



COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA

20 JUNE 2023

Your attendance is required at a Communities Committee meeting of Council to be held in the Council Chambers, 232 Bolsover Street, Rockhampton on 20 June 2023 commencing at 9:00am for transaction of the enclosed business.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R Chessman".

ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
13 June 2023

Next Meeting Date: 18.07.23

Please note:

In accordance with the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, please be advised that all discussion held during the meeting is recorded for the purpose of verifying the minutes. This will include any discussion involving a Councillor, staff member or a member of the public.

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1 OPENING

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

2 PRESENT

Members Present:

The Mayor, Councillor A P Williams (Chairperson)
Deputy Mayor, Councillor N K Fisher
Councillor S Latcham
Councillor C E Smith
Councillor C R Rutherford
Councillor M D Wickerson
Councillor D M Kirkland
Councillor G D Mathers

In Attendance:

Mr R Cheesman – Acting Chief Executive Officer

3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Communities Committee held 16 May 2023

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

6 BUSINESS OUTSTANDING

Nil

7 PUBLIC FORUMS/DEPUTATIONS

Nil

8 PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

Nil

9 COUNCILLOR/DELEGATE REPORTS

Nil

10 OFFICERS' REPORTS

10.1 TRUSTEE LEASE AND PERMIT RENEWALS FOR MOUNT MORGAN SHOWGROUNDS

File No:	8730,8244,13743
Attachments:	1. Lease Areas Mount Morgan Showgrounds ↓
Authorising Officer:	John Webb - Manager Communities and Culture Alicia Cutler - General Manager Community Services
Author:	Mark Millett - Coordinator Major Venues

SUMMARY

In accordance with Section 236(1)(b)(ii) and (c) (iii) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld) a Council resolution is sought to commence the renewal of Trustee Leases and Permits that currently hold a status of 'expired' and are due to expire soon.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT

- Pursuant to section 236(1)(b)(ii) and (c)(iii) of the Local Government Regulation 2012, Council approve the issuing of Trustee Leases and Permits to the organisations as identified in the report:
 - Mount Morgan Agricultural Show Society Inc.
 - Mount Morgan Rodeo Association Inc.
 - 5th Light Horse Regiment Mount Morgan Troop Inc.
- Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer (Manager – Communities and Culture) to negotiate the terms and conditions of the agreements with the organisations listed in the report in preparation for execution by the delegated officer.

COMMENTARY

At conclusion of the 22/23 financial year a total of two (2) community group Trustee leases/permits are due to expire. With one (1) group nearing the end of its lease in 23/24.

All agreements outlined within the report represent terms of use and ownership over land/buildings owned or controlled by Council for the purpose of sport, recreation and community activities.

As the custodian of the relevant land and assets, Officers now seek Council support to proceed with the renewal of each Lease consistent with conditions outlined.

BACKGROUND

The following organisations hold a Trustee Lease/Permit at the Mount Morgan Showgrounds that are due for renewal.

Agreement Type	Organisation	Expiry date	Leased areas on LOT 86 On CP P42282
Trustee Lease	Mount Morgan Rodeo Association Inc.	30 June 2022	F
Trustee Permit	Mount Morgan Agricultural Show Society Inc.	13 March 2024	C & D
Trustee Lease	Mount Morgan Agricultural Show Society Inc.	13 March 2024	A & Part of building B

Trustee Lease	5 th Light Horse Regiment Mount Morgan Troop Inc.	28 February 2023	E
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If the organisations do not wish to renew the lease, the matter will be brought back to Council with further options.

PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Council have previously entered a combined Lease and Permit arrangements to ensure regular operational access to the site while allowing other users access to facilities outside the delivery of the annual Rodeo, and annual agricultural show.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

NIL

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

Section 236(1)(b)(ii) & (c)(iii) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld) allows a Local Government to renew a Lease to the existing tenant, provided that Council has decided, by resolution, that the exception applies to the leasing of valuable non-current assets (i.e. land) other than by tender or auction

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

It is proposed that Council will enter in to a Trustee Lease/Permit with the Tenants which satisfies the requirements of the Land Act 1994(Qld).

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

NIL

RISK ASSESSMENT

N/A

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN

“We ensure community assets are utilised and appropriate for the needs of the community”

“We provide facilities for sports and the arts that encourage community participation and attract elite sporting and cultural events”

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council offer the organisations identified in this report a Lease and Permit up until end of March 2027 (3 years).

TRUSTEE LEASE AND PERMIT RENEWALS FOR MOUNT MORGAN SHOWGROUNDS

Lease Areas Mount Morgan Showgrounds

Meeting Date: 20 June 2023

Attachment No: 1

QUEENSLAND LAND REGISTRY
Land Title Act 1994, Land Act 1994 and Water Act 2000

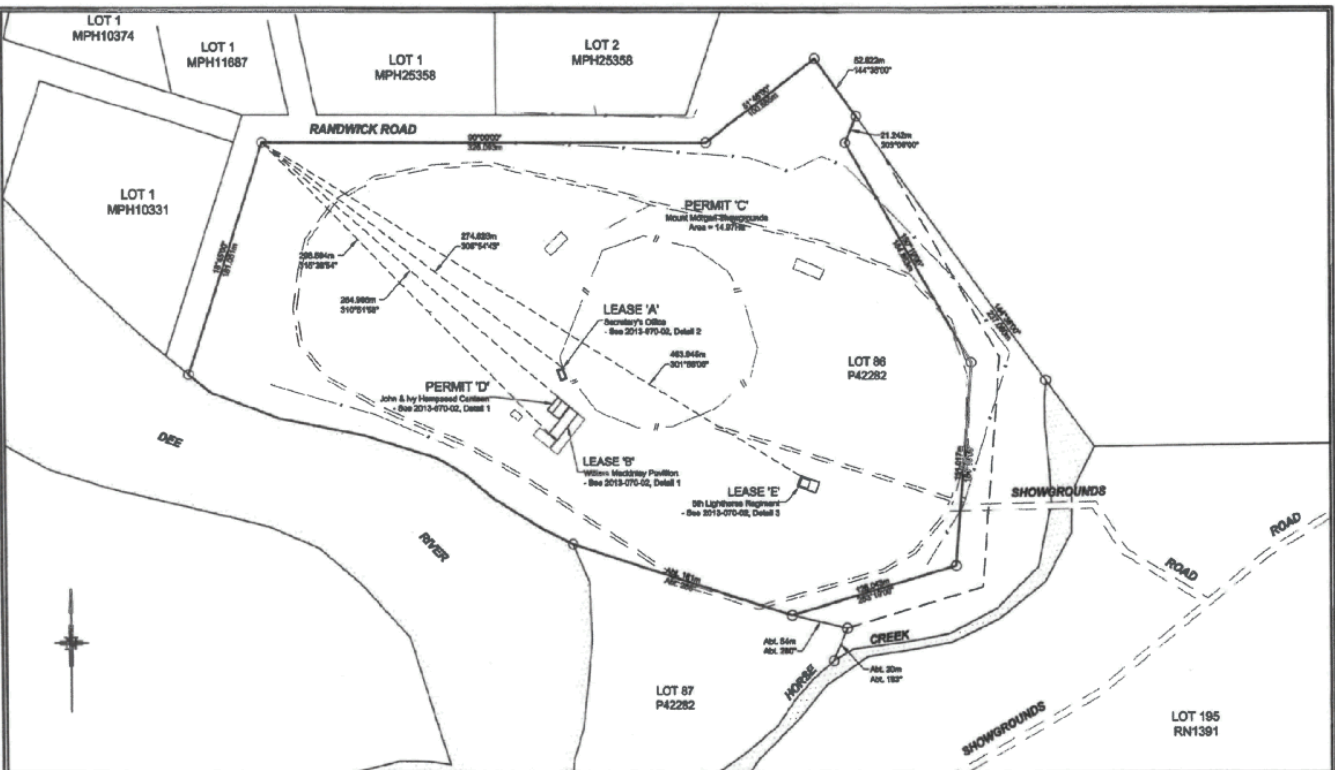
SCHEDULE

Title Reference [49006744]

Form 20 Version 2
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26 3c

SKETCH PLAN



Meridian: P42282
Orig. Portion:
Locality: Horse Creek
Parish: Callington
County: Raglan
Local Authority: Rockhampton Regional Council

OVERALL LAYOUT PLAN
SCALE 1:2500

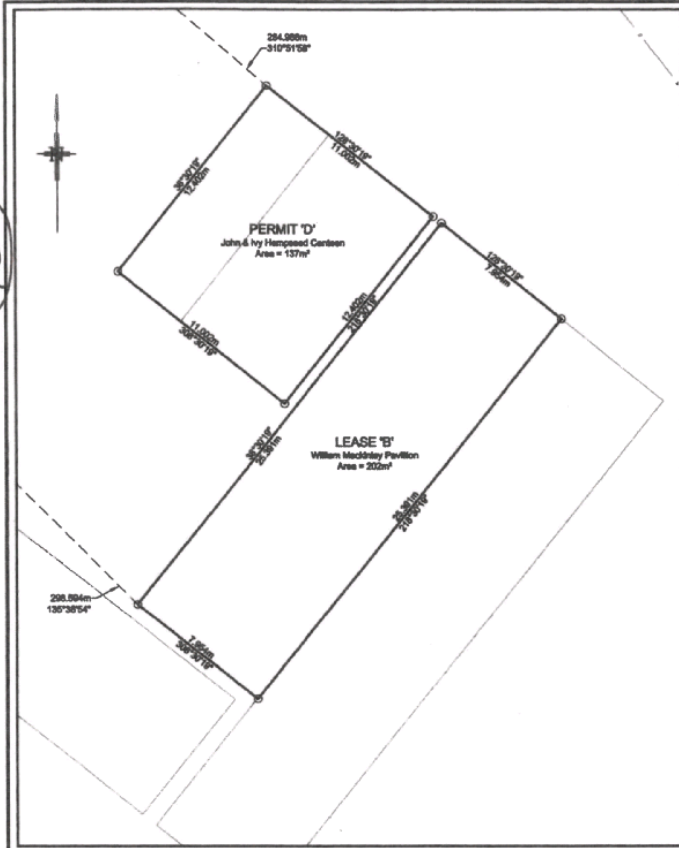
PLAN OF: PERMIT 'C' being part of the land in LOT 86 on P42282 off Randwick Road.
FOR THE: Mount Morgan Agricultural Show Society Inc.
PERMIT 'C' Area = 14.97Ha

<p>Approved: 11/02/16 Date: 11/02/16 Checked: [Signature] Drawn: [Signature] Scale: 1:2500 Author: [Signature]</p>	<p>APPROVED DESCRIPTION APPROVED DATE</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </table>							<p>Checked: 6/27/16 Drawn: [Signature] Scale: 1:2500 Author: [Signature]</p>	<p>Design: 6/27/16 Approval: [Signature] RPEQ No: 287 DATE 14/7/16 REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER</p>	<p>MOUNT MORGAN SHOWGROUNDS HORSE CREEK LOT 86 P42282 LEASE AREA LAYOUT PLAN</p>	<p>Project: 2013-070-01 Sheet No. 1 of 2 Job No.: A1B1</p>

10/11/18
Page 27 of 30

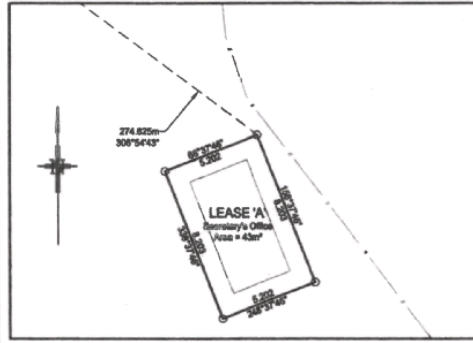
RS

SCHEDULE



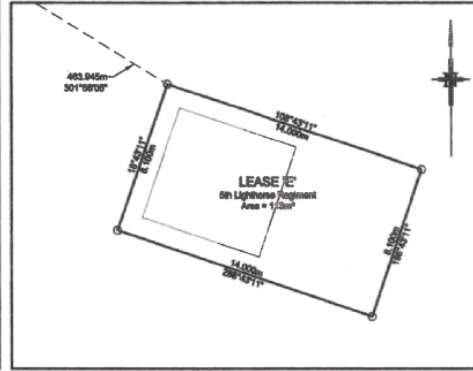
DETAIL 1

PLAN OF: PERMIT 'D' and LEASE 'B' being part of the land in LOT 86 on P42282 off Randwick Road.
FOR THE: Mount Morgan Agricultural Show Society Inc.
PERMIT 'D' Area = 137m²
LEASE 'B' Area = 202m²



DETAIL 2

PLAN OF: LEASE 'A' being part of the land in LOT 86 on P42282 off Randwick Road.
FOR THE: Mount Morgan Agricultural Show Society Inc.
LEASE 'A' Area = 43m²



DETAIL 3

PLAN OF: LEASE 'E' being part of the land in LOT 86 on P42282 off Randwick Road.
FOR THE: 5th Lighthorse Regiment Mount Morgan Troop Inc.
LEASE 'E' Area = 113m²

Meridian: P42282
Orig. Portion:
Locality: Horse Creek
Parish: Callungal
County: Raglan
Local Authority: Rockhampton Regional Council

Surveyed By: GPH	Date: 11/02/18	Scale: 1:200
Drawn: Vyt	Check: Vyt	Proj. Ref: 2013-070-02.dwg
Client: Energy South QLD 21	Proj. Ref: 2013-070-02.dwg	Proj. Ref: 2013-070-02.dwg
Scale: 1:200	Proj. Ref: 2013-070-02.dwg	Proj. Ref: 2013-070-02.dwg

AMENDMENTS DESCRIPTION	APPROVED	DATE



Designed: GPH	Gov: 4/17/18	Design Approval: [Signature]
Checked: GPH	Drawn: GPH	RPEQ No: 7187 DATE: 11/17/18

MOUNT MORGAN SHOWGROUNDS
HORSE CREEK
LOT 86 P42282
LEASE AREA DETAILS

Proj No: 2013-070-02
Sheet No. 2 of 2
Job No: A B

04/06/2018 09:38:45 AM
 Project: 2013-070-02.dwg
 Document Set ID: 23113685
 Location: 4 Mountain Park, Callungal

10.2 SPECIALISED SUPPLIER PROVISION FOR ROCKHAMPTON MUSEUM OF ART

File No: 5883
Attachments: Nil
Authorising Officer: John Webb - Manager Communities and Culture
Alicia Cutler - General Manager Community Services
Author: Jonathan McBurnie - Museum of Art Director

SUMMARY

This report seeks approval to engage artist, Sally Smart, in accordance with s235(b) of the Local Government Regulation 2012.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council resolve to engage Sally Smart under s235(b) of the Local Government Regulation for commission of a campaign funded artwork within the Rockhampton Museum of Art.

COMMENTARY

Council provides for the presentation of a range of specially commissioned exhibitions and artwork at the Rockhampton Museum of Art.

The Commissioning Collective is a fundraising campaign supported by RMOA Philanthropy, who have sought private and corporate donations in support of RMOA to meet the \$100 000 cost of the 2025 commission by Sally Smart.

When contracting to present artworks and exhibitions the nature of the activity means it is not possible to obtain more than one quotation for the supply of the artwork or exhibition.

Sally Smart is a highly regarded contemporary artist who has delivered artworks and exhibitions on the international stage. Her artworks are unique and original; essential qualities in a contemporary art practice.

The artwork is to be installed and exhibited in the Long Gallery space of RMOA for a duration of four years. The work, as a commission, will then be retained by RMOA as a part of its permanent collection. It is expected that the finished artwork be of a scale and impact that justifies its four-year exhibition period.

BACKGROUND

Rockhampton Museum of Art has been designed as an engaging and contemporary space with large volumes and extensive open gallery spaces. The Long Gallery provides an ideal site for contemporary work of an expansive and impactful nature.

PREVIOUS DECISIONS

At the 12 February 2020 Community Services Committee Meeting, the Committee recommended for endorsement by Council Dale Harding as a sole supplier under Chapter 6 Part 3 Division 3 section 235 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* for the provision of an exhibition at the Rockhampton Museum of Art between the period 2020-2022. This recommendation was subsequently endorsed by Council at its Ordinary Meeting of 18 February 2020.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There is no budget implication for this purchase, with relevant funds having been raised by RMOA Philanthropy via private and corporate donations.

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

Under Section 235, Other Exceptions, of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*:

“A local government may enter into a medium-sized contractual arrangement or large-sized contractual arrangement without first inviting written quotes or tenders if –

(b) the local government resolves that, because of the specialised or confidential nature of the services that are sought, it would be impractical or disadvantageous for the local government to invite quotes or tenders;”

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

There are no staffing implications

RISK ASSESSMENT

Any risk connected to potential community perception regarding the semi-permanent nature of the artwork will be mitigated through various measures including clarification of the funding source.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN

2.2.2 We provide opportunities for our people to contribute to their communities.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council resolve that Sally Smart be deemed as a specialised supplier in accordance with Section 235(b) of the *Local Government Regulations 2012* for the purpose of 2025 artwork commission.

10.3 ROCKHAMPTON MUSEUM OF ART - INITIAL YEAR OF OPERATION

File No: 3147
Attachments: Nil
Authorising Officer: Alicia Cutler - General Manager Community Services
Author: John Webb - Manager Communities and Culture

SUMMARY

The Rockhampton Museum of Art (RMOA) completed a successful first year of operation contributing to the cultural tourism profile of the region and the community in general.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report on the first year of operations of Rockhampton Museum of Art (RMOA) be received.

COMMENTARY

Rockhampton Regional Council's significant collection of art was and is regarded of national significance and one of the finest in regional Australia. However, the Rockhampton Art Gallery itself was of limited capacity with an outdated layout and aging services infrastructure.

This presented an opportunity to refurbish or rebuild a new facility in support the goal to revitalize the Rockhampton CBD. A business case was completed and endorsed with joint funding received from the Queensland State Government and the Australian Federal Government in support of Rockhampton Regional Council budget commitment to the project.

The Rockhampton Regional Council Operational Plan 2022-2023 listed the following to be completed in anticipation of the first 12 months operation of RMOA :

Action 2.3.1.1 Complete a review of the Rockhampton Museum of Art and its contribution to the Community and Cultural Tourism.

- RMOA opened on Friday 25 February 2022 with the 12-month anniversary falling on Saturday 25 February 2023.
- RMOA's contribution to community and cultural tourism can be considered against the cultural and social benefits listed in the Rockhampton Art Gallery Business Case February 2018, the basis for funding support.

Optimising the Collections, Programming and Visitor Experience – Tripling the Proportion of the Collection able to be Exhibited:

- Overall Public floor size of the Museum of Art has increased:
 - Exhibition Space increased from 310sm to 1,357sm
 - Programming Space increased from 45sm to 130sm
 - Collection Store increased from 155sm to 292sm
 - 22 exhibitions have been opened to the public.
 - 4 exhibitions have had all works from our Collection.
 - 307 of the 530 artworks exhibited in the first 12 months have come from the collection – 58% collection works.
 - 12 artworks from the Rockhampton Museum of Art Collection have been on loan to:
 - National Gallery of Australia – Canberra
 - Perc Tucker Regional Gallery – Townsville
 - Artspace – Mackay
 - Murray Art Museum – Albury
 - Monash University – Melbourne
-

- Rockhampton Girls Grammar School
- Works loaned to 'Archie 100' travelled to Geelong Gallery, Cairns Art Gallery, Art Gallery of South Australia, Queen Victoria Museum & Gallery Launceston and Bathurst Regional Art Gallery
- A membership program was launched which saw 501 members join in the first year
- Social media following grew on Facebook to 8,000 followers with 985,717 impressions and 56,562 engagements during those 12 months.

