

# Redlands Coast Biosecurity Plan Frequently Asked Questions

## What is the Biosecurity Plan?

The objective of the Redlands Coast Biosecurity Plan 2018-2023 is to provide clear guidelines on how Redland City Council can meet biosecurity obligations, inform the Redlands Coast community and manage invasive plants, pest fish and pest animals in Redland Coast. The plan will achieve this by providing a strategic planning framework, bringing all sectors of the local community together to be informed, prioritise and commit to manage invasive plants, pest fish and pest animals in Redlands Coast.

The Redlands Coast Biosecurity Plan 2018-2023 is a document supporting the delivery of Council's *Natural Environment Policy* POL-3128 and is a Queensland Government requirement of the *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

## What does Biosecurity mean?

- Biosecurity involves managing the risks and broad threats from invasive weeds, pest fish and pest animals.
- Biosecurity and the management of invasive weeds, pest fish and pest animals play crucial roles in protecting, enhancing and restoring the natural environment, community lifestyle, industry and cultural heritage.

## What is the General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO)?

- This General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO) is everyone's responsibility;
- The *Biosecurity Act 2014* states that all Queenslanders are responsible for managing biosecurity risks (invasive plants, pest fish and pest animals) that are under their control, that they know about, or should reasonably be expected to know about.
- Figure 1. below shows how the GBO affects all areas of the Redlands Coast community and the links to the primary actions of the Redlands Coast Biosecurity Plan 2018-2023. The six primary actions rely on each other and directly affect the five broad areas that have a GBO.

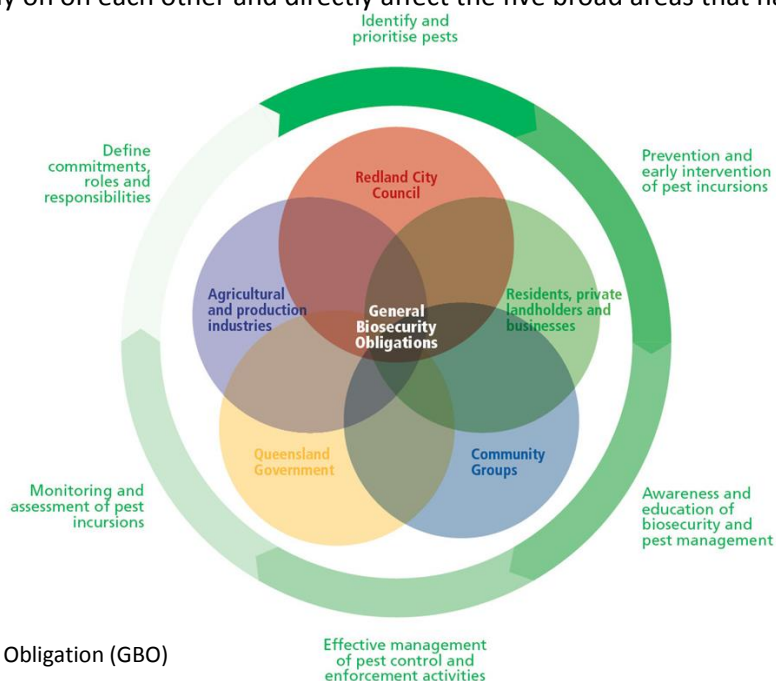


Figure 1. The General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO)



