

Balonne Shire Biosecurity Plan

2026-2031



Executive summary

The Balonne Shire Biosecurity Plan provides strategic direction for the management of pest plants and animals in the Balonne local government area. It covers a period of five years and is consistent with principles of pest management, state pest management strategies, guidelines for pest management and Balonne's community interest. It integrates with the Biosecurity Plans of neighbouring local government areas.

The goals of this plan are to:

- engage all stakeholders within the Balonne Local Government Area.
- work together in implementing ongoing, coordinated and effective management of all priority pests.

The plan identifies strategic actions that address six main objectives:

1. Education and awareness – the community (including local businesses and government) is informed, knowledgeable and has ownership of pest plant and animal management.
2. Commitment, roles and responsibilities – Council and the community are committed and enabled to participate in the coordinated management of pest plants and animals.
3. Monitoring and assessment – reliable information is available as a basis for decision-making.
4. Strategic planning and management – established strategic directions are maintained and owned by the community.
5. Prevention and early intervention – the introduction, establishment and spread of pest plants and animals is prevented.
6. Integrated management systems – integrated systems for managing the impacts of established pest plants and animals are developed and widely implemented.

The plan prioritises pest plants and animals within the Balonne local government area into three categories (high, medium and low) and also identifies local alert species (that are not currently known from the Balonne region but could cause significant impacts if introduced). Descriptions, impacts, control measures and strategic actions are provided for high priority species.

Acknowledgements

Balonne Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land within the Balonne Shire Council local government area. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging. Balonne Shire Council is committed to honouring Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas and their rich contribution to society.

We thank everyone who provided their valuable time and knowledge to inform this Biosecurity Plan, particularly landholders and other community members who attended workshops and completed surveys during plan development. Their input was critical to developing a plan that will guide a collaborative cross-tenure approach to effectively manage pests and their impacts on the community.

We also gratefully acknowledge the support and expert input from Biosecurity Queensland and Balonne Shire's Biosecurity Advisory Committee.

Ecosure Pty Ltd prepared the Biosecurity Plan in 2019 and was updated by Cornerstone Sustainability Pty Ltd in 2026.

Glossary, acronyms and abbreviations

BAC	Biosecurity Advisory Committee
BROC	Border Regional Organisation of Councils
Council	Balonne Shire Council
DPI	Department of Primary Industries
Invasive Matter	Invasive biosecurity Pest plants and animals that are listed in the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> matter as prohibited matter in Schedule 1, parts 3 and 4 or restricted matter in Schedule 2, part 2
LGA	Local Government Area
LGAQ	Local Government Association of Queensland
NRM	Natural resource management
Pest	Introduced plant or animal species that is either: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- invasive biosecurity matter listed in the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i>- assessed to have significant environmental, social and / or economic impacts within the Balonne LGA
PMP	Pest Management Plan
PPMP	Property Pest Management Plan
ROC	Regional Organisation of Councils
TMR	Department of Transport and Main Roads
WoNS	Weed of National Significance

Contents

Executive summary	2
Acknowledgements.....	3
Glossary, acronyms and abbreviations	4
1 Introduction.....	7
1.1 Balonne Local Government Area	7
1.2 Pest plants and animals - impacts and spread.....	7
1.3 Legislation	8
1.4 What does this mean for me?	10
2 Plan development.....	12
2.1 Plan development.....	12
2.2 Pest distribution	12
2.3 Pest prioritisation	12
3 Strategic Plan	13
3.1 Vision.....	13
3.2 Goals.....	13
3.3 Objectives.....	13
3.4 Pest management categories	14
4 Priority Pests	15
4.1 Priority pest plants	15
4.2 Priority pest animals	21
5 Implementation	23
5.1 Plan implementation and review	23
5.2 Plan duration	23
5.3 Pest animal exclusion fencing exemptions.....	23
5.4 Strategic Actions.....	24
6 References.....	29
Appendix 1 Relevant legislation and planning instruments	30
Appendix 2 Stakeholders.....	31
Appendix 3 Pest prioritisation process	33
Appendix 4 Information sources	38

List of tables

Table 1 Biosecurity matter and scope of local government biosecurity plans	9
Table 2 Categories of Restricted Matter under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i>	10
Table 3 Biosecurity Plan Objectives	13
Table 4 Management objectives with associated actions and targets.....	14
Table 5 High priority pest plants	15
Table 6 Medium priority pest plants.....	17
Table 7 Low priority pest plants	18
Table 8 Local Alert List	20
Table 9 High priority pest animals.....	21
Table 10 Medium priority pest animals.....	22
Table 11 Biosecurity Plan stakeholders	31
Table 12 Pest Prioritisation Scoring System used in Balonne LGA.....	33
Table 13 Prioritisation categories.....	34
Table 14 Prioritisation of pest plants.....	34
Table 15 Prioritisation of pest animals.....	37

1 Introduction

The Balonne Biosecurity Plan (the Plan) provides a coordinated approach to the management of pest plants and animals within the Balonne Local Government Area (LGA). The Plan:

- sets achievable objectives and strategies to manage pest plants and animals in the LGA
- prioritises pest plants and animals currently present or with high potential to occur in the LGA
- identifies the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders and provides mechanisms to inform, support and integrate pest management activities
- outlines processes to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the plan.

For the purposes of this plan, a pest plant or animal species is defined as either:

- an invasive biosecurity matter listed in the Biosecurity Act 2014 or
- assessed to have significant environmental, social and/or economic impacts within the Balonne LGA.

1.1 Balonne Local Government Area

The Balonne LGA covers an area of approximately 31,074 km² in South West Queensland with an estimated population of 4,320 (ABS 2021). Of these, about 3,130 live in St George, the LGA's largest town and administrative centre (ABS 2021). Important land uses within the LGA include:

- grazing (primarily beef cattle, but also meat sheep, sheep for wool production, and goats)
- dry-land agriculture (primarily cereal crops such as wheat, oats, and sorghum)
- irrigated agriculture (primarily cotton)
- viticulture and vegetable production
- conservation and natural environments (including four national parks and four state forests)
- oil, gas, and mineral resources extraction (and associated infrastructure)
- transport infrastructure (road, rail, and pipelines).

1.2 Pest plants and animals - impacts and spread

Pest plants and animals can impact on:

- the economy (e.g. reduce productivity and profitability of grazing, agriculture, transport and exports)

- human / animal health (e.g. spread of disease, public safety risk, toxicity, allergens, increased risk of fire)
- environmental values (e.g. compete with native species, predate on native species, alter ecosystem function, integrity and species composition and degrade physical landscape features)
- social amenity (e.g. reduced aesthetics and impeded access in recreational areas).