Enhanced Economic Opportunities for Artists and Cultural Service Suppliers:

Education and Training Opportunities for Students, Artists, and the Broader Workforce:

- Over 35 artist educators or staff have been engaged to deliver programs during the first year.
- 41 artists have been stocked within the RMOA shop
- These educators have delivered a total 105 programs being made up of 67 one off programs, 38 recurring programs (weekly, monthly, three monthly) for a total of 190 typically 1 hours plus sessions
- There have been 16 First Nations programs.
- We have had 1701 attendees at these programs for 3581 ticketed attendances. This does not include attendance at free programs.
- Student attendance at tours has totalled 1180
- During the period 25 February 2022 to 25 February 2023 Rockhampton Museum of Art has spent \$1,338,879 to deliver economic opportunities for artists and cultural service to our community.

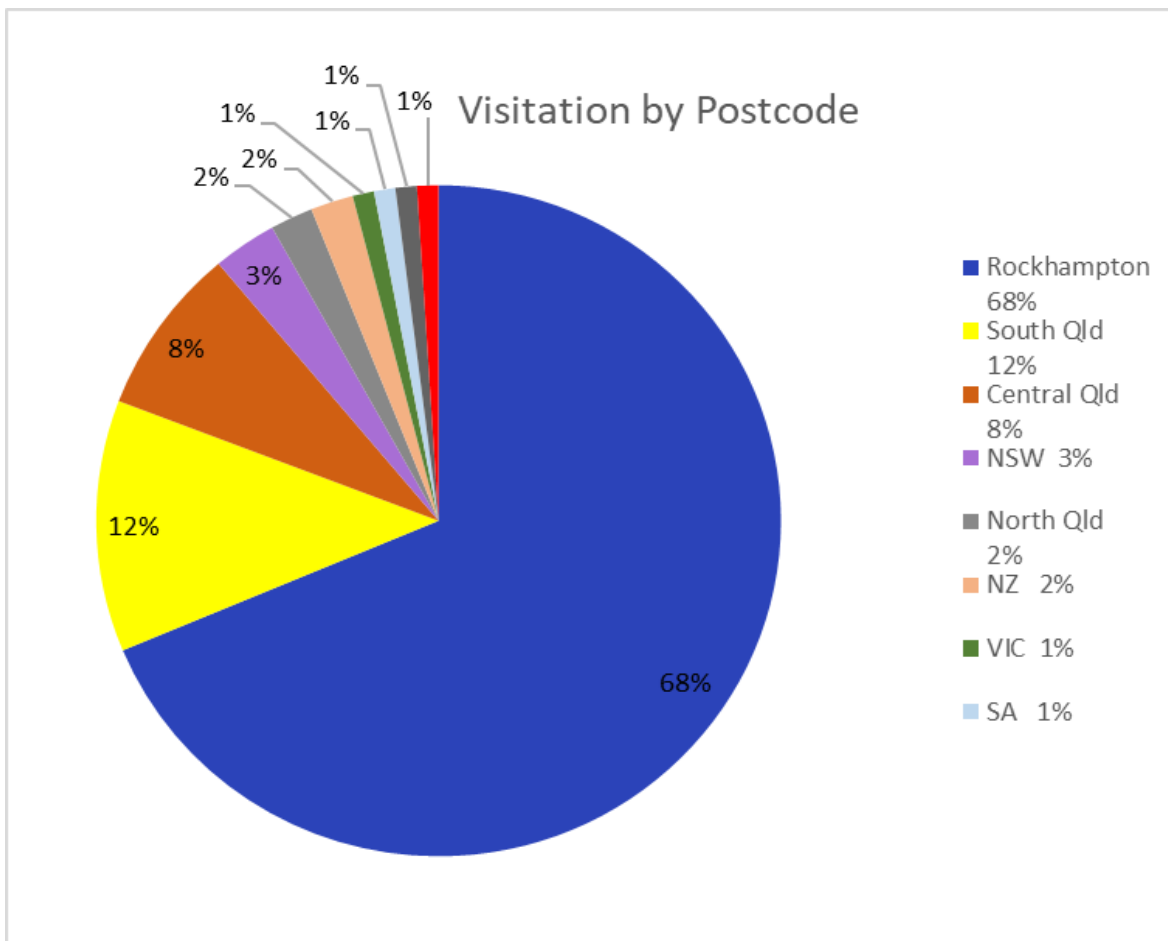
Increased Visitation Levels from 41,000 p.a. to 90,000 in the Short Term, and by an Increasing Margin in the Longer Term:

- Onsite visitation at Rockhampton Museum of Art was 90,694 for the 12 months. This results in an average visitation of 6,979 per month.

Increased Tourism Expenditure of \$244.7m and Value Added of \$91.4m over the 15-year Construction and Initial Operational Period:

Enhanced Employment Opportunities for Residents, Estimated at an Annual Average of 165 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Additional Jobs per Year Across the 15-year Construction and Initial Operational Period, as a Result of Both Direct and Indirect Output Impacts Associated with Capital, Operations and Visitor Spend:

- While it is not possible to respond to these measures' visitation in the first twelve months of operation is as follows –



Active Contribution to Revitalisation of the CBD.

- It can be reasonably assumed that a significant portion of the 90,000 plus attendance at the RMOA may not have visited the CBD other wise
- RMOA actively participates in and programs complementary activations and exhibitions for CBD events. This was evidenced by the Gia installation and laneway activities as part of RiverFest 22.
- RMOA is contributing to RiverFest 23 activation and is planning complimentary exhibitions for both RockyNats 24 and Beef24.

PREVIOUS DECISIONS

On 16 April 2019 Council resolved to commence construction of the New Art Gallery and invite the four shortlisted contractors to submit tenders.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Rockhampton Museum of Art has operated within budget parameter set for the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 financial years.

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

There is no legislative context.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS.

There are no legal implications.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

There are no staffing implications.

RISK ASSESSMENT

No risk assessment required.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN

Operational Plan Action 2.3.1.1 Complete a review of the Rockhampton Museum of Art and its Contribution to the Community and Cultural Tourism.

CONCLUSION

Rockhampton Museum of Art completed a successful first 12 months of operation meeting objectives listed within the business case.

10.4 PARKS PROGRESS REPORT

File No: 8044
Attachments: 1. Parks Operational Highlights - June 2023 [↓](#)
Authorising Officer: Alicia Cutler - General Manager Community Services
Author: Aaron Pont - Manager Parks

SUMMARY

Manager Parks providing bi-monthly update in relation to Parks Service Standards.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT the bi-monthly update in relation to Parks Service Standards be received and that future reports align with the quarterly 90 day programming to allow for efficiency.

COMMENTARY

This quarter (April – June 2023) the Parks Section has expanded the 90-day methodology to include separate planning workshops for the Zoo and Sports Teams to develop their own common goals and actions that contribute to the overall section goal of “Growing Great Spaces everyone enjoys and we are proud of”.

The Zoo aspires to ‘Creating unforgettable experiences that inspire compassion and action for wildlife’ while our Sports team have developed a series of actions to support the delivery of ‘Growing an active community everyone enjoys and we are proud of’. These specific actions are incorporated into the objectives for Quarter 4 in the table below.

Key achievements

In addition to the achievement of actions through the 90-day planning cycle, there have been a number of operational highlights to report.

- Throughout May a total of 270 trees have been planted by the Parks team as part of the annual tree planting program. The focus will now shift to replace any of the previous year’s trees that have been damaged. (Photos attached)
- 1624 plants have also been planted as part of the Yeppen Lagoon NRM revegetation projects.
- In May Urban Play, designers of the upgraded Botanic Gardens Playground held a ‘Day of Play’ to showcase the playground redevelopment with 30 attendees visiting for the day including a mix of landscape architects and Council’s from throughout the region, with a panel discussion over lunch after the initial tour of the playground. (Photos attached)
- The Car Park (Part of stage 2 RBGZ redevelopment) was recently completed, ready for irrigation and installation of plants. (Photos attached)
- The month of May was Botanic Gardens month and the official Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) was held on 28 May. The Parks team and Friends of the Garden celebrated with a plant sale and free site tours.
- Kershaw Gardens waterfall is back up and running with assistance from Fleet Services.
- Touch Football Junior State Cup preparations are in their final state with a focus on top dressing, laying turf and improving car parking.
- Successful transfer of Jery the Chimp from Sydney Zoo.

Objectives for Quarter 4

The team are on track to deliver the Quarter 4 (Apr-June 2023) actions outlined in the table below. These have been broadened to include the specific actions related to the Zoo and Sports teams.

HAPPY PROUD & ENGAGED TEAM	Weekly Comms	Provide weekly video message to all Parks Staff. This is aimed at improving the sharing of key messages including operational highlights, upcoming events, and greater recognition of achievements.
	People Plan	Commence implementation of people plan. This is aimed at upskilling our staff to be safer and more effective in their roles.
	Team Communication	Parks leadership to provide increased consistent face to face interaction with every team. This action will seek to improve communication within our section and increase leadership visibility of the work our teams are undertaking.
	Celebration Calendar	Celebrate in line with calendar. Team celebrations across the year improve team relationships and are a good for our culture.
	Formation of Growing Active Communities Leadership Group	Bring together key internal stakeholders to form a growing active communities leadership group and introduce the Sports common goal. The formation of this group will support collaboration and a cohesive approach to identify opportunities, emerging issues and priority projects that will grow and active community.
	Zoo People Plan	Develop a People Plan to elevate training levels across the team. A training and development plan will help attract and retain zoo staff.
	Zoo Training Assessment Tools	Create and test tools for the training of staff to ensure they are trained to a high standard that supports safety and compliance.
SYSTEMS PROCESSES & DOCUMENTS	Works in Parks	Embedding of new process drafted in Q3 will ensure that other sections and units are leaving Parks work sites in a safe and well-presented condition, as well as increase communication across our work teams.
	Parks Customer Experience	Document and understand current customer experience. Building a better understanding of our current level of customer experience will assist to identify opportunities for more effective and efficient service.

	Parks Categorisation	Build data via GIS app to strengthen decision making. Stronger data will be critical in establishing levels of service that we are resourced to achieve and meets the community needs of spaces that are safe and well presented at all times.
	Significant Tree Register	Develop list of significant trees and draft management processes. Protecting our significant trees demonstrate Council's commitment to green infrastructure and preserve these trees for future generations.
	Financial Dashboard Reporting	Build dashboards for monthly management meeting. Improvements in our financial system and reporting allow us to be more cost effective through reports that are easy to develop and analyse.
	Plant Collection Database	Develop ISSG proposal and supporting memo for consideration. A Plant database is critical in managing our collections at an industry standard.
	Club Management/Client Relationship Management System	Review existing IT proposals for Client Relationship Management systems to determine suitability. A dedicated system to communicate and interact with clubs and community groups will support the sports team to grow an active community.
	Tenure Agreements	Develop an Active Communities Work Plan to forecast lease renewals, identify priority projects, funding applications and timings of briefings for Council. This will support more proactive engagement with our community groups and increased lead time for tenure renewals.
	Zoo Work Instructions reviewed and updated	Work instructions submitted to safety for consultation. Work instructions ensure a consistent and safe standard of work across the many species and enclosures our keepers work with.
	Zoo Landscaping Quarterly Plan	Develop and implement quarterly plan to maintain and improve landscaping across the zoo site.
	Zoo Management Policy	Develop and present a Zoo Management Policy. Establishing a policy will support management and operations of our zoo, as well as guide strategic decision making.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION	Customer Service Relationship	Strengthen working relationship with Customer Service. Mutually beneficial relationship where both teams can learn from each other and leverage our knowledge and skills towards better service delivery and customer experience.
	Parks/CAF Work prioritisation	Collaborating on operational and capital works to improve efficiency and effectiveness. Continuing to work closely together is key in ensuring we deliver the common goal.
	RRC Website	Review Parks current website and prepare project briefs. Review and potential upgrade of the Parks web page seeks to complement our efforts to improve the customer experience.
	Media & Engagement prioritisation	Develop 12-month media and engagement plan to ensure our community remain informed and engaged across the Parks portfolio
	Sports and community group engagement plan	Develop a 12 month plan and agenda to engage with tenure holders. A proactive approach to engaging with all tenure holders will assist in identify opportunities and issues and strengthen working relationships with RRC.
RESOURCES	Trees for Planting Projects	Investigate opportunities for mature trees for future planting projects. By having better stock we are able to deliver high quality annual projects across the region.
	Review Seasonal Maintenance Program	Prepare memo on outcomes of seasonal maintenance program. Learnings from this season will guide us in future years to ensure we are continuing to deliver efficient and effective service to the community.
	Koala Plantation	Investigate alternative sites for eucalypt plantation to be used as koala fodder. Ensuring an efficient and sustainable food source for our koalas is crucial to their long-term health.
OPERATIONS	Nursery	Implement Action Plan to elevate the standard of nursery service delivery. This will lead to better quality plant stock for Parks projects.
	RBGZ Redevelopment	Prepare workshop for Council. Maintaining a focus on the redevelopment project will ensure the RBGZ project remains visible and keep Council informed of progress to

		date.
	Seasonal Works Programs	Develop and implement 6 month works programs. These works will acknowledge the off-peak season as an opportunity to focus on making improvements to our spaces.
	Eagle Enclosure	Construct and fit out of eagle enclosure to enable eagle to be moved in.
	Expand customer offering at the zoo	Offer 1 additional customer experience at the zoo. Snake encounter is on track for launch in June/July school holidays. Additional customer offerings at the zoo will create unforgettable experiences that inspire compassion and action for wildlife.

BACKGROUND

Bi-monthly report was previously received by Council in April 2023.

PREVIOUS DECISIONS

No previous decisions relating to this.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Action plan development and implementation all within existing budget. No additional funds required at the current point.

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

No foreseen legislative context.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

No foreseen legal implications.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

No foreseen staffing implications.

RISK ASSESSMENT

No foreseeable risks.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN

Operational Plan 2.1.5.2 Continue the review of current levels of service and maintenance of open spaces to identify opportunities for continuous improvement.

CONCLUSION

Progress has continued across the Parks section and will continue to strengthen.

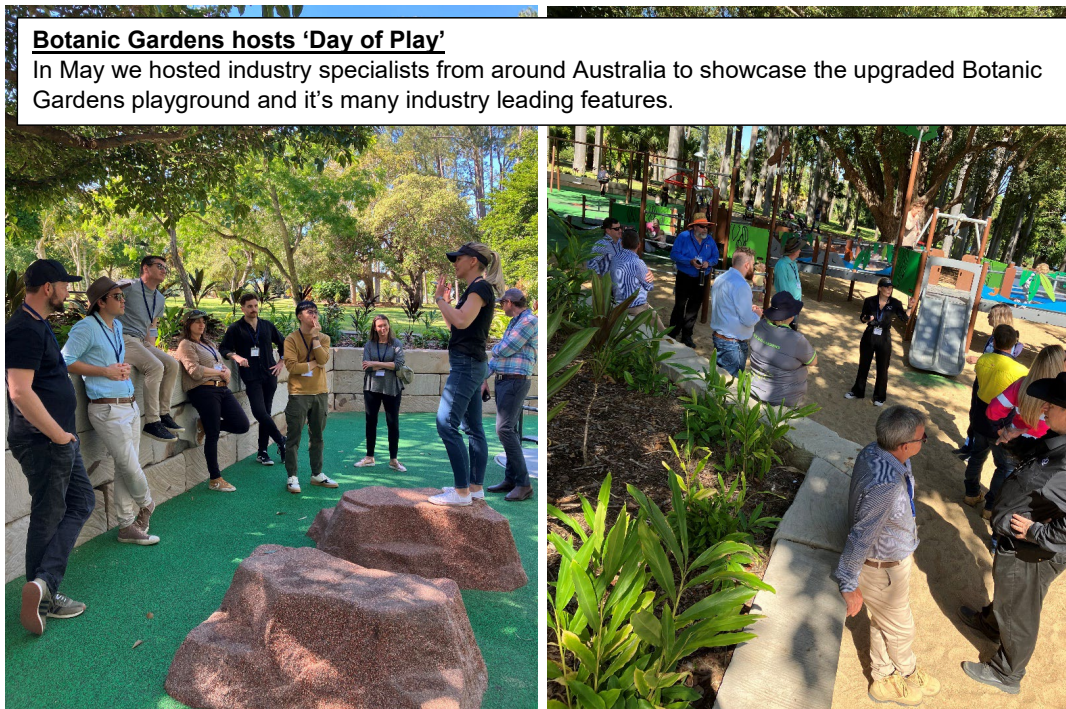
PARKS PROGRESS REPORT

Parks Operational Highlights – June 2023

Meeting Date: 20 June 2023

Attachment No: 1

Parks Operational Highlights



Annual Tree Planting Project

A total of 270 trees have been planted across the Region throughout May as part of the tree planting project



Cnr Dean St & Frenchville Road



O'Shanesy Park



Gavial Gracemere Road



Yewdale Park

Norbridge Park Field Refurbishment Project

Preparations for the Queensland Junior State Touch Football carnival has included additional playing surfaces which saw the installation of irrigation to the bottom 3 fields followed by the levelling and installation of 4000m² of turf.



Top dressing of sand across the freshly laid turfed surface to ensure surface is safe and level for play

10.5 2023 FREEHOLD LEASE AND TRUSTEE LEASE RENEWAL FOR COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

File No: 6651,4194,7455,4190,4183,4189
Attachments: Nil
Authorising Officer: Alicia Cutler - General Manager Community Services
Author: Justin Bulwinkel - Supervisor Business Support
Jack Barnett - Sports and Recreation Advisor

SUMMARY

In accordance with Section 236(1)(c)(iii) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld) a Council resolution is sought to commence the renewal of Freehold and Trustee Leases that currently hold a status of 'expired'.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT:

1. Pursuant to Section 236(1)(c)(iii) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld)* Council approve the renewal of the Freehold Leases and Trustee Leases identified below:
 - a. St John Holdings Limited, 16-20 Bridge Street, Berserker.
 - b. Gracemere Lake Golf Club Inc, 47 Capricorn Street, Gracemere.
 - c. Emu Park Surf Lifesaving Club Inc, 30 Harman Street, Wandal.
 - d. Rockhampton & District Indoor Bowling Association, 157 Campbell Street, Rockhampton City.
 - e. Rockhampton Bridge Club Inc, 4 Graeme Acton Way, Wandal.
 - f. Rockhampton City Brass Band Inc, 256 Murray Street, Rockhampton City.
2. Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer (Supervisor Business Support) to negotiate the terms and conditions of the agreements with the organisations listed in the report in preparation for execution by the delegated officer.

COMMENTARY

Report refers to six (6) community organisations that currently hold a Freehold/Trustee Lease with Council for the purpose of sport, recreation, and community activities. Each agreement has expired or is due to expire 30 June 2023.

As the Trustee/owner of the relevant land, officers seek Council support to proceed with the renewal of each lease consistent with conditions outlined in the report.

Subject to Council resolution, Officer will commence the renewal process where each organisation will be invited to apply for further tenure to support their activities.

