

**Croydon Shire Council  
Invasive Pest Plants Incentive Program**



## Croydon Shire Council Invasive Pest Plants Incentive Program

The Croydon Shire Invasive Pest Plant Incentive Program has been established to facilitate a (shared) reasonable and practical level of commitment for the effective management of invasive pest plants across the Local Government Area.

The Invasive Pest Plant Incentive Program has been developed through the collective input of obligated landholders from across the Local Government Area (Croydon Shire Pest Advisory Group) during the Croydon Shire Biosecurity Plan 2019 consultation and planning process (Sections 2, 3 and 4).

The Program defines agreed, reasonable and practical (feasible and achievable) actions to set clear direction among all landholders to effectively manage the risk and impacts of invasive pest plants under a multi species, catchment based prevention, containment and management system, which is consistent with obligations listed under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* and linking overarching frameworks.

### **Responsibilities under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*:**

- General Biosecurity Obligation (s23): All persons who deals with Invasive Biosecurity Matter or a carrier, or carries out an activity that poses or is likely to pose a biosecurity risk, if the person knows or reasonably ought to know, has a General Biosecurity Obligation. Obligated persons must take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise that biosecurity risk (entry, establishment, spread) and any adverse effects from dealing with that invasive biosecurity matter.
- (s48), Local Government is responsible for ensuring invasive biosecurity matter is managed within its Local Government Area, in compliance with the Act.
- (s53) Local Government must have a biosecurity plan in place for the management of Invasive Biosecurity Matter within its Local Government Area.
- Invasive Biosecurity Matter includes those listed in Schedule 1 Prohibited Matter (parts 3 & 4) and Schedule 2 Restricted Matter (part 2), categories 1-7. The GBO also applies to locally declared and non-declared Invasive Biosecurity Matter.

The Invasive Pest Plant Incentive Program will provide Local Government with a voluntary agreement, as a preliminary alternative to biosecurity compliance procedures (carrot before the stick). Actions will be supported by Local Government incentives as to reward the active due diligence of participating landholders with the provision of best practice tools and or services (herbicides, applicators, funding support etc.).

Landholder adoption and commitment to the Local Government incentive program, particularly among catchment based neighbours is envisaged to automatically create (non-incorporated) catchment based landholder groups who are actively implementing best practice to address biosecurity obligations. Therefore, greatly increase the potential for attracting further incentive funding (Local, State or Commonwealth) by means of presenting a collaborative, low risk, high return and protected catchment based biosecurity investment.

Local Government will allow two years for Shire landholders to sign and implement the incentive agreement (or other agreed measures) prior to implementation of biosecurity compliance procedures under the Act where necessary. Individual landholders or companies may negotiate on variations to the program and still become eligible for potential incentives where variations remain consistent with obligations the *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

The Pest Advisory Group (PAG) will monitor, review and evaluate the effectiveness of the incentive programs and its actions annually.

