



Local Government Area

Pest Management Plan

Version 1
STANTHORPE SHIRE

2005 - 2009

Local Government Area Pest Management Plan 2005-2009

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Introduction to Stanthorpe Shire Pest Management Plan

Background

One of the most significant challenges facing Queensland is to minimize the impact of those pest plants and animals that pose a threat to the state's ecosystems and impose high annual costs on agricultural industries. The costs to the community include over \$600 million annually in lost production and direct costs of pest control activities. There are also the un-quantified costs of damage to environmentally significant areas, degradation of land, decreased water quality, increased stresses on natural ecosystems and impacts on human health and recreation.

The Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002 commenced on July 1, 2003 and provided legislative measures to manage pests and address the impacts they have on the environment. Under the Land Protection Act 2002 Local Governments in Queensland are required to develop pest management plans for their areas in cooperation with all community sectors.

Stanthorpe Shire Councils has established partnerships with landowners, industry representatives, the regional natural resource management body and government agencies managing large areas of land within the Shire through the Stanthorpe Shire Pest Management Working Group. The Working Group has developed the Stanthorpe Shire Local Government Area Pest Management Plan (SSLGA PMP, herein after referred to as the Plan) in accordance with the principles of pest management as defined in the Act.

Through the planning process the Working Group has identified the pest management issues of most relevance to Stanthorpe Shire to ensure that pest management activities are targeted at the highest priority pests in the most effective and efficient way. The Plan contains achievable objectives for pest management agreed to by the community, and workable strategies for achieving those objectives. The Plan will provide strategic directions for management of pests on all land with the Stanthorpe Shire for a period of four years from 2005 to 2009.

Stanthorpe Shire

The Shire of Stanthorpe is located in the southern border area of Queensland and is approximately 250km south west of Brisbane. The Shire is bounded on the east and south by the New South Wales border and on the north and west by Warwick and Inglewood Shires. The area of the Shire is 2681 square kilometres and the population is approximately 10,600.

The town of Stanthorpe is the main urban centre of the Shire with the other main centre being the border town of Wallangarra. A number of villages are located throughout the Shire as shown on Figure 1.

A Brief Description of the Shire

The Shire is unique in Queensland in terms of its climate and geomorphology, which has resulted in a distinctive pattern of land use in the Shire. The Shire represents the northern most extremity of extensive granite and traprock landscapes termed the New England Tablelands Bioregion. Many plants and animals characteristic of the Bioregion do not occur elsewhere in Queensland, reflecting

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the unique environmental features of the area, particularly altitude. The Bioregion, and in particular the Stanthorpe Shire area, is very significant for its plant biodiversity.

Agriculture is the dominant economic activity in the Shire, with horticulture and sheep and cattle production being the principal rural industries. Tourism has become an important sector of the Shire's economy based on the Shire's distinctive climate, rugged natural beauty and the expanding wine industry.

There are two large national parks located in the Shire, Girraween and Sundown. Between them they cover an area of nearly 28,000 hectares and are therefore an important land use in the Shire.

Aims of the Plan

The aims of this Plan are:

- to engage the community of Stanthorpe Shire to work together to implement ongoing, coordinated and effective management of declared pests.
- to carefully plan and prioritize resources to ensure that time and money are spent on those pests where work will be most effective
- to guide land managers in the Shire to control pests for the benefit of the entire community.
- to manage pest plants and animals in order to minimize their social and economic impact within the Shire
- to better protect the Shire's environmentally significant areas and
- to minimize the spread of pests within the Shire through a strategic and cooperative approach supported and implemented by all land managers within the Shire.

The Current Situation

The major pest animal species within the Shire are presently rabbits, wild dogs and pigs. The major pest plant species targeted for control in the Shire are Blackberry, Annual Ragweed, Fireweed and Tree Pear. The major environmental weeds that are a problem within the Shire are Privet, African Lovegrass, Sand Burr and Whisky Grass.

The Working Group highlighted blackberry and rabbits as the two most important pests within the Shire. The relationship between the two pest species is also a concern as the blackberry thickets provide harbour for the rabbits to live and breed.

The Working Group has also highlighted a need to improve and coordinate mapping of pest occurrences within the Shire. This information should be shared with neighbouring Shires to allow more strategic evaluation of existing and emerging pest threats.