The introduction and dispersal of pests in the region are influenced by a variety of natural and human processes. Natural dispersal processes such as wind, water and movement via birds are impossible to restrict. However, dispersal caused by human activities can be managed by implementing coordinated strategies at local, regional, state, national and international levels. Some features of the Balonne LGA that affect the introduction and spread of pest plants and animals include the following:

- Balonne lies within two bioregions and supports a wide variety of ecosystems, so provides suitable conditions for a diverse range of pest plants and animals.
- Primary production in the Balonne LGA is principally grazing, but also includes cereal crops. Agricultural activities and seasonal employment (e.g. backpackers) associated with periods of high agricultural production may result in the introduction and spread of pest plant material. Surrounding LGAs similarly support large agricultural areas. Balonne can assist in managing the spread of agricultural weeds across LGA (and state) boundaries.
- Projected growth in the coal seam gas industry (particularly in the northern part of the LGA) is likely to result in increased vehicle traffic across rural land and therefore increased risk of spreading pest plant seeds.
- The LGA includes the catchment of several rivers of the Queensland Murray Darling Basin. As a result, parts of the LGA are susceptible to periodic flooding, which can spread pest plant material. Repairs to associated road damage may also require earthmoving equipment moving throughout the LGA, potentially aiding the dispersal of pest plant seeds.
- Balonne LGA includes large areas of natural environments (including state forests). Such areas often have limited access and may require a specialised approach to managing biosecurity risks.
- Domestic animal escapees and roaming pets can have the same negative impacts as pest animals, and can also contribute to the growth of pest animal populations.

1.3 Legislation

The Queensland *Biosecurity Act 2014* establishes a biosecurity system that minimises biosecurity risks and facilitates a coordinated response to biosecurity events. The Act imposes a general biosecurity obligation (s23) on persons to prevent or minimise the impact of biosecurity risks on human health, social amenity, the economy and the environment.

The Act prescribes the following:

- **Prohibited Biosecurity Matter** – may be a pest animal, weed, disease, exotic fish or insect pest not found in Queensland (and requires a permit to keep). If it was to enter Queensland it would significantly impact our health, way of life, the economy and the environment. Listed in Schedule 1 or included in a prohibited matter regulation or emergency prohibited matter declaration. If prohibited matter is found, it must be reported to an inspector or local government authorised person within 24 hours.
- **Restricted Biosecurity Matter** – may be a pest animal, weed, disease, exotic fish or insect pest found in Queensland. Restricted matter is considered to have a significant impact on human health, social amenity, the economy and the environment. Listed in Schedule 2 or included in a restricted matter regulation. Specific actions are required to limit the impact of this matter by reducing, controlling or containing it.

Under the Act, local governments must have a Biosecurity Plan for managing invasive biosecurity matter for its LGA. Types of biosecurity matter identified in the Act and the scope of a local government biosecurity plan to manage them are summarised in Table 1. Some pests that are not generally within the scope of a local government biosecurity plan have been included in this plan as they are considered a management priority for the LGA. Notifiable diseases and native species have not been included within the scope of this plan.

Table 1 Biosecurity matter and scope of local government biosecurity plans

	Within scope of local government biosecurity plans (Invasive Biosecurity Matter)	Outside the scope of local government Biosecurity Plans*
Prohibited Matter	Schedule 1 Part 3 – Invasive Plants Part 4 – Invasive Animals	Schedule 1 Part 1 – Aquatic diseases, parasites and viruses Part 2 – Animal diseases, parasites and viruses Part 5 – Marine animals and plants Part 6 – Noxious fish Part 7 – Prohibited matter affecting plants Part 8 – Tramp ants
Restricted Matter	Schedule 2 Part 2 – Restricted matter – invasive biosecurity matter	Schedule 2 Part 1 – Restricted matter – other than invasive biosecurity matter

*Responsibility for the prevention and management of other pests, is shared between state and Commonwealth government agencies.

The Act identifies seven categories of restricted matter, which must be managed in specific ways (Table 2). Invasive biosecurity matter excludes categories 1 and 7 restricted matter. It is important to note that everyone has a general biosecurity obligation under the Act to take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise the biosecurity risk associated with pests in all categories.

Table 2 Categories of Restricted Matter under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*

Category	Action required	Restricted Matter included
Category 1	Must be reported to a Department of Agriculture and Fisheries inspector within 24 hours of becoming aware of its presence	Red imported fire ants, electric ants, Asian honey bees, some animal pathogens, aquatic pathogens
Category 2	Must be reported to an inspector or local government authorised person within 24 hours of becoming aware of its presence.	Certain noxious fish, weeds and pest animals such as red-eared slider turtles
Category 3	Must not be distributed or disposed of. This means it must not be given as a gift, sold, traded or released into the environment, unless the distribution or disposal is authorised in a regulation or under a permit.	Weeds, pest animals and noxious fish such as gambusia, wild dogs
Category 4	Must not be moved to ensure that it is not spread into other areas of the state.	Specific weeds, pest animals and noxious fish such as Hudson pear, feral pig or giant cichlid
Category 5	Must not be possessed or kept under your control, unless authorised under a permit of the Act or another Act. These pests have a high risk of negatively impacting on the environment.	Weeds, pest animals and noxious fish such as miconia, rabbits, carp
Category 6	Must not be possessed or kept under your control. This category of restricted matter must not be fed, except for the purpose of preparing for or undertaking a control program.	Invasive animals such as feral deer, foxes, rabbits and wild dogs and noxious fish such as carp, gambusia and tilapia
Category 7	A person who has category 7 restricted matter must, as soon as practicable, kill the restricted matter and dispose of it in the way prescribed under regulation.	Noxious fish such as carp, gambusia and tilapia

A local government can declare a pest species using a local law under the *Local Government Act 2009*. Currently Balonne Shire Council has not declared any pest plants or animals.

The Biosecurity Plan links to numerous other legislative and planning processes at Commonwealth, state, regional and local levels. It integrates Biosecurity Plans / Pest Management Plans of neighbouring local government areas (i.e. Maranoa Regional Council, Paroo Shire Council, Goondiwindi Regional Council and Western Downs Regional Council). Relevant legislation, plans and strategies are summarised in Appendix 1.

1.4 What does this mean for me?

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* shifts the management of pests and other biosecurity risks from a prescriptive approach to a risk-based system that considers the likelihood and consequences of biosecurity risks. In practical terms, this means that a person or organisation must:

- understand the biosecurity risks associated with their activities
- take all reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimise each biosecurity risk.