## Croydon Shire Council Invasive Pest Plants Incentive Program Agreement

To participate in the Invasive Pest Plant Incentive Program, landholders will be required to complete an Invasive Pest Plant Incentive Program Agreement, which commits landholders to the adoption of its actions and obligations under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. On signing the agreement, landholders will be eligible for incentive tools, herbicides and funding support services.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Property Name / PIC): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Position Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Landholders Invasive Pest Plants Incentive Program</b>	
<b>Management Obligation</b>	<b>Reasonable and Practical Actions</b>
<p>(s23) All persons who deal with Invasive Biosecurity Matter, a carrier or carries out an activity posing a biosecurity risk has a General Biosecurity Obligation and must "reasonably ought to know".</p>	<p><b>Implement "reasonable and practical" measures to ensure stakeholders ("reasonably ought to know") are aware of pests, their risks, impacts and General Biosecurity Obligations for management (i.e. defined protocol, practices and actions for prevention, surveillance, reporting, monitoring, containment, best practice management and available services).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish an education and awareness program targeting employees, contractors, visitors etc. to promote pest awareness, including protocol, practices and actions to facilitate compliance with general biosecurity obligations.                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Disseminate educational materials such as Biosecurity fact sheets, pest fact sheets, pest posters, field guides, SOP's, COP's and defined protocol, practices, actions and available services defined below.</li> <li>II. Disseminate educational material via toolbox talks, email lists, offices, rec rooms, social media platforms, property signage or by other means as necessary.                                      (*Education and awareness actions are further described in the Croydon Shire Biosecurity Plan 2019 (Section 2: strategic Program 6 - Education and awareness).</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Implement a pest data capture program to support "reasonably ought to know" and on farm biosecurity plans.                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Map invasive pest plants to define pest presence and monitor pest distribution and density.</li> <li>II. Collect invasive plant plants control data adequate for asset management review and evaluation.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Support staff training, accreditation and licensing (herbicides, clean downs, workshops etc.).</li> </ul>
<p>(s23) Prevent or minimise the likelihood of spread (entry and establishment) by carriers or carrying out an activity (biosecurity event).</p>	<p><b>Implement "reasonable and practical" prevention measures to minimise the likelihood of spread by carriers or by carrying out an activity.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use Invasive Biosecurity Matter Hygiene Declarations (see attached) for carriers entering or exiting the property or shire.</li> <li>• Implement property and /or site access biosecurity signage.</li> <li>• Establish clean down sites and implement clean down protocol and practices for staff, contractors and visitors (high-risk carriers).</li> <li>• Conduct inspections of high-risk carriers (i.e. machinery, livestock, fodder, visitors, hunters or pest contractor vehicles etc.).</li> <li>• Contain fodder to designated feeding areas.</li> <li>• Implement stock holding periods for potentially contaminated stock.</li> <li>• Remove high-risk pests along high-risk roads or areas posing risk by carriers.</li> <li>• Prevent the deliberate keeping or intentional transport, sale, dispersal or disposal of Restricted or Prohibited Matter.</li> </ul> <p><b>Implement "reasonable and practical" prevention, surveillance and reporting measures to minimise the likelihood of spread (entry and establishment) of potentially new or prohibited pests.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement prevention, surveillance and reporting protocol for new Restricted or Prohibited Matter into general operational activities (mustering, maintenance programs etc).</li> <li>• Report and or contain suspected Prohibited Matter or potentially new invasive biosecurity matter incursions.</li> </ul>
<p>(s23) Prevent or minimise the likelihood of spread (biosecurity risk) by natural processes and adverse effects (biosecurity event) to a biosecurity consideration.</p>	<p><b>Implement "reasonable and practical" measures for preventing or minimising natural spread risk.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement a weed free, property boundary buffer zone to contain and minimise natural spread (of all invasive pest plants listed within the Croydon Shire Biosecurity plan 2019) from outside of the property boundary: minimum of 40m from all boundaries, including minimum 10m either side of the bed and banks of a watercourse, 250m upstream from a property boundary.</li> <li>• Implement property and site containment measures for new (Restricted, locally declared and non-declared) invasive pest plant incursions in accordance with Prevention, Eradication and Containment A catchment based management objectives (See Catchment Based - Threshold Management Objectives attached).</li> </ul>
<p>(s23) Prevent or minimise adverse effects (any and significant) to a biosecurity consideration.</p>	<p><b>Implement "reasonable and practical" best practice control measures to prevent or minimise (any and significant) adverse effects.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Target invasive pest plants listed as "Significant" within Croydon Shire Biosecurity plan 2019 in accordance with catchment based management objectives (See Catchment Based Pest List and Catchment Map attached)</li> <li>• Implement catchment management objectives for all invasive pest plants in accordance with legislated requirements and best practice management (registered herbicides, approved methods and applications, timing, cost benefit, etc.).</li> <li>• Participate in Local Government incentive programs in collaboration with neighbours to form catchment groups, align commitments and attract funding.</li> </ul>

I/We, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, declare that I am the person responsible for management of the property described above and hereby agree to participate in the Croydon Shire Council Invasive Pest Plant Incentive Program and commit to adopting its actions listed above. I acknowledge signing the agreement and implementation of its actions in their entirety will be a means to prevent or minimise the risk and adverse effects of invasive pest plants on lands under my responsibility and in accordance with my obligations under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Local Government Checklist

**Local Government is to provide:**

- Biosecurity Act fact sheets (GBO, Restricted and Prohibited Matter obligations).
- Pest fact sheets  
(<https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/invasive-plants-animals/fact-sheets>).