Weed seed spread is also an emerging issue as the community is beginning to recognise the importance of preventing the spread of weeds, not just controlling them in situ.

The Working Group recognises the importance of a coordinated approach to pest management, with consistent messages about pest management across sectors and Departments.

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Benefits of Implementing the Plan

The benefits of developing and implementing this Plan are numerous. The formation of the Working Group has brought together the major stakeholders who must cooperate to ensure that pest control activities within the Shire achieve realistic outcomes using best practice and available technology.

The principles of pest management contained within the *Land Protection Act 2002* will be implemented during the four year life of the Plan under the auspices of the Working Group.

The Plan will ensure that the principles of pest management are realized by:

- Integrating pest management into management of natural resources and agricultural systems. Raising public awareness and knowledge of pests.
- fostering a long term commitment to pest management by all sectors of the community.
- ensuring consistency between local, regional, state and national levels of planning for pest management.
- being proactive in preventing the spread of pests and by early detection of new outbreaks.
- basing the control activities on ecologically and socially responsible pest management practices.
- striving for improvement in pest management activities in response to research findings.

Process for Development of the Plan

This Pest Management Plan covers the whole of the Stanthorpe Shire and all landholders and land tenures are involved. All landholders, including private owners and State Government Agencies have a responsibility under the Act to control declared pests on their land.

The membership of the Working Group, which was formed to put this Plan together, reflects the major landholders and land use sectors within the Shire.

The membership of the Working Group is currently:

Department of Main Roads
Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service
Growcom
Queensland Rail
The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries.
Department of Natural Resources and Mines
two Stanthorpe Shire Councillors
the Chief Executive Officer of Stanthorpe Shire Council
the Director of Health and Building Services, Stanthorpe Shire Council
the Local Laws Officer, Stanthorpe Shire Council and
the Border Rivers Local Government NRM Officer.

The Working Group not only drafted the plan for public consultation but considered the public submissions received during the public consultation period and incorporated relevant comments and suggestions. The Group will also oversee the implementation and annual review of the Plan during it's four year life.

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Consultation on plan with the wider community

In accordance with the requirements of the Act the Plan was made available to the wider community for comment. Copies of the draft Plan were sent to Ergon Energy, Telstra, Granite Belt Wine Industry Association, Agforce and the adjoining Shire Councils.

Details will be added following the completion of the consultation period.

Linkages with related planning processes

This plan has been developed in accordance with the requirements of the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*. The Plan is consistent with the Queensland Pest Animal and Weed Strategies (2002 – 2006). The Plan has been developed to be consistent with the Regional Natural Resource Management Plan prepared by the Queensland Murray Darling Committee. The area covered by the Regional NRM plan includes Stanthorpe Shire.

The Plan has also been developed in consultation with the other Shires in the Queensland Border Rivers Catchment, to ensure that control strategies are coordinated and consistent across the catchment.

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Desired Outcome 1 : Stakeholders are informed, knowledgeable and have ownership of weed and pest animal management

| Principles: Public Awareness – Public awareness and knowledge of pests must be raised to increase capacity and willingness of individuals to manage pests. | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Issue | Strategic Objective | Strategic Actions | Success Indicators |
| Awareness | To increase community, industry, agribusiness and government awareness of pests and their impacts. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop fact sheets for declared pests under Stanthorpe Shire Council Local Laws. • Organise awareness raising programs at specific times to promote high priority declared pests. Eg Parthenium weed outbreak. • Make available at all times fact sheets of Class 1,2 & 3 pests found in the Stanthorpe Shire. • Weedbuster activities held in local shopping centre, annual garden fest held in Civic Centre. • Provision of training sessions for Stanthorpe Shire Council staff and service providers to assist in identification of declared plants and weed hygiene procedures. • Identify key industry groups within Stanthorpe Shire to promote pest management priorities. • Use media releases to promote awareness of specific activities such as annual shire weeds control program, potential weeds to be kept out of the shire, annual baiting programs. | <p>No pests declared under Local Law to date</p> <p>Awareness programs at major events</p> <p>Fact sheets available at Shire Office</p> <p>Participation in Weed Buster week activities</p> <p>Training sessions for Council staff involved in use of machinery implemented</p> <p>Number of industry groups approached</p> <p>Increased pest plant awareness through local schools posters and news paper</p> |