The Balonne Biosecurity Plan identifies and prioritises invasive pest species within the Balonne LGA and provides for the coordinated and effective management of these pests. Key stakeholders involved in implementing, monitoring and reviewing the Biosecurity Plan are summarised in Appendix 2. Private landholders and occupiers should comply with the following general biosecurity obligations:

- be aware of the pest plants and animals that could be on your property
- manage any pests appropriately according to the Biosecurity Plan and relevant regional or state legislation
- identify and manage possible biosecurity risks when transporting or discarding material that may contain pests (e.g. weeds in soil, potting mix, stock feed or animal manure).

2 Plan development

2.1 Plan development

Development and review of the plan incorporated the following processes:

- review of relevant legislation, plans, strategies and guides in the LGA, the southern Queensland region, the state and Australia
- review of existing pest information
- community engagement (workshops and survey)
- consultation with internal Council stakeholders and external stakeholders
- [number] workshops held [dates] to seek input on biosecurity issues and identify and prioritise pests within the Balonne LGA; attended by a total of [number] participants from the following stakeholder groups:
 - Balonne Shire Council
 - Biosecurity Queensland, DPI
 - Property owners and land managers
 - Balonne Shire Council Biosecurity Advisory Committee
 - [add other]
- prioritisation of pests using a consistent and transparent system
- internal reviews by Council
- responses to a public exhibition period of the draft Plan
- review and adoption by Council.

2.2 Pest distribution

Distribution data is limited for many pest species in the Balonne LGA, so extent has been assessed using a combination of state government pest mapping, known records and local knowledge of pest management officers and community members.

2.3 Pest prioritisation

Pests are prioritised against eight attributes within three categories (pest status, potential impact of the pest, and capacity to manage the pest). The Plan focuses on high priority pests, but also considers medium and low priority pests and local alert species. Attributes and the associated scoring system and detailed results are outlined in Appendix 3.

The Plan also identified some pests as local alert species. These species are not currently known from the Balonne LGA but could cause significant impacts if introduced.

3 Strategic Plan

3.1 Vision

To reduce the impact of invasive biosecurity matter on human health, social amenity, the economy and environment in the Balonne Shire through the implementation of strategic actions. To achieve a high degree of biosecurity buy-in, cooperation, and data sharing between Council, agencies, landholders, the community and other stakeholders, evident over the five year life of the Plan.

3.2 Goals

Goals of the Plan are to:

- i. engage all stakeholders within the Balonne LGA
- ii. work together in implementing ongoing, coordinated and effective management of all pests
- iii. focus investment on reducing the impact of 'high priority' invasive pests.

3.3 Objectives

The Plan targets the six objectives outlined below. Strategic actions to achieve these objectives are prioritised in the Implementation section to assist Council in allocating resources.

Table 3 Biosecurity Plan Objectives

	Objective	Desired Outcome
1	Education and Awareness	The community (including local businesses and government) is informed, knowledgeable and has ownership of pest plant and animal management.
2	Commitment, Roles and Responsibilities	Council and the community are committed and enabled to participate in the coordinated management of pest plants and animals.
3	Monitoring and Assessment	Reliable information is available as a basis for decision-making.
4	Strategic Planning and Management	Established strategic directions are maintained and owned by the community.
5	Prevention and Early Intervention	The introduction, establishment and spread of pest plants and animals is prevented.
6	Integrated Management Systems	Integrated systems for managing the impacts of established pest plants and animals are developed and widely implemented.

3.4 Pest management categories

The Biosecurity Plan specifies pest management objectives, based on priority and current and potential distribution of the species within the LGA.

Table 4 Management objectives with associated actions and targets

Management objective	Key actions	Target
Monitored	Surveillance of LGA and localised biosecurity events.	Monitor achievement of objectives.
Prevention	Effective weed hygiene. Alert community. Stakeholder consultation.	No incursions within LGA.
Early detection and eradication	Targeted and opportunistic surveys. Targeted control program timed to prevent all reproduction of the pest species.	No populations of new pests established in LGA.
Containment	Containment zones identified, promoted and managed to prevent spread.	Infestations contained or reduced to scale that can be eradicated (i.e. species can be moved to eradication category). No spread of pests outside containment zones.
Asset protection	Widespread pests are managed to reduce impacts on high value assets.	Buffers maintained. Key assets protected. Impacts mitigated.

4 Priority Pests

4.1 Priority pest plants

The priority, distribution and management of pest plants are detailed below.

4.1.1 High priority pest plants

Table 5 High priority pest plants

Common name	Scientific name	Distribution	Management	Control	Management Actions - Land managers and Council
Coral cactus	<i>Cylindropuntia fulgida</i>	Localised	Early detection and eradication	Priority chemical control on localised infestations. Control established infestations by cochineal mealy bug <i>Dactylopius tomentosus</i> to damage plant and limit extent.	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Report sightings. Develop site management plans. Promote biological agents. Hygiene practices.
Devil's rope pear	<i>Cylindropuntia imbricata</i>	Localised	Early detection and eradication	Priority chemical control on localised infestations. Control established infestations by cochineal mealy bug <i>Dactylopius tomentosus</i> .	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Report sightings. Develop site management plans. Promote biological agents. Hygiene practices.
Harrisia cactus	<i>Harrisia martinii</i>	Localised	Early detection and eradication	Integrated priority mechanical and chemical control methods. Control established infestations with stem boring longicorn beetle <i>Alcidion cereicola</i> and mealy bug <i>Hypogeococcus festerianus</i> .	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Report sightings. Develop site management plans. Promote biological agents. Hygiene practices.
Hudson pear	<i>Cylindropuntia pallida, tunicata</i>	Localised	Early detection and eradication	Integrated priority fire, mechanical and chemical control methods. Control established infestations by cochineal mealy bug <i>Dactylopius tomentosus</i> .	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Report sightings. Develop site management plans. Promote biological agents. Hygiene practices.

