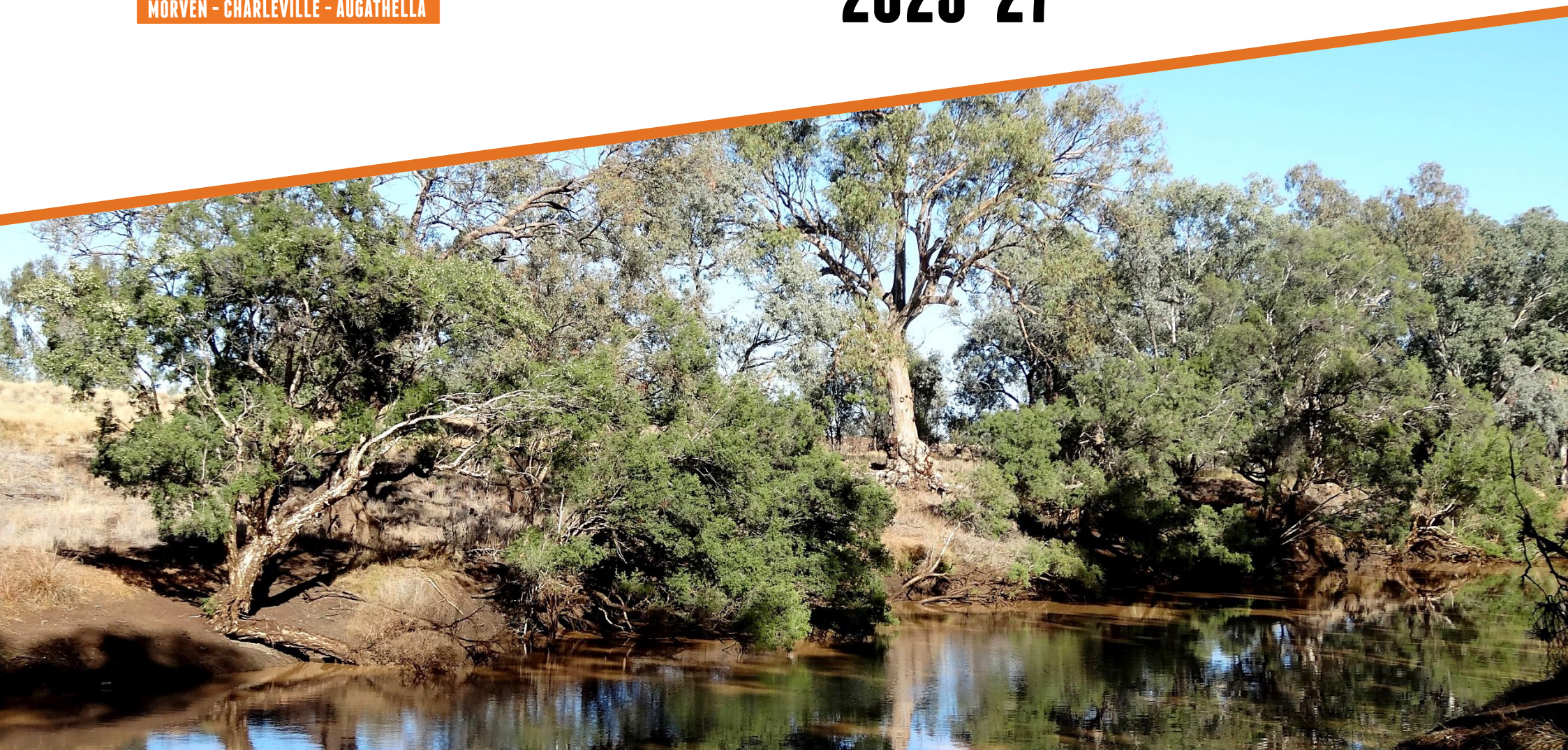




SHIRE OF MURWEH

MORVEN - CHARLEVILLE - AUGATHELLA

BIOSECURITY AND STOCK ROUTE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2023-27



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This plan was prepared by Cornerstone Sustainability Pty Ltd, 2022.
Front cover Warrego River. Photo credit: denisbin flickr 2013.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Murweh Shire Council Biosecurity and Stock Route Management Plan 2023-27 aims to protect and enhance the Shire's economic, environmental, cultural and social values by managing the Shire's public lands and use, and biosecurity impacts.

The Shire covers over 43,000 km² and lies in a semi-arid zone where agriculture is the largest industry sector by employment and output, valued at \$208 million in 2020/21, followed by food manufacturing with an output value of \$67 million. The unique landscapes and environment of Murweh's Mulga lands and riverine systems are enjoyed by locals and visitors alike, attracting \$11.5 million in tourism sales in 2020/21.

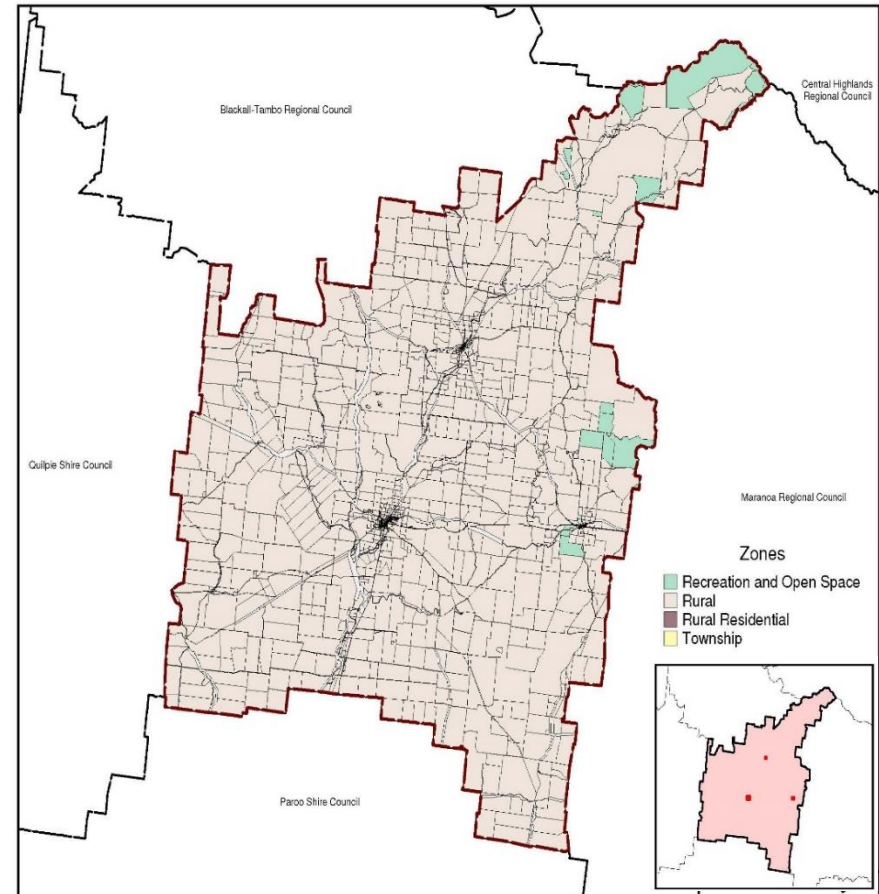
Murweh Shire's location and connectivity provides access and strong links to the South West region, Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia for transport, industry, traveling stock and tourists.

Management of the Stock Route Network is important for travelling stock and local use, while supporting the inherent natural and cultural values of the network and public lands within in the Murweh Shire.

Biosecurity and pest management play a vital role in the protection of the Shire's agricultural industries, as well as environmentally and culturally sensitive areas, and social amenity.

This Plan sets the desired commitment for Council and community working together to implement effective and strategic management of public lands and use and biosecurity impacts in the Murweh Shire.

The Murweh Shire Council Biosecurity and Stock Route Management Plan 2023-27 was adopted by Murweh Shire Council on 19 January 2023.



1 SECTION ONE - INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Biosecurity and Stock Route Management Plan 2023-27 details the priorities and course of action Murweh Shire Council intends to take over the next four years in relation to the management of its stock route network and public lands, and biosecurity risks and impacts.

This Plan provides clarity and accountability for Murweh Shire Council to meet its legislative and operational requirements, and guides leadership on the strategic priorities of the community.