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| Principles: Public Awareness – Public awareness and knowledge of pests must be raised to increase capacity and willingness of individuals to manage pests. | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| Issue | Strategic Objective | Strategic Actions | Success Indicators |
| Education and Training | To enhance stakeholder knowledge of pest impacts and skills in pest management. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of Council Officers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Workplace Health and Safety training. ➤ Training in ground operation for pesticide application. ➤ Training in the use of sodium flouroacetate • Chemical handling and storage training | <p>Staff training undertaken relevant to pest management.</p> <p>Investigation Skills.</p> <p>Powers of Entry.</p> <p>Use of sodium flouroacetate.</p> <p>Pest plant and animal workshops.</p> |
| Availability of information | To ensure information about weeds and pest animals is available to all stakeholders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute “Weeds of Southern Queensland” to rural landholders • Assist in the identification of pest plants for shire community • Shire Pest Management staff to attend relevant workshops and meetings to access up to date information on the control and identification of priority pests • Exchange of information between all stakeholders involved in pest management within the Stanthorpe Shire through the working group. | <p>Weeds of Southern Queensland booklets are available free of charge to all landowners.</p> <p>Pest management staff participate in EDROC Regional Pest Management meetings.</p> |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with neighbouring shires | |

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| Principles: Public Awareness – Public awareness and knowledge of pests must be raised to increase capacity and willingness of individuals to manage pests. | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Issue | Strategic Objective | Strategic Actions | Success Indicators |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Target specific awareness programs (during presentations to industry groups, and key events such as Saleyard displays) towards specific high priority declared pests to be kept out of the shire. | |

Desired Outcome 2: All stakeholders are committed to and undertake coordinated management of weeds and pest animals

| Principles: | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| 1. Commitment – Effective pest management requires a long term commitment to pest management by the community, industry groups and government entities. | | | |
| 2. Consultation and partnership – Consultation and partnership arrangements between local communities, industry groups, state government agencies and local governments must be established to achieve a collaborative approach to pest management. | | | |
| Issue | Strategic Objective | Strategic Actions | Success indicators |
| Compliance & enforcement | To ensure compliance with the Act in weed and pest animal management. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a register of enforcement activities (s. 86(1)) • Develop and implement a compliance program with stakeholders. • Network with other Local Government Compliance Officers. | <p>Document number of enforcement actions.</p> <p>Document the number of compliance issues resolved without the need for enforcement.</p> <p>Local Law officer is a member of QLG Rangers Assoc</p> <p>Continued participation at regional EDROC Pest Management meetings</p> |

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| Principles: | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| 1. Commitment – Effective pest management requires a long term commitment to pest management by the community, industry groups and government entities. | | | |
| 2. Consultation and partnership – Consultation and partnership arrangements between local communities, industry groups, state government agencies and local governments must be established to achieve a collaborative approach to pest management. | | | |
| Issue | Strategic Objective | Strategic Actions | Success indicators |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement operational procedures for matters such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ seizures ➤ destruction of declared pests ➤ vehicles and property ➤ recovering costs ➤ entering land | <p>Number of procedures Implemented and documented and communicated to landholders.</p> <p>Continued participation at regional EDROC pest management group meetings</p> |
| Long term commitment | To establish long term stakeholder commitment to weed and pest animal management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a working group of key stakeholders to develop , and review the Stanthorpe Shire Councils Area Pest Management Plan (s. 27 (1)) • Establish partnerships with state agencies and adjoining shires for local weed and pest management. • Develop a system for communicating with State and Federal Government land managers about pest management to establish consistent priorities and responsibilities for declared pest management • Carry out regular inspections of previous outbreaks of high priority declared plants | <p>Percentage of key stakeholders represented on working group.</p> <p>Number of contacts established through participation in regional pest management group.</p> <p>Shires annual weed control carried out each year</p> |

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Principles:

1. Commitment – Effective pest management requires a long term commitment to pest management by the community, industry groups and government entities.
2. Consultation and partnership – Consultation and partnership arrangements between local communities, industry groups, state government agencies and local governments must be established to achieve a collaborative approach to pest management.