## What does the General Biosecurity Obligation mean to me?

- You have a General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO) whether you are a gardener, bush regenerator, landscaper, produce transporter, farmer, horse rider, pet owner, nursery operator, recreational or professional fishermen, pet shop operator, mountain biker, bush walker or have any potential involvement with biosecurity matter.
- The GBO means that everyone should take reasonable steps to:
- Manage biosecurity risks under your control. Some examples include, but are not limited to:
  - knowing about and managing the restricted plants on your farm or property;
  - not releasing pet fish into waterways; and
  - reporting suspected prohibited and restricted biosecurity matter.
- Take all reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimise each biosecurity risk. You should consider:
  - what you are doing with the biosecurity matter and how likely the biosecurity matter might spread;
  - how harmful is the activity or the biosecurity matter (e.g. can it cause serious illness, or infrastructure damage if released);
  - how much do you, or the person know about biosecurity. If unsure, stop and ask a question to council, Biosecurity Queensland, or research in books or on websites (such as Biosecurity Queensland); and
  - what can be done to reduce the risk of the biosecurity matter (e.g. wash tools/equipment after use, do not dump garden waste in bushland, do not transport contaminated soil, mulch or fodder).
- Minimise the likelihood of releasing biosecurity matter and limit the consequences if such an event is caused from more serious biosecurity matter;
- Do nothing that worsens the biosecurity risk (e.g. deliberately drive equipment or vehicles through a weed infestation or deliberately release pest fish into a waterbody); and
- Not doing anything if doing nothing increases the risks (e.g. an aquatic weed spreads into waterways from a dam during a rain event, but not doing anything to prevent the spread).



## What is Prohibited and Restricted Matter?

Description		Responsibilities
<b>Prohibited matter</b>	Prohibited matter is a disease, exotic fish, insect pest, pest animal or a weed that is not found in Queensland. If it was to enter Queensland it would seriously impact our health, way of life, the economy and the environment. It is an offence to deal with prohibited matter or fail to report its presence.	All prohibited matter must be reported within 24 hours of being sighted to Biosecurity Queensland by phoning 13 25 23. By law, everyone has a General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO) to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risk of the prohibited matter until they receive advice from an authorised officer.
<b>Restricted matter</b>	Restricted matter can be animal disease, pest fish, insects, pest animals or weeds that are found in Queensland. Specific actions are required to be taken that limit the impact of this matter by reducing, controlling or containing it. Restricted matter has significant adverse impacts in Queensland and it is desirable to manage them and prevent their spread, thereby protecting uninfested parts of the State.	The <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive plants and animals under their control. This is called a General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO). Restricted matter can have one or several Categories that describe requirements to address the risk posed by that invasive plant (see following table). Restricted matter should be reported to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or council on 3829 8999

Table. 1 Summary of Prohibited and Restricted Matter

A full list of prohibited matter is listed in Schedule 1 of the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. Schedule 1, Part 3, Part 4 and Part 6 lists prohibited invasive plants, prohibited pest animals and prohibited pest fish respectively. Biosecurity Queensland also has a fact sheet listing the prohibited matter.

A full list of restricted matter is listed in Schedule 2 of the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. This list also includes species categories where relevant. Biosecurity Queensland also has a fact sheet listing the restricted matter.

To access the *Biosecurity Act 2014* visit: [www.legislation.qld.gov.au](http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au). To access the Biosecurity Queensland fact sheets visit <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/plants/weeds-pest-animals-ants/educational-resources-and-careers/publications/fact-sheets>

### What will I need to do on my property or business or as part of my activity?

- Be mindful of what plants, fish and animals you manage or may be involved with on your property or as part of your business or activities.
- Knowing what you have or are involved with on your property, work area or activity will allow you to identify the potential biosecurity risks and implement actions to contain or even eliminate biosecurity threats.
- Showing you have informed yourself (e.g. identified plants you are planting), and taken steps to manage the biosecurity threat (e.g. wash down or not move contaminated equipment, don't use pest fish as bait; reporting suspect material) should contribute in meeting your GBO.
- For advice or to report a biosecurity matter, contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or council on 3829 8999. Under some circumstances, assistance with control of a biosecurity matter may be an option.



The below Table 2 provides a summary of the biosecurity matter and the relative responsibilities for each category.

