

## R-CM 12: Yellow Crazy Ant Control

Involve the community in conducting a comprehensive eradication program for Yellow Crazy Ants and Electric Ants in the Wet Tropics, using a range of innovative and traditional approaches.

This strategy delivers on these Regional Themes	Biodiversity	Biosecurity	Coastal Systems	Sustainable Industries	Water
	✓	✓		✓	
This strategy delivers on these Strategic Outcomes	Supportive, policies, plans and regulations	Collaborative, adaptive planning and action	Traditional Owner Benefits	Sustained and diverse resourcing	Community stewardship, values and action
		✓			✓
Outcome	<p>Community involvement in effective control of invasive ant species is essential to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Secure protection of the region's habitats, wildlife and lifestyles.</li> <li>▪ Reduce additional threats to natural systems, which are already facing a range of pressures.</li> <li>▪ Enable a rapid response to existing and emerging biosecurity threats.</li> <li>▪ Build community stewardship and involvement in biosecurity across the region.</li> </ul>				
Justification	<p>These species pose a significant threat to local habitats and wildlife, as well as people's lifestyles in the region. As outbreaks are currently confined to a few discrete locations, total eradication is possible, but it will require rapid, concerted and ongoing effort. The community is in an excellent position to implement and monitor control programs. With appropriate training and resources, they are able to mobilise quickly and respond to new and emerging biosecurity threats, as well as effectively monitor control success.</p>				
Key steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Review existing practices for monitoring, early detection, reporting and response protocols. Update, where required, to ensure effective coordination and communication between government agencies and community.</li> <li>2) Ensure effective training mechanisms are in place for community volunteers, including on-ground control techniques, monitoring and recording and evaluating results.</li> <li>3) Establish / maintain partnerships with all relevant stakeholders, including research organisations, to ensure best practices are used in control and monitoring techniques.</li> <li>4) Adapt the monitoring and control program, where required, based on results gathered.</li> </ol>				
Feasibility considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The community is already heavily involved in control and monitoring programs and has the capacity to deliver effective results.</li> <li>✓ Involving the community provides a much larger pool of people, who actually live in infected areas, to control and monitor the species on a regular basis.</li> <li>✓ Training and engaging the community provides the capacity for a rapid response unit, which could be utilised in the face of potential new biosecurity threats.</li> <li>✗ Complete eradication of invasive species is a difficult task, requiring a long term commitment to control and monitoring.</li> <li>✗ There is a risk of community volunteer burn-out.</li> </ul>				

Local Landscape Projects	Local Landscape Project	Location
	NT1 Yellow Crazy Ants No More	Russett Park, Kuranda, Smithfield, Gordonvale
	CN1 Yellow Crazy Ants No More	Cairns local landscape