| Issue | Strategic Objective | Strategic Actions | Success indicators |
|--------------|----------------------------|--|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue Shire annual weeds control program to control declared plants and eradicate strategic, isolated infestations. • Monitor likely points of pest entry into the shire | Inspect Sale yards, showground and racecourse at least 4 times a year. |

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Desired Outcome 3: Reliable information is available as a basis for decision-making

| Principles: Improvement – Research about pests, and regular monitoring and evaluation of pest control activities are necessary to improve pest management practices. | | | |
|---|--|---|---------------------------|
| Issue | Strategic Objective | Strategic Actions | Success Indicators |
| Data collection and Assessment | To collect, use and make available data relevant to weed and pest animal management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute local pest data to the NR&M Annual Pest Assessment (statewide mapping of all declared species) • Map previous outbreak of Class 1 declared plants (Honey locust) for future monitoring and follow up. • Install PestInfo database for pest plant mapping of individual species and new outbreaks of declared plants • Communicate with state agencies for mapping of declared species on state land • Look into methods of mapping declared plants on private property (eg survey with rates) to be discussed with working group | Pest Info installed |
| Pest biology and impacts | To further the understanding of the biology, ecology and impacts of weeds and pest animals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider pest behaviour (biology and ecology), pest impacts (economic, social, and environmental), and pest control costs in the local declaration and prioritisation of pest species for control or response. | |

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| Principles: Improvement – Research about pests, and regular monitoring and evaluation of pest control activities are necessary to improve pest management practices. | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|---|
| Issue | Strategic Objective | Strategic Actions | Success Indicators |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and distribute information on the impacts of potential pests that could infest Stanthorpe Shire from adjoining areas (Chilean needle grass, Serrated Tussock, Giant Rats Tail, Giant Parramatta Grass, Parthenium) | |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilise data and mapping on pest distribution (Annual Pest Assessment) for setting priorities for annual control programs • Promote the potential impacts of declared pests for all stakeholders through key events and media releases • Qld Parks and Wildlife – ParkInfo. • Develop and implement protocols for rapid assessment of emerging pest problems (Emergency Response Agreement Parthenium, Giant Rats Tail) • Maintain monthly pest management reports to Council as a basis for reporting on the success of control programs, reports of new outbreaks and action taken. | <p>“Weeds of the Southern Downs” booklet are available.</p> |

Desired Outcome 4: Strategic directions are established, maintained and owned by all stakeholders

| Principle: | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>1. Planning – Pest management planning must be consistent at local, regional, state and national levels to ensure resources target priorities for pest management identified at each level.</p> <p>2. Integration - Pest management is an integral part of managing natural resources and agricultural systems.</p> | | | |
| Issue | Strategic Objective | Strategic Actions | Success Indicators |
| Planning | Consistent priorities are owned, shared and implemented by all stakeholders for pest management within The Stanthorpe Shire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All stakeholders are represented on the working group for the development and review of SSC LGAPMP to ensure alignment of priorities and responsibilities. • Share information with stakeholders involved in other relevant local planning • Identify priority declared pests for annual control programs • Outline responsibilities for all landowners • Identify available resources for pest management to ensure that priority issues are adequately addressed • Review the annual action plan three months before the end of each financial year (S. 33 (2)) | <p>Stakeholders are represented on working group.</p> <p>Priority pests identified</p> |

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| Principle: | | | |
|--|---|---|--------------------|
| <p>1. Planning – Pest management planning must be consistent at local, regional, state and national levels to ensure resources target priorities for pest management identified at each level.</p> <p>2. Integration - Pest management is an integral part of managing natural resources and agricultural systems.</p> | | | |
| Issue | Strategic Objective | Strategic Actions | Success Indicators |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop new LGAPMP three months prior to the expiry of this plan. (S. 29 (b)) | |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up a Pest Management Advisory group to meet regularly to review actions outlined in Stanthorpe Shire Pest Management Plan • Consider adjoining local government pest management priorities during Stanthorpe Shire Pest management Plan development. • Ensure Stanthorpe Shire Councillors are aware of pest management priorities. | |
| Strategy Management and co ordination | To implement, evaluate and review integrated weed and pest animal management strategies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve Border Rivers and QMDC on the working group to ensure SS pest management priorities are aligned with community and catchment management. • Share resources and knowledge • Develop property pest management plans for high priority pest situations considering quarantine and containment areas. | |