Description		Responsibilities
<b>Category 1 (Prohibited matter)</b>	Includes insects such as red imported fire ants, electric ants and Asian honey bees, and certain animal and plant diseases, aquatic diseases and pathogens.	<b>Must be reported to Biosecurity Queensland</b> This restricted matter must be reported to Biosecurity Queensland within 24 hours of you becoming aware of its presence on 13 25 23.
<b>Category 2 Restricted Matter</b>	Includes certain pest fish, weeds and pest animals such as spotted gar, Miconia weed and red-eared slider turtle.	<b>Must be reported to Council or Biosecurity Queensland.</b> This restricted matter must be reported to an authorised person within 24 hours of you becoming aware of its presence. Report to council on 3829 8999 or Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.
<b>Category 3 Restricted Matter</b>	Includes certain pest fish, weeds, pest animals and insects. Examples of this category of restricted matter are gambusia, parthenium weed and foxes.	<b>Must not be distributed or released in the environment.</b> You must not supply to another person or release into the environment this category of restricted matter. Report to council on 3829 8999.
<b>Category 4 Restricted Matter</b>	Includes specific pest fish, weeds and pest animals such as the giant cichlid, bitou bush and feral pig.	<b>Must not be moved.</b> You must not move this restricted matter to ensure that it does not spread into other areas of the state. Report to council on 3829 8999
<b>Category 5 Restricted Matter</b>	Includes certain pest fish, weeds, pest animals such as carp, Mexican feather grass and rabbits.	<b>Must not be kept without a permit.</b> You must not possess or keep this restricted matter under your control. These pests have a high risk of negatively impacting on the environment. Report to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.
<b>Category 6 Restricted Matter</b>	Includes certain invasive animals such as feral deer, foxes, rabbits and wild dogs and pest fish such as carp, gambusia and tilapia.	<b>Must not be fed (except to trap).</b> You must not feed this category of restricted matter. With the exception of the fish species, feeding for the purpose of preparing for or undertaking a control program is exempted. Report to council on 3829 8999.
<b>Category 7 Restricted Matter</b>	Includes the pest fish carp, weatherloach, climbing perch, gambusia and tilapia.	<b>Must be destroyed.</b> If you have these pest fish in your possession you must humanely destroy the restricted matter and dispose of it by burying the whole carcass (no parts removed) in the ground above the high tide water mark or placing it in a waste disposal receptacle. Report to council on 3829 8999.

Table 2. Summary of the biosecurity matter categories and the responsibilities.

### What Biosecurity Matter should I report?

- Any invasive plant, pest fish or pest animal that is listed in Schedule 1 and 2 of the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (also listed in the Redlands Coast Biosecurity Plan 2018-2023) as prohibited or Category 2 restricted, must be reported to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.
- High priority biosecurity matter and most restricted matter listed in the Redlands Coast Biosecurity Plan 2018-2023 should be reported to council on 3829 8999.



## Where should I report a suspected Biosecurity Matter?

If you become aware of prohibited and/or restricted matter or you believe, or ought to reasonably believe, that something is prohibited or restricted matter, you need to:

Responsibilities	
Prohibited Matter	All prohibited matter must be reported within 24 hours of being sighted to Biosecurity Queensland by phoning 13 25 23. By law, everyone has a General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO) to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risk of the prohibited matter until they receive advice from an authorised officer.
Restricted Matter	Restricted matter can have one or several Categories that describe requirements to address the risk posed by that invasive plant (see table 1). Restricted matter should be reported to council on 3829 8999 or Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23

Table 3. Responsibilities for Prohibited and Restricted Matter.

## How was the Redlands Coast Biosecurity Plan 2018-2023 prioritisation lists developed?

Desktop information and data required to inform the prioritisation of invasive plants, pest animals and pest fish within the plan has been gathered from numerous sources, including:

- Redland Pest Management Plan 2012-2016
- *Biosecurity Act 2014* - Schedule 1 and 2 - Prohibited and Restricted Matter
- Weeds of National Significance
- Annual Pest Distribution Survey Data (Queensland Government Department of Agriculture and Fisheries – Pest Central)
- Atlas of Living Australia – Invasive species records for Redland City Council
- Species (flora and fauna) list from Queensland Government Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (Wildlife Online)
- Redland City Council Annual Waterway Recovery Reporting (fish population monitoring)
- Redland City Council - Customer requests for pest animal sightings
- Feral Scan by Centre for Invasive Species Solutions
- Invasive plants list from Redland City Council Environmental Partnerships Team
- Species identified through stakeholders engagement process

