Central West Regional Biosecurity Strategy

2024-2029

Table of Contents

Foreword

I am pleased to present the Central West Regional Biosecurity Strategy 2024-2029.

This plan is a vital community tool, as it provides a strategic regional approach to improving the coordination and delivery of on ground, nil tenure pest animal management activities for terrestrial vertebrate and freshwater aquatic pest species, and invasive pest weeds in Western Queensland.

The Central West Regional Biosecurity Strategy 2024-2029 supported by the RAPAD Group of Councils is an excellent example how we can think regionally and act locally to achieve positive outcomes through combining resources. It supports local communities with the tools so they can work together to protect the environment, community and economy from the negative impacts of pest animals and weeds, and to support positive outcomes for our landscapes and ensure we maintain a bio-secure environment.

The Central West Regional Biosecurity Strategy 2024-2029 represents the importance of using our valuable resource and its relevant economic, environment and community benefit for each region. The Central West Regional Pest Management Group delivers a collaborative approach to setting regional priorities and is integral to the ongoing effective delivery of pest animal and weed management outcomes in the region.

This strategy is a product of extensive collaboration and engagement across numerous stakeholders involved in pest animal and weed management. It will continue to grow and evolve with the changing environment and is an excellent framework to contribute to the delivery of improved coordinated pest species management in Western Queensland.

We are justifiably proud of our ability, as several very different councils, to be able to work collaboratively together in the interests of protecting our unique environment for future generations.

Mr Eric (Rick) Britton
Mayor
Boulia Shire Council.

Executive Summary

- The Central West Queensland (CWQ) Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD) is the Regional Organisation of Councils for the seven shires of CWQ. They form the Central West Regional Pest Management Group (CWRPMG) and work together for regional pest management.
- RAPAD as the regional group of seven council areas, has this Key Priority in its 2022-2025 Strategic Plan – *RAPAD will enhance environmental outcomes and regional biosecurity through supporting innovation and leading the collaboration with federal, state and local governments, key stakeholder groups and landowners.*
- The CWRPMG established the Central West Regional Pest Partnership Group (CWRPPG) as the regional action group. The operational arm of CWQ local governments is the Shire Rural Lands Officers Group (SRLOG).
- This Central West Regional Biosecurity (CWRB) Strategy (2024-2029) was developed in accordance with the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act). By doing so the Strategy contributes to a consistent, modern, risk-based and less prescriptive approach to the region's biosecurity.
- The goal of the Central West Regional Biosecurity Strategy (CWRBS) is to involve and ensure all community members are aware of and are responsibly managing their biosecurity obligations. This Strategy encourages the community to act in accordance with the Act.
- Achieving the goal of the CWRB Strategy involves using the seven (7) principles of weed management in Australia to guide planning, investment and actions (Page 7).
- The General Biosecurity Obligations (Page 8) and the CWRB Strategy recognise biosecurity is everyone's responsibility, and all in the community can take a role to ensure we minimise biosecurity risks.
- Individuals must recognise and minimise biosecurity risks within their industry, home, or places they are visiting. As well, individuals and organisations whose activities pose a biosecurity risk must take all reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimise each biosecurity risk.
- The Act provides steps as the means to prevent or minimise biosecurity risks (Page 8).
- Table 1 shows the potential and often experienced impacts of invasive plants and animals on key environments in the Central West (Page 9).
- Risk-based decision-making for invasive species focuses on managing agreed outcomes, shared responsibility and keeping the number of prescribed requirements to a minimum. The benefit is flexibility in the application of the legislation and supports proportionate and rapid responses when required.
- Table 2 shows the management goals for each stage. They align to the management stages of the Generalised Invasion Curve. As well as highlighting the management goals, Table 2 also shows the challenges for success in each stage (Page 11).
- The successful application of the CWRB Strategy requires Local Government Officers who are trained for their roles.
- The Strategy will commence from the time that the Strategy is adopted by CWRPMG and endorsed by member councils. A 2026 review will ensure that the CWRPMG is aware of any changes in the nature of biosecurity risks.

Introduction

The Central West Queensland (CWQ) Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD) is the Regional Organisation of Councils for the seven shires of CWQ. Member councils, agreed in late 2010 to work together for regional pest management in partnership with other regional stakeholders and formed the Central West Regional Pest Management Group (CWRPMG).