Desired Outcome 5: Introduction, spread and establishment of weeds and pest animals is prevented

| <p><u>Principle:</u> Prevention – Preventative pest management is achieved by: a) Preventing the spread of pests and viable parts of pests especially by human activity. b) Early detection and intervention to control pests.</p> | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| Issue | Strategic Objective | Strategic Actions | Success Indicators |
| Prevention | To prevent the introduction of new weeds and pest animals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement hygiene procedures and training for new outbreak areas of priority pests such as Parthenium. • Identify key priority declared pests to be targeted through awareness programs to assist in prevention of introduction and early eradication. (Chilean Needle Grass, Serrated Tussock, Parthenium, Giant Rats Tail, Giant Parramatta Grass etc) • Continue participation in Emergency Response Agreement between five shires for the coordination of responding to new outbreaks • Respond to enquiries and reports of possible outbreaks on all land within SSC. • Eradicate and monitor confirmed outbreaks of high priority declared pests. • Include declared pest training in awareness, identification and vehicle hygiene as part of field staff and contractors' induction and training. | List of plants to be kept out of shire established. |

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| <p>Principle:</p> <p>Prevention – Preventative pest management is achieved by:</p> <p>a) Preventing the spread of pests and viable parts of pests especially by human activity.</p> <p>b) Early detection and intervention to control pests.</p> | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| Issue | Strategic Objective | Strategic Actions | Success Indicators |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop policies and procedures for Stanthorpe Shire Council and state land owners that ensure work practices do not contribute to the introduction of new pest species or increase existing infestations of declared plants. • Prevent the introduction of weeds along transport corridors for example by ensuring that road construction contracts include weed prevention conditions. | |
| Early detection and eradication | To prevent the local establishment of new pests | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a rapid response program together with the state government for handling new infestations of Class 1 and high priority Class 2 declared pests. • Use of emergency quarantine for Class 1 and high priority Class 2 declared pests • Establish a monitoring and identification network for weeds between all stakeholders (eg. Landholder to LLO to LPO to Qld Herbarium) | Rapid response program developed. |
| Containment | To minimise the spread of weeds and pest animals to new areas. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing wild dog check fence • Contain infestations of other class 2 and class 3 declared pests. | Current patrol of the fence is now split into 3 sections and performed over 10 days per month |

Desired Outcome 6: Integrated systems for managing the impacts of established weeds and pest animals are developed and widely implemented

| <p>Principle:</p> <p>Best Practice – Pest management must be based on ecologically and socially responsible pest management practices that protect the environment and productive capacity of natural resources. .</p> <p>Improvement - Research about pests and regular monitoring and evaluation of pest control activities are necessary to improve pest management practices.</p> <p>Commitment – Effective pest management requires a long term commitment to pest management by the community, industry groups and government entities.</p> | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| Issue | Strategic Objective | Strategic Actions | Success Indicators |
| Adoption of management techniques | To adopt and promote best practice in weed and pest animal management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to implement and promote timely and effective integrated best practice management for priority pest species that considers: Timing, techniques, non-target damage, costs, prevention, welfare, WH&S, monitoring, research, chemical registrations) • Make available and distribute best practice information and publications to relevant stakeholders for managing declared pests. (WSQ, pest facts) • Coordinate impact reduction programs for established pest animals such as rabbits. (harbour removal, warren ripping) • Identify and prioritise environmentally significant areas for Class 3 weed management • Involve local community groups in site-based management of priority weeds in environmentally significant areas. | <p>Pest facts and Weeds of the Southern Downs are available</p> <p>Current participation in wild dog and rabbit baiting programs</p> |

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Principle:

Best Practice – Pest management must be based on ecologically and socially responsible pest management practices that protect the environment and productive capacity of natural resources. .

Improvement - Research about pests and regular monitoring and evaluation of pest control activities are necessary to improve pest management practices.