**Landholder is to provide:**

- Signed agreement.
- Property map (from on farm biosecurity plan) showing existing distribution and density of invasive pest plants.

**Incentives available to landholders:**

- Registered herbicide for approved application methods.
- Herbicide applicator to support application of registered herbicides.
- Funding support.

\*Available to landholder groups targeting "Significant" pest plants listed within the Croydon Shire Biosecurity Plan 2019 as external funding opportunities become available to Local Government.

Name of Council's Authorised Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Local Government will collect and collate signed property agreements, maps and record incentives provided on a register to be stored within council records management system.

# INVASIVE BIOSECURITY MATTER DECLARATION

## PART 1: DETAILS OF OBLIGATED PERSON (s23)

The person dealing with invasive biosecurity matter, a carrier (s17) or carrying out an activity posing a biosecurity risk (s16), of causing a biosecurity event (s14) under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Name/Property): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Position Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## PART 2: BIOSECURITY RISK

The activity and carrier posing a biosecurity risk.

**The “Activity” posing a biosecurity risk:**  
 Activity Description: \_\_\_\_\_

**The “Carrier” posing a biosecurity risk:**

Person  Truck  Machinery  Vehicle  Livestock  Fodder  Seed/Grain

Gravel/Sand/Soil  Mulch  Water  Other \_\_\_\_\_

## PART 3: CONTAMINANT (s18)

Has the carrier been; in contact with, moved through, stored in, come from or used in a place where invasive biosecurity matter (reproductive material) is present and likely to have; entered, attached to or be contained in, the carrier.

**To the best of your knowledge, are one or more “Carriers” likely to be contaminated with Invasive Biosecurity Matter:**

Yes  Likely  No, I certify carrier(s) to be clean and free of contaminants and biosecurity risk.

**If “Yes” or “Likely” then list the carrier(s) and define the likelihood including the potential contaminants:**

Carrier	Likelihood of contamination			Invasive Biosecurity Matter
	High	Medium	Low	

\*List all likely contaminants including; prohibited, restricted, locally declared or non-declared invasive biosecurity matter.

**PART 4: PREVENTION MEASURES**

If answered "Yes" or "Likely" in Part 3: Contaminant, what "reasonable and Practical" measures have been taken to prevent or minimise the biosecurity risk and likely consequences of the biosecurity event.

**Prevention Measures taken**

- Wash/Clean down    Quarantine period    Chemical treated    Covered    Enclosed  
 Certified clean and inspected    Nil    Other   List actions: \_\_\_\_\_

Actions Requested by Recipient: \_\_\_\_\_

If answered "Yes" and "high" likelihood in Part 3: Contaminant.

Do you have a permit to keep, move, distribute or dispose of the invasive biosecurity matter?

Yes      No

Permit Description: \_\_\_\_\_

**PART 5: MOVEMENT DETAILS**

Movement Date (from): \_\_\_\_\_ to: \_\_\_\_\_

Movement Location (from): \_\_\_\_\_

(to): \_\_\_\_\_

**PART 6: DECLARATION**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, declare that the information I have provided above in this declaration is true and correct as of \_\_\_\_\_ (date) and has been provided with the understanding of the General Biosecurity Obligation (s23) including linking sections as defined herein this document and described under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PART 7: INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION (Inspector/landholder/employer use only)**