The CWRPMG:

- Provides opportunities for more effective strategic control of pest animals and invasive plants through setting regionally agreed priorities, providing effective coordination and lobbing for resources.
- Established the Central West Regional Pest Partnership Group (CWRPPG) as the regional action group. It is made up of Rural Lands Officers (RLOs) from partner Councils, technical support from Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) and Desert Channels Queensland (DCQ) as well as partners AgForce and Lake Eyre Basin Rangers.

Regional Profile

The CWQ Region:

- Includes the seven local government areas of Barcaldine, Blackall-Tambo and Longreach Regional Councils and the Winton, Barcoo, Boulia and Diamantina Shire Councils. Total area is 396,609 km² which is 22.9% of the land area of Queensland.
- Has diverse landscapes
    - Open woodlands, spinifexes and escarpments of the Desert Uplands along the Great Dividing Range
    - Mitchell Grass Downs
    - Channel Country floodplains
    - Simpson-Strzelecki Dunefields – the driest part of Queensland
    - Mulga and Brigalow lands.
- Contains wetlands of international significance and national importance.
- Lies mostly within the Lake Eyre Basin catchment with smaller areas to the south-east in the Murray Darling catchment and to the east in the Burdekin and Fitzroy catchments.

The Strategy

The first Central West Regional Biosecurity Strategy (Plan) was for the years 2015-2022.

This Central West Regional Biosecurity (CWRB) Strategy (2024-2029) was developed in accordance with the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act). The Act provides comprehensive biosecurity measures to safeguard the economy, agricultural and tourism industries, environment and way of life. The Act sets out how the Act is implemented and applied. Developed in accordance with The Act, the Strategy for CWQ contributes to a consistent, modern, risk-based and less prescriptive approach to the region's biosecurity.

Stakeholders involved in the CWRB Strategy (2024-2027) preparation included:

- Commonwealth Government
- Regional NRM Groups – Desert Channels Queensland (DCQ), Southern Queensland Landscapes (SQL), NQ Dry Tropics, Desert Uplands Committee and Lake Eyre Basin Rangers (LEBR),

- Queensland State Government agencies with responsibilities in pest and land management – Biosecurity Queensland and the Department of Resources (DoR).
- Other partners are State agencies active in weed and pest control – the Department of National Parks, Recreation Sport and Racing (DNPRSR), Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) and Queensland Rail (QR).
- Additional partners are AgForce, the peak body representing many Queensland beef, sheep and wool, sugarcane and grains primary producers, as well as the region's Landcare and local pest management groups.

The operational arm of local governments is their respective Rural Lands Officers which are responsible for local government-controlled lands and pest management in their regions.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of each local government is responsible for delivery of the outcomes in the Central West Regional Biosecurity Strategy specific to their local government area. This is achieved by each local government developing individual biosecurity plans, as is required in the Act.

RAPAD as the regional group of seven council areas, has the following as a Key Priority in its 2022-2025 Strategic Plan:

- RAPAD will enhance environmental outcomes and regional biosecurity through supporting innovation and leading the collaboration with federal, state and local governments, key stakeholder groups and landowners.
- Link to RAPAD strategic documents: RAPAD Strategic Plan https://rapad.com.au/publications/strategic-plan/

Scope

The Strategy considers biosecurity matters under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (Qld), as well as identified region-specific threats within the following local government areas:

- Barcaldine Regional Council (BRC)
- Barcoo Shire Council (BaSC)
- Blackall-Tambo Regional Council (BTRC)
- Boulia Shire Council (BSC)
- Diamantina Shire Council (DSC)
- Longreach Regional Council (LRC)
- Winton Shire Council (WSC).

Goal of Central West Regional Biosecurity Strategy

The Strategy recognises the uniqueness of the regional landscape and the need to protect its ecosystems from plant and animal pests.

The goal of the Strategy is to involve all community members, ensuring they are aware of and responsibly managing their biosecurity obligations, having special regard for the region's biodiversity, its agricultural and economic base, and cultural values.