1.1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Biosecurity and Stock Route Management Plan 2023-27 for the Murweh Shire Local Government Area is to state the management objectives and strategies, priorities, and responsibilities of all stakeholders in relation to:

- a) management and use of the stock route network and public lands, and
- b) management of risks and impacts of weeds, pests, diseases, and pathogens.

1.1.2 Strategic Goals

Two key strategic goals identified in the Murweh Shire Council Corporate Plan 2022-27 underpin the development and delivery of this Plan.

- a) Stakeholders are informed, knowledgeable and committed to implementing effective and strategic biosecurity management to prevent the introduction, establishment and spread of pests and diseases.

- b) Stock routes are well maintained for stock movement and regulated use.

1.1.3 Preparation

The preparation of this Plan involved a three-month consultation process with community, industry and government stakeholders to provide input into the development of management objectives, priorities and strategies to meet community expectations and legislative requirements. 50 people participated in consultation via public consultation meetings held in Morven, Augathella and Charleville, direct correspondence, discussions, Councillor workshop, and completing a survey.

1.1.4 Delivery

The Biosecurity and Stock Route Management Plan 2023-27 strategically aligns to the Corporate Plan and is delivered through existing mechanisms including Council's projects and programs, policies, and annual operational plans and budgets. Council partners with community, land managers, government agencies, and industry organisations to lead and deliver the priorities in this Plan.

1.1.5 Reporting

Council will monitor and report progress made against the goals on an annual basis to the community, including updated mapping. The strategic impact over time is monitored using broader social, economic and environmental indicators, and analysed to periodically respond to evolving needs.

1.2 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

This plan contributes to the aspirations and objectives Murweh Shire Council holds for its community. These aspirations are shared with the Queensland Government as outlined in the relevant strategic documents below.

TABLE 1: STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

MURWEH SHIRE COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN 2022-27	QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES
<p>LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE Council confidently meets the operational needs of its organisation and demonstrates leadership to address strategic needs of the community.</p> <p>PUBLIC LANDS Stock routes, town reserves and public lands are well maintained for community use and enhanced environmental benefit.</p> <p>BIOSECURITY Community working together to prevent and manage invasive plants and animals to reduce their economic, environmental, and social impact.</p> <p>CONNECTION TO COUNTRY Preserve pride and connection to culture and country.</p> <p>INDUSTRY The economic profile represents dynamic opportunities for industry, business, and employment.</p> <p>LANDSCAPES Ecosystems and landscapes are protected and enhanced for enjoyment by all.</p>	<p>QUEENSLAND STOCK ROUTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2021-2025 The network is managed for the responsible use for travelling stock while supporting the inherent natural and cultural values on the network.</p> <p>QUEENSLAND INVASIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS STRATEGY 2019-2024 Invasive plants and animals are cooperatively managed to reduce their impacts on the environment, the economy, human health and social amenity as it relates to the community.</p> <p>QUEENSLAND BIOSECURITY STRATEGY 2018-2023 We will protect Queensland's ecosystems, our industries and our way of life, maintain Queensland's national and international reputation for product safety and integrity and ensure ongoing market access for our commodities.</p> <p>QUEENSLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2025 A resilient sector with secure production, and value chains that can deal with natural disasters, climate change, biosecurity risks and other emerging challenges.</p> <p>QUEENSLAND'S PROTECTED AREA STRATEGY 2020-2030 To enhance and maintain a system of world-class protected areas, guided by First Nations' knowledge and expertise, global best practice and community needs, which ensures Queensland's exceptional nature and culture are actively supported to thrive for future generations to experience and enjoy.</p>

2 SECTION TWO - MANAGEMENT PLAN

2.1 MANAGEMENT PLAN

2.1.1 Framework

The following Management Plan details the approach Murweh Shire Council will take to meet its legislative obligations, provide strategic direction to the community, and deliver operational activities towards the desired outcomes of this Plan. The following planning framework applies:

- a) **Aspirations** – the long term desired future state, as described in the Corporate Plan.
- b) **Goals** – short term desired impact towards aspirations, as stated in the Corporate Plan.
- c) **Strategies** – general approach to achieve the goals.
- d) **Management Objectives** and priorities – specific target and importance for each identified risk or impact.
- e) **Management Strategies** – specific action to achieve each of the management objectives.
- f) **Indicators** – measure to demonstrate short term progress.

2.1.2 Resources

This Plan focuses on targeted management planning specific to the Murweh Shire and intentionally does not replicate information, responsibilities, and resources available elsewhere. Consultation feedback suggested residents were generally able to access the information and resources they required. However, collating relevant resources and providing education and extension was noted as being beneficial and will be an undertaking of Council as a matter of priority. The Resources section offers a general list of references used in the preparation of this plan.

2.1.3 General Biosecurity Obligation

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* imposes a general biosecurity obligation (GBO) which requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimise biosecurity risks and events.

A biosecurity risk exists when dealing with any pest, disease or contaminant, or with something that could carry one of these. A biosecurity event is caused by a pest, disease or contaminant that is, or is likely to become, a significant problem for human health, social amenity, the economy or the environment.

This Management Plan identifies and provides guidance to land managers and community about what is considered 'reasonable' and 'practical' steps to manage biosecurity risks and events relevant to the Murweh Shire.

2.1.4 Risk Assessment

The planning process involved the undertaking of a risk assessment based approach to prioritise and inform management strategies. The risk assessments refer to Council managed land and responsibilities, and high risk areas for private land management, that impact the prevention, preparedness and response to biosecurity and other risks in the Shire.

2.1.5 Mapping

The Management Objectives and delivery of Strategies are to be accompanied by Shire mapping, establishing 2023 baseline indicators and made available to the public.

2.1.6 Legends

TABLE 2: RISK ASSESSMENT AND PRIORITY MATRIX APPLIED TO BIOSECURITY RISKS, WEEDS, PESTS, AND STOCK ROUTE AND PUBLIC LAND.

Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Priority				
		Negligible	Low	Moderate	High	Very High
Very High		Moderate	Moderate	High	Very High	Very High
High		Low	Moderate	Moderate	High	Very High
Moderate		Low	Low	Moderate	High	High
Low		Negligible	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High
Negligible		Negligible	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate

TABLE 4: BIOSECURITY MATTER CATEGORIES AND REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE BIOSECURITY ACT 2014

Category

- 1 Must be reported within 24 hours to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.
- 2 Must be reported within 24 hours to Murweh Shire Council or Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.
- 3 Must not be distributed either by sale, gift or release into the environment.
- 4 Must not be moved.
- 5 Must not be possessed or kept.
- 6 Must not feed.
- 7 Must kill and dispose.

TABLE 3: DISTRIBUTION STATUS AND OBJECTIVE FOR WEEDS AND PESTS.

Objective	Status	
	Widespread	Localised
Asset protection	Abundant	Abundant
Containment	Common	Common
Reduced/Eradication	Occasional	Occasional
Prevention	Absent	Absent
Determine/Monitor	Unknown	Unknown

DECLARATION STATUS REFERENCES

WoNS – Weed of National Significance

Risk List – National Exotic Environmental Pest List

Report – Report immediately to Biosecurity Queensland or Murweh Shire Council

Category – Declaration category of restricted matter under the Biosecurity Act 2014.

Not declared GBO – Not Declared under the Biosecurity Act 2014 however a General Biosecurity Obligation applies

2.2 BIOSECURITY RISK

ASPIRATION: Community working together to prevent and manage biosecurity risk and their economic, environmental, and social impact.

GOALS

- ▶ Stakeholders are informed, knowledgeable and committed to implementing effective and strategic biosecurity management to prevent the introduction, establishment and spread of pests and diseases.
- ▶ Stock routes are well maintained for stock movement and regulated use.
- ▶ Facilitate certainty and security, underpinned by industry diversity, resilience, and capability.

STRATEGIES

- ▶ Biosecurity planning, coordination, and implementation with stakeholders.
- ▶ Resource the implementation of priority actions and responsibilities in the Biosecurity and Stock Route Management Plan.

INDICATORS

- ▶ No new incidents.
- ▶ No further increase from 2023 mapped extent.
- ▶ No biosecurity orders issued.