Common name	Scientific name	Distribution	Management	Control	Management Actions – Land managers and Council
Hymenachne	<i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i>	Localised	Early detection and eradication	Chemical control via spot spraying and over-spraying.	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Report sightings. Develop site management plans. Hygiene practices.
Mother-of-millions	<i>Bryophyllum spp.</i>	Localised	Early detection and eradication	Integrated priority burning, mechanical and chemical control methods. Biological control on established infestations. Groundcover competition.	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Report sightings. Develop site management plans. Promote biological agents. Hygiene practices.
Parkinsonia	<i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>	Localised	Early detection and eradication	Integrated priority mechanical and chemical control methods. Biological control on established infestations.	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Report sightings. Develop site management plans. Promote biological agents. Hygiene practices.
Parthenium	<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>	Localised	Early detection and eradication	Integrated priority mechanical and chemical control methods. Biological control on established infestations. Groundcover competition.	Educate for high risk activities (e.g. fodder producers, quarries, feedlots) about effective weed hygiene practices. Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Report sightings. Develop site management plans. Promote biological agents.
Prickly acacia	<i>Vachellia nilotica</i>	Localised	Early detection and eradication	Integrated mechanical and chemical control of mature plants and regrowth.	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Report sightings. Develop site management plans. Hygiene practices.
African boxthorn	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	Widespread	Containment	Integrated mechanical and chemical control methods in combination with land management practices.	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Report sightings. Develop site management plans. Hygiene practices.

Common name	Scientific name	Distribution	Management	Control	Management Actions – Land managers and Council
Tiger pear	<i>Opuntia aurantiaca</i>	Widespread	Containment	Integrated biological and chemical methods. Controlled with cochineal mealy bug, <i>Dactylopius austrinus</i> .	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.
Velvety tree pear	<i>Opuntia tomentosa</i>	Widespread	Containment	Integrated biological and chemical methods. Controlled with cochineal mealy bug, <i>Dactylopius opuntiae</i> .	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.
Common pest pear	<i>Opuntia stricta</i>	Widespread	Asset protection	Integrated biological and chemical methods. Controlled by cactoblastis, <i>Cactoblastis cactorum</i> and cochineal mealy bug, <i>Dactylopius opuntiae</i> .	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.

4.1.2 Medium priority pest plants

Table 6 Medium priority pest plants

Common name	Scientific name	Distribution	Management	Management Action
Cat's claw creeper	<i>Dolichandra unguis-cati</i>	Localised	Early detection and eradication	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Report sightings. Develop site management plans. Hygiene practices.
Florestina	<i>Florestina tripteris</i>	Localised	Early detection and eradication	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Report sightings. Develop site management plans. Hygiene practices.
Night blooming cereus	<i>Cereus uruguayanus</i>	Localised	Early detection and eradication	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Report sightings. Develop site management plans. Hygiene practices.
Wild tobacco	<i>Solanum mauritianum</i>	Localised	Early detection and eradication	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Report sightings. Develop site management plans. Hygiene practices.
Cotton-tails	<i>Froelichia floridana, F. gracilis</i>	Localised	Containment	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.
Lantana	<i>Lantana camara</i>	Localised	Containment	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.

Common name	Scientific name	Distribution	Management	Management Action
Lippia	<i>Phyla canescens</i>	Localised	Containment	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.
Paterson's curse	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Localised	Containment	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.
Spear thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Localised	Containment	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.
Weir vine	<i>Ipomoea calobra</i>	Localised	Containment	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.
African lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	Widespread	Asset protection	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.
Bathurst burr	<i>Xanthium spinosum</i>	Widespread	Asset protection	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.
Mexican poppy	<i>Argemone ochroleuca</i>	Widespread	Asset protection	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.
Mimosa bush	<i>Vachellia farnesiana</i>	Widespread	Asset protection	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.
Noogoora burr	<i>Xanthium occidentale</i>	Widespread	Asset protection	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.
Saffron thistle	<i>Carthamus lanatus</i>	Widespread	Asset protection	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.
Wild turnip weed	<i>Brassica tournefortii</i>	Widespread	Asset protection	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.

4.1.3 Low priority pest plants

Table 7 Low priority pest plants

Common name	Scientific name	Distribution	Management	Management Action
American malvastrum	<i>Malvastrum americanum</i>	Low	Asset protection	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.
Blue heliotrope	<i>Heliotropium amplexicaule</i>	Low	Asset protection	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.
Capeweed	<i>Arctotheca calendula</i>	Low	Asset protection	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.
Common sowthistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Low	Asset protection	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.

Common name	Scientific name	Distribution	Management	Management Action
Cretan weed	<i>Hedypnois rhagadioloides</i> , syn. <i>Leontodon rhagadioloides</i>	Low	Asset protection	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.
Crownbeard	<i>Verbesina encelioides</i>	Low	Asset protection	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.
Goathead / Spiny emex	<i>Emex australis</i>	Low	Asset protection	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.
Gomphrena weed	<i>Gomphrena celosioides</i>	Low	Asset protection	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.
Khaki weed	<i>Alternanthera pungens</i>	Low	Asset protection	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.
London rocket	<i>Sisymbrium irio</i>	Low	Asset protection	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.
Maltese cockspur	<i>Centaurea melitensis</i>	Low	Asset protection	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.
Mayne's pest	<i>Glandularia aristigera</i>	Low	Asset protection	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.
Paddy melon / Pie melon	<i>Citrullus lanatus</i> var. <i>lanatus</i>	Low	Asset protection	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.
Red natal grass	<i>Melinis repens</i>	Low	Asset protection	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.
Small flowered mallow	<i>Malva parviflora</i>	Low	Asset protection	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.
Sow thistle	<i>Sonchus asper</i> subsp. <i>glaucescens</i>	Low	Asset protection	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.
Spiny burr grass	<i>Cenchrus incertus</i>	Low	Asset protection	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.
Tall fleabane	<i>Conyza bonariensis</i>	Low	Asset protection	Prioritise control based on impacts to local sites. Hygiene practices.

4.1.4 Local alert pest plants

Local alert species are not currently known from the Balonne LGA but could cause significant impacts if introduced. An Invasive Plants and Animals Surveillance and Control Program (emergency response plan) will be developed to respond to the discovery of any local alert species within the Balonne LGA. Plague locusts have been included in the local alert species list due to their seasonal nature.

Table 8 Local Alert List

Common name	Scientific name	Status - Biosecurity Act 2014
African fountain grass	<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i> , syn. <i>Cenchrus setaceus</i>	
Balloon vine	<i>Cardiospermum grandiflorum</i>	Restricted matter
Chinese celtis	<i>Celtis sinensis</i>	Restricted matter
Cholla cactus	<i>Cylindropuntia</i> spp. (other than <i>Cylindropuntia fulgida</i> and <i>C. imbricata</i>)	Prohibited or Restricted matter
Harrisia cactus	<i>Harrisia</i> spp. syn. <i>Eriocereus</i> spp. (other than <i>Harrisia martinii</i>)	Prohibited or Restricted matter
Hudson pear	<i>Cylindropuntia rosea</i>	Restricted matter
Karoo thorn	<i>Vachellia karroo</i>	Prohibited matter
Mesquite	<i>Prosopis</i> spp.	Prohibited or Restricted matter
Prickly pears	<i>Opuntia</i> spp. (excluding <i>Opuntia aurantiaca</i> , <i>O. stricta</i> and <i>O. tomentosa</i>)	Prohibited or Restricted matter
Rat's tail grasses	<i>Sporobolus jacquemontii</i> , <i>S. fertilis</i> , <i>S. pyramidalis</i> and <i>S. natalensis</i>)	Restricted matter
Yellow bells	<i>Tecoma stans</i>	Restricted matter

4.2 Priority pest animals

The priority, distribution and management of pest animals are detailed below.