This Strategy encourages the community to act in accordance with the Act through measures such as:

- Targeted communication and education activities

- Timely provision of information and advice
- Encouraging voluntary compliance, cooperative assistance and collaboration
- Raising awareness of the benefits of complying with the Act, and the potential consequences of non-compliance

Achieving the goal of the Strategy involves the application of key pest control activities, most effective when partners within the biosecurity system utilise similar principles to guide planning and investment. The *Queensland Invasive Plants and Animal Strategy 2019-2024* "embodies seven fundamental principles that underpin effective management of invasive plants and animals. The principles provide a common basis for all of Queensland, and should be incorporated into strategies, plans and actions across all management levels".

The guiding principles are:

1. **Integration, collaboration and coordination**
   Managing invasive species is an integral part of managing natural resources, biodiversity in our environment, and agricultural systems. It is best when integrated at every level by land managers, the community, industry and government. To achieve a collaborative and coordinated approach to management, we need to establish long-term consultation and partnership arrangements, including the consistent reporting and sharing of agreed datasets between land managers, local communities, industry groups, NRM groups, and federal, state and local governments.
2. **Strategic risk-based planning**
   Planning for management of invasive species is most effective when guided by the latest research and best practice, and when focused on risk-based decisions and greatest return on investment. This will ensure that resources target the priorities identified at local, regional, state and national levels.
3. **Shared responsibility and commitment**
   To effectively manage invasive species, we need shared responsibility and long-term commitment by everyone in the biosecurity network, including land managers, the community, industry groups and government. Everybody should play their part to minimise the impacts of invasive species on the economy, the environment, health and social amenity. Those who create biosecurity risks and those who benefit from management activities will be called upon to contribute to the costs.
4. **Capability building through education and awareness**
   Public education and awareness campaigns on invasive species will increase the community's capability and willingness to participate in management and control. For long-term best practice management, we need ongoing, targeted capability and capacity building within industry, NRM groups, and local, state and federal governments.
5. **Prevention and early intervention**
   Risk-based prevention and early intervention is generally the most cost-effective approach for managing invasive species. This approach can be assisted by:
   - developing and implementing early detection, diagnostics and monitoring systems
   - preventing spread, especially human-assisted spread.
6. **Best practice and research**
   Management is most effective when following evidence-based practices that protect the environment and the productive capacity of natural resources while minimising impacts on the

community. Ongoing research and extension programs will inform the development of best practice management and policies.

7. **Monitoring and evaluation**

   We need regular monitoring and evaluation of control activities, including establishment of baselines and reporting on agreed shared datasets against baselines, to make evidence-based decisions and improve management practices.

Source: Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2019-2024

General Biosecurity Obligations

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* provides advice on how an individual's obligations can be met. In doing so it provides steps to prevent or minimise biosecurity risks[1].

Biosecurity is everyone's responsibility, and all in the community can take a role to ensure we minimise biosecurity risks to protect Queensland's lifestyle, industries and environment from pests and diseases.

All Queenslanders have a general biosecurity obligation (GBO) under Queensland's *Biosecurity Act 2014* to ensure you do not spread a pest, disease or a contaminant.

This means everyone is responsible for managing biosecurity risks that are under their control and to do so to the best of their ability. Individuals must recognise and minimise biosecurity risks within their industry, home, or places they are visiting.

Under the GBO, individuals and organisations whose activities pose a biosecurity risk must:

- Take all reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimise each biosecurity risk.
- Minimise the likelihood of causing a 'biosecurity event' and limit the consequences if such an event is caused.
- Prevent or minimise the harmful effects a risk could have and not do anything that might make any harmful effects worse.

Steps to Prevent or Minimise a Biosecurity Risk

The Act provides these steps as the means to prevent or minimise biosecurity risks:

- **Come clean, go clean** - before entering and leaving agricultural properties, parks or forests, ensure your shoes, clothing, vehicles or equipment are free from weed seeds, dirt, soil or debris.
- **Check for and follow biosecurity zones and other movement restrictions** - before moving certain plant material, animals, food products, soil and related equipment, ensure you are aware of and comply with any requirements in your area.
- **Spot and report anything unusual** - if this is the first time you have noticed a pest or disease, and you think it may have an impact on human health, social amenity, the economy or the environment, report it immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.
- **Know the property**—Before entering someone's property, make sure you are aware of what their biosecurity management plan requires, if there is one in place.
- **Take reasonable steps to be informed about pests and diseases** visit your local government websites for more information on specific risks to your area.