BIOSECURITY IMPACTS

Industry – pasture and crop condition, disease, predation, economic, quality assurance
Environment – Biodiversity, habitat, landscape and ecosystem degradation, species conservation
Community – cultural heritage, recreation, tourism, health

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Determination – Early detection, diagnostics, mapping, and monitoring systems in place.

Monitored – Surveillance of Shire and localised incursions to monitor achievement of objectives.

Prevention – Prevent entry into the Shire.

Rapid Response – Immediate mobilization of control measures to stop the spread.

Eradication – Eradicated completely from the Shire.

Containment – Contained within the event boundary.

Asset Protection – Managed to minimise impact to local environmental, social, and economic assets.

PRIORITY RISKS

- ▶ Introduction or spread of diseases
- ▶ Introduction or spread of pests and weeds
- ▶ Access to waste contaminants
- ▶ Animal access to Restricted Animal Material (RAM) or swill
- ▶ People health and safety
- ▶ Qualifications and training
- ▶ Preparedness to new disease, pest or weed incursions
- ▶ Preparedness for emergency response

PRIORITY DISEASE ALERT LIST

Foot and Mouth Disease
Lumpy Skin Disease
African Swine Fever
Ehrlichia Canis
Australian Bat Lyssavirus
Varroa Mite

2.2.1 Biosecurity Risk Management Objectives

TABLE 5 PRIORITY BIOSECURITY RISKS

RISK	LIKELIHOOD	PRIORITY	ZONE AND STATUS	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	INDICATORS
Disease introduction and spread	Moderate	High	Shire, stock routes and reserves High risk – traveling stock, pests, domestic animals	Prevention Rapid Response	No new diseases.
Weed introduction and spread	High	High	Shire, stock routes and reserves High risk – traveling stock, people, pests, vehicles, machinery	Prevention Monitored	No new incursions. No further spread from 2023 mapped extent.
Pest introduction and spread	Medium	High	Shire, stock routes and reserves High risk – domestic animals	Prevention Monitored	No new incursions. No worsening of distribution intensity.
Animal exposure to contaminants	Low	Moderate	Shire, stock routes and reserves High risk – stock route water sources, weed treatment chemicals, toxic weed, stock feed	Prevention Rapid Response	No contamination reported.
Animal access to waste contaminants and Restricted Animal Material	Moderate	High	Shire, stock routes and reserves High risk – Council waste facilities, property landfill sites, food disposal in stock routes	Prevention Rapid Response	No breach of high risk sites.
Carcass exposure	Moderate	High	Shire, stock routes	Prevention Rapid Response	No contamination reported.
Access to effluent	Low	Moderate	High risk - Council water treatment facilities, recycled water use, property grey water, livestock truck and caravan effluent disposal	Prevention Rapid Response	No breach of high risk sites.
People exposed to stock and animals	Moderate	Moderate	Shire, stock routes High risk – tourists, Council staff	Prevention Rapid Response	Staff access to animals Inspections
Unprepared or inappropriate response to risk occurrence	Moderate	Very High	Shire, stock routes and reserves High risk – authorised persons, training	Prevention	

2.2.2 Biosecurity Risk Management Program

The Biosecurity Risk Management Program is outlined below for Murweh Shire Council and provides direction to public and private land managers and the public to meet the Biosecurity Risk Management Objectives for the Murweh Shire, general biosecurity obligations, and aligned objectives in state and national strategies.

TABLE 6 PRIORITY BIOSECURITY RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

MURWEH SHIRE COUNCIL		LAND MANAGERS AND PUBLIC LAND USERS
Effective and strategic biosecurity management		
Biosecurity risk is identified and managed from traveling stock, straying stock, insects, other animals, the environment, feral animals or wildlife, people, vehicles, equipment, carcass, materials, Restricted Animal Material or swill, effluent, feed	Permit compliance checks. Enforce maintenance of stock route fencing to standard. Exclusion fencing of high risk areas, including all town water treatment and waste facilities. Public awareness of appropriate disposal of food waste, especially in reserves. Hygiene and weed and pest management. Appropriate carcass disposal. Surveillance monitoring of the stock route.	Maintain stock route fencing. Exclusion fencing of high risk areas, such as waste facilities, property land fill sites. Appropriate disposal of food waste. Compliance to stock route use legislative requirements. Isolation and monitoring and biosecurity procedures as required. Surveillance monitoring of the stock route and adjoining areas.
Disease and safety risks associated with people in contact with livestock is managed	Staff likely to be exposed to stock apply safety, PPE, and hygiene practices, and vaccination where possible. Post incident risk assessment.	People exposed to stock apply safety, PPE, and hygiene practices, and vaccination where possible.
Stock exposure risk to contaminants is identified and managed	Withholding periods after chemical use. Water trough inspection and maintenance. Isolation and monitoring and biosecurity procedures as required. Surveillance monitoring of the stock route, including areas of feed, carcass or access to high risk areas adjacent to the stock route.	Maintain stock route fencing. Animal welfare and biosecurity practices in place. Isolation and monitoring and biosecurity procedures as required. Surveillance monitoring of the stock route and adjoining areas.
Pests or wildlife damage to infrastructure is managed	Stock route and reserves and pest management. Surveillance monitoring of the stock route.	Maintain stock route fencing. Pest management plan.
Preparedness to detect, report or respond to a new endemic or emergency disease, pest or weed	Risk assessment and response planning with government agencies, with clear roles and responsibilities. Appropriate staff training and qualifications.	Biosecurity management plans. Appropriate training. Awareness of contact numbers for Council and Biosecurity Queensland.
Ability to fulfil or demonstrate compliance roles	Authorised persons delegated and appropriately trained. Administrative processes in place.	Adhere to compliance and permit requirements.

2.3 STOCK ROUTES AND RESERVES

ASPIRATION: Stock routes, town reserves and public lands are well maintained for community use and enhanced environmental benefit.

GOALS

- ▶ Stock routes are well maintained for stock movement and regulated use.
- ▶ Town reserves and public lands are well maintained for community access and recreational use.
- ▶ All public lands are actively managed to support riverine and ecosystem health and landscape connectivity.
- ▶ Biosecurity risk and incursions of weeds, pests and diseases are managed.
- ▶ Preservation and recognition of the traditions and cultures of Aboriginal people and their ongoing custodianship of country.
- ▶ Facilitate certainty and security, underpinned by industry diversity, resilience, and capability.

STRATEGIES

- ▶ Stock route planning, coordination, and implementation with stakeholders.
- ▶ Improvement and maintenance activities.
- ▶ Advocacy to resource increasing responsibilities.

INDICATORS

- ▶ Access and use of public lands
- ▶ No unresolved community complaints

USES

Stock – travelling, short term agistment, grazing permits
 Recreation – fishing, camping, boating, swimming, bushwalking, bird watching
 Riding – horse riding, motorbike endurance, mountain bike
 Education – schools, clubs, community
 Cultural – historical and cultural heritage
 Tourism, apiculture, firewood collection, conservation

VALUES

Pastoral – grazing
 Travel – stock and vehicles
 Environment – Biodiversity, habitat, landscape connectivity and ecosystem services, conservation, carbon
 Community – cultural heritage, recreation, education
 Amenity – unique sites and landscapes of Murweh

Pressures on the Values

- Pasture use competition between graziers, travelling stock and wildlife
- Grazing pressure
- Weeds, pest animals and diseases
- Vegetation thickening
- Drought and access to water
- Fire
- Road safety for people, stock, and vehicles
- Rubbish and degradation at high impact sites
- Infrastructure construction and maintenance
- Unlawful use and impact to neighbours

INVENTORY

STOCK ROUTES

Total distance 1012 km

Primary	460 km
Secondary	532 km

17 main watering facilities with bore, dam and trough infrastructure and access to Warrego, Nive and Langlo and Quilberry Creeks.