It is recommended tenure be granted under the following conditions:

1. Six (6) year lease term
2. All lease fees are set in accordance with Parks Sports & Rec adopted fees and charges schedule.
3. Special Conditions:
 - a. All lease renewals include a condition that tenants must provide copies of the following documents on an annual basis:
 - i. Audited Financial Statements

- ii. Constitution
- iii. AGM Minutes
- iv. Player and Member numbers

b. As required/negotiated

Agreement Type	Organisation	Expiry Date	Lot & Plan (Address)
Trustee Lease	St John Holdings Limited	24/05/2022	16-20 Bridge Street, Berserker
Freehold Lease	Gracemere Lake Golf Club Inc.	30/06/2022	47 Capricorn Street, Gracemere
Trustee Lease	Emu Park Surf Lifesaving Club Inc.	30/06/2023	30 Harman Street, Wandal
Trustee Lease	Rockhampton & District Indoor Bowling Association	30/06/2023	157 Campbell Street, Rockhampton City
Trustee Lease	Rockhampton Bridge Club Inc.	30/06/2023	4 Graeme Acton Way, Wandal
Trustee Lease	Rockhampton City Brass Band Inc.	30/06/2023	256 Murray Street, Rockhampton City

BACKGROUND

For those organisations with a lease that have already expired, they may have default to a month-to-month lease arrangement or have continued to pay appropriate fees and charges associated with the use of the land.

If any organisations do not wish to renew their lease, the matter will be brought back to Council with further options.

Buildings associated with each lease are owned and maintained by the Incorporated Group/Lessee's.

PREVIOUS DECISIONS

No previous decisions have been made on this matter.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

All Leases will be subject to an annual fee set by Council's adopted Fees and Charges schedule

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

Section 236(1)(c)(iii) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld) allows a Local Government to renew a Lease to the existing tenant, provided that that Council has decided, by resolution, that the exception applies to the leasing of valuable non-current assets (i.e., land) other than by tender or auction.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

It is proposed that Council will enter into a Trustee Lease/Freehold Lease with each tenant which satisfies the requirements of the Land Act 1994(Qld).

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

Existing resources within Park and Property & Insurance can adequately manage the required legal documentation.

RISK ASSESSMENT

No risk assessment was completed nor necessary in relation to this matter.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The proposal aligns with the following Corporate Plan objectives:

- 2.1 – Our places and spaces enhance the livability and diversity of our communities
- 2.2 – We support our communities through our activities and programs.
- 5.1 – Our Region has Infrastructure that meets current and future needs

CONCLUSION

Officers recommended Council approve the renewal of the Leases identified in the report and that the Chief Executive Officer (Supervisor Business Support) negotiate the terms and conditions of each in preparation for the consideration and execution by the delegated officer.

10.6 COMMUNITY LEASING NEGOTIATION AND RENEWAL REQUEST

File No: 8748,4285,5000
Attachments: Nil
Authorising Officer: Alicia Cutler - General Manager Community Services
Author: Justin Bulwinkel - Supervisor Business Support
Jack Barnett - Sports and Recreation Advisor

SUMMARY

In accordance with Section 236(1)(c)(iii) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld) a Council resolution is sought to renew the existing Trustee Lease agreements that currently hold a status of 'expired'.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. Pursuant to Section 236(1)(c)(iii) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld) Council approve the renewal of the Trustee Leases agreements identified below:
 - a. Rocky Twirlers Inc. 54-62 Fitzroy St, Rockhampton City.
 - b. The Rockhampton Cycling Club Inc. 350 Berserker St, Frenchville.
 - c. Gracemere Junior Rugby League Inc. Lot 242 Fisher St, Gracemere.
2. Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer (Supervisor Business Support) to negotiate the terms and conditions of the agreements with the organisations listed in the report in preparation for execution by the delegated officer

COMMENTARY

These leases were previously considered for renegotiation at the Communities Committee on the 16 August 2022. At this meeting it was proposed to explore options on ownership of the Council buildings leased by the following organisations:

- a) Rocky Twirlers Inc.
- b) The Rockhampton Cycling Club Inc.
- c) Gracemere Junior Rugby League Inc.

This consultation process has now concluded with the leases proposed to proceed under the existing arrangements. That is, no organisation was formally interested in exploring a change to the ownership conditions. While each committee acknowledged Council's reason to offering this change, Clubs have respectively declined the offer. Each Clubs affirmed their financial capacity however indicated they are not structured to absorb the cost associated with inheriting an aging asset and the associated maintenance.

It is also acknowledged these Community Organisations have not had this opportunity in the past and as a result it might not have been in their strategic plans to proactively build a financial capacity for such an offer.

Clubs now respectively request their Lease be considered for renewal by Council with ownership conditions left unchanged.

Subject to Council resolution, Officer will commence the renewal process where each organisation will be invited to apply for further tenure to support their activities.

It is recommended tenure be granted under the following conditions with no changes applied to asset ownership:

Officers recommend the following conditions:

- Six (6) year lease term
- All lease fees are set in accordance with Parks Sports & Rec adopted fees and charges schedule.
- Special Conditions:
 - a. All lease renewals include a condition that tenants must provide copies of the following documents on an annual basis:
 - i. Audited Financial Statements
 - ii. Constitution
 - iii. AGM Minutes
 - iv. Player and Member numbers
 - b. As required/negotiated

BACKGROUND

Officers determined each groups interest and financial means to take on ownership of their respective facilities without impeding program delivery.

Buildings referred to this report are owned and maintained by Rockhampton Regional Council.

- Single structure, 54-62 Fitzroy St (Kingel Park)
- Single structure, 350 Berserker St (Rockhampton Velodrome)
- Single structure, Lot 242 Fisher St (Cedric Archer Park)

PREVIOUS DECISIONS

On the 16th August, 2022, when considering options to re-lease a number of Council facilities, Council resolved the following:

1. Pursuant to Section 236(1)(c)(iii) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld) Council approve the renewal of the Freehold Leases and Trustee Leases as identified in the report, excluding:
 - a) The Rockhampton Cycling Club Inc.
 - b) Rocky Twirlers Inc.
 - c) Gracemere Junior Rugby League Inc.
2. A further report be prepared to provide options on ownership of the Council buildings leased by the organisations identified above.
3. Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer (Supervisor Business Support) to negotiate the terms and conditions of the agreements with the organisations listed in the report in preparation for execution by the delegated officer.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

No financial implications imposed on Council. All Leases will be subject to an annual fee set by Council's adopted Fees and Charges schedule.

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

Section 236(1)(c)(iii) of the Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld) allows a Local Government to renew a Lease to the existing tenant, provided that that Council has decided, by resolution, that the exception applies to the leasing of valuable non-current assets (i.e., land) other than by tender or auction.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

It is proposed that Council will enter into a Trustee Lease with each tenant which satisfies the requirements of the Land Act 1994(Qld).

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

Existing resources within Parks and Property and Insurance can adequately manage the required legal documentation.

RISK ASSESSMENT

No risk assessment was completed nor necessary in relation to this matter.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The proposal aligns with the following Corporate Plan objectives:

- 2.1 – Our places and spaces enhance the livability and diversity of our communities
- 2.2 – We support our communities through our activities and programs.
- 5.1 – Our Region has Infrastructure that meets current and future needs

CONCLUSION

Officers recommended Council approve the renewal of the Leases identified in the report and that the Chief Executive Officer (Supervisor Business Support) negotiate the terms and conditions of each in preparation for the consideration and execution by the delegated officer.

10.7 VECTOR MANAGEMENT PLAN AND DENGUE MANAGEMENT PLAN

File No:	2557
Attachments:	1. Vector Management Plan 2023-2027 ↓ 2. Dengue Management Plan 2023-2027 ↓
Authorising Officer:	Doug Scott - Manager Planning and Regulatory Services Alicia Cutler - General Manager Community Services
Author:	Karen Moody - Coordinator Health and Environment

SUMMARY

Council's Vector Management Plan and Dengue Management Plan are overarching plans to manage vectors and vector borne disease outbreaks within our community. These plans replace the previously approved plans from 2018-2022.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approves the Vector Management Plan 2023-2027 and Dengue Management Plan 2023-2027.

COMMENTARY

The Vector Management Plan 2023-2027 has been developed to provide a strategic direction for the management of vectors, that being mosquitoes, rats, mice and other nuisance insects for the next four years. This plan progresses the work already undertaken under the previous plan by the vector management unit.

The Dengue Management Plan 2023-2027 has been developed to provide direction in response to a vector borne disease outbreak in our community. This plan has used lessons learnt from the 2019 Dengue outbreak to enhance our response capabilities.

The Central Queensland Public Health Unit was consulted during the drafting of both plans.

BACKGROUND

Vector borne diseases, impact the health of our community. These animals promote disease transmission within our community, whereby individuals can become seriously ill. The Vector Management Plan assist Council in setting strategic directions to manage these vectors in a coordinated approach, minimising the impact on our community.

Mosquitoes are considered the deadliest animal on earth and cause major public health issues, transmitting diseases such as Malaria, Dengue, Zika virus and Japanese Encephalitis. The Dengue Management plan outlines both preventative actions to reduce the likelihood of an outbreak and response plans if outbreaks occur within our community.

PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Council approved the previous Vector Management Plan in 2017, with minor updates in 2018. Council approved the previous Dengue Management Plan in 2018.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The actions outlined in these plans are accounted for in the operational budget.

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

Council has a legislative obligation to enforce provisions of the *Public Health Act 2005* in relation to designated pests, that being mosquitoes, rats and mice. These plans outline how Council is going to meet these obligations.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Council has a legal obligation to manage Public Health Risks devolved to Local Government under the *Public Health Act 2005*. These plans assist in complying with these requirements

in relation to the enforcement of public health risks relating to designated pests on private land and work undertaken on Council land to comply with the Act.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

The operational actions outlined in the plans take into account current staffing resources.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The risk to the community of acquiring a vector borne disease increases when no actions are undertaken in relation to the control of designated pests such as mosquitoes, rats and mice.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The control of designated pests and nuisance insects assists with Council meeting the following objectives of the corporate plan

Goal 2.1 Our Community: Our places and spaces enhance livability and diversity of our community

Goal 4.3 Out Environment: Our public spaces add value to our region and our communities.

CONCLUSION

The Vector Management Plan and Dengue Management Plan are core documents setting the direction of Vector Management activities over the next four years. Implementing the actions in these plans reduces the likelihood of our community being impacted by disease outbreaks during this time.

VECTOR MANAGEMENT PLAN AND DENGUE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Vector Management Plan 2023-2027

Meeting Date: 20 June 2023

Attachment No: 1



VECTOR MANAGEMENT PLAN

2023 - 2027





Acknowledgements

This plan was developed by Rockhampton Regional Council in collaboration and consultation with the Central Queensland Public Health Unit, Rockhampton.

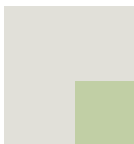




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Introduction

The Rockhampton Region is a hub for beef cattle, a tourist destination and is used as a central 'stopover' point for people and industry travelling up and down the Queensland coast. The Rockhampton Airport, located on the outskirts of Rockhampton, is a busy regional airport. The airport has international status and regularly accepts flights from the Singapore and America armies as their arrival point into Australia when undertaking training exercises in the Shoalwater Bay area.

The Region lies on the Fitzroy River, the largest river catchment flowing to the eastern coast of Australia, with a barrage located within Rockhampton City limits separating freshwater and tidal saltwater areas.

The Rockhampton Regional Council Vector Management Plan 2023-2027 provides a framework for Council and the community to manage vector agents and their impacts in the region.

The plan incorporates the eight principles of pest management (integration, public awareness, commitment, consultation and partnership, planning, prevention, best practice and improvement). The plan also takes into account environmental impact, sustainability and cost effectiveness.

Priority vector programs for the Rockhampton Regional Council, based on sustainable control, are also set out.

Vector Management incorporates three main areas mosquitoes, rats and mice and other pests. These animals are vectors of disease or impact on human health, lifestyle and amenity.



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Vector Management Plan | 2023 - 2027

Mosquitoes

Over 220 species of mosquitoes have been identified in Queensland with more than 36 common species being identified in the Rockhampton Region, several of which are capable of transmitting disease.

Mosquitoes are the deadliest animal in the world. Mosquito-borne diseases such as Malaria, Dengue Fever, Zika virus, Japanese Encephalitis (JE), West Nile virus (WNV) infection and Chikungunya (CHIKV) are causing major public health problems in many countries.

Increased international travel makes it easier for the introduction of these diseases into locations from which they have either been eradicated or in which they have never occurred. Australia and Queensland in particular, provide a suitable environment for incursions of these exotic diseases.

Vector-Borne diseases account for more than 17% of all infectious diseases, causing more than 700 000 deaths annually (World Health Organization March 2020). The main diseases that cause death include Malaria and Dengue Fever.

Malaria is transmitted by the Anopheline mosquitoes and causes an estimated 219 million cases globally and results in more than 400, 000 deaths (World Health Organization March 2020).

Dengue is transmitted by the Aedes Aegypti mosquito (and to a lesser extent the Aedes Albopictus) and is endemic in many neighbouring countries with an estimated half of the world's population at risk. It is estimated that there are 100-400 million infections each year, but 80% are considered mild or asymptomatic (World Health Organization January 2022)

While Dengue is not endemic in Queensland, Dengue outbreaks have been occurring as a result of viraemic international travellers.

An outbreak of Dengue occurred in Rockhampton in 2019 where 13 confirmed cases were identified.

Aedes aegypti is present in the Rockhampton Region.

Aedes aegypti, is also a vector of Zika virus. Between 2013 and 2015 there were large outbreaks of Zika virus infection in a number of Pacific countries. Local transmission is ongoing in this region. Since 2015 large outbreaks have been occurring in central and southern America and are continuing. Recent outbreaks in the Pacific and the Americas have raised concerns that Zika virus infection may cause birth defects such as microcephaly if a woman is infected while pregnant. An imported case of Zika virus was diagnosed in the Rockhampton Region in 2016.

Other mosquito-borne diseases such as Ross River virus (RRV) infection, Barmah Forest virus (BFV) infection, Kunjin virus infection and Murray Valley encephalitis (MVE) are also endemic in Australia. Mosquitoes that can transmit these diseases are present in the Rockhampton Region.

Australia has in 2022 experienced an outbreak of Japanese Encephalitis (JE). JE is transmitted by the Culex mosquitoes, the main vector present in our region is Culex Annulirostris. JE is mostly asymptomatic, but on rare occasions can result in severe disease and death (Australian Government April 2022)

RRV and BFV infection are the most common mosquito-borne diseases in Queensland. These infections are not life threatening, although symptoms such as polyarthritis and lethargy can be debilitating and last for prolonged periods of time. There is no specific treatment for, or vaccines to prevent RRV, BFV infection, Dengue and Zika despite continued research in this area.

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Breeding Sites/Habitats

The Rockhampton Region is characterised by the Fitzroy River incorporating low-lying tidal wetlands down river and within Rockhampton and with areas of permanent and semi-permanent freshwater in and around townships.

The tidal wetlands are inundated on a regular basis throughout the year and following significant rain. Both tidal and freshwater areas are capable of supporting extensive mosquito populations during the wet season and to a lesser extent in the drier winter months. Treatment of tidal wetlands is undertaken outside Council's local government area due to the health and nuisance impacts of Rockhampton Regional Council residents.

Infestations of certain aquatic plants can provide havens for mosquito breeding in freshwater including *Salvinia*, *Water Hyacinth* and *Hymenachne*.

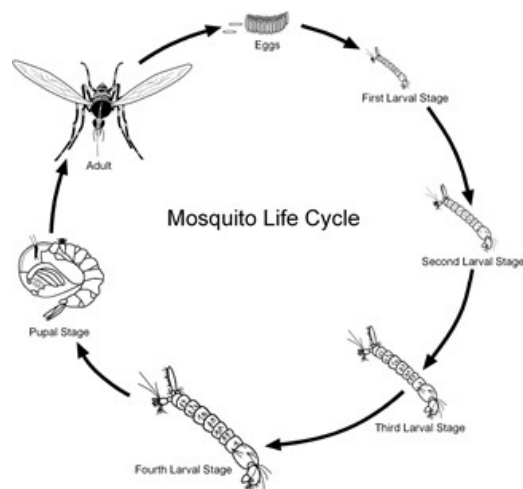
Some mosquito species will breed in artificial and natural containers eg pot plant saucers, tyres, birdbaths, bromeliads, discarded palm fronds and tree axils/holes. *Aedes aegypti*, the main vector for Dengue fever and Zika virus, is a container breeder that can breed in these items.

Mosquitoes breed in unmaintained swimming pools and rainwater tanks. Homeowners must conduct regular maintenance on pools and tanks to ensure that mosquitoes are unable to breed.

Mosquito Lifecycle

The length of each stage of a mosquito lifecycle depends on both the temperature and the species. Warmer temperatures result in quicker progression through each stage of the lifecycle.

Understanding the lifecycle is important to ensure that treatment programs are effective in targeting the correct stage of the mosquito's lifecycle.



Rats & Mice

The house mouse, roof rat (black rat) and brown rat (Norway rat) are commonly found vectors in the Rockhampton Region. These animals can spread disease, contaminate food and can be destructive and damage materials.

Rats and mice are prolific breeders, reaching maturity at a young age and then being able to birth multiple pups many times a year.

Breeding Sites/Habitats

The house mouse and rats breed and harbour in areas where they are safe from being exposed to predators. They are well adapted to living and breeding in close association with humans. This includes in an accumulation of various types of materials eg branches, palm fronds, building materials, old electrical appliances, and furniture. Brown rats will also live in burrows and roof rats in roof voids and wall cavities. Breeding and harbourage is usually associated with materials stored in an untidy fashion, however they are occasionally found in areas where the materials are stored neatly.

Occasionally plague proportions of mice and rats affect the rural areas of our region, following cropping harvests. A significant increase in mice was experienced in late 2020 – early 2021. This was not a localised event with mass numbers occurring in western Queensland and western New South Wales during this time as well.





Midges/Blackfly

Biting midges and the Dawson River Black Fly are the other predominate insect pests.

Breeding Sites/Habitats

Biting midges breed in areas such as coastal lagoons, estuaries, mangrove swamps and tidal flats. The Dawson River Black Fly can be present in plague numbers when the river floods.

Other

Councils Vector Management Team will undertake treatment of other nuisance insects on Council land and can provide advice to private landholders on methods of controlling other insect pests. Examples include;

- Ants
- Wasps
- Bees
- Grubs; and
- Flies.



Purpose

The purpose of the Plan is to establish and promote the cooperative management of the impacts of vectors within the Rockhampton Region.

Links to Council's Corporate Plan 2022-2027

Rockhampton Regional Council's Corporate Plan 2022-2027 sets the strategic direction and priorities for our organisation for the next five years.

Whilst vector management goals are not specifically outlined in the Corporate plan the actions undertaken in this area support the following commitments.

Goal 2.1 Our Community: Our places and spaces enhance livability and diversity of our communities.

Goal 4.3 Our Environment: Our public spaces add value to our Region and our communities

The Plan details the key issues of vector management and outlines operational activities to achieve Council's Corporate Plan objectives.