4.2.1 High priority pest animals

Table 9 High priority pest animals

Common name	Scientific name	Distribution	Management	Control	Management Actions – Land managers and Council
European fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Widespread	Asset protection	Baiting, shooting, trapping.	Prioritise control based on local impacts. Develop site management plans. Participate in baiting programs.
European rabbit (domestic and wild breeds)	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Widespread	Asset protection	Baiting, shooting, trapping.	Prioritise control based on local impacts. Develop site management plans. Participate in baiting programs.
Feral pig	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Widespread	Asset protection	Baiting, shooting, trapping, fencing.	Prioritise control based on local impacts. Develop site management plans. Participate in baiting programs.
Wild dog	<i>Canis spp.</i>	Widespread	Asset protection	Baiting, shooting, trapping, fencing.	Prioritise control based on local impacts. Develop site management plans. Participate in baiting programs.

4.2.2 Medium priority pest animals

Table 10 Medium priority pest animals

Common name	Scientific name	Distribution	Management	Control	Management Actions - Land managers and Council
Feral chital deer	<i>Axis axis</i>	Localised	Containment	Shooting, fencing.	Prioritise control based on local impacts.
Feral goats	<i>Capra hircus</i>	Widespread	Containment	Shooting, trapping, fencing.	Prioritise control based on local impacts.
Gambusia / Mosquitofish	<i>Gambusia holbrooki</i>	Localised	Containment	Destroy humanely on capture and bury away from water.	Prioritise control based on local impacts.
Cat (other than domestic cat)	<i>Felis catus</i>	Widespread	Asset protection	Shooting, trapping, baiting.	Prioritise control based on local impacts.
European carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	Widespread	Asset protection	Destroy humanely on capture and bury away from water.	Prioritise control based on local impacts. Carp buster events.
Indian Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Widespread	Asset protection	Trapping, nest removal.	Prioritise control based on local impacts. Trapping programs.

5 Implementation

5.1 Plan implementation and review

Council will coordinate implementation of the Biosecurity Plan and will regularly review and update the Plan with the assistance of the Biosecurity Advisory Committee (BAC). The BAC comprises of key people with knowledge and expertise in the management of pests in the Balonne LGA. The BAC will:

- communicate issues raised by stakeholders
- communicate outcomes of BAC meetings to stakeholders
- regularly review and update list of new pests in the “prevention” category
- review the need for quarantine zones required to manage priority pests in the
- “prevention” and “early detection and eradication” categories
- review annual reports
- assist in the review of Annual Work Plans
- assist in the development of new Annual Pest Action Plans as required
- assist in facilitating the development of specific pest management plans for high priority pest species
- advise on new and emerging weeds
- advise of any new pest control and monitoring techniques
- recommend a species for declaration under a local law.

5.2 Plan duration

The duration of the Plan is five years from the date of adoption, after which time it will be reviewed by Council and the Biosecurity Advisory Committee.

5.3 Pest animal exclusion fencing exemptions

It is recognized that in the Balonne Shire, Wild Dog Exclusion Fencing (WDEF) is a key component for the management of high priority pest animals. To assist in the construction and maintenance of WDEF along Council managed road corridors, Council is enacting the eight (8) metre external vegetation clearance exemption provided for under the *Planning Regulation 2017* (Qld).

All clearing undertaken under this exemption must be conducted by Council, or their representatives, and in accordance with the Balonne Shire Wild Dog Exclusion Fence Vegetation Clearance Policy and associated procedures.

5.4 Strategic Actions

The strategic action outlined below for Balonne Shire Council underpin the successful delivery of the Pest Plant and Pest Animal Management Programs and provides direction to public and private land managers to meet Management Objectives for the Balonne Local Government Area relating to pest plant and animal management, general biosecurity obligations, and aligned objectives in regional, state and national strategies.

Management Strategies	Balonne Shire Council Management Actions	Land Managers Management Actions
<p>5.4.1 Mapping 2026 baseline established and monitored against management objectives for all priority pest plants and animals.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Regional mapping of pest plants and animals risks and events, with 2026 baseline indicators established and made available to the public. In the absence of detailed and current LGA mapping, the State wide mapping becomes the default. 2) Review and update mapping on an annual basis. 3) Collaborate with Biosecurity Queensland on state-wide mapping of pest plants and animals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property or area map of pest plants and animals and update periodically as required. • Contribute to regional mapping.
<p>5.4.2 Surveillance Surveillance of Local Government Area and localised biosecurity events to monitor against management objectives.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Surveillance schedule in place for stock routes, reserves and public lands, for early detection and identification of new pest plants and animals. 2) Report as required to Biosecurity Queensland. 3) Support the Weed Spotters Network Queensland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveillance, identification and rapid response to new pest plants and animals. • Notify Balonne Shire Council and report as required to Biosecurity Queensland.
<p>5.4.3 Monitoring systems Monitoring against management objectives, including for high value areas and high risk areas.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Condition or impact assessments, monitoring systems and inspection schedules in place for assets and infrastructure, areas identified as high risk, natural resources, identified areas of environmental and cultural significance. Includes troughs and tanks, wash down facilities, fencing, waste facilities, waste water facilities, water treatment facilities, saleyards, quarry and borrow pits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land managers adjoining and leasing stock routes monitor, assess and maintain land condition, fencing, troughs and water, as required by legislation.
<p>5.4.4 Delivery programs Mechanisms and capacity in place to support the achievement of management objectives.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Best practice management on Council managed land and delivery of pest plant and animal programs. 2) Control existing pest plant outbreaks on Council managed land, including stock routes and roadsides, by conducting ongoing spray and treatment programs. 3) Provide landholder baiting programs twice per year and on demand baits. 4) Provide a bounty for wild dog scalps. 5) Pursue the use of technology to enhance management options. 6) Rapid response capability and capacity available. 7) Maintain records of control and management activities. 8) Coordinate with adjacent land managers and stakeholders and provide support where possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best practice prevention and management of pest plants and animals, following legal requirements as appropriate. • Maintain records of control and management activities.