RESERVES

Augathella Town Common
 Charleville Town Common
 Cooladdi Town Common
 Langlo Crossing Common
 Morven Town Common

LAND RESOURCE AREAS

Downs
 Wooded Downs
 Poplar Box Lands
 Soft Mulga
 Hard Mulga Lands
 Brigalow Lands

2.3.1 Stock Route and Reserves Management Objectives

RISK	LIKELIHOOD	PRIORITY	ZONE AND STATUS	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	INDICATORS
Restricted stock movement and use	Moderate	High	Stock routes and facilities High risk – pasture availability, fire, flood, roads	Asset Management – Monitor and maintain the network integrity.	Access and use.
Pasture condition and availability	Moderate	High	Stock routes High risk – degradation, overgrazing, drought, fire, flood	Asset Management – Monitor and manage pasture condition.	Access and use. Asset condition.
Poor animal health and welfare	Moderate	High	Stock routes and reserves High risk – contaminants, disease, injury from pests or wildlife, straying stock	Prevention – Compliance and appropriate policies and processes. Monitored – Surveillance and reporting.	Compliance reports. No stray stock.
Restricted recreation access and use	Low	Medium	Stock routes and reserves High risk – fire, flood, stock use, roads	Asset Management – Monitor and maintain public facilities.	Access and use. No unresolved complaints.
Unsustainable natural resource management	Moderate	High	Stock routes and reserves, High value – water resources, land and soils, vegetation, biodiversity, ecosystems, carbon High risk – threatening processes of erosion, fire, biosecurity, habitat destruction	Asset Management – Monitor and manage natural resources.	Asset condition.
Environmental and cultural heritage impact	Moderate	High	Stock routes and reserves High value – identified high value and sensitive areas, habitats and species High risk – threatening processes of erosion, fire, biosecurity, habitat destruction, contamination, predation, vandalism	Asset Management – Monitor and manage environmental and cultural heritage areas.	Asset condition.
Biosecurity risk	Moderate	High	Shire, stock routes and reserves High risk – traveling stock, stray stock, tourists, food disposal, biowaste, carcass, domestic pets, pests, vehicles, machinery, leased or adjacent land use	Risk Management - Prevent entry into the Shire and prevent spread. Hygiene, isolate stock, weed and pest management. Surveillance and early detection.	No new events. No further spread from 2023 mapped extent.
People health and safety risk	Moderate	High	Shire, stock routes and reserves High risk – tourists, staff	Risk Management – Monitor and maintain public facilities, staff safety procedures and measures.	No incidents reported.

2.3.3 Stock Route and Reserves Management Program

	MURWEH SHIRE COUNCIL	LAND MANAGERS AND PUBLIC LAND USERS
Mapping and use	Review and update mapping of the stock route network and categories. Document current use, infrastructure, pasture availability, and environmental and cultural values of stock route network and reserves.	Property map of boundaries, assets and resources.
Roles and responsibilities	Clearly defined for each stakeholder and documented, particularly addressing biosecurity, maintenance, and animal welfare matters. Education and communication material available to the public, land managers and users of stock routes.	Awareness and compliance to responsibilities and regulated use.
Planning	Murweh Shire Council Planning Scheme considers potential impacts to stock routes and reserves. Murweh Shire Council Planning Scheme Recreation and open space zone code.	Property planning to manage assets and risks.
Resources	Source and allocate capital works funding to maintain necessary travelling stock facilities on the network.	Allocate capital works funding for compliance to maintenance requirements.
Stock routes are well maintained for stock movement and regulated use.		
Water infrastructure	Stock route capital works priority - remove aging water infrastructure, including 11 windmills and 5 turkey nests and replace with solar pumps and solar bores, tank and trough systems; desilting of earth dams and turkey nests; and maintenance of vegetation and fencing around all infrastructure.	Compliance to maintenance requirements of water facilities according to permit to occupy conditions and state vegetation management laws.
Water supply	Administer water agreements with land managers for water supply from bores and river points.	Compliance to water agreements for water supply.
Fencing	Enforce maintenance of stock route fencing to standard. Maintain fencing infrastructure on town commons and roadways.	Compliance to maintenance requirements of stock route fencing to standard.
Pasture	Monitor and manage pasture condition to inform use and management.	Monitor and manage pasture condition for sustainability.
Permit to Occupy	Provide advice to the government agency on the suitability of Permit to Occupy applications. Actively monitor grazing pressure on Permits to Occupy.	Compliance to Permit to Occupy conditions.
Travel and agistment	Collect and administer fees and charges for traveling and agisting stock. Provisions for agistment for the purposes of pasture management.	Compliance to Permit conditions.
Roads	Maintain roads to a standard to allow vehicle access for drovers.	
Camp sites	Maintain suitable camp sites for drovers.	

MURWEH SHIRE COUNCIL		LAND MANAGERS AND PUBLIC LAND USERS
Town reserves and public lands are well maintained for community access and recreational use.		
Reserves facilities	Maintain facilities considering rubbish, amenities, signage, compliance, road and access, access to riparian and fragile or revegetated areas. Manage and avoid impacts from fire, general waste, food waste, bio-waste, and vandalism from recreation and tourism use of the stock routes and reserves.	Compliance to general laws and user courtesy. Compliance with state vegetation management laws when clearing native vegetation to maintain or establish infrastructure on reserves.
All public lands are actively managed to support riverine and ecosystem health and landscape connectivity.		
Natural resource and environmental management	Manage resource condition considering tree planting in riparian areas, vegetation management, erosion, weeds, fencing, and works. Manage biomass, overall grazing pressure, and land condition. Identify, manage and protect biodiversity values.	Sustainable natural resource and environmental management.
Vegetation	Clearing of native vegetation for fire breaks, weed control and managing thickened vegetation, undertaken in accordance with the necessary exemptions, notifications or Development Approvals under the Vegetation Management Act 1999.	Compliance with state vegetation management laws when undertaking clearing of native vegetation in stock routes or reserves.
Fire	Cool burns in the stock routes and reserves for fuel reduction, weed and vegetation management, and cultural practices.	Cool burns for fuel reduction, weed and vegetation management.
Carbon	Carbon credits and climate change adaptation potential explored and optimised.	
Preservation and recognition of the traditions and cultures of Aboriginal people and their ongoing custodianship of country.		
Cultural heritage	Identify and manage sites and areas of cultural significance with stakeholders and First Nations people. Native Title on public lands and management plans in place.	Appropriately manage areas of identified cultural significance.
Biosecurity risk and incursions of weeds, pests and diseases are managed.		
Biosecurity risk	Manage biosecurity risks as per the Biosecurity Risk Management Program. Enforce compliance for fencing and Animal Health Declarations and withholding periods. Isolation and monitoring and biosecurity procedures as required. Weed and pest management. Appropriate staff are qualified and trained. Surveillance monitoring of the stock route.	Compliance to fencing and Animal Health Declarations and withholding periods. Isolation and monitoring and biosecurity procedures as required. Weed and pest management. Appropriate staff are qualified and trained. Surveillance monitoring of the stock route and private property.

2.4 WEEDS

ASPIRATION: Community working together to prevent and manage invasive plants and animals to reduce their economic, environmental, and social impact.

GOALS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Stakeholders are informed, knowledgeable and committed to implementing effective and strategic biosecurity management of existing infestations and prevent the introduction, establishment and spread of new weeds and pest animals. ▶ Stock routes are well maintained for stock movement and regulated use. ▶ Town reserves and public lands are well maintained for community access and recreational use. ▶ All public lands are actively managed to support riverine and ecosystem health and landscape connectivity. ▶ Preservation and recognition of the traditions and cultures of Aboriginal people. ▶ Facilitate certainty and security, underpinned by industry diversity, resilience, and capability. 	WEED IMPACTS <p>Industry – pasture competition and condition, stock movement and health, quality assurance</p> <p>Travel – stock and vehicle access</p> <p>Environment – Biodiversity, habitat, landscape and ecosystem degradation, species conservation</p> <p>Community – cultural heritage, recreation, health</p> <p>Amenity – unique sites and landscapes of Murweh</p>	PRIORITY WEEDS <p>Reduced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harrisia Cactus Mesquite Parkinsonia Parthenium Prickly Acacia Riverina Pear Rubber Vine Tiger Pear <p>Containment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> African Boxthorn Coral Cactus Hudson Pear Mimosa bush Mother of Millions <p>Asset Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prickly Pear Tree Pear
STRATEGIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Biosecurity planning, coordination, and implementation with stakeholders. ▶ Resource the implementation of priority actions and responsibilities in the Biosecurity and Stock Route Management Plan. 	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES <p>Determination – Early detection, diagnostics, mapping, and monitoring systems in place.</p> <p>Monitored – Surveillance of Shire and localised incursions to monitor achievement of objectives.</p> <p><i>Species are absent</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Prevention – Prevent entry into the Shire and prevent spread of localised incursions. <p><i>Small and localised incursions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Eradication – Eradicated completely from the Shire. ▶ Reduced – Reduced in distribution and density in the Shire or of localised incursions, towards eradication. <p><i>Many incursions, rapid increase distribution & abundance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Containment – Contained within the incursion boundary and prevent further spread. <p><i>Widespread and abundant throughout the Shire</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Asset Protection – Managed to minimise impact to local environmental, social, and economic assets. 	SPREAD PATHWAYS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vehicles and machinery Livestock and fodder Birds and animals Wind and waterways Gardens and aquariums, dumping Construction and landscape materials People, clothing, footwear Recreation activities
INDICATORS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ No new outbreaks. ▶ No further spread from 2023 mapped extent. ▶ No biosecurity orders issued. 		