[1] The State of Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries 2010–2022.

Impacts and Risks

Table 1 shows the potential and often experienced impacts of invasive plants and animal on key environments in the Central West.

	Terrestrial biodiversity and conservation environments	Agricultural production areas	Community and residential areas
Invasive plant impacts	• Smother and transform ecosystems • Outcompete native species • Reduce the ecological values of natural areas	• Reduce productivity by outcompeting desirable pasture species • Increase costs of production • Contribute to loss of production/income	• Reduce access to, amenity and scenic values of natural areas • Cause health issues • Reduce function and values of open space areas
Invasive animal impacts	• Displace and prey on native species • Degrade natural bushlands and ecosystems	• Outcompete livestock • Contribute to loss of production • Prey on and threaten livestock • Carry diseases and parasites that can impact on livestock	• Destroy infrastructure • Cause traffic hazards • Prey on native and domestic animal species

Table 1 - Potential impacts of invasive plants and animals on key environments (Adapted from North Burnett Local Government Area Biosecurity Plan 2019-2024)

Risk Assessment

Risk-based decision-making for invasive species now focuses on managing agreed outcomes, shared responsibility and keeping the number of prescribed requirements to a minimum. The benefit is flexibility in the application of the legislation and supports proportionate and rapid responses when required.

A risk-based approach to the management of invasive plants and animals is now being trialled in the RAPAD group of Councils to achieve its goals to manage any invasive species. 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.

All Councils within the RAPAD footprint will develop individual Biosecurity Plans. They will however utilise a standard approach to analyse risk and determine management outcomes for their area.

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

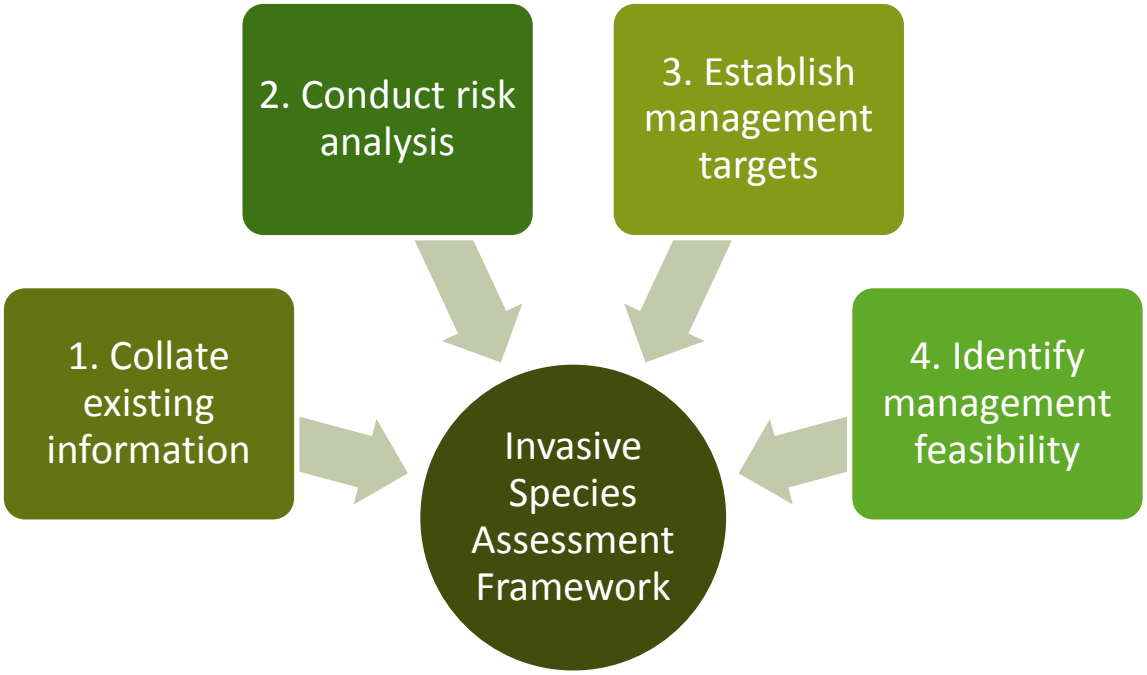


Figure 1 - Invasive Species Assessment Framework (Drawn from the North Burnett Regional Council (NBRC) Biosecurity Plan 2019-2024)