Key Issues

This plan details six key issues for vector management and outlines the actions required to achieve Council's Corporate Plan objectives. The issues are:

1. Community awareness
2. Surveillance, prevention and control
3. Informed decision making
4. Effective management systems
5. Commitment and partnership
6. Education and training



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Vector Management Plan | 2023 - 2027



Vision					
To protect the health, lifestyle and welfare of the Rockhampton Regional Council communities from the effects of vectors.					
Issues					
Community awareness	Surveillance, prevention and control	Informed decision making	Effective management systems	Commitment and partnership	Education and training
Objectives					
To provide accurate, accessible and timely information on vectors.	To maintain surveillance systems.	To collect, use and make available reliable data relevant to vector management.	To ensure integrated systems based on sound principles for successfully managing and minimising the impacts of vectors are developed and widely implemented through risk management and are regularly reviewed.	To establish and maintain long-term stakeholder commitment to and coordinated management of vectors.	To have an appropriately skilled and knowledgeable workforce, able to respond effectively to the public health risks posed by vectors.
	To implement best practice treatment.				
To raise community awareness of vectors and their impacts and what they can do as members of the community to manage vectors.	To minimise the local establishment of new vectors and source reduction of existing vectors	To further the understanding of the biology, ecology and impacts of vectors.		To effectively and adequately resource vector management programs.	
	To minimise the risk of vector-borne diseases and nuisance value of vectors impact on the community				
Outcomes					
Information is provided in accessible manners.	Introduction, spread and establishment of vectors is prevented.	Reliable information is collected using modern technology	Effective and efficient integrated management systems are widely implemented.	All stakeholders are committed to and manage vectors.	Skilled and knowledgeable officers able to respond effectively to vector management issues.
Community awareness increases	Risk of vector related disease and pest value of vectors is minimised.	Accurate information is the basis for decision making.		Legislation is complied with	



Benefits of Control

Mosquitoes

Mosquito management programs will result in a reduction of mosquitoes which achieves the following benefits:

- Reduction in disease,
- Low level of disturbance in the evenings,
- Being able to spend time outside without being annoyed,
- Young children and the elderly are protected from mosquitoes,
- Reduction in allergies and infections associated with bites,
- Improved sleeping conditions,
- Improved living conditions,
- Improved outdoor working conditions,
- Improved possibilities for sport and leisure,
- Reduction in transmission of heartworm in dogs,
- Economic advantages for gastronomy and tourism,
- Potential increase in property values,
- Reduction in costs associated with vector borne disease such as medical and vet expenses and time off work.

Studies have indicated that aspects of personal wellbeing are most important for residents.



Rats & Mice

Vermin management programs will result in a reduction of mice and rats which achieves the following benefits:

- Reduction in disease,
- Reduced chance of food contamination,
- Reduction in destruction and damage caused by gnawing to buildings, appliances, vehicles, food containers, etc,
- Reduction in the possibility of fires or electrical shock from gnawed wiring,
- Reduced damage to crops and stored foods,
- Reduction in musophobia (strong dislike of rats and mice),
- Impacts to native wildlife by:
 - Reducing direct predation of a native wildlife,
 - Reducing competition from rats for food and resources,
 - Reducing hyper-predation effects, whereby rats support high numbers of other introduced invasive predators, such as cats, which go on to kill the native wildlife.

Other Insects

Vector management programs will result in a reduction of biting midges and Dawson River Black Fly which achieves similar benefits to mosquitoes and in addition:

- Reduction in allergies and infections associated with bites,
- Reduction in costs associated with allergies and infections from bites, such as medical and vet expenses and time off work,
- Reduction in impacts on livestock in the region

Priority Vectors

In the preparation of this plan, Vector Management Officers undertook a prioritisation process for the management of species that are present in the region and legislated for management under the Act, or are deemed to pose a significant local threat.

The management of these species has been prioritised as high, medium or low priority. The priority given to the management of a species is based upon disease threat, pest status, distribution and density.

For high priority species, species-specific management programs will be prepared. The management of species identified as medium or low priority will be addressed in conjunction with the implementation of the management programs or as time and resources permit. The high priority vectors are:

- *Aedes aegypti*,
- *Aedes albopictus*,
- *Ochlerotatus vigilax*,
- *Culex annulirostris*,
- *Culicoides ornatus* (biting midge),
- *Austrosimulium pestilens* (black fly),
- *Rattus rattus* (roof rat),
- *Rattus norvegicus* (Norway rat/brown rat).

Key Issue 1 – Community Awareness

Effective management of vectors relies on broad community knowledge of the problem and the management issues. Often people are not aware of the impacts that vectors have or that their own actions may be contributing to the problem. Many vector problems are increased through lack of community knowledge and awareness.

The level of education on vector surveillance, management and identification is increasing, but more targeted public education and a higher public profile are needed. The community requires further information to raise their awareness and their willingness to help manage vectors on their properties.

Council's website contains a significant amount of information on vector management and provides promotional material in several formats. Council also undertakes vector awareness programs at events such as shows.

Council will:

- Review the Vector Community Awareness Strategy
- Provide accurate, accessible and timely information material and undertake awareness programs
- Develop a vector management awareness program for local schools
- Develop mosquito awareness information for high risk premises
- Provide advice to reduce or remove the risk and impacts of vermin.

Key Issue 2 - Surveillance, Prevention & Control

Surveillance and control programs are essential for detecting and identifying vector issues in an area, evaluating corresponding vector-borne disease risks and developing management plans to minimise the associated public health risk to communities. Prevention and early intervention is generally the most cost-effective management strategy. Once a vector species is introduced and becomes established, it is often very difficult or even impossible to eradicate and costly to control.

Control measures are applied to reduce the numbers of vectors to a level where humans are at minimal risk from vector-borne disease or the pest impact of vectors.

Vectors present different levels of risk. Council has undertaken a risk assessment to determine the level of risk from specific vectors. This process has been essential in defining priorities for prevention and control.

Council currently undertakes regular surveillance of mosquito breeding through light traps, Biogents (BG) traps for adult mosquitoes, ovi traps for larva and property inspection surveys of residential premises.

This surveillance informs when appropriate mosquito larvicide and adulticide programs are undertaken.

Council will:

- Maintain proactive and reactive mosquito population surveillance and control programs
- Undertake mosquito surveillance and control activities around the Rockhampton Airport before and after international arrivals
- Investigate freshwater mosquito breeding sites in the peri-urban and rural areas and the potential control activities for these sites
- Develop and implement a plan for monitoring high risk premises for container breeding mosquitoes
- Survey areas at high risk from incursions of exotic mosquitoes and new infestations
- Review and comment on relevant development applications
- Inspect the primary property for mosquito breeding and conduct property inspections surrounding the primary property for mosquito breeding.
- Inspect the primary property for vermin activity and/or harbourages and conduct property inspections surrounding the primary property for vermin activity and harbourages
- Assist residents in establishing effective baiting and trapping programs
- Review treatable thresholds (eg number per dip, trap numbers and number of complaints) on an annual basis
- Review the effectiveness and efficiency of control methods in meeting community needs on an annual basis and adjust preferred methods to reflect findings
- Continue to implement the Vulnerable Person Work Instruction that outlines when Council will assist with baiting on private premises.



Key Issue 3 – Informed Decision Making

Reliable data is needed to ensure that vectors are managed holistically and for the long term.

An increasing amount of information is available on the distribution, abundance and impact of vectors.

Management practices are regularly reassessed and updated, based on the best information available, to enable the most effective and efficient application of the control options.

Council currently researches and utilises information and updates from legislation, State Government, mosquito research groups, vector management groups and industry to inform the program.

Council will:

- Investigate and acquire remote GIS hardware and software for data collection
- Enhance spatial data relating to mosquito breeding sites
- Maintain accurate surveillance and control records
- Use trends to implement and initiate appropriate control programs
- Use the developed SWARMMs system to record relevant data
- Distribute vector data to Queensland Health as requested

Key Issue 4 – Effective Management Systems

It is widely accepted that integrated vector management systems are the most effective. That is, best practice for effective control of vector species often involves multiple control methods and must protect the environment while minimising impacts on the community.

Council's programs are based on balancing feasibility, cost-effectiveness, sustainability, humaneness, community perceptions, emergency needs and public safety. The control program relies on integrated biological, physical, chemical and behavioural control measures and is aimed at preventing new vector breeding sites, eliminating established breeding sites and reducing the contact between vectors and humans. A well balanced program will ensure maximum long-term control at lowest overall cost.

As vector population numbers tend to change from year to year, be affected by climatic conditions and the Rockhampton Airport receiving international flights, it is important to develop response plans to deal with vector problems that exist or are likely to arise in the region.

Council has undertaken a risk assessment to determine the level of risk from vectors to assist in setting priorities. The prioritisation is critical to ensuring resources are used as efficiently as possible.

Council will:

- Develop a prioritised, risk-based Vector Management Disaster Response Plan linked to Council's disaster plan
- Ensure we meet the requirements of the Framework for Risk Assessment and Response for Incursion of Exotic Mosquitoes into a New Location in Queensland
- Review and update Council's Dengue/Zika Management Plan
- Review treatment options effectiveness and efficiency on an annual basis and adjust preferred methods to reflect findings
- Continue to develop work instructions
- Review already established work instructions



Key Issue 5 – Commitment & Partnership

Consultation and partnership arrangements between the community, State Government agencies and Council must be established to achieve a collaborative and coordinated approach to vector management. This is especially important in the case of an exotic incursion or a Dengue fever or Zika virus case notification.

Vector Management Officers are involved in the Mosquito Control Association Australia and the State Local Government Mosquito Advisory Group and have assisted organisations such as the Central Queensland University and Queensland Health in research projects.

The Public Health Act 2005 places responsibility on owners and occupiers to perform appropriate works and actions to prevent breeding of designated pests in areas under their control or responsibility.

The Public Health Regulation 2018 sets out a number of specific requirements for various people to manage the health risks posed by mosquitoes and designated pests including a responsibility on owners to proof relevant structures against rats and mice and the requirements for keeping rats or mice as pets.

The legislation is backed by suitable enforcement measures which are only used when other approaches have failed.

Council will:

- Build working partnerships between stakeholders to generate a holistic approach to vector management and a sense of community ownership of the problem
- Support research where appropriate
- Commit to resourcing vector management actions on a priority basis



- including funding, staff and equipment
- Participate in regional and State forums
- Review Council's Enforcement Strategy
- Facilitate compliance with and the consistent implementation of the Public Health Act 2005 and Public Health Regulation 2018 in accordance with Councils Enforcement Strategy
- Ensure compliance with legislative requirements placed on local government and Vector Management Officer's.
- In certain circumstances, treat vectors on Council land.

Key Issue 6 – Education & Training

Vector management activities must be undertaken by knowledgeable, skilled, motivated and competent staff. Such officers increase the efficiency and effectiveness of vector management activities and the selection of appropriate control methodologies.

Continuing professional development will be provided to ensure staff deliver high quality and consistent management and control activities in accordance with established legislation, policies and procedures.

Council will:

- Ensure the provision of appropriately qualified and trained personnel
- Provide ongoing professional development.

Implementation, Review & Performance Reporting

To monitor and measure the effectiveness of the implementation of this plan, Council will prepare and maintain an Action Delivery Plan incorporating operational requirements aimed at successfully progressing the responses.

The operational actions will be assigned appropriate indicators so that performance against the outcomes can be regularly assessed.

Appropriate reporting frameworks will be put in place to ensure management can monitor performance and adjust operational effort according to circumstances.

The Plan will be reviewed midway through the plan to ensure that it identifies and reflects changing priorities, operational capacity and the legislative framework and has been afforded adequate financial and staffing resources.





Appendix 1

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Vector Management Unit
PO Box 1860, Rockhampton QLD 4700
P: 07 4932 9000 or 1300 22 55 77
E: enquiries@rrc.qld.gov.au W: www.rrc.qld.gov.au

VECTOR MANAGEMENT PLAN AND DENGUE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Dengue Management Plan 2023-2027

Meeting Date: 20 June 2023

Attachment No: 2



DENGUE MANAGEMENT PLAN

2023 - 2027





Acknowledgements

This plan was developed by Rockhampton Regional Council in collaboration and consultation with the Central Queensland Public Health Unit, Rockhampton.



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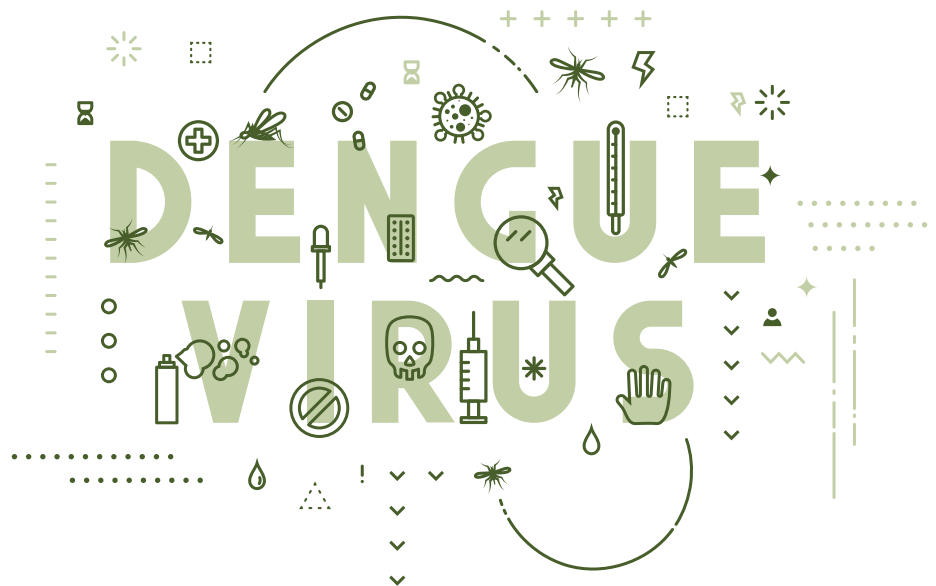
Introduction

Aedes aegypti is the main vector of Dengue and is present in the Rockhampton Region. *Aedes albopictus* is also a vector for dengue and whilst not present in Australia, it has been intercepted in Australian international seaports. Imported cases of Dengue have been diagnosed in the Rockhampton Region for many years. In 2019 Rockhampton experienced a Dengue outbreak with 13 cases confirmed, including locally transmitted cases.

Aedes aegypti and *Aedes albopictus* are also vectors of Zika virus.

Changing climatic conditions, higher temperatures and higher rainfall may have an impact on the breeding areas of other mosquitoes and may cause the southwards expansion of tropical mosquito-borne diseases such as Malaria, Dengue fever, Zika, Chikungunya, Japanese encephalitis and epidemic polyarthritis.

Queensland Health has determined Rockhampton to be a moderate risk to a dengue outbreak, based on local characteristics. Moderate risk areas are those where at least one vector (*Aedes aegypti* or *Aedes albopictus*) is present, relatively few viraemic travellers arrive from dengue endemic areas and where there is no recent history of other *Aedes aegypti* or *Aedes albopictus* vectored arboviruses.



What is dengue?

Dengue is an infection caused by one of four dengue viruses in the family Flaviviridae. In terms of morbidity, mortality and economic costs, dengue is one of the most important mosquito-borne viral disease of humans.

There are four dengue virus serotypes (DENV- 1, 2, 3 and 4) and there are genetic variants of these serotypes (genotypes) are found in different geographic locations. A person can acquire a maximum of four dengue infections during their lifetime, one infection with each dengue serotype. Infection with one dengue serotype confers immunity to that particular serotype, but may result in an increased risk of complications with subsequent infections of another serotype. Infection with a dengue virus may be subclinical (asymptomatic) or may cause illness ranging from a mild fever to a severe, even fatal, condition. Hospitalisation may be required depending on the severity of symptoms.

Severe dengue (also known as Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever) is characterised by plasma leakage leading to shock that can be fatal, particularly among young children. Approximately 2.5% of people affected with severe dengue die, although with timely treatment this rate is often reduced to less than 1%. Vaccines for dengue are currently under development.

Typical dengue symptoms include:

- Sudden onset of fever (lasting three to seven days) and extreme fatigue,
- Intense headache (especially behind the eyes),
- Muscle, joint and back pain,
- Loss of appetite, vomiting and diarrhoea,
- Taste aberrations (metallic taste),
- Skin rash,
- Minor bleeding (nose or gums).

Current data shows that transmission occurs at residential and commercial addresses and that most dengue is imported by returning residents rather than international visitors.

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Other Diseases

Zika

Zika is a virus that is closely related to dengue. If someone is infected with Zika virus, it can typically take 3 to 12 days for symptoms to appear. The symptoms are like those caused by the flu and can include fever, a skin rash, pain in the joints, muscle pain, a headache especially behind the eyes, conjunctivitis and weakness or lack of energy. Between 2013 and 2015 there were large outbreaks of Zika virus infection in several Pacific countries. Since 2015 large outbreaks have been occurring in central and southern America and are continuing. Recent outbreaks in the Pacific and the Americas have raised concerns that Zika virus infection may cause birth defects such as microcephaly if a woman is infected while pregnant.

An imported case of Zika virus was diagnosed in the Rockhampton Region in 2016.

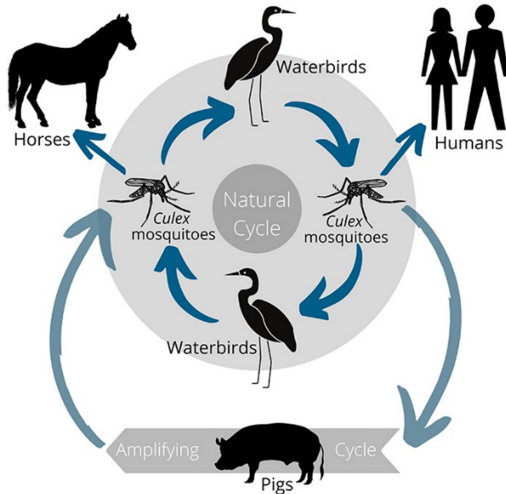
Japanese Encephalitis

Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) is a virus that is primarily transmitted by bites from infected mosquito vectors and is maintained in a mosquito-water bird or mosquito-pig cycle. Pigs are known as 'amplifiers' of the virus as they develop levels of virus in their blood sufficient to infect mosquitoes for around 4 days.

Human receptors and other animals such as horses can catch JEV but will not form part of the lifecycle, as they do not develop levels of the virus to sufficient numbers in their blood. JEV is mainly transmitted through the Culex species of mosquitoes, notably for our area Culex Annulirostris.

The majority of people who are infected with JEV have no or mild symptoms. Severe disease may be characterised by acute encephalitis (inflammation of the brain), with sudden onset of high fevers and chills, severe headache, neck stiffness, disorientation, convulsions, paralysis and coma. Of these severe cases approximately one third die and one third are left with permanent disabilities.

JEV infection is preventable though vaccination.





Dengue Vectors

Dengue and zika viruses are transmitted by the highly urban *Aedes aegypti* mosquito and the *Aedes albopictus* mosquito.

Aedes aegypti live primarily in domestic environments and are predominantly a day biting mosquito. Although not present in Australia, *Aedes albopictus* is established throughout the majority of Torres Strait outer islands and has been intercepted in Australian international seaports including Darwin, Cairns, Townsville, Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne. Without timely detection on the mainland, *Aedes albopictus* is expected to quickly colonise and establish itself through much of coastal Australia, thereby enhancing the potential risk of exotic disease outbreaks.

Lifecycle

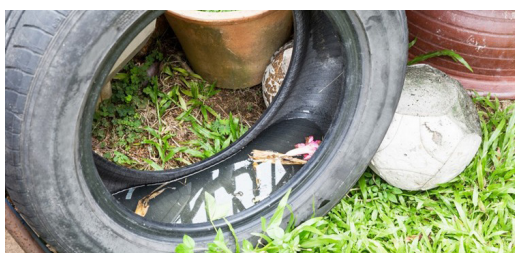
The lifecycle of a mosquito goes through four distinct stages egg, larval, pupal and adult as described below. The larval stage is further broken into 4 stages as the larvae grows.

Larval Habitat

Larvae of *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* develop primarily in:

- Artificial containers holding water, including cans, buckets, jars, pot plant saucers, self-watering pot plants, birdbaths, boats, tyres and tarpaulins,
- Roof gutters and poorly maintained or unscreened rainwater tanks,
- Natural sites such as bromeliads, tree axils and fallen palm fronds,
- Subterranean sites such as wells, telecommunication pits and drain sumps.