2.4.1 Weed Management Objectives

TABLE 7 PRIORITY WEEDS FOR CONTROL

WEED	DECLARATION	PRIORITY	CURRENT STATUS	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	INDICATOR
Mesquite	Category 3 WoNS	High	Localised, occasional near Morven and along Warrego River.	Reduced – Intensive control of localised incursions towards Shire eradication. Prevention – Hygiene, isolate stock, monitoring.	No new outbreaks. No further spread from 2023 mapped extent.
Parkinsonia	Category 3	High	Localised, occasional along the Warrego, Nive and Langlo Rivers, roadsides and around Augathella.	Reduced – Intensive control of isolated incursions towards local eradication. Prevention – Hygiene, isolate stock, monitoring.	No new outbreaks. No further spread from 2023 mapped extent.
Parthenium	Category 3	High	Localised, occasional along roadsides.	Reduced – Intensive control of isolated incursions towards local eradication. Prevention – Hygiene, isolate stock, monitoring.	No new outbreaks. No further spread from 2023 mapped extent.
Prickly Acacia	Category 3 WoNS	High	Localised, occasional along roadsides.	Reduced – Intensive control of isolated incursions towards local eradication. Prevention – Hygiene, isolate stock, monitoring.	No new outbreaks. No further spread from 2023 mapped extent.
Riverina Pear	Category 3	High	Localised, occasional at Morven.	Reduced – Intensive control of localised incursions towards Shire eradication. Prevention – Hygiene, isolate stock, monitoring.	No new outbreaks. No further spread from 2023 mapped extent.
Rubber Vine	Category 3 WoNS	High	Localised, occasional along Warrego River and patches along Quilberry Creek.	Reduced – Intensive control of localised incursions towards Shire eradication. Prevention – Hygiene, monitoring.	No new outbreaks. No further spread from 2023 mapped extent.
Harrisia Cactus	Category 3	High	Localised, occasional small, isolated patches, along roadsides near Augathella, Cooladdi stock routes.	Reduced – Intensive control of isolated incursions towards local eradication. Containment – Active control of established outbreaks to contain spread. Prevention – Hygiene, isolate stock, monitoring.	No new outbreaks. No further spread from 2023 mapped extent.
Hudson Pear	Category 2, 3, 4, 5	High Report	Localised, varying densities along the Quilberry Creek.	Containment – Active control of established outbreaks to contain spread. Prevention – Hygiene, isolate stock, monitoring.	No new outbreaks. No further spread from 2023 mapped extent.
Mimosa Bush	Not declared GBO	High	Widespread, common, Augathella.	Reduced – Intensive control of localised incursions in riverine areas. Containment – Active control of established outbreaks to contain spread. Prevention – Hygiene, isolate stock, monitoring.	No new outbreaks. Limited spread from 2023 mapped extent.

WEED	DECLARATION	PRIORITY	CURRENT STATUS	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	INDICATOR
Tiger Pear	Category 3	High	Localised, common along Mitchell Highway from Charleville to Augathella. Localised, occasional along Langlo and Ward Rivers.	Reduced – Intensive control of isolated incursions towards local eradication. Containment – Active control of established outbreaks to contain spread. Prevention – Hygiene, isolate stock, monitoring.	No new outbreaks. Limited spread from 2023 mapped extent.
Coral Cactus	Category 3 Invasive	High	Localised, common along the Ward River, Warrego River and Quilberry Creek. Angellala Creek Localised, occasional Augathella.	Containment – Active control of established outbreaks to contain spread. Prevention – Hygiene, isolate stock, monitoring.	No new outbreaks. Limited spread from 2023 mapped extent.
African Boxthorn	Category 3 WoNS	High	Localised, common along the Warrego River near Charleville.	Containment – Active control of established outbreaks to contain spread. Prevention – Hygiene, isolate stock, monitoring.	No new outbreaks. Limited spread from 2023 mapped extent.
Mother of Millions	Category 3	Medium	Localised, abundant along the Ward River and around Morven. Localised, common along the Warrego River, Langlo River, Quilberry Creek and Nebine Creek.	Containment – Active control of established outbreaks to contain spread. Asset Protection – Minimise impact to local environmental, social, and economic assets. Prevention – Hygiene, isolate stock, monitoring.	Limited spread from 2023 mapped extent.
Prickly Pear	Category 2, 3, 4, 5	Low	Widespread, occasional	Asset Protection – Minimise impact to local environmental, social, and economic assets.	No worsening of distribution intensity.
Tree Pear	Category 3	Low	Widespread, occasional	Asset Protection – Minimise impact to local environmental, social, and economic assets.	No worsening of distribution intensity.

TABLE 8 PRIORITY WEEDS TO WATCH

WEED	DECLARATION	PRIORITY	CURRENT STATUS	WHERE TO FIND	SPREAD PATHWAYS
Jumping Cholla	Category 2, 3, 4, 5	Report	Localised, occasional	Pastures and old sites, rocky ridgelines and slopes	Vehicles, machinery, animals, footwear, birds, wind, floodwaters, segments
Bunny Ears	Category 2, 3, 4, 5	Report	Localised, occasional homesteads, pastures	Pastures, gardens, arid to semi-arid rangelands	Vehicles, machinery, animals, water, and ornamentals, segments
Asparagus Fern	Category 3 WoNS		Localised, occasional	Moist areas and riparian areas, potential to spread west Queensland	Birds, garden waste
Chinese Celtis	Category 3		Localised, occasional	Clay soils in riparian areas	Animals, birds, water, ornamental
Silver-Leaf Nightshade	Category 3 WoNS		Localised, occasional	Any soil types	Root fragments, birds
African Lovegrasses	Not declared GBO		Absent, Blackall-Tambo, Southern Qld	Pastures, roadsides, railways, acidic light and sandy soils	Vehicles, machinery, animals, fodder, soil and grain contamination
Snake Cactus	Category 3		Absent, Longreach	Well drained soils, arid to semi-arid open grassland, rocky ridgelines	Vehicles, machinery, animals, birds, floodwaters, garden waste, segments
Devil's Rope Pear	Category 3		Absent, Paroo, Maranoa (Mitchell), Southern Qld, Central Qld	Roadsides, disturbed sites, pastures, open woodlands, rangelands	Vehicles, machinery, animals, birds, floodwaters, footwear, segments
Velvety Tree Pear	Category 3		Absent	Hot, semi-arid areas, roadsides, railways, disturbed sites, pastures, open woodlands, rangelands	Vehicles, machinery, animals, birds, footwear, segments
Karoo Thorn	Category 1 Risk List	Report	Absent, Darling Downs	Arid to semi-arid rangelands in Southern Queensland	Animals, water, wind
Athel Pine	Category 3 WoNS		Absent, Paroo, Central Highlands	Arid to semi-arid rangelands, sandy soils in riverine areas	Animals, water, wind
Water Hyacinth	Category 3 WoNS		Absent, coastal Qld, ponds and lagoons throughout Qld	Fresh, static or slow flowing water with high organic content	Flooding, ornamentals
Water Lettuce	Category 3		Absent, Warrego River (Cunnamulla) Eastern Qld	Slow moving waterways	Flooding, aquarium content disposal, boats and vehicles, vegetatively
Rat's Tail Grasses	Category 3		Absent, Central Qld, South East Qld	Pastures, wide range of soils and conditions	Vehicles, machinery, animals, fodder, water
Mexican Feathergrass	Category 2, 3, 4, 5	Report	Absent, Central Qld, South East Qld	Pastures, open woodlands	Vehicles, machinery, animals, fodder, clothing

2.4.2 Weed Management Program

The Weed Management Program is outlined below for Murweh Shire Council and provides direction to public and private land managers to meet Weed Management Objectives for the Murweh Shire, general biosecurity obligations, and aligned objectives in state and national strategies.