Certified Clean    Contaminated (Details) \_\_\_\_\_

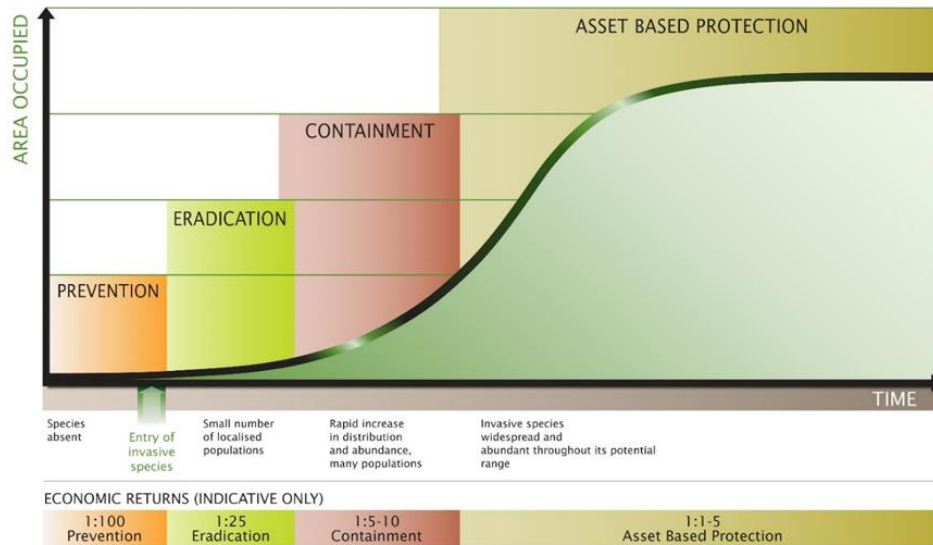
Approved    Condemned (Reason) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Inspector (Signed): \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Inspection: \_\_\_\_\_

## Catchment Based - Threshold Management Objectives

\*See the Croydon Shire Biosecurity Plan 2019, Section 4: Pest Programs for detailed actions listed under management objectives.

### Pest Invasion Curve and Continuum of Activity for Management



### Continuum of Activity Matrix

Threshold Management Objectives					
Current Extent (Catchment)	Prevention	Eradication	Containment		
			A	B	C
Not Present	High	NA	NA	NA	NA
Localised - Occasional	NA	High	High	High	High
Localised - Common	NA	Medium	High	High	High
Localised - Abundant	NA	Low	Medium	High	High
Widespread - Occasional	NA	Low	Medium	High	High
Widespread - Common	NA	Low	Low	High	High
Widespread - Abundant	NA	Low	Low	Medium	High





### Catchment Based – Threshold Management Objective Definitions

Threshold Management Objectives	
<b>Prevention</b>	Take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent the entry of new Invasive Biosecurity Matter into the Local Government Area or catchment management area.
<b>Eradication</b>	Take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent establishment and return a designated area back to pest free status. Delimit and eliminate of every individual species, including the population's reproductive capacity and reintroduction ability, within a designated area.
<b>Containment (A) Intensive Management</b>	Take all reasonable and practical measures to contain a localised population within a designated area. Intensively reduce the distribution, density and reproductive ability of the contained, localised population with the aim of progressing to eradication.
<b>Containment (B) Outlier Management and Progressive Reduction</b>	Take all reasonable and practical measures to remove scattered individuals or isolated outlier communities and contain a widespread population to a core, designated area at a property level. Progressively reduce the core, designated area to minimise spread risk (by carriers and natural processes) from a contained area or the property boundary and reduce impacts to priority assets (biosecurity considerations).
<b>Containment (C) Asset Protection and Impact Reduction</b>	Take all reasonable and practical measures to contain a widespread population and establish pest free areas at a property level. Minimise spread risk (by carriers and natural processes) from a contained area or the property boundary and protect pest free areas and priority assets (biosecurity considerations).