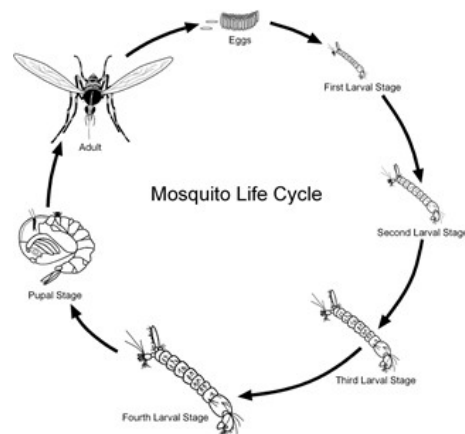
In addition to artificial larval habitats, *Aedes albopictus* also inhabits other natural environments such as rock pools.



Adult mosquito behaviour

Aedes aegypti is associated with urban areas and are known to rest indoors in dark places such as wardrobes and under beds. Females are easily disturbed when biting and prefer to bite humans during daylight hours. One dengue-infected female mosquito is capable of biting and infecting several people during one full feed. Residents can manage exposure to this species because it does not disperse far from larval habitats and humans, provided that human hosts and oviposition sites are available.

Aedes albopictus are more aggressive biters, feed predominately outdoors, may tolerate colder climates and may disperse farther than *Aedes aegypti*.





How does dengue spread?

Dengue is not transmitted directly from person to person (however transmission via blood transfusion is possible). Dengue is transmitted when an infective female vector mosquito bites a susceptible person. This person may become unwell 4 to 7 days later (onset range 3 to 14 days).

An infected person can transmit the virus to a vector mosquito from shortly before the onset of fever to the end of the feverish period, usually 4 to 5 days.

After biting an infected person, an infected mosquito may be able to transmit the virus after 8 to 12 days. The duration is influenced by many factors such as ambient temperature and has been reported to be as short as 5 days. The cycle of transmission between subsequent rounds of transmission to humans is usually estimated as 14 days during outbreaks. Consequently, mosquito control activities need to be initiated urgently to reduce the likelihood of transmission.



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Purpose

The purpose of the Plan is to provide a strategic direction on the management of dengue in the Rockhampton region to reduce the risk of endemic dengue in the Rockhampton Region and minimise the number of locally acquired dengue cases. The plan is supported by the subsequent development of underlying associated documents.

Links to Council's Corporate Plan 2022-2026

Rockhampton Regional Council's Corporate Plan 2022-2027 sets the strategic direction and priorities for our organisation for the next five years.

Whilst management goals are not specifically outlined in the Corporate plan the actions undertaken in this area support the following commitments.

Goal 2.1 Our Community: Our places and spaces enhance livability and diversity of our communities.

Goal 4.3 Our Environment: Our public spaces add value to our Region and our communities.

Vector Management Plan 2023-2027

The Vector Management Plan establishes and promotes a cooperative management of the impacts of vectors within the region and provides direction to Vector Management Officers and the community.

Key Components

This plan details four key components of dengue management:

1. Mosquito surveillance
2. Mosquito control
3. Disease surveillance
4. Public awareness and community engagement

Response Procedures

The plan outlines response procedures to:

- Routine prevention
- Sporadic cases
- Outbreaks



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Dengue Management Plan | 2023 - 2027

Key Components			
Mosquito Surveillance	Mosquito Control	Disease Surveillance	Public Awareness and Community Engagement
Objectives			
To maintain current surveillance systems.	To implement best practice treatment.	To collect, use and make available reliable data relevant to vector management.	To provide accurate, accessible and timely information on dengue and mosquitoes.
To minimise the local establishment of new dengue vectors and source reduction of existing dengue vectors.	To minimise the risk of dengue on the community		To raise community awareness of mosquitoes and impacts and their capacity to identify and manage mosquitoes and breeding sites
To minimise the risk of dengue on the community.			To establish and maintain long-term stakeholder commitment to and coordinated dengue management.
To collect, use and make available reliable data relevant to dengue management.			To ensure compliance with vector management related legislation.
Outcomes			
Introduction is prevented and spread, and establishment of dengue vectors is reduced.	Risk of locally transmitted dengue is minimised.	Accurate information is the basis for decision making.	Stakeholders are informed, knowledgeable and have ownership of dengue management.
Risk of locally transmitted dengue is minimised.	Effective treatment methods are implemented with adherence to relevant legislation.		Appropriate education programs are implemented at strategic times throughout the year.

Legislative Framework

The legislation used in disease surveillance and mosquito management in Queensland include the:

- *Public Health Act 2005*,
- *Public Health Regulation 2018*
- *Medicines and Poisons Act 2019*
- *Medicines and Poisons (Pest Management Activities) Regulation 2021*

The *Public Health Act 2005* places a responsibility on owners and occupiers of all properties to ensure that an accumulation of water or another liquid at the place is not a breeding ground for mosquitoes. It also (through the regulation) places requirements on tanks or other receptacles that are used or intended to be used for holding or storing water or another liquid to prevent mosquito breeding.

The *Public Health Act 2005* provides the ability of the chief executive officer to approve inspection programs under which authorised persons may enter places to monitor compliance with the above.

The *Medicines and Poisons Act 2019* requires all mosquito control activities involving the application of pesticides to be conducted by a licensed pest management technician with some exceptions (e.g. S-methoprene formulations and lethal ovitraps used for dengue control). The exception applies to authorised persons, entomologists, health officers and vector officers.



Stakeholders

Public

Routine mosquito control and the removal of mosquito breeding sites around domestic and commercial premises is the responsibility of the resident or property occupier or owner.

Council officers will on complaint basis, inspect premises suspected of breeding mosquitoes to determine if the premises is (or likely to be) a Public Health Risk. If it is determined that the premises is a Public Health Risk Council will require the occupier or owner to undertake remediation works.

Further enforcement action and additional powers may be undertaken by Council and/or Queensland Health when there is a risk of a disease outbreak eg spraying.

Local government

Council is delegated with administering and enforcing sections of the *Public Health Act 2005 and Public Health Regulation 2018* which relate to mosquitoes and mosquito habitats. Council ensures that the public complies with relevant sections of the Act to exclude the potential for mosquito breeding.

Council will set our priorities for managing mosquitoes within our region and implement relevant programs as required.

During outbreaks Council will work with Queensland Health to ensure a coordinated response.

Many local governments conduct mosquito management programs based on Integrated Pest Management principles.

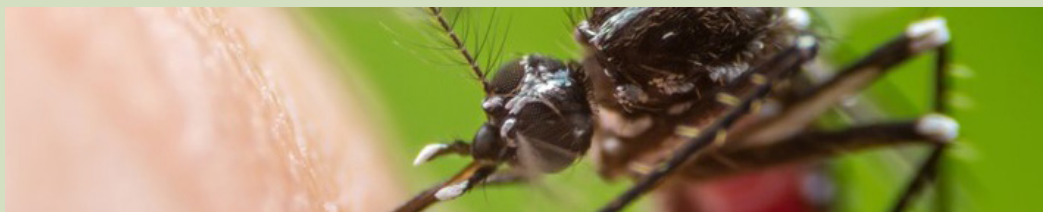
Queensland Health

Queensland Health sets state-wide strategic direction and implements actions for the prevention of and response to dengue outbreaks in Queensland. This includes:

- Reporting notifications of dengue virus infections through the electronic notifiable conditions register,
- Monitoring incidence of dengue in Queensland,
- Confirming dengue diagnoses,
- Contact tracing of dengue case travel histories,
- Oversight of emergency vector control activities,
- Supporting and assisting local government with the implementation of mosquito surveillance and control activities for dengue vectors,
- Leading and conducting public awareness activities to promote self-protective behaviours by the public, including reducing mosquito habitat around homes and businesses,
- Monitoring the distribution of dengue vectors and conducting pesticide resistance testing on dengue vectors where relevant,
- Supporting local government through the provision of expert medical entomology advice,
- Developing relevant public health legislation and monitoring/supporting its administration.

Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources conducts surveillance and control of exotic mosquitoes and spray aircraft for insects across all Australian international air and sea ports on behalf of the Department of Health.



Key Component 1 – Surveillance

Surveillance for *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* can determine vector distribution, estimate vector population density, identify productive larval habitats and define spatial and temporal risk factors related to transmission. These are used to prioritise the locations for and timing of vector control efforts.

Populations of container breeding mosquito species can be difficult to monitor due to the highly localised nature of their distribution in some locations, and complex drivers of population dynamics, including climatic factors and human behaviours.

Mosquito surveillance is conducted as regularly as required to provide meaningful comparative data. Where possible, survey data is mapped to aid visualisation of the scale of surveillance activities. This will include implementing SWARMMs data. Surveillance strategies are continually evolving as new surveillance tools become available and as the program is reviewed.

Surveillance locations

Surveillance focuses on residential and commercial premises that present the greatest public health risk and geographical hot spots.

High risk premises are those that have frequent contact with viraemic travellers, provide large numbers of mosquito larval habitats and/or represent an opportunity for large numbers of people to be infected. High risk premises are generally non-residential (e.g. high-traffic premises like backpacker accommodation which host a disproportionate number of viraemic international visitors). Conversely, individual residences, often regarded as 'key premises', may be high risk if they consistently support the production of large numbers of mosquitoes.

Potential high risk premises include:

- Older or poorly maintained households (potentially lacking air conditioning and

insect screens or with gardens providing large amounts of shade and potential containers),

- Backpackers/hostels/guest houses/ caravan parks,
- Hospitals,
- Tyre dealers/wrecking yards
- Plant nurseries/ hardware stores,
- Schools (pre-schools, primary, high schools, colleges, day-care centres),
- Airport/Port Alma/transit centres
- Botanical Gardens/ Kershaw Gardens/ Heritage Village.

Geographical hot spots for potential virus transmission include:

- Older or poorly maintained areas of town with non- screened housing (especially with a history of high *Aedes aegypti* numbers),
- Highly vegetated areas that provide outdoor harbourages.
- Areas that have supported previous dengue activity,
- Areas with a high number of rainwater tanks.

Adult mosquito surveillance

Routine adult surveillance for *Aedes aegypti* is currently not undertaken by Council.

Council conducts weekly light trap monitoring however, it is not designed to monitor for breeding of *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes as they are day biters and not attracted to the trap. These traps monitor nuisance and other mosquitoes to provide information on potential breeding area eg saltmarshes

Biogents Sentinel (BG) traps and Gravid Aedes Traps (GATs) can be used to monitor adult *Aedes aegypti* numbers in high risk areas.

Sampling the adult vector population can provide essential data regarding vector distribution, seasonal population trends, transmission risk and evaluation of vector control interventions. Adult presence can also be a reliable indicator of proximity to hidden larval habitats however it does not provide details regarding the type and availability of larval habitat

Egg surveillance

Aedes aegypti and *Aedes albopictus* deposit eggs in ovitraps. The identification of eggs to species level is not practical and it is often necessary to rear eggs to at least fourth instar larvae for species identification. As with adult surveillance, ovitraps do not provide details regarding the type and availability of larval habitat.

Larvae and pupae surveillance

Container surveys can be used to identify the presence of larvae and pupae breeding in water. The surveillance infers the spatial distribution of the vector and the diversity and availability of surface container habitats. Larval surveys may also provide a relative measure of density of larval habitats.

Key Component 2 – Control

The aim of controlling mosquitoes is to break the transmission cycle, by killing mosquitoes and removing their breeding sites. Adult mosquito control includes:

- Interior residual spray,
- Deployment of lethal ovitraps within specified areas,
- Barrier and/or harbourage spraying,
- Specific misting programs.

Larval control includes:

- Application of residual pyrethroids and insect growth regulators to containers capable of holding water,
- Source reduction – removal, turn upside down, fill with sand or made free-draining so not to hold water, ensure mosquito-proofing is intact of water-bearing containers eg tanks,
- Biological control (fish).

Control measures targeting adult mosquitoes have a large and immediate impact on virus transmission, whereas larval control removes the subsequent generation of mosquitoes within the affected area.

Control activities are most effective where the community actively undertakes preventative behaviours. Fewer productive larval habitats will equate to fewer vector mosquitoes and fewer mosquito bites reduce the risk of exposure to the viruses. Control methods and strategies are continually evolving as new control tools become available and as the program is reviewed.



Key Component 3 – Disease Surveillance

Routine disease surveillance is the first defence against dengue with an emphasis on overseas acquired ('imported') cases. This is important as dengue outbreaks are initiated by an often undiagnosed viraemic traveller.

Dengue is a notifiable disease under the *Public Health Act 2005*. Notification encompasses clinical and laboratory surveillance.

Doctors are required to notify Queensland Health immediately upon clinical suspicion, rather than waiting for laboratory results.

Laboratories are required to notify Queensland Health of a positive dengue result.

Early presentation and notification of cases enables action to be taken promptly to reduce the risk of local transmission.

Queensland Health regularly advises Council of vectorborne diseases notifications.

Key Component 4 – Public awareness and community engagement

The prevention of dengue is the responsibility of both government (state and local) and the public. Councils Vector Management Unit cannot eliminate mosquitoes in all homes and businesses in the Rockhampton Region, hence an important element of dengue management is raising public awareness about the community's role in eliminating mosquito harbouring at home and in the workplace as well as supporting the adoption of protective behaviours.

Public awareness campaigns and community prevention initiatives are enhanced just before and throughout the storm and wet season (September-April) and focuses on the following messages:

- Adoption of protective behaviour (e.g. use of insect repellent and PPE),
- Source reduction (e.g. clean up yards, tip out or dispose of unwanted containers, clean gutters, screen houses and water tanks etc.),
- The public's legal responsibility regarding domestic mosquito breeding.

The campaigns are designed to create and maintain awareness and motivation within the community and convey a positive view of empowerment which supports personal responsibility and action rather than creating fear or panic.

Specific campaigns are required for high risk premises.



Routine Prevention Actions

This section outlines the actions taken when there is no current dengue activity in Rockhampton.

Surveillance

Routine surveillance will be undertaken at high-risk premises, in geographical hot spots and in response to some complaints. The priority programs are:

1. Regular high risk premises survey program,
2. Property surveys in response to a mosquito complaint where the biting species has been identified as a container breeder,
3. Property surveys of geographical hotspots.

In addition, surveillance is undertaken at the Rockhampton Airport prior to and after international flights, as advised by the Airport.

The outcome of any surveillance will be discussed with the occupier and if *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* is identified, correspondence may be issued giving the occupier time to comply with legislative requirements.

Breeding identified on Council land will be treated. The presence of *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* will be mapped in SWARMMs, a state-wide mapping system.

Adult mosquito surveillance

BG or GAT traps may be used to identify the presence or absence of *Aedes aegypti* or *Aedes albopictus* at priority 1, 2 and 3 premises above. Also live adult collections.

Traps are placed at the premises and left for a specified amount of time. Traps are then collected and the species of mosquitoes caught identified. Residents are requested to collect adult mosquitoes



place them in a jar and put into their freezer which then can be collected for identification purposes.

If the presence of *Aedes aegypti* or *Aedes albopictus* is identified, larval and pupal surveillance will be undertaken.

Egg surveillance

The use of ovitraps will be investigated to determine whether their use adds value to routine prevention procedures.

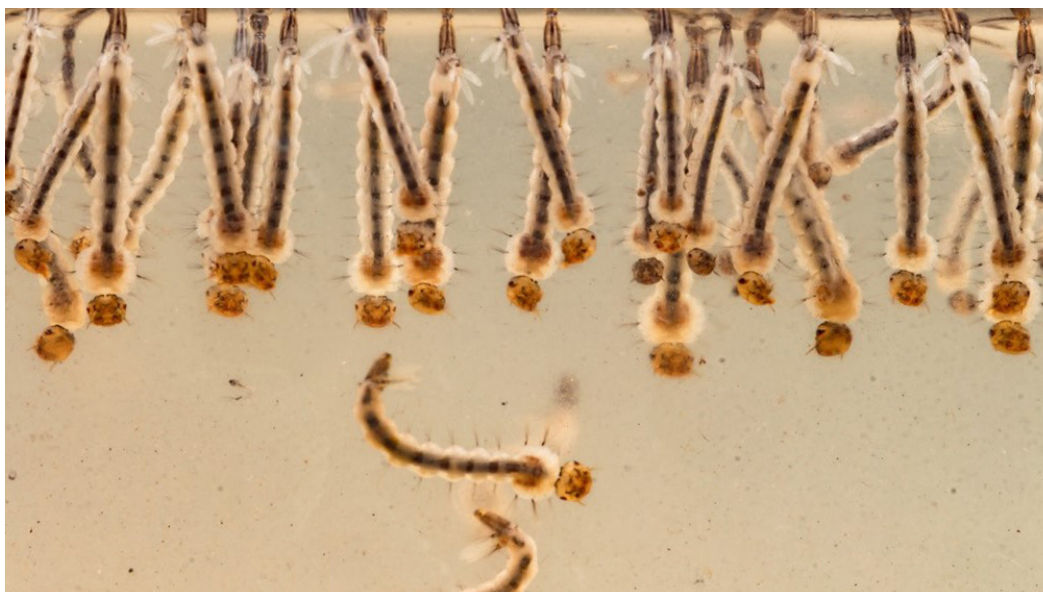
Larval and pupal surveillance

Larval and pupal surveillance will be undertaken:

- In response to a mosquito complaint where the biting species has been identified as a container breeder. The surveillance will be undertaken on a number of properties in the same vicinity of the complaints premises,
- When adult *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* have been identified through adult mosquito surveillance, at the Rockhampton Airport and a radius of 400 metres from the airport prior to and after international flights.

Through surveys containers that are breeding or could breed mosquitoes are identified and where possible source reduction is undertaken. Drones may be used to check gutters and rainwater tanks for breeding.

Larvae collected will be identified to determine the species, when required. Where possible, surveillance will be undertaken with the occupier of the premises.



Control

Larval control

Where possible, source reduction will be undertaken at the time of surveillance. Larval control activities to be undertaken by occupiers include:

- All potential breeding sites (artificial containers that collect water) in the yard and in and under the house to be emptied and rendered 'mosquito-proof' (ie. turned upside down, filled or destroyed) if possible,
- Natural breeding sites that hold stagnant water, such as tree holes and bromeliads, to be treated with insecticide, it is recommended that tree holes be filled with sand,
- Roof gutters to be kept clear so not to hold water,
- Rainwater tanks inlets and outlets to be screened (less than 1 mm aperture).

Larval control on Council land and on private properties when determined necessary is undertaken with chemicals such as S-methoprene as Altosid Pellets and Briquettes®. Costs may be recovered on private property.

Adult Control

If deemed necessary, adult control may be undertaken using ULV misting within a 200-400m radius of the property covering an area of approximately 2 standard house blocks in all directions from the primary property providing access is available to do so using an emulsion of Twilight and DC Tron.

Disease Surveillance

Queensland Health's vectorborne disease notifications are reviewed on a regular basis. Trends and internal Council reporting is conducted monthly comparing data from the previous five years.

Public Awareness and Community Engagement

Population level education strategies about dengue prevention are designed to create and maintain awareness and motivation within the community.

Messages focus on the need to eliminate *Aedes aegypti* breeding sites in and around houses, commercial premises and other public spaces, particularly prior to and during the wet season.

Key preventive messages include:

- Adoption of protective behaviour (e.g. use personal insect repellent and PPE)
- Source reduction (e.g. cleans up yards, tip out or dispose of unwanted containers, clean gutters, screen houses and water tanks etc.)
- Public legal responsibility regarding domestic mosquito breeding.