Management Strategies	Balonne Shire Council Management Actions	Land Managers Management Actions
<p>5.4.5 Operational planning and reporting Plan and resource priority actions and impact.</p>	<p>1) Annual operational plan and budget for the delivery of priority management strategies and control programs, reported quarterly and annually. 2) Alignment to delivery of other management plans as appropriate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Property Biosecurity Plan outlines the identified risks, assets, hygiene, and intended management programs.
<p>5.4.6 Resources Plan and resource priority actions and impact.</p>	<p>1) Secure and leverage resources for the delivery of management strategies, including capital works, materials and equipment, technology, maintenance and extension. 2) Collect fees and recover costs for fee for services provided.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leverage resources from council, government and industry programs.
<p>5.4.7 Compliance Meet legislative responsibilities.</p>	<p>1) Authorised persons appointed to execute compliance responsibilities delegated by the Biosecurity Act 2014, and all other relevant legislation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of quality assurance for commodities. Meet General Biosecurity Obligations.
<p>5.4.8 Policies and procedures Policies and procedures set consistent and clear standards and address risk profiles.</p>	<p>1) Council policies and procedures in place for operations, monitoring, and compliance roles and responsibilities. 2) Local Disaster Management Plan guides planning and emergency response activities. 3) Master Risk Schedule identifies and responds to biosecurity risk and high risk areas. 4) Site based management plans identify and manage biosecurity risk and high risk area management. Includes stock route infrastructure, wash down facilities, waste facilities, waste water facilities, water treatment facilities, saleyards, quarry and borrow pits, parks and gardens, roadside maintenance. 5) Review relevant policies as required, including clearing of vegetation for control activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biosecurity risk management procedures in place.
<p>5.4.9 Administration Administration and workflow standards in place.</p>	<p>1) Processes in place for administration of enquiries, compliance, permits, reporting, complaints.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow administration processes.
<p>5.4.10 Qualifications and training Staff are appropriately qualified and trained.</p>	<p>1) Human resource management systems in place to assess, provide and review appropriate qualifications and training for staff to conduct all roles and responsibilities, including compliance, safety, condition assessments, and works.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualification and training to conduct roles and responsibilities.

Management Strategies	Balonne Shire Council Management Actions	Land Managers Management Actions
<p>5.4.11 Extension Community has access to information to meet management objectives and general biosecurity obligations.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Provide technical advice and education. 2) Support research, knowledge, awareness and extension activities in the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek technical advice, information and resources to inform and assist with the planning and implementation of best practice management strategies.
<p>5.4.12 Communication Community is informed of management objectives, responsibilities and opportunities to participate.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Prepare and implement a communication plan to facilitate community awareness and participation in the implementation of the Biosecurity Plan. 2) Rapid response priority communication plan in place, including warnings and alerts dissemination, following risk based protocols and Local Disaster Management Plan. 3) Communicate with community and stakeholders via Council’s website, annual reports, newsletters, social media, and email to share resources and information, raise awareness, and emergency response. Communicate via external channels such as radio, publications, events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate and engage in communication and engagement opportunities.
<p>5.4.13 Coordination Coordinate planning and management activities with stakeholders.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Coordinate with adjacent land managers on control programs and provide support where possible. 2) Engage, coordinate and collaborate with government, industry and community stakeholders and land managers across all management strategies. 3) Roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders are clear, defined, documented and communicated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with neighbours, Council and other stakeholders where practical.
<p>5.4.14 Hygiene Hygiene measures in place to prevent the spread of biosecurity matter.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Enforce Council policies and procedures for inspection schedules and operations, including high risk zones and clean down procedures. 2) Review and implement Council policies and procedures for hygiene and clean down procedures. 3) Consider public washdown facilities. 4) Review and implement strategic location of public washdown facilities within the Region. 5) Use of technology and equipment to improve hygiene practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean down procedures and access to washdown facilities. Request weed hygiene declarations (contractors, service providers, agents, tourists, guests). Surveillance areas of introduced stock, feed, machinery, materials etc. • Isolate or manage movement of stock and vehicles through incursions to prevent spread.

Management Strategies	Balonne Shire Council Management Actions	Land Managers Management Actions
<p>5.4.15 Performance Monitoring and Evaluation</p> <p>Review progress and achievement of management objectives.</p>	<p>1) Regional and site based operational and performance monitoring. Evaluation of impact, effectiveness, appropriateness, efficiency, and value for money of all strategies and activities.</p> <p>2) Seek feedback from the community and stakeholders on priorities, issues, challenges, needs, achievements and opportunities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and evaluate results.
<p>5.4.16 Strategic planning and reporting</p> <p>Demonstrate leadership, responsibility and strategic direction regarding biosecurity management.</p>	<p>1) Review the Biosecurity Management Plan and update every four years.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in consultation and planning activities. • Property Biosecurity Plan outlines the identified risks, assets, hygiene, and intended management program.

6 References

Australian Government undated, *National weeds lists*. Accessed at <https://weeds.org.au/>

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Department of Primary Industries (2024). *Queensland Biosecurity Strategy 2024-2029*. Queensland Government.

Invasive Plants and Animals Committee (2016). *Australian Pest Animal Strategy 2017 to 2027*. Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, Canberra.

Invasive Plants and Animals Committee (2016). *Australian Weeds Strategy 2017 to 2027*. Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, Canberra.

Appendix 1 Relevant legislation and planning instruments

National	<p>Australian Weed Strategy 2017-2027</p> <p>Australian Pest Animal Strategy 2017-2027</p> <p>Weeds of National Significance (WoNS)</p> <p>National Environmental Alert List</p> <p>Feral animals in Australia List</p> <p>Threat Abatement Plans</p> <p>Australian Emergency Plant Pest Response Plan</p>
Queensland	<p><i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i></p> <p>Queensland Biosecurity Strategy 2024-2029</p> <p>State Agency Pest Management Plans</p>
Regional	<p>Regional Management Plans</p>
Local	<p>Balonne Shire Biosecurity Plan 2026-2031</p> <p>Balonne Shire Council Wild Dog Management Plan 2019 – 2024</p> <p>Neighbouring Council PMPs / Biosecurity Plans, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maranoa Regional Council Pest Management Plan 2012-2016 - Goondiwindi Regional Council Strategic Biosecurity Plan 2022 - Maranoa Regional Council Biosecurity Management Plan 2023-027 - Paroo Shire Council Biosecurity Plan 2018-2022 - Western Downs Regional Council Biosecurity Plan 2017

Appendix 2 Stakeholders

Stakeholders for monitoring and managing pests in the LGA and region, including roles and responsibilities, are shown in the table below.