# Croydon Shire Catchment Management Areas

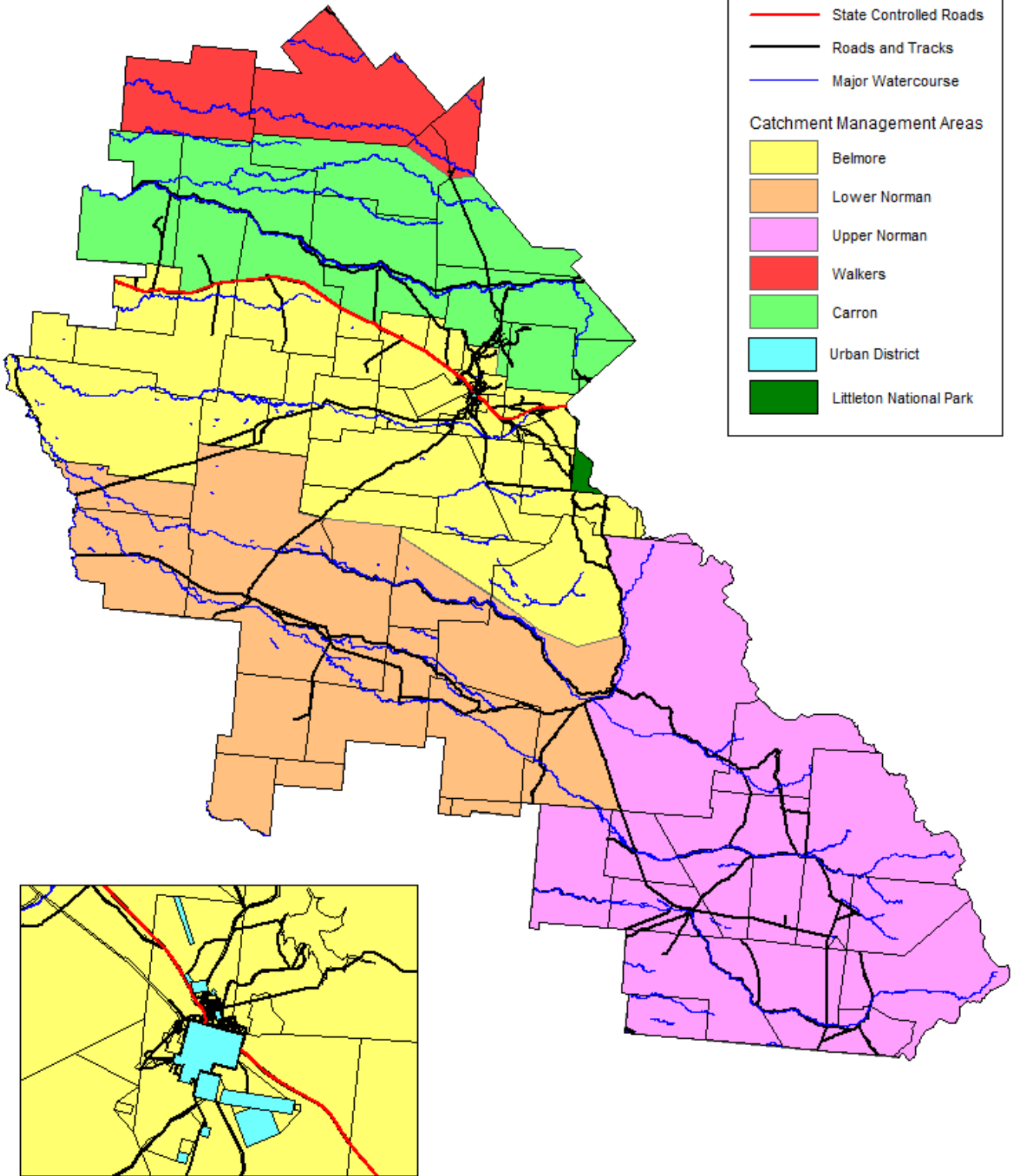
## Croydon Shire Local Government Area

### Map Legend

-  Property Boundaries
-  State Controlled Roads
-  Roads and Tracks
-  Major Watercourse

### Catchment Management Areas

-  Belmore
-  Lower Norman
-  Upper Norman
-  Walkers
-  Carron
-  Urban District
-  Littleton National Park



Based on or contains data provided by Gulf Catchments Biosecurity and Agribusiness Innovation and the State of Queensland Department of Natural Resources & Mines (NR&M) (2015). In consideration of these agencies permitting use of this data you acknowledge and agree that these agencies give no warranty in relation to the data (including accuracy, reliability, completeness, currency or suitability) and accept no liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for any loss, damage or costs (including consequential damage) relating to any use of the data. Data must not be used for direct marketing or be used in breach of privacy laws.