Locally Significant Pests and Management Actions

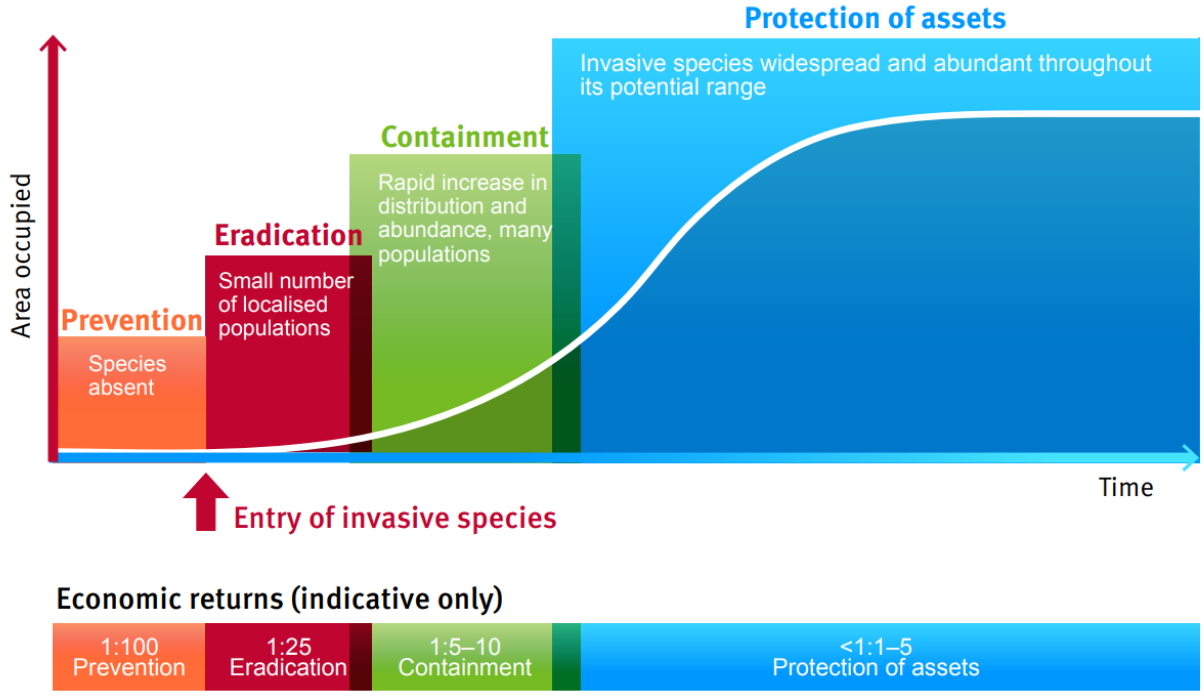
The Generalised Invasion Curve in Figure 2 demonstrates the invasion continuum and the associated gradient in return on investment at any point along the continuum and is based on the stages of invasion of a high-risk species.

The role of government, the responsibilities of industries/communities and the scale of industry/community benefits that accrue from government investment also vary depending on the stage of 'invasion'[2].

The invasion curve highlights the most appropriate approach to the management of invasive species, based on the area occupied as well as the indicative economic returns for each management option. The approach needed to prevent the entry of, or to eradicate an invasive species is very different to that of containment or asset protection.

There are Weeds of National Significance (WONS) in CWQ and these are shown in Appendix 2. National management strategies have been published for all WoNS species. As well, national management groups have been established to oversee the implementation of the respective national strategic plans.

[2] *(National framework for the management of established pests and diseases of national significance – National Biosecurity Committee 2016)*



Generalised invasion curve showing actions appropriate to each stage

Source: *Biosecurity strategy for Victoria* (2009)

Figure 2 - Generalised Invasion Curve

Table 2 shows the management goal for each stage. They align to the management stages of the Generalised Invasion Curve. As well as highlighting the management goals, Table 2 also shows the challenges for success in each stage, and how achievement will be measured.