Messages are delivered through a variety of mechanisms including:

- Factsheets,
- Councils website,
- Displays at events,
- Social media,
- On-hold messages,
- Presentations,
- Property surveys,
- Vector Management Officers.

If compliance is not gained through education alone, Council sends initial notification letters and uses legislative enforcement tools to gain compliance.

Sporadic Case Response Actions

This section outlines the actions taken when there is no current dengue activity in Rockhampton, but a sporadic case has been reported to Queensland Health.

A sporadic case is an imported case of dengue (clinically suspected or confirmed),

When there is no current dengue activity it is possible locally-acquired cases are false alarms, ie the person does not have dengue fever. However, because they could be bona fide cases, they require immediate follow up and mosquito control action.

Once a locally-acquired case becomes confirmed an outbreak is declared by Queensland Health.

Queensland Health takes the lead role in a response to a sporadic case. Council works

collaboratively with Queensland Health on a response to the notification.

Surveillance

Surveillance is generally undertaken within 200-400m of the dengue case contact points. Dengue case contact points are localities visited during daylight by the viraemic dengue case where contact with *Aedes aegypti* was possible (eg. residence, place of business, school).

Councils Vector Management Officers and Environmental Health Officers undertake surveillance with Queensland Health officers.

An approved inspection program may be initiated by Queensland Health.



Control

The aim of mosquito control in response to a sporadic dengue case is to thoroughly control *Aedes aegypti* within 200-400m of the dengue case contact points.

Larval Control

Larval control is conducted at all premises within a 200- 400m radius of the dengue case and potentially case contact points at the time surveillance is undertaken.

The control involves the elimination and treatment of all active and potential breeding sites and consists of destroying or removing unwanted containers and treating others with chemicals such as S-methoprene as Altosid Pellets®.

Adult Control - Interior Spraying

A residual insecticide may be applied as a surface spray in premises in the immediate vicinity (100m) of the case contact points.

Where treatments are undertaken for larva or adults occupants are provided a Pest Control Advice as required by legislation.

This advice details the chemicals used, safety procedures and how to report any adverse health effects. Permission to spray is sought before treating. Spray is applied to typical *Aedes aegypti* resting sites such as dark corners, under and inside furniture, and to dark objects.

Council's Vector Management Officers generally undertake interior spraying with Queensland Health Officers.

Adult Control – Property Exterior Misting

Property exterior misting may be undertaken. Councils Vector Management Officers would work with Queensland Health in determining if misting the property is required taking in to account possible effectiveness, size of the property, extent of mosquito harbourages and sensitivity of the area.

Adult Control – General Misting

Council's Vector Management Officers may undertake misting programs within a 400m radius of case contact points using an emulsion of Twilight and DC Tron independent of Queensland Health response. General misting is conducted from the roadway only.

Public Awareness and Community Engagement

Sporadic case response publicity is led by Queensland Health, Council may support publicity where requested.

The role of education in response to sporadic cases is specifically targeted at occupants of premises in the immediate vicinity of the case contact points to heighten awareness of the risk of local transmission of dengue fever and urge occupants to take urgent steps to control *Aedes aegypti* and subsequently decrease the risk of transmission. This is undertaken by the officers who attend the premises.

Outbreak Response Actions

One case of locally acquired dengue constitutes an outbreak. During an outbreak, the bulk of dengue action response is geared towards locations where there is recent dengue activity, especially clusters of cases rather than individual cases. Mosquito control responses are planned by Queensland Health with assistance from Queensland Health's entomologist and with assistance and in collaboration with Council.

Surveillance

Surveillance procedures are comparable to those for a sporadic case however surveillance is undertaken over a wider area and usually incorporates an approved inspection program. Councils Vector Management Officers and Environmental Health Officers undertake surveillance with Queensland Health officers.

Control

Larval Control

Larval control procedures are comparable to those for a sporadic case. Emphasis during a multiple-case outbreak is control over a larger area, including all premises with dengue activity. Thus, collaboration between Council and Queensland Health is especially critical.

Larval control is generally undertaken at the time the properties are surveyed. For outbreaks with numerous cases over a broad area, the entire area is subject to larval control.

Adult Control - Interior Spraying

Interior spraying is especially important during a large outbreak. Numerous viraemic people equate to numerous viraemic mosquitoes. The residence and adjacent premises of each dengue case should be sprayed to minimise the number of bloodfed *Aedes aegypti* that survive to transmit dengue. In many instances, the place of business or even acquaintances' homes may need treating.

For outbreaks with numerous cases over a broad area, the entire area is subject to adult control. Occupier consent is required when interior spraying a premises.

Adult Control – Property Exterior Misting

Property exterior misting may be undertaken. Councils Vector Management Officers would assist Queensland Health in property misting.

Adult Control - General Misting

Council's Vector Management Officers may undertake broad range misting programs independent of Queensland Health response.

General misting is conducted from the roadway only.

Public Awareness and Community Engagement

During an outbreak, educational activities aim to heighten public perception of immediate risk and motivate the public to take action.

Review and performance reporting

The Plan will be reviewed mid-term to ensure that it identifies and reflects changing priorities, operational capacity and the legislative framework and has been afforded adequate financial and staffing resources.

Appropriate reporting frameworks will be put in place to ensure management can monitor performance and adjust operational effort according to circumstances.

Action Plan		
Actions	When	Success Indicator
Develop and implement a high risk premises/ locations dengue management program	December 2023	Program developed
	June 2024	Program implemented
Document and maintain the premises to premises program	December 2023	Program documented
	June 2024	Program undertaken
Maintain the airport management program	Ongoing	Program undertaken
Review surveillance programs	Annually	Surveillance programs reviewed and changes implemented
Review control programs	Annually	Control programs reviewed and changes implemented
Research new surveillance methods and evaluate for use	Ongoing	Surveillance methods identified and evaluated for use
Research new control methods and evaluate for use	Ongoing	Control methods identified and evaluated for use
Undertake enforcement actions	As required	Enforcement actions undertaken
Develop work instructions associated with the plan	Ongoing as identified	Work instruction developed
Implement Dengue related actions in the Community Education Strategy (includes education material, displays and school programs)	Annually	Community Education Strategy implemented
Source and provide relevant training to vector management officers in relation to dengue management and best management practices	Ongoing	Training identified and attended
Vector management officer attendance at conferences, workshops, forums, regional and stakeholder meetings	As appropriate	Conference, workshops and forums, regional and stakeholder meetings identified and attended



Vector Management Unit
PO Box 1860, Rockhampton QLD 4700
P: 07 4932 9000 or 1300 22 55 77
E: enquiries@rrc.qld.gov.au W: www.rrc.qld.gov.au

10.8 WILD DOG MANAGEMENT PLAN 2023-2027

File No:	2557
Attachments:	1. Wild Dog Management Plan 2023-2027 ↓
Authorising Officer:	Doug Scott - Manager Planning and Regulatory Services Alicia Cutler - General Manager Community Services
Author:	Karen Moody - Coordinator Health and Environment

SUMMARY

Wild dogs continue to have a significant impact on our community, in both urban and rural areas. The Wild Dog Management Plan 2023-2027 sets the strategic direction for managing these impacts over the next four years.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council adopts the Wild Dog Management Plan 2023-2027.

COMMENTARY

The Wild Dog Management Plan 2023-2027 has been updated to continue to promote the cooperative management of the impacts of wild dogs within our region for the next four years.

This plan articulates actions Council may take in relation to the notification of wild dog impacts on our community, specifically when wild dogs impact our peri-urban and urban areas, through the hierarchy of control.

This plan forms a subordinate plan under Councils Biosecurity Plan 2021-2026. It takes into account wild dogs have been categorised as asset protection within the plan. The approval of the updates Wild Dog Management Plan 2023-2027 is an action item within the Biosecurity Plan.

BACKGROUND

Wild dogs are known to impact both urban and rural areas with the Rockhampton region. However, it is difficult to manage wild dogs alone, given they are adaptable, mobile animals that transverse over many properties throughout their lifetime.

The Wild Dog Management Plan is designed to allow the community, stakeholders and staff to understand the actions that Council, stakeholders and the community may take to reduce the impact of wild dogs on our community.

PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Council approved the previous Wild Dog Management Plan 2017-2021 in mid-2017.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The actions outlined can be achieved through the current operational budget.

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* places a General Biosecurity Obligation on all persons to take all reasonable and practicable measure to prevent or minimise a biosecurity risk under their control. Council therefore has responsibility to manage wild dogs located on Council land. Council also has an enforcement responsibility under the act to ensure landholders are meeting their General Biosecurity Obligations. This assists to outline actions that may be taken to meet these legal responsibilities.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Council has a legal obligation to comply with the *Biosecurity Act 2014* in relation to the management of restricted animals (including wild dogs) on Council land. This plan outlines actions Council may take when wild dogs are inhabiting Council controlled land to ensure we meet the requirements of the Act.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

Current staffing resources have been taken into account when developing action items.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The control of wild dogs within the Rockhampton Regional Council area reduces the risk of harm to people, pets and the environment.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The management of wild dogs within our community, particularly in the peri-urban areas assists with Council meeting the following objectives of the Corporate plan

Goal 2.1 Our Community: Our places and spaces enhance livability and diversity of our community

Goal 4.3 Out Environment: Our public spaces add value to our region and our communities.

CONCLUSION

The Wild Dog Management Plan is critical for ensuring that Council, the community, landowners and key stakeholders work together to manage wild dog impacts on our community over the next four years.

WILD DOG MANAGEMENT PLAN 2023-2027

Wild Dog Management Plan 2023-2027

Meeting Date: 20 June 2023

Attachment No: 1

Wild Dog Management Plan 2023-2027



Pest Management

P: 4932 9000

E: enquiries@rrc.qld.gov.au



Acknowledgements

This plan was developed by Rockhampton Regional Council in collaboration and consultation with experts from the following organisations:

- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Biosecurity Queensland (Rockhampton)
- Department of Environment and Science
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (Rockhampton)



Wild Dog Management Plan 2023 - 2027



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Wild Dog Management Plan 2023 - 2027



Summary

Wild dogs have known significant impacts on a number of values of the residents living in the in the Rockhampton Region.

Landholders are legally obliged to control wild dogs where they occur on their land. Wild dog territories typically occur over numerous properties and are therefore difficult to effectively control individually. A coordinated approach to wild dog management is best practice and there is a community expectation that Council will facilitate this.

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, local governments must have a biosecurity plan for invasive biosecurity matter in their local government area. Biosecurity matter includes dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*) other than a domestic dog owned by a person and dingoes (*Canis lupus dingo*) located outside a protected area ie a National park. The difficulty of managing an adaptable, mobile animal has led to Council taking a nil tenure approach of working with a number of stakeholders on appropriate management solutions.

This plan integrates pest management principles, legal obligations, community expectations, scientific knowledge and animal welfare considerations to provide a framework for the control of wild dogs by landholders, Council and other key stakeholders.

This plan forms a subplan under the Council's Biosecurity Plan 2022-2026.

Background

Wild dogs include dingoes (*Canis lupus dingo*), hybrid dingoes (*Canis familiaris dingo*, *Canis lupus familiaris*) and domestic dogs (*Canis familiaris*) that have escaped or have been released into our Region.

As a result of significant impact wild dog have, they are now considered a priority pest animal. The National Wild Dog Action Plan has been developed and is being implemented throughout Australia.

Characteristics and distribution of wild dogs

Dingoes were first introduced to Australia some 4000 years ago and domestic dogs have been present since first European settlement in 1788 and their release into the environment has continued since.

Dingoes and other wild dogs are present in most environments and are widely distributed throughout the country.

Wild dogs are annual breeders with an average litter size of five pups. Wild dogs and hybrids may weigh up to 60 kilograms, most are less than 20 kilograms. Pure dingoes are distinct from similar-looking domestic dogs and hybrids as they breed once a year and have some different skull characteristics (Fleming 2001).

Wild dogs live in small groups or packs in territories where the home ranges of individuals can vary between 10 and 300 square kilometres. Packs are usually stable but under certain conditions some wild dogs, usually young males, disperse. Although wild dogs eat a diverse range of foods, they focus on medium and large vertebrates. Hunting group size and hunting strategies differ according to prey type to maximise hunting success. Larger groups of wild dogs are more successful when hunting large kangaroos and cattle and solitary animals are more successful when hunting rabbits and small macropods (Fleming 2001).

Dingoes and other wild dogs are present and distributed throughout the Rockhampton Region.



Wild Dog Management Plan 2023 - 2027



Impacts of wild dogs

Wild dogs have substantial impacts on the economy, environment and social amenity and human safety.

Economic Impacts

Queensland loses about \$89.3 million (Pest Smart) on average annually in terms of lost agricultural productivity.

Further economic losses are caused by the transmission of parasites such as hydatids and *Neospora caninum* which may result in the rejection of beef products and decreased herd fertility.

Environmental Impacts

Wild dogs are a threat to 14 endangered or vulnerable native mammals, reptiles and bird species listed under the EPBC Act.

Wild dogs control measures also have environmental impacts. Control measures may have a direct impact on non-target species and reduced wild dog density, which may result in an increase in other predators with overlapping diets.

Ongoing breeding between dingoes and wild dogs is a major threat to the existence of pure dingoes in Australia.

Social amenity and human safety

Human and pet safety are the predominant issues that cause most angst to residents, especially in peri-urban areas. Human, amenity and environmental impacts are also of concern. The nature, frequency and intensity of interactions with people vary and appear to be dependent on a number of factors including age and sex of wild dogs, pack size and composition, time of year, natural food supplies and human reactions to wild dogs.

Wild dog/human interactions experienced in the Rockhampton Region includes wild dogs stealing and soliciting food and loitering in public areas. This can lead to the potential for outright attacks on humans. Some people fear wild dogs and the results of any potential altercation can lead them to change their activities to avoid contact with wild dogs.

Wild dog/animal interactions experienced includes attacks on pets and stock resulting in injury through to death.

Wild dog attacks on humans, stock and pets can cause significant psychological stress on livestock owners and the general public.

Wild dogs may also act as vectors of diseases for humans and pets.

Value of wild dogs

Wild dogs can have a number of positive social and environmental values. Wild dogs are the top predator and under particular conditions, they may limit the density and rate of population growth of other pest animals such as rabbits, goats, feral cats, pigs and foxes. This in turn may aid the survival of native species.

Dingoes have a significant role in the spiritual and cultural values and practices of indigenous Australians, and Rockhampton Regional Council recognises the importance of this to our local Region.

Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to set the overarching framework for the management of wild dogs in the Rockhampton Region. The plan will be supported by the subsequent development of underlying associated documents including action plans, work instructions and strategies.



Wild Dog Management Plan 2023 - 2027



Objectives and Outcomes

The actions for wild dog management in the Rockhampton Region will be delivered based on five desired outcomes and related objectives.

Objectives				
To achieve effective best practice control of wild dogs across all tenures.	To reduce wild dog impacts in rural areas through community action.	To reduce wild dog impacts in urban and peri-urban areas.	To develop and implement a communication and education program to ensure landholders are aware of their responsibility in rural areas. To develop and implement a communication and education program to ensure stakeholders are aware of their responsibility and the need to control dogs and wild dogs in urban and peri-urban areas.	To balance the conservation of dingoes with other management objectives, including the protection of rural enterprises and public safety.
Outcomes				
Wild dogs are managed within the Rockhampton Region.	Wild dog impacts in rural areas are reduced.	Wild dog impacts in urban and peri-urban areas are reduced.	The community is informed on wild dog management.	Conservation of dingo populations in the Rockhampton Region.

An action plan to achieve the priority objectives and desired outcomes is outlined in Appendix 1.

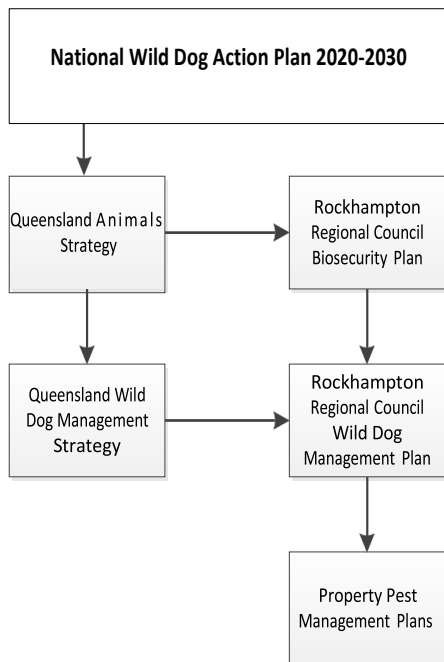


Wild Dog Management Plan 2023 - 2027



Integration


This management plan is designed to be consistent with plans from surrounding local government areas to ensure effective integration across all levels of government. This relationship is illustrated below.




Stakeholders

A number of stakeholders have interests in wild dog management in the Rockhampton Region. Effective engagement of all relevant parties is critical to the success of wild dog management programs. Stakeholders include:

- Queensland Dog Offensive Group
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Biosecurity Queensland
- Queensland Health
- Department of Environment and Science
- Local government
- Local wild dog committees
- Landholders/managers
- Industry groups
- NRM Groups.



Wild Dog Management Plan 2023 - 2027



Legislation

The dingo is defined as both 'wildlife' and 'native wildlife' under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, and is a natural resource within protected areas such as national parks. In identified protected areas, dingoes are a protected species.

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* wild dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*) and dingoes (*Canis lupus dingoes*) are restricted invasive animals.

A wild dog must not be moved, kept (if a dingo) fed, given away, sold or released into the environment without a permit.

When a dingo is within a protected area (eg a national park) it is protected, however it is restricted matter outside the protected area.

The *Biosecurity Act 2014*, requires local governments to have a biosecurity plan in place to manage pest animal impacts in their local government area.

Under the *Medicines and Poisons (Poisons and Prohibited Substances) Regulation 2021*, the toxins fluoroacetic acid (1080) and strychnine are classified as Schedule 7 poisons.

Queensland Health can issue landholders with a permit for strychnine for their own land only.

Landholders can purchase low-risk fluoroacetic baits commercially (eg doggone) from licensed s7 poison retailers after approval as an approved person by Queensland Health.

Council officers may also hold a general approval to possess, use, supply and dispose of 1080 (other than low risk fluoroacetic baits) for the purposes of invasive animal control. Competencies are required to be met to gain this approval.

The management of wild dogs is also regulated by the:

- *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*
- *Weapons Act 1990*
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*
- *Medicines and Poisons Act 2019*
- *Medicines and Poisons (Pest Management Activities) Regulation 2021*

Principles of Pest Management

The development and implementation of this plan is based on the management principles for weeds and pest animals being:

- Public awareness
- Commitment
- Consultation and partnership
- Planning
- Prevention and early intervention
- Best practice
- Improvement (research, monitoring, evaluation)

The principles are a common basis for management throughout Queensland. The consideration of all these principles is critical to the success of any management activity.



Control

Control operations

The aim of control is to minimise the impacts of wild dogs across the Rockhampton Region.

Effective control requires an integrated, collaborative approach. A nil tenure approach, where a range of control methods are applied across all tenures by all stakeholders in a cooperative and coordinated manner can achieve this.

Ultimately though, it is the responsibility of landholders to determine and implement control measures on their individual land holdings.

Control methods

Control methods employed are based on an understanding of wild dog behaviour, social structure, habitats and food preferences. Control methods are also influenced by concerns for animal welfare and non-target impacts, public safety, occupational health and safety issues, and by the legislative and practical restrictions on applying some techniques.