Table 11 Biosecurity Plan stakeholders

Area	Stakeholder and role
Commonwealth Government	<p>The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources coordinates the management of biosecurity and quarantine systems across Australia. It directs national responses to outbreaks of new pest species using the Biosecurity Incident Management System. It develops and coordinates emergency response plans, including guidelines, templates and standard operating procedures.</p> <p>The Invasive Plants and Animals Committee provides advice on weeds, vertebrate pest animals and freshwater invertebrate pests. The Committee developed the Australian Pest Animal Strategy 2017-2027 and the Australian Weeds Strategy 2017-2027 to provide guidance on best practice management to protect Australia's economy, environment and social wellbeing.</p>
State Government	<p>Biosecurity Queensland is an agency within DPI that coordinates efforts to prevent, respond to, and recover from pests and diseases that threaten Queensland's economy and environment. It works closely with local governments, communities and other stakeholders to minimise impacts of weeds and pest animals. DPI developed the Queensland Biosecurity Strategy 2018-2023 to provide a biosecurity system framework to protect the state's agricultural, environmental and social values.</p> <p>Numerous other agencies within the Queensland government are involved in the management of land or infrastructure in the Balonne LGA, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DPI - Department of Natural Resources - Department of Transport and Main Roads - Department of Environment and Science - Queensland Rail - Ergon Energy - Powerlink. <p>State agencies operating within Balonne LGA are reasonably expected to have knowledge on biosecurity risks that affect people, economy and the environment. Reasonable and practical measures must be taken to reduce risks of invasive biosecurity matter under their control.</p>
Local Government	<p>Queensland local government authorities in and adjoining the Balonne LGA, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maranoa Regional Council - Paroo Shire Council - Goondiwindi Regional Council - Western Downs Regional Council. <p>Local governments are required to develop, adopt and implement Biosecurity Plans and manage pests within their LGA.</p>

Area	Stakeholder and role
Biosecurity Advisory Committee	The Biosecurity Advisory Committee comprises of a group of key people with knowledge and expertise in the management of pests in the Balonne LGA. The BAC assists in the implementation and review of the Biosecurity Plan.
Stakeholder Groups	Stakeholder groups e.g. The Biosecurity Advisory Committee (BAC) may be established to facilitate and coordinate priority invasive pest management.
Industry	Businesses operating within Balonne LGA are reasonably expected to have knowledge on biosecurity risks that affect people, economy and the environment. Reasonable and practical measures must be taken to reduce risks of invasive biosecurity matter under their control.
Regional Organisations	<p>Numerous regional organisations are involved in natural resource management (including pest management) within Queensland.</p> <p>SQ Landscapes oversees the strategic delivery of community based natural resource management across the region.</p> <p>The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) is the peak body for local government in Queensland. It is a not-for-profit association that assists local councils in their dealings with state and federal government, business and the community. The LGAQ supports Regional Organisations of Councils (ROCs), including the Border Regional Organisation of Councils (BROC).</p>
Local Community Groups	Local groups such as fishing clubs and off-road 4WD groups have a responsibility to ensure their activities do not result in the increased spread of invasive biosecurity matter.
Private Landholders and Occupiers	Members of the local community who own and occupy land in the Balonne LGA, including urban, peri-urban and rural areas. Reasonable and practical measures must be taken to reduce risks of invasive biosecurity matter under their control.

Appendix 3 Pest prioritisation process

Pest prioritisation

Pests were prioritised against eight attributes within three categories (pest status, potential impact of the pest and capacity to manage the pest). Attributes and the associated scoring system are outlined below.

Table 12 Pest Prioritisation Scoring System used in Balonne LGA

Category	Attribute	Score			
		3	2	1	0
Status	National status	National alert list or national eradication program	Weed of National Significance (WoNS) or national feral animal list	Not scored	Not scored
	State declaration	Invasive prohibited matter	Invasive restricted matter or restricted matter - noxious fish	Not scored	Not scored
Potential impact	Environmental impact	Major impact on biodiversity and/or riparian areas	Moderate impact on biodiversity and/or riparian areas	Minor impact on biodiversity	No impact
	Social impact	Major risk to public health / safety (e.g. fatality) or amenity	Moderate risk to public health / safety / amenity	Minor annoyance	No impact
	Economic impact	Major threat to primary production, industry or transport	Moderate threat	Minor threat	No impact
Capacity to manage pest	Current / potential distribution	Localised with high potential to spread further in / beyond LGA	Widespread with moderate potential to spread further	Widespread with little risk of further spread	Not scored
	Invasiveness	Rapid dispersal mechanisms and high population growth rate	Moderate dispersal and population growth rate	Slow dispersal and population growth rate	Not scored

Category	Attribute	Score			
	Achievability	Population small and can be effectively contained / eradicated	Population large but can be effectively contained / reduced OR population small but no effective control	Population large and difficult to contain with current controls	Not scored

Scores for each attribute were combined to provide a total prioritisation score, which was used to categorise each pest species as High, Medium or Low priority as shown in Table 13. Prioritisation scores and categories are provided in Table 14 Prioritisation of pest plants Table 15.

Table 13 Prioritisation categories

Priority	Score
Low	0-9
Medium	10-14
High	15+

Table 14 Prioritisation of pest plants

Common name	Scientific name	Score									Priority
		National	State	Environment	Social	Economic	Distribution	Invasiveness	Achievability	Total Score	
African boxthorn	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	3	19	High
Common pest pear	<i>Opuntia stricta</i>	2	2	2	1	2	2	3	2	16	High
Coral cactus	<i>Cylindropuntia fulgida</i>	2	2	2	1	2	3	3	3	18	High
Devil's rope pear	<i>Cylindropuntia imbricata</i>	2	2	2	1	2	3	3	3	18	High
Hudson pear	<i>Cylindropuntia pallida, tunicata</i>	2	2	2	1	2	3	3	3	18	High
Harrisia cactus	<i>Harrisia martinii</i>	0	2	3	1	3	3	2	3	17	High