Management Goal 1 Stage: Prevention	**Prevent the establishment of new invasive species in the Central West** The challenge is to: • identify high risk invasive species early in their appearance and before they establish. • speedily assess potential invasiveness. • speedily implement effective barriers to prevent their entry. ***How will we know if we have achieved this goal?*** ▪ No new invasive species are found in the region. ***How will achievement be measured?*** ▪ The number of new invasive species identified as having potential impact on the Central West is stable.
Management Goal 2 Stage: Eradication	**Eliminate new establishments of invasive species in the Central West** The challenge in this stage is to develop and deploy effective and efficient ways to eradicate a new infestation of an introduced invasive species before it spreads. ***How will we know if when have achieved this goal?*** ▪ New invasive species are effectively managed to prevent establishment in the region through the application of efficient control responses.

	▪ Established invasive species that have potential to be eradicated due to isolation are effectively removed, with future monitoring identifying no further establishments. ***How will achievement be measured?*** ▪ The number of new invasive species that are prevented from establishment in the Central West due to effective management is stable since previous assessment. ▪ The number of invasive species that have moved from the eradication stage to another stage (prevention, containment, asset protection). ▪ The number of invasive species eradication activities undertaken, with increasing participation and engagement from stakeholders.
Management Goal 3 Stage: Containment	**Contain the spread of existing invasive species to known areas** The challenge is to identify areas free of invasive species and develop and deploy approaches to contain the invasive species to a known area. ***How will we know if when have achieved this goal?*** ▪ Existing invasive species infestations are contained to the known area and prevented from becoming widespread throughout the Central West. ***How will achievement be measured?*** ▪ The number of invasive species that have moved from the containment stage to another stage (prevention, eradication, asset protection). ▪ Distribution and density of existing invasive species infestations in known areas is decreasing. ▪ The number of invasive species containment areas or known locations changes (increases or decreases). ▪ The number of invasive species containment activities undertaken, with increasing participation and engagement from stakeholders.
Management Goal 4 Stage: Asset Protection	**Reduce the impacts of widespread invasive species in the Central West** The challenge is to manage or control these invasive species to reduce their impact where the benefits of control are the greatest. ***How will we know if when have achieved this goal?*** ▪ Management and control investments will be directed based on the greatest benefit. ***How will achievement be measured?*** ▪ The benefits of control of the invasive species is proven to outweigh the investment required. ▪ The impact of invasive species on economic, agricultural, social, and conservation/biodiversity factors changes (increases or decreases). ▪ The number of invasive species that have moved from the asset protection stage to another stage (prevention, eradication, containment). ▪ The number of invasive species containment activities undertaken, with increasing participation and engagement from stakeholders.

Table 2 - Invasive Species Management Goals and Challenges (Adapted from NBRC Biosecurity Plan)

Biosecurity Program and Local Government

Management of invasive plants or animals across the RAPAD region in Central West Queensland will be done by each local government in line with the purpose of collaborating to achieve the optimum outcome for each local government area.

It requires Local Government Officers who:

- Can conduct regular and situation-targeted surveillance programs to identify new and emerging pest weed and animal incursions.
- Can monitor and report management actions for existing pest incursions.
- Are trained to address the threats, collect the data and prepare the status reports, as well as in the ways to generate community awareness and action.
- Can conduct prevention and control programs through knowledge of best industry practice and can undertake stakeholder/community engagement for appropriate responses.

For locally declared pest weeds and animals, triggers will be discussed and set by each of the seven local governments. For example, Leucaena (*Leucaena spp.*), Sticky Florestina (*Florestina tripteris*), deer (all species) and birds such as Common or Indian Myna (*Acridotheres spp.*) have been identified as emerging or potential threats in our region based on evidence from other regions within Queensland. Localised concerns may be brought from Councils through the Central West Regional Pest Partnership Group (CWRPPG) to the CWRPMG as the decision-making body for pest management for consideration as a regional issue, and group members will inform their respective Councils of outcomes of local significance.

Where imminent threats are identified they can be escalated to a regional focus with support from the CWRPPG and the CWRPMG. Regional priorities will be identified during this process, with co-investment opportunities investigated.

Community Engagement

Community engagement was undertaken in the period between the February and May 2023 meetings of the CWRPMG. The Draft Strategy was provided to stakeholders and community for their review and comment.

Outcomes

Membership of the CWRPMG, the decision-making body for the Central West Regional Biosecurity Strategy (CWRB Strategy), provides representation of each RAPAD Council and is essential to achieving the outcomes of the Strategy.