Map Grid of Australia Zone 54 (GDA 94)



### Catchment Based - Invasive Pest Plants of the Croydon Shire Local Government Area

Invasive Biosecurity Matter	Distribution	Density	Biosecurity Risk	Biosecurity Act 2014 and Local law Declaration Status	Restricted Matter Category	National Significance	Management Objective
<b>Urban Districts</b>							
Belly-ache bush <i>(Iatropa gossypifolia)</i>	Localised	Occasional	High	Restricted	3	High	Containment A
Calotrope <i>(Calotropis procera &amp; gigantea)</i>	Widespread	Occasional	Significant	Not Declared	NA	Low	Containment C
Caltrop <i>(Tribulus terrestris)</i>	Widespread	Common	Medium	Not Declared	NA	Low	Containment C
Chinee apple <i>(Ziziphus mauritiana)</i>	Widespread	Common	High	Restricted	3	Low	Containment C
Khaki weed <i>(Alternanthera pungens)</i>	Localised	Occasional	Medium	Not Declared	NA	Low	Containment A
Leucaena <i>(Leucaena leucocephala)</i> <i>incl all other spp and cultivars</i>	Localised	Occasional	High	Not Declared	NA	Low	Containment A
Neem tree <i>(Azadirachta indica)</i>	Widespread	Common	High	Not Declared	NA	Low	Containment C
Parkinsonia <i>(Parkinsonia aculeata)</i>	Localised	Occasional	High	Restricted	3	Medium	Containment A
Rubber vine <i>(Cryptostegia grandiflora)</i>	Localised	Occasional	High	Restricted	3	Medium	Containment A
Siratro weed <i>(Macroptilium atropurpureum)</i>	Localised	Occasional	High	Localised	Occasional	High	Localised
Yellow Candles <i>(Senna alata)</i>	Widespread	Occasional	High	Not Declared	NA	Low	Containment C
Yellow oleander <i>(Thevetia peruviana)</i>	Localised	Occasional	Medium	Restricted	3	Low	Containment A
<b>Walkers</b>							
Calotrope <i>(Calotropis procera &amp; gigantea)</i>	Widespread	Occasional	Significant	Not Declared	NA	Low	Containment C
Neem tree <i>(Azadirachta indica)</i>	Widespread	Common	High	Not Declared	NA	Low	Containment C
Rubber vine <i>(Cryptostegia grandiflora)</i>	Widespread	Occasional	High	Restricted	3	Medium	Containment B



Invasive Biosecurity Matter	Distribution	Density	Biosecurity Risk	Biosecurity Act 2014 and Local law Declaration Status	Restricted Matter Category	National Significance	Management Objective
<b>Carron</b>							
Calotrope <i>(Calotropis procera &amp; gigantea)</i>	Widespread	Occasional	Significant	Not Declared	NA	Low	Containment C
Chinee apple <i>(Ziziphus mauritiana)</i>	Widespread	Occasional	High	Restricted	3	Low	Containment B
Neem tree <i>(Azadirachta indica)</i>	Widespread	Common	High	Not Declared	NA	Low	Containment C
Rubber vine <i>(Cryptostegia grandiflora)</i>	Widespread	Occasional	High	Restricted	3	Medium	Containment B
Yellow Candles <i>(Senna alata)</i>	Widespread	Occasional	High	Not Declared	NA	Low	Containment C
<b>Belmore</b>							
Calotrope <i>(Calotropis procera &amp; gigantea)</i>	Widespread	Occasional	Significant	Not Declared	NA	Low	Containment C
Caltrop <i>(Tribulus terrestris)</i>	Widespread	Common	Medium	Not Declared	NA	Low	Containment C
Chinee apple <i>(Ziziphus mauritiana)</i>	Widespread	Common	High	Restricted	3	Low	Containment C
Grader Grass <i>(Themeda quadrivalvis)</i>	Localised	Occasional	High	Not Declared	NA	Low	Containment A
Khaki weed <i>(Alternanthera pungens)</i>	Localised	Occasional	Medium	Not Declared	NA	Low	Containment A
Leucaena <i>(Leucaena leucocephala)</i> <i>incl all other spp and cultivars</i>	Localised	Occasional	High	Not Declared	NA	Low	Containment A
Neem tree <i>(Azadirachta indica)</i>	Widespread	Common	High	Not Declared	NA	Low	Containment C
Parkinsonia <i>(Parkinsonia aculeata)</i>	Localised	Occasional	High	Restricted	3	Medium	Containment A
Prickly acacia <i>(Vachellia nilotica)</i>	Localised	Occasional	Significant	Restricted	3	Significant	Eradication
Rubber vine <i>(Cryptostegia grandiflora)</i>	Widespread	Occasional	High	Restricted	3	Medium	Containment B
Siratro weed <i>(Macroptilium atropurpureum)</i>	Localised	Occasional	High	Not Declared	NA	Low	Containment A
Water hyacinth <i>(Eichhornia crassipes)</i>	Localised	Occasional	Significant	Restricted	3	Significant	Containment A
Yellow Candles <i>(Senna alata)</i>	Widespread	Occasional	High	Not Declared	NA	Low	Containment C