Common name	Scientific name	Score									Priority
Hymenachne	<i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i>	2	2	3	2	1	3	2	2	17	High
Mother-of-millions	<i>Bryophyllum delagoense</i>	0	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	18	High
Parkinsonia	<i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>	2	2	3	1	3	3	2	2	18	High
Parthenium	<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	20	High
Prickly acacia	<i>Vachellia nilotica</i>	2	2	3	1	2	3	2	3	18	High
Tiger pear	<i>Opuntia aurantiaca</i>	2	2	2	1	3	2	3	2	17	High
Velvety tree pear	<i>Opuntia tomentosa</i>	2	2	2	1	2	2	3	2	16	High
African lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	1	11	Medium
Bathurst burr	<i>Xanthium spinosum</i>	0	0	2	1	3	2	1	2	11	Medium
Cat's claw creeper	<i>Dolichandra unguis-cati</i>	0	0	3	1	1	3	3	3	14	Medium
Cotton-tails	<i>Froelichia floridana</i> , <i>F. gracilis</i>	0	0	1	0	2	3	2	2	10	Medium
Florestina	<i>Florestina tripteris</i>	0	0	1	0	2	3	2	3	11	Medium
Lantana	<i>Lantana camara</i>	2	2	2	0	1	3	2	2	14	Medium
Lippia	<i>Phyla canescens</i>	0	0	3	1	2	3	3	2	14	Medium
Mexican poppy	<i>Argemone ochroleuca</i>	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	12	Medium
Mimosa bush	<i>Vachellia farnesiana</i>	0	0	2	0	2	2	2	2	10	Medium
Night blooming cereus	<i>Cereus uruguayanus</i>	0	0	2	1	2	3	1	3	12	Medium
Noogoora burr	<i>Xanthium occidentale</i>	0	0	2	1	3	2	1	2	11	Medium
Paterson's curse	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	0	0	2	1	2	3	3	2	13	Medium
Saffron thistle	<i>Carthamus lanatus</i>	0	0	2	0	2	2	2	2	10	Medium

Common name	Scientific name	Score									Priority
Spear thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	0	0	2	1	2	3	2	2	12	Medium
Weir vine	<i>Ipomoea calobra</i>	0	0	2	1	2	3	2	2	12	Medium
Wild tobacco	<i>Solanum mauritianum</i>	0	0	2	0	3	3	2	3	13	Medium
Wild turnip weed	<i>Brassica tournefortii</i>	0	0	2	0	2	2	2	2	10	Medium
American malvastrum	<i>Malvastrum americanum</i>	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	2	7	Low
Blue heliotrope	<i>Heliotropium amplexicaule</i>	0	0	1	0	2	2	2	2	9	Low
Capeweed	<i>Arctotheca calendula</i>	0	0	1	0	3	2	2	1	9	Low
Common sowthistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	6	Low
Cretan weed	<i>Hedypnois rhagadioloides, Leontodon rhagadioloides</i>	0	0	1	0	1	3	2	2	9	Low
Crownbeard	<i>Verbesina encelioides</i>	0	0	1	0	2	1	2	1	7	Low
Goathead / Spiny emex	<i>Emex australis</i>	0	0	1	1	2	1	2	2	9	Low
Gomphrena weed	<i>Gomphrena celosioides</i>	0	0	1	1	1	2	2	2	9	Low
Khaki weed	<i>Alternanthera pungens</i>	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	Low
London rocket	<i>Sisymbrium irio</i>	0	0	1	0	1	2	2	1	7	Low
Maltese cockspur	<i>Centaurea melitensis</i>	0	0	2	0	2	2	1	2	9	Low
Mayne's pest	<i>Glandularia aristigera</i>	0	0	2	0	1	2	2	2	9	Low
Paddy melon / Pie melon	<i>Citrullus lanatus var.</i>	0	0	1	0	1	3	1	2	8	Low
Red natal grass	<i>Melinis repens</i>	0	0	2	0	1	1	3	1	8	Low
Small flowered mallow	<i>Malva parviflora</i>	0	0	1	0	2	1	3	1	8	Low

Common name	Scientific name	Score									Priority
Sow thistle	<i>Sonchus asper</i> subsp. <i>glaucescens</i>	0	0	1	0	1	3	2	2	9	Low
Spiny burr grass	<i>Cenchrus incertus</i>	0	0	1	1	2	3	1	2	10	Low
Tall fleabane	<i>Conyza bonariensis</i>	0	0	1	0	2	2	2	1	8	Low

Table 15 Prioritisation of pest animals

Common name	Scientific name	Score									Priority
		National	State	Environment	Social	Economic	Distribution	Invasiveness	Achievability	Total Score	
European fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	2	2	3	1	2	1	2	2	15	High
European rabbit (domestic and wild breeds)	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	2	2	3	1	2	1	3	3	16	High
Feral pig	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	2	2	3	3	3	1	3	3	19	High
Wild dog (other than domestic dog)	<i>Canis spp.</i>	0	2	3	3	3	1	2	2	16	High
Feral chital deer	<i>Axis axis</i>	2	2	3	2	1	1	2	2	14	Medium
Cat (other than domestic cat)	<i>Felis catus</i>	2	2	3	2	1	1	2	2	14	Medium
European carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	0	2	3	2	0	1	3	3	12	Medium
Feral goats	<i>Capra hircus</i>	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	14	Medium
Gambusia / Mosquitofish	<i>Gambusia holbrooki</i>	0	2	3	2	0	3	3	3	14	Medium

Appendix 4 Information sources

Advice and assistance in the identification and management of pests can be obtained from numerous sources, including Council, regional groups and state agencies (e.g. Biosecurity Queensland, DPI).

Useful online information sources include:

- Biosecurity matters in Queensland including weeds and pest animals <https://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity>
- Weed and pest animal fact sheets <https://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/invasive-plants-animals/fact-sheets#invasive-animals-pests>
- Interactive maps of weed distribution in Queensland <https://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/invasive-plants-animals/pest-mapping>
- Australian invasive species <https://keys.lucidcentral.org/search/environmental-weeds-of-australia/>

Profiles of priority pest animals and pests are provided by DPI and include:

- description of key diagnostic features for the species
- distribution within Queensland
- methods of reproduction and dispersal
- environmental, social and economic impacts
- effective control methods

<https://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/invasive-plants-animals/fact-sheets>

Revision History

Revision No.	Revision date	Details	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by
00	13/11/2019	Balonne Shire Council Biosecurity Plan - final	Digby Whyte - BSC input	Julie Whelan, Senior Environmental Scientist	
01	15/02/2026	Review and update	Liz Otto - BSC staff input		
02	14/04/2026	Balonne Shire Council Biosecurity Advisory Committee Review	Liz Otto - BAC input	Draft prepared for consultation	