TABLE 9 PRIORITY WEED CONTROL PROGRAM

WEED	PREFERRED CONTROL	MURWEH SHIRE COUNCIL	ALL LAND MANAGERS
REDUCED – Intensive control towards eradication			
Mesquite	Chemical Mechanical Fire	Chemical control and burns on public land near Morven and along the Warrego River. Coordinate with adjacent land managers and provide support where possible.	Proactive control of all incursions, using chemical, mechanical and/or fire. Weed hygiene and limit stock access to prevent spread.
Parkinsonia	Chemical Mechanical Fire	Chemical control and burns on public along the Warrego River and Langlo River and roadsides. New outbreak inspections. Coordinate with adjacent land managers and provide support where possible.	Proactive control of all incursions, using chemical, mechanical and/or fire. Weed hygiene and limit stock access to prevent spread.
Parthenium	Chemical Pasture management Biocontrol	Chemical control on public land roadsides. Roadside management hygiene practices. Coordinate with adjacent land managers and provide support where possible. Proactive control is preferred to biocontrol.	Proactive control of all incursions, using chemical. Weed hygiene and limit stock access to prevent spread. Caution and hygiene for feed and stock sourced from Central Queensland. Maintain good groundcover.
Prickly Acacia	Chemical Mechanical	Chemical control on public land roadsides. Roadside management hygiene practices. Coordinate with adjacent land managers and provide support where possible.	Proactive control of all incursions, using chemical. Weed hygiene, exclude stock and access to water sources such as open bore drains to prevent spread.
Riverina Pear	Chemical	Chemical control on public land around Morven. Coordinate with adjacent land managers and provide support where possible.	Proactive control of all incursions, using chemical. Weed hygiene and limit stock access to prevent spread.
Rubber Vine	Chemical Mechanical Fire	Chemical control and burns on public land along Warrego River and patches along Quilberry Creek. Coordinate with adjacent land managers and provide support where possible.	Proactive control of all incursions, using chemical, mechanical and/or fire. Weed hygiene and limit stock access to prevent spread.
Harrisia Cactus	Chemical Biocontrol - mealy bug	Chemical control on public land and roadsides near Augathella. Release biocontrol in established outbreaks or where chemical is not suitable. Coordinate with adjacent land managers and provide support where possible.	Proactive control in intensive control areas, using chemical. Control in containment areas, using chemical or biocontrol. Weed hygiene and limit stock access to prevent spread.

WEED	PREFERRED CONTROL	MURWEH SHIRE COUNCIL	ALL LAND MANAGERS
CONTAINMENT – Active control to contain spread			
Tiger Pear	Chemical Biocontrol (Tiger Pear cochineal)	Chemical control on public land along Mitchell Highway from Charleville to Augathella, and along Langlo and Ward Rivers. Release biocontrol in established outbreaks or where chemical is not suitable. Coordinate with adjacent land managers and provide support where possible.	Proactive control in intensive control areas, using chemical. Control in containment areas, using chemical or biocontrol. Weed hygiene and limit stock access to prevent spread
Coral Cactus	Chemical Biocontrol (Coral Cactus cochineal)	Chemical control on public land along the Ward River, Warrego River, Quilberry Creek, and Augathella. Release biocontrol in established outbreaks or where chemical is not suitable. Coordinate with adjacent land managers and provide support where possible.	Chemical control and biocontrol in containment areas. Weed hygiene and limit stock access to prevent spread.
Hudson Pear	Chemical	Chemical control on public land along the Quilberry Creek. Coordinate with adjacent land managers and provide support where possible.	Control in containment areas, using chemical. Weed hygiene and limit stock access to prevent spread.
Mimosa Bush	Not declared No local law Chemical	Identification and mapping. Chemical control on public land near Augathella. Coordinate with adjacent land managers and provide support where possible.	General Biosecurity Obligation to contain incursions. Control in containment areas, using chemical. Weed hygiene, exclude stock and access to water sources such as open bore drains to prevent spread.
African Boxthorn	Chemical Mechanical	Chemical control on public land along the Warrego River near Charleville. Coordinate with adjacent land managers and provide support where possible.	Control in containment areas, using chemical or biocontrol. Weed hygiene and limit stock access to prevent spread.
Mother Of Millions	Chemical Fire	Chemical control and burns on public land along the Ward River and around Morven, and Warrego River, Langlo River, Quilberry Creek and Nebine Creek. Coordinate with adjacent land managers and provide support where possible.	Control in containment areas, using chemical, and/or fire. Manage established incursions to minimise impact to assets. Weed hygiene and limit stock access to prevent spread.
ASSET PROTECTION – Minimise impact to local assets			
Prickly Pear	Chemical Biocontrol (cactoblastis, cochineal)	Chemical control on public land. Release biocontrol in established outbreaks or where chemical is not suitable.	Manage established incursions to minimise impact to assets. Weed hygiene and limit stock access to prevent spread.
Tree Pear Velvety tree pear	Chemical Biocontrol (cactoblastis, cochineal)	Chemical control on public land. Release biocontrol in established outbreaks or where chemical is not suitable.	Manage established incursions to minimise impact to assets. Weed hygiene and limit stock access to prevent spread.

2.5 PEST ANIMALS

ASPIRATION: Community working together to prevent and manage invasive plants and animals to reduce their economic, environmental, and social impact.

GOALS

- ▶ Stakeholders are informed, knowledgeable and committed to implementing effective and strategic biosecurity management of existing infestations and prevent the introduction, establishment and spread of new weeds and pest animals.
- ▶ Stock routes are well maintained for stock movement and regulated use.
- ▶ Town reserves and public lands are well maintained for community access and recreational use.
- ▶ All public lands are actively managed to support riverine and ecosystem health and landscape connectivity.
- ▶ Preservation and recognition of the traditions and cultures of Aboriginal people.
- ▶ Facilitate certainty and security, underpinned by industry diversity, resilience, and capability.

STRATEGIES

- ▶ Biosecurity planning, coordination, and implementation with stakeholders.
- ▶ Resource the implementation of priority actions and responsibilities in the Biosecurity and Stock Route Management Plan.

INDICATORS

- ▶ No new infestations.
- ▶ No further increase from 2023 mapped extent.
- ▶ No biosecurity orders issued.

PEST ANIMAL IMPACTS

Industry – pasture and crop condition, disease risk, predation, economic, quality assurance
 Environment – Biodiversity, habitat, landscape and ecosystem degradation, species conservation
 Community – cultural heritage, recreation, health
 Amenity – unique sites and landscapes of Murweh

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Determination – Early detection, diagnostics, mapping, and monitoring systems in place.

Monitored – Surveillance of Shire and localised incursions to monitor achievement of objectives.

Species are absent

- ▶ **Prevention** – Prevent entry into the Shire and prevent spread of localised incursions.

Small and localised incursions

- ▶ **Eradication** – Eradicated completely from the Shire.
- ▶ **Reduced** – Reduced in distribution and density in the Shire or of localised incursions, towards eradication.

Many incursions, rapid increase distribution & abundance

- ▶ **Containment** – Contained within the incursion boundary.

Widespread and abundant throughout the Shire

- ▶ **Asset Protection** – Managed to minimise impact to local environmental, social, and economic assets.