The Redlands Coast Biosecurity Working Group assessed the compiled list using their expert local knowledge and species profile information to rate and rank each species based on attributes developed by the Queensland Government. The prioritisation of invasive plants was undertaken for three (3) geographic regions, producing prioritisation lists for:

- Mainland Redlands Coast -including Coochiemudlo Island
- North Stradbroke Island (Minjerribah)
- Southern Moreton Bay Islands.

The draft prioritisation lists were presented to key stakeholder groups from the Redlands Coast community, businesses and organisations and offered to provide feedback for each relative region.



Figure 2 shows the process of rating and ranking of each invasive plant, pest fish and pest animals. The process was performed for the three (3) regions invasive plants.

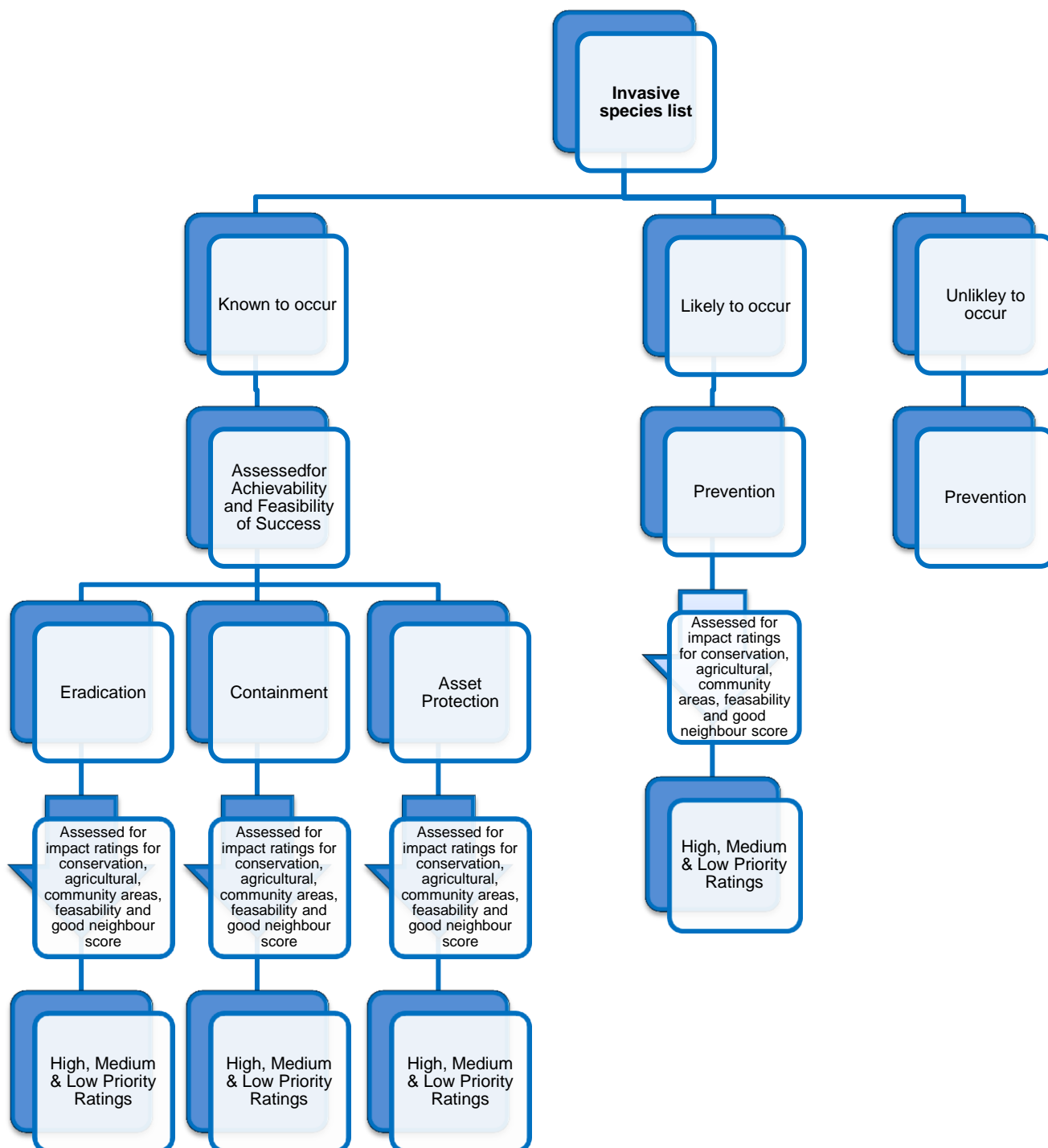


Figure 2. The Priority Invasive Pest Program assessment, categorisation and prioritisation process



## Where can I find out more information about Biosecurity Matter (Invasive plants, pest fish and pest animals)?

**Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.** All relevant fact sheets on state biosecurity matter, GBO, prohibited matter compliance

Visit website: [www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity](http://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity)

Call: 13 25 23

**Redland City Council.** Redlands Coast Biosecurity Plan 2018-2023, local biosecurity matter, restricted matter compliance

Visit website: [www.redland.qld.gov.au](http://www.redland.qld.gov.au)

Call: 3829 8999

## What are some other resources?

### Invasive Plants:

- **Weed Spotters Queensland App** (currently Android only). An app to request the Queensland Herbarium to identify a weed, and also records the weed location for species spread and abundance data. Mobile device only, do not need to register. [www.qld.gov.au/environment](http://www.qld.gov.au/environment)
