

R-CM 13: Reducing the Impact of Feral Animals

Investigate and implement coordinated and innovative biosecurity measures to reduce the impact of feral pests on natural and productive systems.

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>Coordinated and innovative biosecurity measures for the Wet Tropics, and beyond, will lead to more effective pest management, ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Control efforts are maximised. ▪ Impacts of feral animals are reduced, with improved environmental and agricultural outcomes. ▪ More stable agricultural enterprises, with greater ability for land managers to focus on other areas, such as farm diversification or natural resource management. 				
Justification	<p>Feral animals, particularly pigs, have an enormous impact on the health of natural and productive systems, as well as imposing huge time and monetary costs on land managers. Building on existing biosecurity networks and expanding pro-active partnerships, implementing coordinated control programs and using innovative technologies and approaches, can all contribute to the most effective control possible and maximise the resources available and efforts of all involved. The investigation of innovative approaches, like the use of drones in locating pests or the development of markets around pest animals, could contribute to good on-ground outcomes.</p>				
Key steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Identify existing biosecurity partnerships and opportunities for new collaborations, to ensure good access to knowledge and resources for maximum effectiveness. 2) Utilise existing frameworks and collaborative partnerships to review and prioritise biosecurity efforts. 3) Maintain effective communication with the community to ensure support from landholders and strong community involvement and stewardship. 4) Ensure effective monitoring programs are in place, to determine progress and challenges across the landscape. 				
Feasibility considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ There are already good biosecurity networks and partnerships in place across the region. ✓ Effective biosecurity prioritisation frameworks have already been developed for the Wet Tropics, providing the basis for good planning and implementation. ✗ Management of invasive species is an ongoing and difficult task, requiring a long term commitment to control and monitoring. ✗ The development of industries around pest species could result in feral animals being viewed as a commodity to be retained in the landscape, rather than something to be eradicated. 				

Local Landscape Projects	Local Landscape Project	Location
	NT2 Pig Trapping Program	Northern Tablelands
	NC1 Pig Partnerships	Northern Cassowary Coast
	NC2 Research About Uses of Pests and Weeds	Northern Cassowary Coast
	SC7 Feral Pig Program	Mission Beach and southern coastal areas
	SC23 Pest Eradication	Cardwell, Kennedy, Murray and Tully catchments
	HB1 Business Opportunities From Pests	Across the landscape - where the feral animals are
	HB2 Collaborative, Innovative Pig Control	Creeks, rivers, wetlands and rainforest areas across the entire catchment