PRIORITY PEST ANIMALS

Asset Protection

Wild dog
 Feral Pig
 Fox
 Feral Cat
 Rabbit

Reduced

Carp
 Indian Myna
 Cane Toad

Watch

Deer
 Feral horse
 Locusts
 Yellow Crazy Ant
 Fire Ant
 Tilapia

COUNCIL INITIATIVES

Wild Dog Bounty
 Bi-annual baiting program
 Demand baiting
 Exclusion fencing investment

2.5.1 Pest Animal Management Objectives

TABLE 10: PRIORITY PEST ANIMALS FOR CONTROL

PEST ANIMAL	DECLARATION	PRIORITY	CURRENT STATUS	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	INDICATORS
Wild dog	Category 3, 4, 5, 6	High	Abundant, Shire	Asset Protection – Minimise impact to local environmental, social, and economic assets.	No worsening of distribution intensity.
Feral Pig	Category 3, 4, 6	High	Abundant, Shire	Asset Protection – Minimise impact to local environmental, social, and economic assets.	No worsening of distribution intensity.
Fox	Category 3, 4, 5, 6	Medium	Abundant, Shire	Asset Protection – Minimise impact to local environmental, social, and economic assets.	No worsening of distribution intensity.
Feral Cat	Category 3, 4, 6	Medium	Abundant, Shire	Asset Protection – Minimise impact to local environmental, social, and economic assets.	No worsening of distribution intensity.
Rabbit	Category 3, 4, 5, 6	Medium	Abundant, Shire	Asset Protection – Minimise impact to local environmental, social, and economic assets.	No worsening of distribution intensity.
Carp	Category 3, 5, 6, 7	High	Abundant, waterways	Containment – Control populations.	No worsening of distribution intensity.
Indian Myna	Not declared GBO	High	Occasional, Shire	Reduced – Intensive control of isolated incursions.	
Cane Toad	Not declared GBO	Medium	Occasional, Shire	Reduced – Intensive control of isolated incursions.	

TABLE 11: PRIORITY PESTS TO WATCH

PEST ANIMAL	DECLARATION	PRIORITY	CURRENT STATUS	WHERE TO FIND	SPREAD PATHWAYS
Deer	Category 3, 4, 6	High	Absent	Catchment headwaters, in grassy open forest areas.	Deer farms, migration
Yellow Crazy Ant	Category 3	High	Absent	Nest in areas with access to water or moisture, creek banks, utility service puts, timber, debris, base of trees, building and retaining walls where this is moisture.	Vehicles, soil, timber, goods, packaging
Fire ants	Category 1	High	Absent	Lawns, pastures, roadsides, unused cropland, timber, among rocks, pavers, bricks.	Vehicles, soil, timber, goods, packaging
Tilapia	Category 3, 5, 6, 7		Absent	Present in waterways in Fitzroy Basin and eastern catchments.	People moving between waterways
Locusts	Not declared GBO plagues	High	Occasional	Crops in plague proportions.	Migration

2.5.2 Pest Animal Management Program

The Pest Animal Management Program is outlined below for Murweh Shire Council and provides direction to public and private land managers to meet the Pest Animal Management Objectives for the Murweh Shire, general biosecurity obligations, and aligned objectives in state and national strategies.

TABLE 12 PRIORITY PEST ANIMAL CONTROL PROGRAM

PEST ANIMAL	PREFERRED CONTROL	MURWEH SHIRE COUNCIL	PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAND MANAGERS
Wild dog	Exclusion fencing Baiting Trapping Shooting	Exclusion fencing in high impact areas. Support land manager exclusion fencing. Bi-annual Shire baiting program and supply baits for landholders. Wild dog scalp bounty. Support research and extension.	Participate in the bi-annual Shire baiting program. Ongoing baiting, trapping and shooting program. Participate in exclusion fencing syndicates where available.
Feral Pig	Exclusion fencing Baiting Trapping Shooting	Exclusion fencing in high impact areas. Support land manager exclusion fencing. Bi-annual Shire baiting program and supply baits for landholders. Support research and extension.	Participate in the bi-annual Shire baiting program. Ongoing baiting, trapping and shooting program. Participate in exclusion fencing syndicates where available.
Fox	Exclusion fencing Baiting Trapping Shooting	Exclusion fencing in high impact areas. Support land manager exclusion fencing. Bi-annual Shire baiting program and supply baits for landholders.	Participate in the bi-annual Shire baiting program. Targeted trapping and opportunistic shooting. Participate in exclusion fencing syndicates where available.
Feral Cat	Trapping Shooting	Targeted lure and trapping and baiting programs in high impact areas. Opportunistic shooting. Participate in research and initiatives where available.	Targeted lure and trapping and baiting programs in high impact areas. Opportunistic shooting.
Rabbit	Biocontrol Warren ripping Fumigating	Rabbit proof fencing, targeted fumigating and warren ripping program in high impact areas. Monitoring biocontrol presence and effectiveness.	Rabbit proof fencing, targeted fumigating and warren ripping program in high impact areas. Monitoring biocontrol presence and effectiveness.
Carp	Removal from waterways Clean boats and gear	Investigate appropriate control options. Opportunistic control where possible. Education and awareness for recreational fishers. Participate in research and initiatives where available.	General Biosecurity Obligation to manage invasive pests.
Indian Myna	Trapping Remove nests and eggs	General Biosecurity Obligation to manage invasive pest, no local law in place. Investigate appropriate control options. Opportunistic control and provide trapping advice and equipment where possible. Education and awareness.	General Biosecurity Obligation to manage invasive pests. Surveillance, identification, maintain and restore native habitat, remove nests and eggs and participate in trapping programs.
Cane Toad	Limit access to water holes Removal of eggs	General Biosecurity Obligation to manage invasive pest, no local law in place. Slow invasion rate by limiting access to water holes and ponds, removal of eggs from water bodies where possible. Education and awareness. Participate in research and initiatives where available.	General Biosecurity Obligation to manage invasive pests. Slow invasion rate by limiting access to water holes and ponds, removal of eggs from water bodies where possible. Participate in research and initiatives where available.

2.6 CRITICAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

The Critical Management Strategies are outlined below for Murweh Shire Council and provides direction to public and private land managers to meet Management Objectives for the Murweh Shire relating to stock route and reserve use, general biosecurity obligations, and aligned objectives in regional, state and national strategies.

TABLE 13 CRITICAL BIODIVERSITY AND STOCK ROUTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

STRATEGY	MURWEH SHIRE COUNCIL	PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAND MANAGERS
Mapping	Shire mapping of disease, pest and weed incursions, with 2023 baseline indicators established and made available to the public. Review and update mapping on an annual basis. Collaborate with Biosecurity Queensland on state-wide mapping of pests and weeds. In the absence of detailed and current Shire mapping, the State wide mapping becomes the default.	Property or area map of disease, pest and weed incursions, and update periodically as required. Contribute to Shire mapping.
Surveillance	Surveillance schedule and systems in place for stock routes, reserves and public lands, for early detection, identification and rapid response to new incursions of diseases, pests and weeds. Report as required to Biosecurity Queensland. Support the Weed Spotters Network Queensland.	Surveillance, identification and rapid response to new incursions diseases, pests and weeds. Notify Murweh Shire Council and report as required to Biosecurity Queensland.
Monitoring systems	Condition assessments, monitoring systems and inspection schedules in place for land condition of stock routes, assets and infrastructure (fencing, troughs and tanks, wash down facilities, waste facilities, water treatment facilities), natural resources, identified high risks, identified areas of environmental and cultural significance.	Land managers adjoining and leasing stock routes monitor, assess and maintain land condition, fencing, troughs and water, as required by legislation.
Delivery programs	Best practice management on Council managed land and delivery of biosecurity, pest and weed programs. Maintain records of control and management activities. Coordinate with adjacent land managers and stakeholders and provide support where possible.	Best practice prevention and management of disease, pest and weed incursions, following legal requirements as appropriate. Maintain records of control and management activities.
Operational planning and reporting	Annual operational plan and budget for the delivery of management strategies and control programs, reported quarterly and annually. Alignment to delivery of other management plans as appropriate.	Property Biosecurity Plan outlines the identified risks, assets, hygiene, and intended management programs.
Resources	Secure and leverage resources for the delivery of management strategies, including capital works, maintenance and extension. Collect fees and recover costs for fee for service use of public land and facilities.	User pays for traveling and agisting stock.
Compliance	Authorised persons appointed to execute compliance responsibilities delegated by the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> , <i>Stock Route Management Act 2002</i> , and all other relevant legislation.	Implementation of quality assurance for commodities. Meet General Biosecurity Obligations.