Effective control requires an assessment of each individual situation and circumstances surrounding each problem. There is no single 'quick and easy' method that will solve all problems. Best results are achieved through a suite of complementary control methods.

An overview of the main methods for controlling wild dogs, along with their relative efficacy, cost-effectiveness, target specificity and humaneness acceptability is outlined in Appendix 2. Council considers these when determining control measures used.

Challenges for managing wild dogs

The predominant challenges for managing wild dogs in the Rockhampton Region include:

- Difficulties of control in peri-urban and urban areas
- Proximity of protected areas (national parks) to peri-urban and urban areas
- Mobility of wild dogs
- Changing land use and social demographics
- Absentee landholders
- Concerns over off-target impacts of control methods, particularly the use of 1080
- Animal welfare obligations to be acknowledged or accepted which may limit the use of some control methods
- Insufficient resources
- Difficulties in measuring the effectiveness of control methods
- Negative perceptions of methods used in coordinated control programs.



Intervention in rural areas

As wild dog home ranges may extend over several properties, broadscale baiting is the most effective and efficient means of controlling wild dogs in rural areas. Trapping and fencing are not considered feasible options, although can be adopted successfully when challenges for managing wild dogs have reduced the control methods available. Trapping can also prove effective when managing individual offending wild dogs or small packs of offending wild dogs. Rockhampton Regional Council supports this control method by supplying wild dog traps to loan out to the public free of charge.

Council offers rural landholders the opportunity to participate in 1080 baiting programs to control wild dogs on their properties in the Rockhampton Region. These are proactive programs to prevent the build-up of wild dog populations and associated impacts. Programs incorporate a number of neighbouring landholders baiting at the same time to ensure maximum results. Reactive programs may be run when stock losses are incurred in an area if wild dog activity is seen to approach high levels or when there are safety concerns.

Where 1080 baiting programs are unable to be undertaken due to legislative restrictions, Council provides landholders with information on alternative control methods.

Intervention in peri-urban and urban areas

Wild dog home ranges that are centred on areas of high human activity, such as townships, town refuse dumps, camping grounds, picnic areas and resorts, appear to be smaller in size but have relatively higher numbers of wild dogs per pack compared to wild dogs that rely on natural prey in bush areas (Corbett 1998).

Wild dog home ranges typically occur over numerous properties in peri-urban and urban areas and are therefore difficult to effectively control on a single property basis.

Wild dogs, including Dingoes are known to inhabit the outskirts of the City of Rockhampton particularly in the Frenchville Road and Norman Gardens areas, where residential land adjoins national park.

Certain situations require intervention where problem wild dogs are identified and removed in order to minimise risks to public health and safety. Council's hierarchy of control of wild dogs is outlined in Appendix 3.

Public awareness is important in urban and peri-urban areas where residents need to be informed on wild dog behaviour and that under current legislation feeding of wild dogs is prohibited.

Strategy implementation review and performance reporting

The operational actions will be assigned appropriate indicators so that performance against the outcomes can be regularly assessed.

Appropriate reporting frameworks will be put in place to ensure management can monitor performance and adjust operational effort according to circumstances.

The Plan will be reviewed after two years to ensure that it identifies and reflects changing priorities, operational capacity and the legislative framework and has been afforded adequate financial and staffing resources.



Definitions

Acceptable methods - control methods that are humane when used correctly.

Conditionally acceptable methods - control methods that, by the nature of the technique, may not be consistently humane. There may be a period of poor welfare before death.

Dingoes - native dogs of Asia, selectively bred by human beings from wolves. Present in Australia before domestic dogs. Pure dingoes are populations or individuals that have not hybridised with domestic dogs or hybrids.

Domestic dog - a dog that is owned by a person.

Feral dog - a dog other than a dingo, that is not owned by a person.

Humaneness - the overall impact that a control method has on an individual animal's welfare.

Hybrids - dogs resulting from crossbreeding of a dingo and a domestic dog, and the descendants of crossbred offspring.

Nil tenure - an approach where all tenures are at a 'landscape' (rather than 'property') level.

Nil tenure planning process - an approach where a range of control methods are applied across all tenures by all stakeholders at a 'landscape' (rather than 'property') level in a cooperative and coordinated manner. This approach focuses on mapping and information gathering from landholders to identify areas of wild dog habitat, movement corridors, historical and recent stock loss and current control. Replacing the boundaries on the map following the information collection process clearly identifies the responsibilities of each stakeholder with regard to wild dog management in the area.

Not acceptable - methods that are considered to be inhumane. The welfare of the animal is very poor before death, often for a prolonged period.

Peri-urban - landscape that combines urban and rural activities. These areas commonly contain a mixture of land usages including suburban pockets, rural residential lots and small-to-medium agricultural holdings.

Wild dog - all wild-living dogs (including dingoes, feral dogs and hybrids other than a domestic dog).



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Appendix 1 - Action Plan

Desired outcome 1: Manage wild dogs within the Rockhampton Region		
Objective 1.1 - To achieve effective control of wild dogs across all tenures		
Key Actions	When	Success indicator
Participate in coordinated nil tenure planning processes	Ongoing	Participation undertaken
Implement agreed control methods as part of a nil tenure and integrated coordinated program.	Ongoing	Control methods implemented
Develop work instructions to support the Wild Dog Management Plan.	Ongoing	Identified work instructions developed
Follow best practice when managing wild dogs, giving consideration to animal welfare and non-target risks.	Ongoing	Best practice implemented
Incorporate wild dog management into other related planning and management programs.	Ongoing	Wild dog management incorporated in other related planning and management programs
Enforce compliance when landowners do not take reasonable steps to control wild dogs.	As appropriate	Enforcement process followed
Ensure Council staff responsible for conducting wild dog control activities are appropriately trained and licensed.	Ongoing	Staff are appropriately trained and licensed for the duties they undertake including the provision of 1080
Support field evaluation of new control practices.	As appropriate	Field evaluation undertaken
Contribute to research on the management of wild dogs.	As appropriate	Contribution to research undertaken
Build and maintain working partnerships between key stakeholders, to generate a holistic approach to wild dogs management including a sense of community ownership of the problem.	Ongoing	Partnerships built and maintained
To provide landholders with assistance in controlling wild dogs on their properties, including through the provision of traps	December 2024	Assistance programs investigated and provided where effective
To provide information on wild dog management activities within our region as requested by QDOG (Queensland Dog Offensive Group)	As requested	Relevant information provided as requested



Desired outcome 2: Reduce wild dog impacts in rural areas		
Objective 2.1 - To reduce wild dog impacts in rural areas through community action		
Key Actions (in addition to the actions in 1.1)	When	Success indicator
Facilitate the coordination of the Wild Dog Management Group.	Ongoing	Meetings facilitated
Implement local community-based programs for managing wild dog impacts and reducing wild dog numbers in areas where human and wild dog populations interface with nil tenure best practice.	2 per year	Programs provided
Facilitate 1080 baiting programs.	Ongoing	1080 baiting programs undertaken
Engage absentee landholders and non-participating landholders.	Ongoing	New landholders participate in 1080 baiting programs or use other control measures
Support mechanisms to landholders to undertake wild dog control.	Ongoing	Support provided
Ensure landholders using Council provided wild dog control services adhere to best practice.	As baiting occurs	Landholders adhere to best practice - no justified complaints
Investigate incentive programs including reintroducing Bounty Scalps	2024	Incentive programs investigated and Council decision made

Desired outcome 3: Reduce wild dog impacts in urban and peri-urban areas		
Objective 3.1 - To reduce wild dog impacts in urban and peri-urban areas		
Key Actions (in addition to the actions in 1.1)	When	Success indicator
Partner with Parks and Wildlife Services and Biosecurity Queensland in the management of wild dogs.	As appropriate	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services and Biosecurity Queensland are partnered with
Implement agreed control methods on all lands as part of a nil tenure coordinated and integrated program.	Ongoing	Agreed control methods implemented
Support mechanisms to landholder to undertake wild dog control.	Ongoing	Support provided
Develop and implement targeted education tools for peri-urban and urban landholders.	2025	Tools developed and implemented
Increase community's awareness of methods to minimise wild dog encroachment and impacts on urban and peri-urban areas.	Ongoing	Information provided to residents bordering areas where wild dogs are known to inhabit



Desired outcome 4: The community is informed on wild dog management		
Objective 4.1 - Develop and implement a communication and education program to ensure that landholders are aware of their responsibility in rural areas		
Key Actions	When	Success indicator
Liaise with stakeholders to provide adequate promotion.	As appropriate	Liaison undertaken
Conduct field days and other education activities aimed at increasing the awareness of wild dog concerns and control methods.	Biennial	Field days and other education activities undertaken
Development of targeted education tools.	Ongoing	
Prepare media releases, and associated messaging for social media.	As appropriate	Media releases made
Objective 4.2 - Develop and implement a communication and education program to ensure residents are aware of the issues relating to wild dogs and the need to control wild dogs in urban and peri-urban areas		
Key Actions	When	Success indicator
Promote control of domestic dogs, including identification of all domestic dogs in peri-urban and urban areas in particular.	Ongoing	Control promoted
Undertake education programs aimed at increasing the awareness of domestic and wild dog concerns.	As required	Education activities undertaken
Undertake education programs to discourage feeding and habituating of wild dogs by raising community awareness of the legal status and dangers to human beings.	As required	Education activities undertaken
Prepare media releases and associated messaging for social media.	As appropriate	Media releases made



Appendix 2 – Overview of Control Methods

Lethal	Efficacy	Cost-Effectiveness	Target Specificity	Humaneness Acceptability	Comment
Ground Baiting with injected 1080 baits	Effective	Very cost effective	High	Conditionally acceptable	The most cost effective technique available. Poison baits are made from raw meat or offal, or manufactured baits are used. Council conducts twice annual baiting programs using these baits, whereby landholders can bait together on a nil tenure approach
Aerial Baiting with 1080	Effective	Very cost effective	High	Conditionally acceptable	Effective for broad scale control in remote and inaccessible areas to complement strategic ground baiting.
Use of Manufacture d Baits eg Doggone	Effective	Very cost effective	High	Conditionally acceptable	Landholders will be required to hold the relevant competencies and have approval from QH to use these baits.
Canid Pest Injector	Effective	Very cost effective	High	Conditionally acceptable	Landholders can gain accreditation in using the device. Safer to use around working dogs because baits cannot be moved. Can only target a single animal at one time. Can be use with either cyanide, 1080 or PAPP
Strychnine Baiting	Effective	Cost effective	Moderate	Not acceptable	May be used in peri-urban or urban areas where other forms of control are not effective.
PAPP (Para-aminopropiohe none)	Effective	Cost effective	Moderate	Conditionally acceptable	An option in places where 1080 use is restricted. Antidote (methylene blue) available, can only be purchased and administered by a veterinarian, and administration needs to occur within 30 minutes (possibly earlier depending on the amount of toxin ingested). Manufactured baits containing PAPP are less attractive to many non-target species



Shooting	Not efficient for broad scale problem	Expensive	High	Acceptable	Used only in specific situations. Firearms may be used by land managers, professional wild dog controllers or hunting groups to shoot wild dogs in a safe and humane manner and operate in accordance with relevant laws and guidelines.
Shooting to euthanase trapped dogs	Effective	Cost effective	High	Acceptable	Most effective means of euthanasing wild dogs caught in trapping programs.

All control methods must be used in accordance with relevant laws, regulations and guidelines.



Non-Lethal	Efficacy	Cost-Effectiveness	Target Specificity	Humaneness Acceptability	Comment
Exclusion fencing	Effective in suitable areas	Expensive	Can be effective in specific situations	Acceptable	Requires high levels of maintenance. Netting or electric fencing can both be effective barriers. In many cases, exclusion fencing is the best method for small holding in peri-urban areas. Need to eradicate dogs from inside the fenced areas.
Guardian dogs	Effective in suitable areas if appropriately trained	Expensive to purchase Expected moderate to high effectiveness	Variable. Guardian dogs may chase non target animals eg. wildlife and other stock	Acceptable	Guardian dogs (eg. maremmas), are used with varying degrees of success. Adequate training of guardian dogs is required to achieve optimum success. Cost effectiveness in different enterprise systems has not been adequately quantified. There needs to be thorough consideration of the welfare and management of guardian animals, such as breeding potential, risk of escape and seeding of new feral populations, biosecurity risks, transport stress (when animals are being imported from distant locations), and capacity for adaptation to new environments.
Guardian animals	Not measured	Not measured	Variable	Acceptable	Llamas, alpacas and donkeys are used in Australia, with anecdotal reports of some degree of success. Alpacas have been killed by wild dogs and no economic assessments have been undertaken. There needs to be thorough consideration of the welfare and management of guardian animals, such as breeding potential, risk of escape and seeding of new feral populations, biosecurity risks, transport stress (when animals are being imported from distant locations), and capacity for adaptation to new environments.
Aversion Techniques	Not known	Relatively cheap	Not known. Possible short term solution, until such time as wild dogs become used to such techniques	(Likely) acceptable	Suggested aversion methods include flashing lights, sounding alarms, objects flapping in the wind and chemicals. These have not been tested, but are unlikely to be effective at the scale required in Australian livestock enterprises.

All control methods must be used in accordance with relevant laws, regulations and guidelines.

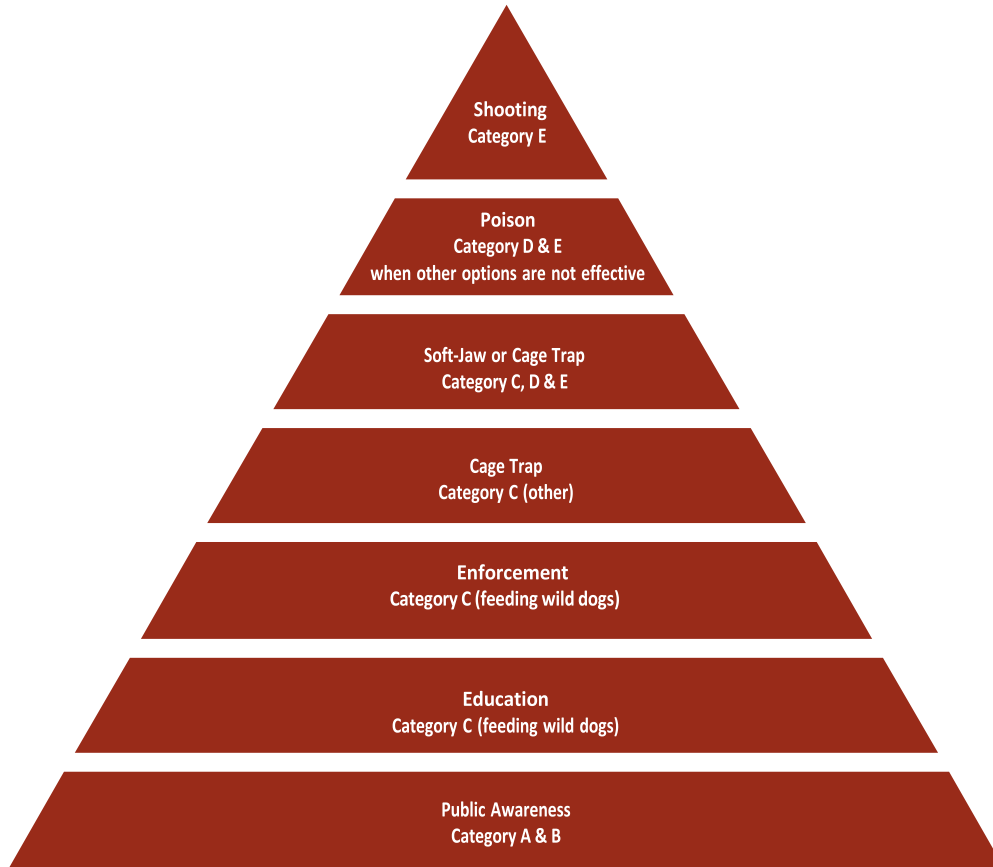


Traps and Snares	Efficacy	Cost-Effectiveness	Target Specificity	Humaneness Acceptability	Comment
Cage Trap	Ineffective	High initial cost for purchase of unit, with low ongoing cost	Moderate	Acceptable	Primarily used in urban areas where other control techniques are not suitable.
Padded/soft and laminated foot hold traps Laminated Jaw Traps	Effective	High initial cost for purchase of unit, with low ongoing cost.	Moderate	Conditionally acceptable	There are a wide variety of commercial traps on the market. Used for capture for later euthanasia, usually by shooting. Can be done in peri-urban areas and other areas where poison baiting is not suitable Has limited broadscale application.
steel jaw leg-traps (toothed and/or without padding)				Not acceptable	These are inhumane and should not be used.
Collarum Neck Restraints	Can be effective in specific situations	Expensive	High	Conditionally acceptable	May be useful in urban areas for problem animals. Inefficient as a general control measure and requires significant training to use effectively.
Treadle Snares	Can be effective in specific situations	Expensive	Moderate	Conditionally acceptable	May be useful in urban areas for problem animals. Inefficient as a general control measure and requires significant training to use effectively.

All control methods must be used in accordance with relevant laws, regulations and guidelines.



Appendix 3 - Hierarchy of Control in Peri-Urban and Urban Areas



Wild Dog Management Plan 2023 - 2027



Category	Threat to life and property	Attributes	Management action
Category A H0-H1** - Avoidance or wary	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Finds the presence of humans threatening ▪ Difficult to observe ▪ Wild, 'natural' behaviour ▪ Avoids people areas within home ranges 	Complete feral scan tracking website Public Awareness
Category B H2- H3 Habituated	Nil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Non-aggressive ▪ Not wary of humans* ▪ Moving through common areas to humans * ▪ Curious* 	Monitor activity and behaviour Complete feral scan tracking website Public Awareness
Category C H2-H3 Nuisance Passive behaviour or activity towards humans	Harassment Nuisance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Loitering around residences and public sites* ▪ Stealing food and property* ▪ Soliciting food* ▪ Being fed or encouraged ▪ Following closely* ▪ Harassing pets/livestock ▪ Interference with wild dogs 	Monitor activity and behaviour Complete feral scan tracking website Educate people not to feed wild dogs Public notification through relevant media Enforcement if people feeding wild dogs Control using cage traps in relevant locations



<p>Category D H3-H4 Threatening</p> <p>Intentional activity, behaviour or action towards humans.</p>	<p>Major harassment/confrontation</p> <p>High risk of injury with potential to move rapidly to Category E.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Growling/snarling* ▪ Dominant/submissive ▪ Testing* ▪ Stalking* ▪ Circling* ▪ Dominant toward humans ▪ Incorporate humans into pack behaviour* ▪ Humans regarded as competitors for resources* ▪ Bailing up/ambushing (walking alone or unsupervised)* ▪ Hunting tactics (with intent to test response)* ▪ Lunging (no attempt to test response) ▪ Attacking pets/livestock 	<p>Intense monitoring and documentation of behaviour. Signage erected 'High Risk wild dog in area'. Public notification through relevant media Control using cage traps or soft jaw traps Complete feral scan tracking website</p>
<p>Category E H4 - High Risk/ Dangerous</p>	<p>Threat/ immediate danger to person/s</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nipping* ▪ Biting* ▪ Attacking* ▪ Causing injury ▪ Hunting tactics: fast approach/pack action all dependent upon severity and intensity* ▪ Bailing up/ambushing* ▪ Lunging* 	<p>Intense monitoring and documentation of behaviour. Signage erected 'High Risk wild dog in area'. Public notification through relevant media Control using cage traps, soft jaw traps or poison (1080 or Strychnine) or shooting (as appropriate) Complete feral scan tracking website</p>

* refer to glossary of terms for further definition. ** refer habituation classifications.