Invasive Biosecurity Matter	Distribution	Density	Biosecurity Risk	Biosecurity Act 2014 and Local law Declaration Status	Restricted Matter Category	National Significance	Management Objective
<b>Lower Norman</b>							
Calotrope <i>(Calotropis procera &amp; gigantea)</i>	Widespread	Occasional	Significant	Not Declared	NA	Low	Containment C
Caltrop <i>(Tribulus terrestris)</i>	Localised	Common	Medium	Not Declared	NA	Low	Containment B
Neem tree <i>(Azadirachta indica)</i>	Widespread	Common	High	Not Declared	NA	Low	Containment C
Parkinsonia <i>(Parkinsonia aculeata)</i>	Localised	Occasional	High	Restricted	3	Medium	Containment A
Rubber vine <i>(Cryptostegia grandiflora)</i>	Widespread	Occasional	High	Restricted	3	Medium	Containment B
Yellow Candles <i>(Senna alata)</i>	Widespread	Occasional	High	Not Declared	NA	Low	Containment C
<b>Upper Norman</b>							
Calotrope <i>(Calotropis procera &amp; gigantea)</i>	Widespread	Occasional	Significant	Not Declared	NA	Low	Containment C
Neem tree <i>(Azadirachta indica)</i>	Widespread	Common	High	Not Declared	NA	Low	Containment C
Prickly acacia <i>(Vachellia nilotica)</i>	Localised	Occasional	Significant	Restricted	3	Significant	Eradication
Rubber vine <i>(Cryptostegia grandiflora)</i>	Widespread	Occasional	High	Restricted	3	Medium	Containment B
Yellow Candles <i>(Senna alata)</i>	Widespread	Occasional	High	Not Declared	NA	Low	Containment C




## CROYDON SHIRE PEST ALERT LIST



**Report new Non Declared, Restricted or Prohibited invasive pests to Croydon Shire Council's Authorised Officer – Wayne McFarlane (07) 47 487 100.**

Invasive Pest Plant Alert List			
Invasive Biosecurity Matter	Pest Name	Biosecurity Act 2014 and Local law Declaration	Description, Risk and Current Distribution
	<p>Cacti spp (<i>Harrisia</i>, <i>Cylindropuntia</i>, <i>Opuntia</i> and all other species)</p>	<p>Restricted (Category 2, 3, 4, 5)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cacti Species such as <i>Harrisia</i>, <i>Cylindropuntia</i>, <i>Opuntia</i> vary in appearance although they can all form dense infestations that will reduce pastures to a level unsuitable for stock. The spines are a problem for stock management, interfering with mustering and stock movement.</li> <li>• Fruit and seed are readily eaten by birds, mammals and to a lesser extent by feral pigs, although broken-off portions of the plant will take root and grow. Detachable cladodes can attach to animals, humans, machinery, vehicles and are readily spread by land clearing or floodwater where broken pads move long distances. These pads can survive long periods before weather conditions allow them to set roots.</li> <li>• Cacti is often grown as ornamentals where discarded materials or detached cladodes readily cause new infestations.</li> <li>• <i>Harrisia</i>, <i>Cylindropuntia</i>, <i>Opuntia</i> infestations are known to occur in surrounding shires. Garden ornamentals species should be reported, contained and destroyed appropriately.</li> </ul>
	<p>Gamba grass (<i>Andropogon gayanus</i>)</p>	<p>Restricted (Category 3)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gamba grass grows up to 4 m tall with tussocks up to 70 cm in diameter. Leaves are 3 cm wide, with a distinctive white midrib and are covered with soft hairs. Stems are robust and covered in soft hairs and seeds are contained in a fluffy V-shaped seed heads. Seeds develop from May to June and set in July and August. Plants can produce up to 244 000 seeds/plants each year with 65% viability. The seeds are dispersed by the wind, although 90% fall within 5 m of the parent plant.</li> <li>• Gamba grass competes strongly with native pasture and its high biomass can fuel intense bushfires damaging ecosystems and threatening the safety of people and property. Gamba grass can significantly alter soil-nutrient cycles, water cycles and fire regimes by creating up to eight times higher fuel loads than native forest and pastures.</li> <li>• Dispersal has been aided by the sale and historical distribution of the plant as a commercial pasture plant, although it is often spread by being transported as hay and on roadside slashers.</li> <li>• Gamba Grass is widespread in the Mareeba and Tablelands Shires where it is often bailed and transported as fodder from these areas where it has now spread into the Etheridge Shire along the Gulf Developmental road.</li> </ul>

