed across the Longreach Regional Council area and their eradication or containment is not feasible. These species are to be managed to minimise their spread to and/or impact on high value economic, environmental and/or social assets.

High asset values include vegetated areas managed for conservation, waterways, wetlands, riparian vegetation, horticulture, agriculture, primary production areas, community open spaces and residential areas.

This management objective is considered reasonable and practical for land managers to achieve for these invasive animal species.

The challenge is to manage or control these invasive species to reduce their impact where the benefits of control are the greatest. We will know when Asset Protection objective has been achieved as Management and control investments will be directed based on the greatest benefit and the benefit of control is proven to outweigh the investment required.



Asset Protection -Invasive Animals

Containment – Invasive Animals		
Animal Species	Biosecurity Act 2014	
	Matter	Category
Feral Pig (<i>Sus scrofa</i>)	Restricted	3,4, 5 and 6
Feral Cat (<i>Felis catus</i> and <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i> x <i>Felis catus</i>) other than domestic cat	Restricted	3, 4, 5 and 6
Wild Dogs (<i>Canis lupus dingo</i> and <i>Canis familiaris</i>)	Restricted	3, 4, 6

Reasonable and practical measures for the Eradication of invasive Animals		
Aim	Measure	Success Indicator
Awareness	Be aware of the Asset protection invasive animals. Have unfamiliar animals formally identified.	Sound local knowledge of species
Surveillance	Carry out and record area/property surveillance activities or targeted inspections.	Early detection
Introduction	Check that any purchased or gifted animals are not listed under the Biosecurity Act 2014. Do not release Asset Protection invasive animals onto state land. Remove waste and unused infrastructure that may provide shelter and habitat for invasive animals.	Reduced risk of entry
Notification	Not required (however Asset Protection invasive animals can be reported via FeralScan at Feralscan.org.au)	Immediate reporting
Distribution	No Asset Protection invasive animals may be sold, traded, given away or released into the environment.	No spread
Control	Participate in an invasive animal control programs that may include verification of presence, risk assessment, land manager consent and neighbour notification. Establish an on-going monitoring program to measure progress toward eradication.	Ongoing Removal and no spread

Regulating compliance with the Biosecurity Act 2014

Along with Community Education programs, Council will ensure compliance with the reasonable and practical management of invasive plants and animals by using a range of standardised and targeted compliance measures. Land managers are mandated by the Biosecurity Act 2014 to develop property-based biosecurity plans, and likewise businesses and residents in urban areas are urged to communicate instances of invasive species.

Council prioritises voluntary and assisted compliance to ensure land managers can meet their GBO expectations. Biosecurity Orders, Enter and Clear Notices, or Penalty Infringement Notices are issued for regulated species when voluntary and assisted options have failed to meet the required outcomes.

Figure 5 shows a generalised flowchart for Longreach Regional Councils Invasive species management and compliance.