Wild Dog Management Plan 2023 - 2027



Glossary of Terms

Category B

Not wary of humans – will undertake normal activities and not be influenced by the presence or number of humans. Interaction between humans and animal is uncommon (will result in animal retreating/moving away quickly).

Moving through common areas to humans – Wild dog moving through suburb or day-use areas, usually looking for food or moving through territory.

Non-aggressive – activity can be associated with humans, may be in close proximity to and show an interest in humans, but no aggressive behaviour.

Curious – is inquisitive, actively watching the actions of people from within 50 metres. Will move away after a couple of minutes or when approached. *Distinguish from 'loitering at recognised visitor sites'.*

Loitering around residences and public sites (no humans present) – spending extended periods of time within suburb or day use areas, usually looking for food, will not be deterred away from site easily when approached, or returns within a short period of time (<5 minutes).

Category C – Passive behaviour or activity of wild dog towards humans

Loitering at recognised visitor sites (people nearby) – spending extended periods of time within suburb or day use areas, usually looking for food, will not be deterred away from site easily when approached, or returns within a short period of time (<5 minutes). Usually associated with 'Wild dog activity associated with human presence' (see below). *Distinguish from 'Curious' and 'Wild dog activity associated with human presence.'*

Stealing food or property – takes food or property. No deterring as area unattended or failed to be aware of animal's presence. When/if confronted animal will move away (may come back). *'Distinguish from Damaging Property'*

Soliciting food – makes appeal for food by persistently raising nose to sniff, not moving away any great distance. This can include sitting and watching intently nearby (<30m) while people are eating or preparing food. May steal food.

Being fed or encouraged – obtaining food from a person or people directly or indirectly such as food scraps or scraps thrown or used to influence wild dog behaviour, deliberate food drops, local 'feeders'). *'Distinguish from Stealing food or property'*

Following closely – actively following a person, change direction to continue to follow. Follow for >30 seconds and follow within <30/50 metres. Will stop or move away if confronted, becomes disinterested after a short period of time. *Distinguish from 'stalking'.*

Interference with wild dogs – Describes unauthorised adverse human behaviour towards wild dogs eg vehicles deliberately swerving towards wild dogs with the alleged intent to run them over, CTO operators circling and/or hindering wild dog movement/natural behaviour



Wild Dog Management Plan 2023 - 2027



Category D – Intentional activity, behaviour or actions towards humans

Growling/Snarling – if confronted/approached animal will usually face a person from a short distance (<10 metres) in a dominating manner. Animal will growl and snarl as a warning not to interfere with it. *'Can be associated with dominant submissive testing'.*

Dominate/submissive testing – often described as playful behaviour, prominent amongst younger animals. Animal/s will approach close to humans (<5 metres) and may jump around and yap and nip in an excited manner. Aggression from the animal may escalate if people respond inappropriately such as running away. *'Can include growling, snarling and stalking'.*

Stalking – similar to following closely except can be <5 metres and will continue to follow despite efforts to deter. Occurs for >30 seconds. Efforts of wild dog solely focused on person being followed with no sign of becoming disinterested. *Distinguish from 'following closely' and 'ambushing'.*

Circling – A single/numerous animals circle a person from <20 metres but no attempt is made to stop the progress of the human or bite. Are showing a definite interest in person but can be deterred especially if more than one person is present. *'Distinguish from Stalking and Bailing up and Ambushing.'*

Dominant towards humans – Animal shows no fear of people and is not easily deterred when confronted or approached. Includes confronting people for food, snatching food from a person's hand, herding people or stopping them from walking in a particular direction. *May lead to aggression such as snarling, bailing up, nipping and biting.*

Incorporate humans into pack behaviour – can involve changing original behaviour to approaching humans from >50 m (sometimes at speed) to investigate human activity. Following behaviour is dependant on human response. *'Can be associated with dominant/submissive testing and dominance towards humans'.*

Humans regarded as competitors for resources – will aggressively defend food and other pack animals when confronted.

Bailing up/ambushing (walking alone or unsupervised) – similar to *stalking* and *circling* except animal made attempt to stop the progress of a human. *Distinguish from 'Stalking and Circling'.*

Hunting tactics (with intent to test a response) – May make a fast approach from a distance (>50 metres) to test a prey response from humans. Behaviour appears to be more prominent towards children and women. *Distinguish from code E,*

Lunging (no attempt to test response) – jumping with concerted effort towards person, can also include animal coming quickly from behind at a person's heels. No obvious attempts made to nip or bite the person.



Category E –Escalated intentional activity, behaviour or actions towards humans

Nipping – includes mouthing of any description, regardless of whether penetration of the skin or bruising has occurred.

Biting - penetration of skin or bruising has occurred.

Attack - numerous bites have occurred and animal persists despite efforts to deter.

Causing injury – First aid or hospitalisation required

Hunting tactics (intent to contact) – usually involves more than one animal. May make a fast approach from a distance (>50 metres) to test a prey response from humans and followed on by circling (within 5m radius), multiple attempts to bite (normally from behind) and may involve other behaviour such as *Lunging, Ambushing and Bailing up*. Behaviour appears to be more prominent towards children and women. Can include more than one wild dog and they are not easily deterred. *Distinguish from ‘Circling and Stalking’.*

Bailing up/ambushing (intent to attack) - similar to *stalking* and *circling* except animal made attempt to stop the progress of a human. Continues with behaviour despite concerted effort to deter or move away. *Distinguish from ‘Stalking and Circling’.*

Lunging (attempting to nip or bite) – jumping with concerted effort towards person, can also include animal coming quickly from behind at a person’s heels and attempts to nip or bite.

Habituation Code	Description
H0	Very wary towards humans and not likely to be seen. Mainly a remote area dweller.
H1	Displays wariness towards humans. Will approach human-use areas when humans not present.
H2	Displays curious behaviour towards humans. May display some Code C behaviour and will loiter.
H3	Regular to dominant presence in or around residential, visitor and human-use areas. Code C and/or D behaviour. May display nuisance behaviour. Approaches and loiters around human (fishers, residents etc).
H4	Dominant presence through residential and human-use areas. Displays code D and/or E behaviour.
Unknown	Wild dog has no known history.

Habituation definition - an animal that displays familiarisation towards humans or human-use areas. Not an indication of aggressive or dominant behaviour towards humans.

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Wild Dog Management Plan 2023 - 2027



10.9 STRONGER PLACES, STRONGER PEOPLE

File No:	8020
Attachments:	1. Slide Presentation for Community Workshop ↓
Authorising Officer:	Alicia Cutler - General Manager Community Services Angus Russell - Executive Manager Strategy and Planning
Author:	Alicia Cutler - General Manager Community Services

SUMMARY

This report provides an update to Council on the progress of the Stronger Places, Stronger People (SPSP) initiative in Rockhampton.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report on Stronger Places, Stronger People be 'received.

COMMENTARY

The Stronger Places, Stronger People (SPSP) is a community-led, collective impact initiative, stewarded by the Australian Government in partnership with state and territory governments and selected communities across Australia. Rockhampton has been selected to be a part of this initiative.

The SPSP model relies on a coordinating "backbone" organisation that is independent from services and government and represents and advocates for the community. Each SPSP program is unique and tackles issues that are particular to its community. The Australian Government funds the SPSP project in a community for an initial period of 6 years.

BACKGROUND

In 2019, the Australian and Queensland Government considered Rockhampton as a potential community that may be suited for the SPSP model. Initial consultation was held and with the disruptions caused by COVID, further work was put on hold.

Work resumed in 2022, when consultation with community service providers and other community organisations were conducted to gauge the readiness of the Rockhampton community to undertake a collective impact approach to strengthening the community and supporting the services that support Rockhampton's vulnerable families and individuals.

Council officers participated in consultation sessions at the end of 2022. Following this, the SPSP representatives from the Australian and Queensland Governments determined that the Rockhampton community was receptive and ready to progress to early-stage planning.

In 2023, several face-to-face and on-line meetings were held to form what would become the "Core Group" – made up from representatives from Education, Police, service delivery, First Nations organisations, and other community groups. Council officers also participated.

The Core Group is an interim decision-making group who provided direction for the issue(s) that would be the focus of the Rockhampton SPSP project. Initial ideas were that the focus should be on supporting vulnerable families in Rockhampton who often struggle with the systems they encounter when seeking assistance.

This focus was tested during a recent 2-day workshop with the broader community. The consensus amongst the Core Group was that the SPSP program has potential to provide positive change in the community and is worth progressing. The slides from the community Consultation are attached.

The Core Group requested that additional support for a period of 6-9 months was needed before a backbone should be set up. This would involve providing administrative and

facilitation support so that further consultation could be conducted with the community and build stronger links with community service providers.

Council is not part of the SPSP governance structure but is an interested party at the table along with the other community representatives during meetings and discussions. It is intended that Council officers will continue to participate in the Core Group for the next 6-9 months.

PREVIOUS DECISIONS

There are no relevant previous decisions

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There is no financial contribution expected from Council. Only leadership and contribution as a interested party and stakeholder.

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

Nil

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RISK ASSESSMENT

Not Relevant

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN

Goal 2.2 of Councils Corporate Plan is that “We Support our communities through our activities and programs”. This program falls within the efforts where “We are effective advocates and facilitators for our community”.

CONCLUSION

This report provides an outline of the Stronger Places, Strong people program as well as discussed some of the progress of consultation to date. The report is provided for information.

STRONGER PLACES, STRONGER PEOPLE

Slide Presentation for Community Workshop

Meeting Date: 20 June 2023

Attachment No: 1





**PURPOSE
OF
TODAY'S
SESSION**

1. Share our **commitment to collaborate** to create positive change for the Rockhampton community
2. Create a **shared understanding** of the Stronger Places, Stronger People model
3. **Hear from our community** about their experiences and what changes they'd like to see
4. Invite community members to continue **to be part of our collective impact work**

TODAY'S AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions
- Information session: Stronger Places, Stronger People Model – panel discussion
- ***Morning Tea***
- Hearing stories from Rockhampton in small groups
- ***Lunch***
- Breakout discussion: What changes do you want to see in Rockhampton?
- ***Afternoon tea***
- Breakout working groups: What do we need to be working on?
- Recap and close by 5pm



Rocky SPSP Principles

- Listen to learn and understand
- Mutual respect, be generous, open and inclusive in how we engage with each other
- Hold each other accountable for taking a rights based approach
- Shared future focus, recognising the past
- Build connection and humour
- Community at the centre, whole of community approach, with a focus on families
- All voices are heard



The SPSP Model

Requires commitment to the six conditions of the SPSP model:

1. Local governance group and backbone team
2. Inclusive community engagement
3. Shared agenda (strategy) for change
4. Data, measurement, evaluation and learning
5. A systems approach
6. Innovation and high leverage activities





Years	Leads/ authors	Initiative - What does it tell us
	The Big group	https://www.rockycommunitymeetings.org.au/working-groups-meetings/ Education, Justice, Youth
2017	Family Matters Qld & Qld Government	Our Way: An intergenerational strategy for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander children and families Priorities include - health, mental health and disability • housing • early childhood and education • employment and training • domestic and family violence and violence against women • financial resilience.
2019	Darumbal Community Youth Services	Rockhampton Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Youth Forum Report Priorities include – Culture, Family, Education, Doing what you love, Jobs, Health & wellbeing. Also identified systemic threats and barriers. 12 Recommendations made.
2022	The Shelter Collective	Prospectus Collective focused on attracting investment for projects and solutions to affordable housing and homelessness services.
	CBCAC - Mindhive	Uniting Effort Project Mindhive Report Initiative to generate insights into how to address a range of youth engagement issues. Priorities included Redefine education, local decision making, collaboration, backbone coordination

Years	Leads/ authors	Initiative - What does it tell us
2019	ECCQ	Connecting the Dots Report Sets out vision for using Collective Impact approach to addressing inequity in children's development. Touches on the 6 conditions
2021 –	Geoff Higgins Performance People	Youth Pathways Wallchart Provides contact details for service providers and community organisations for young people in Rockhampton
2022 –	The Shelter Collective	Prospectus Collective focused on attracting investment for projects and solutions to affordable housing and homelessness services.
2022	CFI & Rockhampton	SPSP Rockhampton Community Engagement Report Summarises community engagement process and findings. In particular there is interest to engage with a collective impact approach and the Stronger Places, Stronger People Initiative.

Discussion:
what
changes do
you want
to see?

Conversations in three rotating groups:

- ✓ What would we need to be focussing on to turn the curve in Rockhampton? (Delilah)
- ✓ What opportunities would you like to see and for who? (Allison)
- ✓ Who would need to be working together to make change happen? (Ann)





Questions that remain

1. **Our geographic focus.** What should the boundaries be for our work?
2. **Staying in the loop.** How do you want to continue to be engaged with this work and conversation?
3. **Leadership Group.** Who needs to be represented to lead this work going forward?





Rockhampton Core Group Meeting

1 June 2023



TODAY'S AGENDA

- Check-in and reflection
- Shared agenda: Recap and sensemaking
- 11am Morning tea
- Governance and next steps
- Close

Check in Insights and take away from yesterday

- Good representations from different levels of community
- Would like to hear both sides of stories
- Need for early and appropriate support
- Patterns emerging across conversations
- Bringing community voices into the work - grass roots, young people, mothers and families.
- It's everyone – big ask, big task
- Easy alignment around Capricornia
- A sense of urgency!
- Systemic issues need addressing
- We need something before things break
- People don't know where to look or who to ask
- System/services difficult to navigate
- We're not alone in this – need to take back control
- Youth was a hot topic – to break the cycle is that where we start?
- Core group and community taking up leadership
- Families is in the brief




Refining Our Shared Agenda

Sensemaking and emerging themes:

- ✓ What would we need to be focussing on to turn the curve in Rockhampton?
- ✓ What opportunities would you like to see and for who?
- ✓ Who would need to be working together to make change happen?




**Our Shared
Agenda -
Key
Themes**

- 1. Holistic approach**
 - 2. Data**
 - 3. Support agencies**
 - 4. Communication**
 - 5. Listening to community**
 - 6. Wrap around services**
 - 7. Prevention and proactivity**
- 



Our Shared
Agenda -
Key
Themes

Holistic Wellbeing

- Central hub, somewhere where consumers, services can go to the one place (data, communication, referral, prevention, education)
 - Somewhere where someone feels like they can drop-in
 - Feel comfortable going to the one place and talking to the one person (case manager)
 - Focus on health and wellbeing
 - We need to let the community own and drive it
 - How we do this in a way that works for Rocky?
- 



**Our Shared
Agenda -
Key
Themes**

Prevention and proactivity

- How do we identify the problem? Is it family or more systemic
- Using data to inform
- Intersectional approach
- How do we capture individuals that don't belong to a family (seniors, LGBTQI+)
- Needing to connect with schools, P&C's, citizen clubs etc.
- Role models that there is a better/open pathway
- Hard to reach individuals – grass roots



**Our Shared
Agenda -
Key
Themes**

Wrap around service

- Trusted person to a family, rely upon (Case manager approach, awareness of services, be able to coordinate services, advocate for the rights of the person/family, know how to navigate the system, know they need extra support)
- Identify families with/without support
- Need that first 100 days data
- Check in and follow-up in between
- No judgement approach



**Our Shared
Agenda -
Key
Themes**

Communication

- Immediate need to ensure we've reached as many people
- Building relationships, trust, getting buy-in
- 2 groups we need to be talking with: families and communities, service sector
- Identify messages: knowing what we want to say
- Clear objectives, unity and clarity to messages
- How do we make it easier and more affective
- Process to refine agenda



**Our Shared
Agenda -
Key
Themes**

Listening to community

- Putting community voice at the centre to ensure it is community led
- Listen to what community needs to drive direction
- When and how they want the conversation
- How to make it comfortable for those with accessibility
- Accessibility for everyone (workshops, online)
- Community connectors, 1:1 conversations, good and respected community leaders



**Our Shared
Agenda -
Key
Themes**

Data

- To drive decisions and strategy
- Big data analysis across government agencies
- Backbone to request government to share data
- Attend to identified data piece (considering privacy)
- How we're using data to be preventative and identifying risk factors earlier?
- ARACY
- Data sovereignty and link with listening to community
- Understanding trends and stories



**Our Shared
Agenda -
Key
Themes**

Support agencies

- Innovation around service system
- Case management meetings/process
- Backbone teams is the accountability piece
- List of service providers
- Understanding their brief and criteria
- Commitment from those agencies to be at the table
- Backbone to support proposal that may be considered by government





1. How do we move to establishing our leadership group?
2. What does an independent Backbone supporting this work over the long term need to look like?
3. How is this work appropriately resourced over the short term?





Leadership Table

Who are the leadership table members?

People who :

- Are able to think and work like a family
- Have lived experience who are role models for a better pathway
- Are good communicators - people who listen and demonstrate our principles
- Are respected community leaders who know how to navigate the systems and are connected to a network
- Have a long-term commitment to this work

Leadership Table Matrix

What's our process? How do we attract people?

- Alternative to EOI form (conversation)
- Independently assessed

Who decides who's on the table?

- If it's not the co-design group then who is it?
- Core group
- Embedded in a terms of reference

Skills/Attributes	Identifiable / Lived Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passionate • Motivated • Voice of their community • Committed • Clear on shared agenda • Ability to think and act strategically • Good communicators • Lived experience • Involvement in community • Ability to listen and contribute • Someone who has a network (two-way communication) 	<p>Families at the centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGBTQI+ community • Disability • Police • Education • Youth Justice • Youth (up to 25 years) • First Nations (Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Australian South Sea Islander) • Elders • Family support services • Seniors • Professionals (business, legal, health) • CQU • Financial hardship • Culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) • Faith communities • Government x 3 (timing?) • Babies/future elders

11 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

12 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil

13 URGENT BUSINESS/QUESTIONS

Urgent Business is a provision in the Agenda for members to raise questions or matters of a genuinely urgent or emergent nature, that are not a change to Council Policy and can not be delayed until the next scheduled Council or Committee Meeting.

14 CLOSED SESSION

In accordance with the provisions of section 254J(3) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, a local government may resolve to close a meeting to the public to discuss confidential items, such that its Councillors or members consider it necessary to close the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the meeting be closed to the public to discuss the following items, which are considered confidential in accordance with section 254J(3) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, for the reasons indicated.

15.1 Elect for Court Hearing - Infringement Notice - Contravening an Enforcement Notice

In accordance with section 254J(3)(e) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* it is considered necessary to close the meeting to discuss legal advice obtained by the local government or legal proceedings involving the local government including, for example, legal proceedings that may be taken by or against the local government.

15 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

15.1 ELECT FOR COURT HEARING - INFRINGEMENT NOTICE - CONTRAVENING AN ENFORCEMENT NOTICE

File No: 11098

Attachments:

1. Brief of Evidence
2. All Attachments

Authorising Officer: Doug Scott - Manager Planning and Regulatory Services
Alicia Cutler - General Manager Community Services

Author: Angela Arnold - Coordinator Building, Plumbing and Compliance

In accordance with section 254J(3)(e) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* it is considered necessary to close the meeting to discuss legal advice obtained by the local government or legal proceedings involving the local government including, for example, legal proceedings that may be taken by or against the local government.

SUMMARY

Penalty Infringement Notice (PIN) issued for Contravening an Enforcement Notice. Respondent makes election to have the matter of the offence decided in a Magistrates Court.

This report is prepared to request Council resolution to proceed with legal proceedings.

16 CLOSURE OF MEETING