## Invasive Pest Plant Alert List

Invasive Biosecurity Matter	Pest Name	Biosecurity Act 2014 and Local law Declaration	Description, Risk and Current Distribution
	Giant rats tail grass <i>(Sporobolus pyramidalis &amp; S. natalensis)</i>	Restricted (Category 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Giant rats tail grass is a robust, tufted, perennial grass which grows 0.6–1.7 m tall with a seed head of up to 45 cm long and 3 cm wide. Seed head shape changes from a ‘rat’s tail’ when young to an elongated pyramid shape at maturity. It can be difficult to distinguish from other pasture grasses before maturity. The seed heads can produce over 80,000 seeds per spike.</li> <li>• Giant rats tail grass can affect cattle health and reduce pasture productivity due to its low palatability when mature. It rapidly dominates and out-competes desirable pastures and can be difficult to control.</li> <li>• Giant rats tail grass is commonly spread through fodder, by livestock and contaminated seed.</li> <li>• Giant rats tail grass is present in the Mareeba and Tablelands Shire Council areas where it is commonly bailed with fodder. It is also currently in the Richmond Shire Council Local Government Area.</li> </ul>
	Parthenium <i>(Parthenium hysterophorus)</i>	Restricted (Category 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parthenium is an annual herb that grows up to 2 m. Its leaves are pale green, deeply lobed and covered with fine soft hairs. Small creamy white flowers occur on the tips of the numerous stems. Each flower contains four to five black seeds that are wedge-shaped, with white scales. Parthenium normally germinates in spring and early summer, produces flowers and seed and dies around late autumn.</li> <li>• Parthenium seed is spread via water, vehicles, machinery, stock, feral and native animals and in feed and seed. Drought conditions aid the spread of seed with increased movements of stock fodder and transports</li> <li>• Parthenium invades rapidly, reduces pasture production and is also known to cause health problems as contact with the plant or the pollen can cause serious allergic reactions such as dermatitis and hay fever.</li> <li>• Parthenium is found in the Mareeba and Tablelands Shires where it is often associated with chook sheds, although is also found along the Kennedy developmental road and there are historical records along the Gulf developmental road.</li> </ul>
	Salvinia <i>(Salvinia molesta)</i>	Restricted (Category 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salvinia is a free-floating aquatic fern, with small, spongy, green leaves positioned in pairs along a stem. Young leaves are 12mm wide, when mature the leaves become thick and fold at the mid-rib. Leaves form root trails which resemble wet hair.</li> <li>• Salvinia affects water quality, forms heavy weed cover and can cause up to four times more water evaporation lost by transpiration through the leaves during summer. Irrigation and water flow is reduced due to the restrictive action of the roots, which in turn increase pumping times and costs. Dense mats interfere with swimming, make fishing impossible and it displaces native aquatic plants, birds and animals.</li> <li>• Salvinia is mainly spread by boats or water sport equipment and by people who empty aquariums and ponds into waterways.</li> <li>• Salvinia is currently present in Mt Isa and many coastal Local Government areas which poses a significant risk to Belmore dam and surrounding water bodies of the Croydon Shire.</li> </ul>