- **Redlands Coast Bushcare Weed Spotters App.** Targets five specific weeds in an attempt to map distribution and abundance of the emerging weeds in Redland City Council City. The list of five will expand gradually, based from the Redlands Coast Biosecurity Plan 2018-2023. Need to Register with Atlas of Living Australia (ALA). Can be used on App or PC. [www.biocollect.ala.org.au](http://www.biocollect.ala.org.au)
- **Weeds of Australia Identification Website Tool.** A systematic weed identification website with easy to follow prompts and images and detailed information. [www.business.qld.gov.au](http://www.business.qld.gov.au)
- **Weeds of SEQ/NE NSW Identification and Information App.** Weed identification tool for the field using similar systematic weed identification methods as the website mentioned above. [Weeds of South East QLD and Northern NSW](#)

### Pest Fish and Animals:

- **Feralscan.** Record observations and evidence of target pests. Also provide information on the target pests and distribution maps. [www.feralscan.org.au](http://www.feralscan.org.au)
- **Pest Smart Website.** Learn about managing and identifying target pest fish and pest animals, connect with others, get up to date information on target, or emerging species. [www.pestsmart.org.au](http://www.pestsmart.org.au)
- **Centre for Invasive Species Solutions.** Information on a national collaboration in research, education and management of vertebrate pests. [www.invasives.com.au](http://www.invasives.com.au)

### Invasive Plants and Pest Fish and Animals:

- **Queensland Pest Distribution Map.** Shows the current known distribution and abundance of notifiable pests in Queensland. May on work on Google Chrome. [www.daf.qld.gov.au](http://www.daf.qld.gov.au)
- **Atlas of Living Australia (ALA).** Can search by area, or species to see distribution of target species from a diverse dataset. Can also record any species via an App or on the website. [www.ala.org.au](http://www.ala.org.au)
- **Fire Ants.** All relevant information on identification, management, maps etc. <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/plants/weeds-pest-animals-ants/invasive-ants/fire-ants>