Outcomes will come from working with the CWRPMG and will be achieved through active engagement of stakeholders, landholders and community in the process of pest management control.

For the CWRPMG their focus will be to generate awareness, education and collaborative action. For each local government Council their focus will shift to awareness, education, compliance and enforcement. The shift embeds the principle of shared responsibility for managing biosecurity risks among government, community and rural industries where it includes invasive weed and animal pests. As well the shift demonstrates that biosecurity management applies equally to all land in the state, regardless of whether it is publicly or privately owned.

Individual RAPAD Councils will:

- Encourage landholders to complete and maintain Property Pest Management Plans (PPMP) to enable the identification and monitoring of pest weeds and animals and the control actions they've taken. This data can be used in funding applications, biosecurity planning activities and, if needed, implementing containment zones and the like.
- Collate all data (e.g. known pest quantities and densities) collected in their council areas to a central database. This data will be used for monitoring, research, individual council and RAPAD funding applications, as well as planned containment and eradication activities.
- Identify potential local risk areas such as:
    - Existing and emerging pest infestations
    - Potential high-risk areas and the actions to be taken
    - Potential vector pathways such as roadways, rivers, rail corridor etc.

Review and Reporting

The Strategy will commence from the time that the Strategy is adopted by CWRPMG and endorsed by member councils. It will be in force for 5 years, 2024-2029. A 2026 review will ensure that the RAPAD group of Councils is well placed to respond to any changes in the nature of biosecurity risks in the region. Specific details of the review process will be those agreed to by the CWRPMG.

Review and reporting to CWRPMG will be done annually. Annual reviews will cover:

- Known infestations in map format,
- Emerging threats, and
- Activities undertaken and planned e.g. community engagement, coordinated projects, funding outcomes (acquittals) and media.

A major review of the Central West Biosecurity Strategy (2024-2029) will commence in 2028 for completion in 2029.

Council may amend, replace or approve minor revisions of the Strategy at any time, if required in accordance with relevant requirements of the *Biosecurity Act 2014* or any other statutory requirements as they arise.

References, Resources and Further Information

Individual Council Biosecurity Plans will be referenced here as they become available from each of the seven Councils.

Australian Pest Animal Strategy 2017-2027

Australian Weeds Strategy 2017-2027

Biosecurity Act 2014

Queensland Weed and Pest Animal Strategy 2019-2024

Queensland Biosecurity Strategy 2018-2023

Department Biodiversity conservation strategy

Acronym Glossary

BQ	Biosecurity Qld Department Agriculture Fisheries
CWRBS	Central West Regional Biosecurity Strategy
CWRPMG	Central West Regional Pest Management Group
CWRPPG	Central West Regional Pest Partnership Group
CWQ	Central Western Queensland
DAF	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
DCQ	Desert Channels Qld
DNPRSR	Department of National Parks, Recreation Sport and Racing
DoR	Department of Resources
DTMR	Department of Transport and Main Roads
DUC	Desert Uplands Committee
GBO	General Biosecurity Obligation
ISAF	Invasive Species Assessment Framework
LEBR	Lake Eyre Basin Rangers
LG	Local Government
NQDT	North Queensland Dry Tropics
QR	Queensland Rail
RAPAD	Remote Area Planning and Development Board
SQL	Southern Queensland Landscapes

Appendix 1 – CWRPMG

The purpose and role of the CWRPMG is written in its constitutional document as:

- Take a leadership and advocacy role in the effective regional planning and management of animal and plant pests in the Central West RAPAD group of Councils
- Provide the regional governance for the activities and projects of the Land Protection On-Ground and Research Fund
- Enhance local/regional ownership of projects and activities funded.

The objectives of the CWRPMG are to:

- Provide leadership, coordination and priority setting, with regards to advocacy to and funding from Federal and State sources, for:
  - Pest management activities in the region generally and
  - Pest management on stock routes and other State land.