Commitment – Effective pest management requires a long term commitment to pest management by the community, industry groups and government entities.

| Issue | Strategic Objective | Strategic Actions | Success Indicators |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Population and impact management. | To reduce pest populations and impacts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify inadequacies in existing pest management (eg. Coordination of harbour destruction for rabbits as a long term solution, control of high priority declared plants on private land to compliment existing and previous annual control programs on road reserves, controlling declared plants on a catchment basis. • Enhance linkages with research units such as Alan Fletcher Research Station to assist in priority setting for future research and developing local best practice. • Continue to promote incentives such as (the hire of SSC spray units as an incentive and assistance to landholders for weed management, use of NR&M single tine rippers for warren destruction). • Look into other possible incentive programs for pest management within SSC | Number of times used during financial year |

Priority Pest Species

Identification of all Weeds in the Local Area

| Pest (Common Name) (Scientific Name) | Declaration Status (eg Class 1, 2, 3, local law) | Priority | Impacts (eg Env, Primary Industries, Social, Amenity etc) |
|---|--|---|---|
| Prevention of Introduction Weeds | | | |
| Annual Ragweed <i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i> | Class 2 | High | Adverse economic, environmental or social impact on communities |
| Blackberry <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> | Class 3 | High | Primary environmental |
| Firethorn <i>Pyracantha angustifolia</i> | Not declared | low | Competes with pasture |
| --Groundsel Bush <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i> | Class 2 | High | Adverse economic, environmental or social impact on communities |
| Honey Locust <i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> | Class 1 | Early detection and eradication Very high priority | Fast growing tree resulting in severe environmental impacts |

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| Pest (Common Name) (Scientific Name) | Declaration Status (eg Class 1, 2, 3, local law) | Priority | Impacts (eg Env, Primary Industries, Social, Amenity etc) |
|---|--|---|--|
| Privet <i>Ligustrum spp.</i> | Class 3 | High | Adverse economic, environmental or social impact on communities |
| Parthenium <i>Parthenium hysterphorus</i> | Class 2 | Early detection and eradication Very high priority | Repeated contact with the weed and pollen can cause allergic reaction in humans as well as reducing pasture potential. |
| Giant Rat's Tail Grass <i>Sporobolus Pyramidalis and Sporobolus Natalensis</i> | Class 2 | Early detection and eradication Very high priority | Adverse economic & environmental impact on communities |
| Fireweed <i>Senecio madagascariensis</i> | Class 2 | High | Believed to be toxic to stock therefore having an economic impact on communities |
| Pampas grass <i>Cortaderia selloana</i> | Not declared | Low | Adverse economic & environmental impact on communities |
| Noogoora Burr <i>Xanthium pungens</i> | Not declared | Medium | Economic impact in grazing areas |
| Bathurst Burr <i>Xanthium spinosum</i> | Not declared | Medium | Economic impact in grazing areas |

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| Pest (Common Name) (Scientific Name) | Declaration Status (eg Class 1, 2, 3, local law) | Priority | Impacts (eg Env, Primary Industries, Social, Amenity etc) |
|---|--|-----------------|---|
| Tree Pear <i>Opuntia tomentosa</i> | Not declared | Medium | Adverse economic & environmental impact on communities |
| Mother of Millions | Class 2 | Medium | Economic impact in grazing areas (toxic to stock) |
| St Johns Wart | Not declared | Low | Economic impact in grazing areas (toxic to stock) |
| African Lovegrass <i>Eragrostis curvula</i> | Not declared | Low | Adverse economic & environmental impact on communities |
| Whisky Grass <i>Andropogon Virginicus</i> | Not declared | Low | Adverse economic & environmental impact on communities |
| Sand Burr <i>Diplotaxistenuifolia</i> | Not declared | Low | Adverse economic & environmental impact on communities |

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Identification of all Pest Animals in the Local Area

| Pest (Common Name) (Scientific Name) | Declaration Status (eg Class 1, 2, local law) | Impacts (eg Env, Primary Industries, Social, Amenity etc) | Priority |
|---|---|---|-----------------|
| Prevention of Introduction Pest Animals | | | |
| Dingoes/Wild Dogs | Class 2 | Economic impact in grazing areas due to stock losses | High |
| Rabbits | Class 2 | Competes with stock and native animals and causes soil erosion | High |
| Foxes | Class 2 | Economic impact in grazing areas due to stock losses | Medium |
| Feral Pigs | Class 2 | Cause damage to crops, stock and property also have potential to spread disease | Medium |