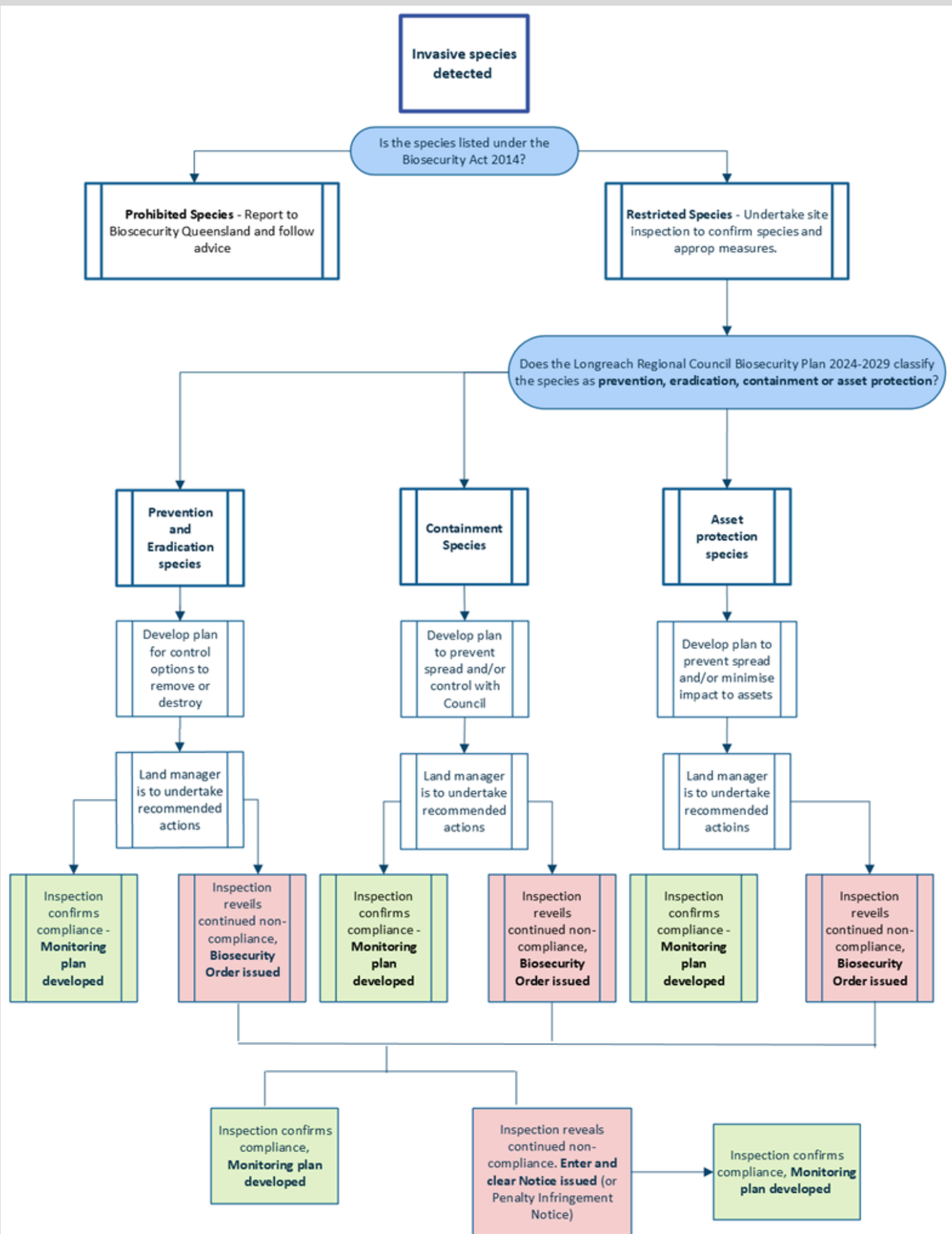


Figure 5 - Longreach Regional Council Compliance flowchart

Monitoring, Evaluation and Implementation



Council's monitoring and evaluation will assist to ensure robust biosecurity compliance is achieved. This process includes regular site visits to areas of concern along with a comprehensive compliance tool, outlining the investigation protocol and procedural exploration.

Plan implementation is crucial to reducing the impacts of invasive plants and animals in the Longreach Regional Council region. Council will coordinate a collaborative approach through stakeholders, working groups and committees, assisting Council and community to meet their General Biosecurity Obligations.

Council's approach to biosecurity management includes a range of ongoing, business-as-usual activities undertaken within the organization, and in partnership with stakeholders and the community.

These include –

Prevention and preparedness activities that prevent the establishment and spread of invasive plants and animals. Examples of these are Monitoring and surveillance of properties and public spaces for prohibited and restricted invasive species, working with Biosecurity Queensland to prevent the sale and spread of prohibited and restricted invasive plants and educating responsible pet ownership.

Monitoring and Assessment activities which collect data on invasive plants and animals to guide effective decision-making. Examples of these are collecting field data on pest weed spray activities, and pest animal controls, Wild dog Exclusion fencing data and mapping, research trials in conjunction with Biosecurity Queensland relating to species genus and effective treatment outcomes, along with invasive animal research activities.

Effective Management systems for managing and minimizing impacts of invasive plants and animals. Examples of these are control programs for invasive plant species, Coordinated Baiting program, Wild dog and feral cat management program, spot baiting, feral cat management program, environmental reserve and natural areas management, Biological control programs and trials (eg Cochineal) and roadside invasive plant control program.

Awareness and education programs for increased stakeholder understanding and best practice management of invasive plants and animals. Examples of these are Biosecurity education programs at a range of events across the year, School education program to increase awareness through workshops and presentations, Field days and plant walks with stakeholders (ie Weedspotters, Department of Primary Industries, DPI Eco Science Precinct and Landholders), and staff training.

Commitment to a coordinated approach for land managers, industries, communities, and governments to managing invasive plants and animals. Examples of these are participation, guidance and advisory in Committee groups, working groups, Biosecurity Queensland and Department of Primary Industries.