Specifically, the CWRPMG is to:

- Identify priorities for Owner Reimbursement Cost (ORC) investment that are based on regional pest management priorities identified in Local Government Biosecurity Plans, risk assessment of emerging species or issues and relevant State pest management plans.
- Review currently funded ORC activities against regional priorities for continuation or transition to new investments.
- Consider interactions with other funded programs in the region, such as, but not limited to, Land and Sea Ranger programs.
- Reach consensus on priorities and projects in a collaborative manner.
- Engage with stakeholders to identify other projects and priorities that leverage additional resources for enhanced outcomes.
- Develop ORC project Expressions of Interest including approximate resource requirements for coordination and alignment by the Statewide Oversight Group.
- Engage and coordinate with other Regional Pest Management Sub-Committees on potential ORC projects/activities.
- Undertake six monthly ORC project implementation reviews and provide regional views to the Statewide Oversight Group about Statewide projects.

Appendix 2 – Weeds of National Significance

WONS – Weeds of National Significance

Under the National Weeds Strategy, 32 introduced plants were identified as Weeds of National Significance (WONS). This list of 32 WONS was developed based on the following key criteria:

- invasive tendencies
- impacts
- potential for spread
- socioeconomic and environmental values.

National management strategies and manuals have been published for all of these species. National management groups have been established for each of these species to oversee the implementation of the respective national strategic plans.

Cat. → R/I = Restricted Invasive P = Prohibited

Weed – Common Name	Cat.	RAPAD?
African Boxthorn	R/I 3	
Alligator Weed	R/I 3	
Athel Pine	R/I 3	●
Asparagus Ferns (7 species)	R/I 3	
Bellyache Bush	R/I 3	●
Bitou Bush	R/I 2,3,4,5	
Blackberry	R/I 3	
Bridal Creeper	R/I 2,3,4,5	
Brooms		
Cabomba	R/I 3	
Cat's Claw Creeper	R/I 3	?
Chilean Needle Grass	R/I 3	
Fireweed	R/I 3	
Gamba Grass	R/I 3	
Gorse		
Hymenachne	R/I 3	
Lantana	R/I 3	
Mesquite	P/R/I 3	●
Madeira Vine	R/I 3	
Mimosa Pigra	R/I 2,3,4,5	
Opuntioid Cacti		●
Parkinsonia	R/I 3	●
Parthenium Weed	R/I 3	●
Pond Apple	R/I 3	
Prickly Acacia	R/I 3	●
Rubber Vine	R/I 3	●
Sagittaria	R/I 3	
Salvinia	P/R/I 3	
Serrated Tussock	P/I 2,3,4,5	
Silverleaf Nightshade	R/I 3	
Water Hyacinth	R/I 3	
Willows	R/I 3	

Opuntioid Cacti
Prohibited & Restricted Invasive cacti
• Aaron's beard cactus *(Opuntia leucotricha)* • Blind cactus *(Opuntia rufida)* • *Opuntia puberula* (no common name) • Sulphur cactus *(Opuntia sulfurea)* • Violet prickly pear *(Opuntia gosseliniana)* • Wheel cactus *(Opuntia robusta)*
Restricted invasive cacti
• Bunny ears cactus *(Opuntia microdasys)* **R/I 2,3,4,5** • Cane cactus *(Austrocylindropuntia cylindrica)* • Common pest pear, spiny pest pear *(Opuntia stricta)* **R/I 3** • Coral cactus *(Cylindropuntia fulgida)* **R/I 3** • Devil's rope pear *(Cylindropuntia imbricata)* **R/I 3** • Drooping tree pear *(Opuntia monacantha)* **R/I 3** • Eve's pin cactus *(Austrocylindropuntia subulata)* **R/I 3** • Hudson pear *(Cylindropuntia pallida & Cylindro. tunicata)* **R/I 2,3,4,5** • Jumping cholla *(Cylindropuntia prolifera)* **R/I 2,3,4,5** • Riverina pear *(Opuntia elata)* **R/I 3** • Snake cactus *(Cylindropuntia spinosior)* **R/I 3** • Tiger pear *(Opuntia aurantiaca)* • Velvety tree pear *(Opuntia tomentosa)* **R/I 3** • Westwood pear *(Opuntia streptacantha)*

Category 2	The invasive plant must be reported within 24 hours Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.
Category 3	The invasive plant must not be distributed either by sale or gift, or released into the environment.
Category 4	The invasive plant must not be moved.
Category 5	The invasive plant must not be kept.

This Strategy was prepared by the Longreach Regional Council on behalf of the Central West Regional Pest Partnership Group (CWRPPG) and the seven local governments within RAPAD.