STRATEGY	MURWEH SHIRE COUNCIL	PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAND MANAGERS
Policies and procedures	Council policies and procedures in place for operations, monitoring, and compliance roles and responsibilities.	Biosecurity risk management procedures in place.
Administration	Processes in place for administration of enquiries, compliance, permits, reporting, complaints.	Follow administration processes.
Qualifications and training	Human resource management systems in place to assess, provide and review appropriate qualifications and training for staff to conduct all roles and responsibilities, including compliance, safety, condition assessments, and works.	Qualification and training to conduct roles and responsibilities.
Extension	Provide technical advice and education. Support research, knowledge, awareness and extension activities in the Shire.	Seek technical advice, information and resources to inform and assist with the planning and implementation of best practice management strategies.
Communication	Communicate with community and stakeholders via Council's website, annual reports, monthly newsletter, social media, and email to share resources and information, raise awareness, and emergency response. Communicate via external channels such as radio, publications, events.	Participate and engage in communication and engagement opportunities.
Coordination	Coordinate with adjacent land managers on control programs and provide support where possible. Engage, coordinate and collaborate with government, industry and community stakeholders and land managers across all management strategies. Roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders are clear, defined, documented and communicated.	Coordinate with neighbours, Council and other stakeholders where practical.
Hygiene	Public washdown facilities at Augathella, Charleville and Morven. Council policies and procedures for inspection schedules and operations, including high risk zones and clean down procedures.	Clean down procedures and access to washdown facilities. Request weed hygiene declarations (contractors, service providers, agents, tourists, guests). Surveillance areas of introduced stock, feed, machinery, materials etc. Isolate or manage movement of stock and vehicles through incursions to prevent spread.
Monitoring and Evaluation	Shire and site based operational and performance monitoring. Evaluation of impact, effectiveness, appropriateness, efficiency, and value for money of all strategies and activities. Seek feedback from the community and stakeholders on priorities, issues, challenges, needs, achievements and opportunities.	Monitor and evaluate results.
Strategic planning and reporting	Review the Biosecurity and Stock Route Management Plan and update every four years.	Participate in consultation and planning activities. Property Biosecurity Plan outlines the identified risks, assets, hygiene, and intended management program.

3 SECTION THREE - RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 LEGISLATION

This plan addresses Murweh Shire Council's assigned obligations and responsibilities within its local government area under the *Stock Route Management Act 2002* and *Biosecurity Act 2014*. This plan has been prepared within the parameters of all relevant government legislation and policy, including those listed below.

Local Laws

- *Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2011*
- *Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011*
- *Subordinate Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011*
- *Local Law No. 3 (Community and Environmental Management) 2011*
- *Subordinate Local Law No. 3 (Community and Environmental Management) 2012*
- *Local Law No.4 (local Government Controlled Areas Facilities and Roads) 2011*
- *Subordinate Local Law No. 4 (Local Government Controlled Areas, Facilities and Roads) 2010*

Queensland Legislation

- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*
- *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Queensland) Act 1994*
- *Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966 and Regulation 1998*
- *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*
- *Animal Management (cats and dogs) Act 2008*
- *Biosecurity Act 2014*
- *Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1994*
- *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990*
- *Medicines and Poisons (Poisons and Prohibited Substances) Regulation 2021*
- *Land Act 1994*
- *Land Title Act 1994*
- *Local Government Act 2009*

Commonwealth Legislation

- *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- *Nature Conservation Act 1992*
- *Pest Management Act 2001*
- *Planning Act 2016*
- *Public Health Act 2005*
- *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*
- *Soil Conservation Act 1986*
- *Stock Route Management Act 2002*
- *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994*
- *Vegetation Management Act 1999*
- *Water Act 2000*
- *Weapons Act 1990*
- *Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011*

3.2 LINKS TO MURWEH SHIRE COUNCIL PLANS

The Biosecurity and Stock Route Management Plan directly aligns to the Murweh Shire Council Corporate Plan 2022-27 and informs the annual Operational Plan priorities and resourcing. The planning and delivery framework sets clear intentions with desired outcomes for the management of stock routes, public lands, weeds, pests, and biosecurity risks in the Murweh Shire.

3.3 LINKS TO OTHER PLANS

The preparation and delivery of this plan further aligns to other local, regional, state, and national plans, strategies, and policies. The overarching principles, objectives, and management strategies of these plans have been adopted as best practice where relevant to achieve the shared desired outcomes.

- Stock Route Management Strategy 2021- 2025
- Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2019–2024
- Queensland Biosecurity Strategy 2018-2023
- Australian Pest Animal Strategy 2017–2027
- Australian Weeds Strategy 2017–2027
- Australian Emergency Plant Pest Response Plan 2021 (PLANTPLAN) and Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed (EPPRD) 2022
- Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity (IGAB)
- Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan (AUSVETPLAN) and Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA)
- A Pathway to Flourishing Landscapes and Healthy Communities, Southern Queensland Landscapes March 2022

3.4 STAKEHOLDERS

Stakeholders are individuals, businesses, organisations, or agencies that have a stake in, or are affected by the Murweh Shire Council Biosecurity and Stock Route Management Plan and its delivery in some way.

Government

- Biosecurity Queensland (BQ)
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF)
- Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR)
- Department of Environment and Science (QPWS)
- Department of Resources
- Queensland Rail (QR)

Industry and Community

- Agforce and industry organisations
- Public and private service providers
- Land managers and stock route and reserve users
- Emergency services
- Southern Queensland Landscapes
- Bidjara people
- Progress Associations and tourist operators

3.5 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

	BIOSECURITY	STOCK ROUTE NETWORK AND RESERVES
State agencies	Legislation, strategies, policies, awareness and extension, research, programs, collaboration, reporting, state response, biosecurity and compliance officers, management of invasive plants and animals on state lands	Legislation, strategies, policies, operational guidelines, awareness and extension, coordination, compliance support, reviewing decisions, managing asset maintenance, training local government stock route officers
Murweh Shire Council	Shire biosecurity plan and management program, support awareness and extension, management on local government lands, stakeholder engagement, authorised persons	Day to day administration and management, maintenance of facilities
Land managers	Property and farm biosecurity management plan, management activities, best management practice, general biosecurity obligations, good neighbour policy, implementation of quality assurance for commodities	General biosecurity obligations, good neighbour policy
Stock route and reserve users	Biosecurity risk prevention and hygiene practices	Compliance to permits and use agreements, management and maintenance of assets, best management practice, general biosecurity obligations, good neighbour policy
Industry and NRM organisations	Facilitation of management for local priorities, contribute to regional planning processes, funding for research, assist in shaping relevant policies, land manager engagement, leadership of best management practice, technical advice	Facilitation of management for local priorities, contribute to regional planning processes, funding for research, assist in shaping relevant policies, land manager engagement, leadership of best management practice, technical advice
Researchers	Invasive plant and animal research and development, assist in shaping relevant policies, land manager engagement, training and education of best management practice	Relevant research and development, assist in shaping relevant policies, land manager engagement, training and education of best management practice
Community	Management activities and surveillance, assist in shaping relevant policies, land manager engagement and community awareness	Management activities and surveillance, assist in shaping relevant policies, land manager engagement and community awareness
Service providers	Management activities and advice, assist in shaping relevant policies, land manager engagement	Management activities and advice, assist in shaping relevant policies, land manager engagement

4 RESOURCES

4.1.1 Contacts

Enquiries or report to Murweh Shire Council Stock Route Supervisor on 0427 541 286 or main office 07 4656 8355

Report notifiable animal disease, weed, pest or matter to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23

Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888

<https://www.murweh.qld.gov.au/>

<https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity>

<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/access/stock-routes>

4.1.2 Fact Sheets and Mapping

<https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/invasive-plants-animals/fact-sheets>

<https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/invasive-plants-animals/pest-mapping/distribution-maps>

4.1.3 Plans

Murweh Shire Council Corporate Plan <https://www.murweh.qld.gov.au/council/publications/annual-report-and-shire-plans>

Biosecurity Queensland Strategic Plan <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/enhancing-capability-capacity/qld-biosecurity-strategy>

Queensland Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/policy-legislation-regulation/queensland-invasive-plants-animals-strategy>

PLANTPLAN <https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/biosecurity/incursion-management/plantplan/>

Stock Route Network Management Strategy <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/land/access/stock-routes/management>

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Strategic Plan <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/strategic-direction/strategic-plan>

AUSVET Plan <https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/ausvetplan/>

Queensland's Protected Area Strategy <https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/management/plans-strategies/protected-area-strategy>