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High Priority Pest Species Plan

| | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------|
| High Priority Pest 1: Parthenium. (Parthenium hysterophorus) | | |
| Background: Parthenium weed is a vigorous species that colonises in pastures with sparse ground cover and costs cropping areas millions of dollars in lost production each year Parthenium is also a health problem as contact with the plant or the pollen can cause serious allergic reactions such as dermatitis and hay fever. The high priority declared plant listed above has the ability to be introduced to Stanthorpe Shire through movement of vehicles, livestock, equipment, etc. | | |
| Distribution: This declared plant does not exist in Stanthorpe Shire | | |
| Priority in adjacent local areas and statewide: A similar priority has been given to this declared plant in adjoining Qld shires. Within Qld it is a Class 2 Plant (refer to table) | | |
| Operational Objective: To keep this declared plants out of Stanthorpe Shire. | | |
| Strategic Actions: | By whom | When |
| Educate farmers / rural residents, by use and promotion of Pest facts, Weeds of the Eastern Downs, newsletters, show displays and WeedBuster week. | S.S.C., LPO DNR&M | Ongoing |
| Encourage residents and landowners to report any suspected outbreaks of Parthenium. | S.S.C. LPO DNR&M | Ongoing |
| Immediate treatment of outbreaks by spraying plants, establishment of quarantine area, restricts vehicle movements on and off property and erect signs to warn of infestation. | S.S.C. LPO DNR&M Multi Shire rapid response team | When an outbreak if confirmed |

Local Government Area Pest Management Plan (Version 1)

| | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------|
| High Priority Pest 2: Honey Locust (Gleditsia triacanthos) | | |
| Background: Honey locust is a perennial tree which can grow up to 20m high the trunk and limbs often are covered with large crucifix like spines it can smother pastures and native vegetation and inflict painful injuries to humans and livestock with its long spines. | | |
| Distribution: No noted infestations remain in the Stanthorpe Shire. | | |
| Priority in adjacent local areas and statewide: A similar priority has been given to this plant in adjoining shires and is a class 1 declared plant. | | |
| Operational Objective: To keep Stanthorpe Shire free of this plant. | | |
| Strategic Actions: | By whom | When |
| Encourage residents and landowners to report any suspected infestations of Honey locust. | S.S.C. LPO DNR&M | Ongoing |
| Inspect all reports of possible Honey locust infestations in the shire. | S.S.C. LPO | Ongoing |
| Immediate treatment of outbreaks. | S.S.C. LPO DNR&M MRD | |

Local Government Area Pest Management Plan (Version 1)

| | | |
|---|----------------|-------------|
| High Priority Pest 3 : Giant rats tail grass (Sporobolus pyramidalis & natalensis) | | |
| Background: The high priority declared plant listed above has the ability to be introduced to Stanthorpe Shire through movement of vehicles, livestock, equipment, etc. it is an introduced plant from Africa and has adapted well to large parts of Qld it is aggressive and can reduce pasture productivity and out – compete desirable grasses. | | |
| Distribution: This declared plant does not exist in Stanthorpe Shire. | | |
| Priority in adjacent local areas and statewide: Neighbouring Shires (eg. A similar priority has been given to these declared plants in adjoining Qld shires). Within Qld these plants are declared Class 1 and Class 2 (refer to table) | | |
| Operational Objective: To keep these declared plants out of Stanthorpe Shire. | | |
| Strategic Actions: | By whom | When |
| Inspect all reports of possible outbreaks of GRT in the Stanthorpe Shire | S.S.C | Ongoing |

Dingo Barrier Check Fence

Preamble

One of the major industries in the Stanthorpe Shire is the production of wool for domestic and international markets. This wool producing area of the Shire is on its western side, locally known as “the traprock country”.

Since the wool industry was established, it has had to deal with dingo and wild dog problems and for many decades various control programs have been implemented with some success but many failures. Representations to the State Government were successful and resulted in a dog ‘check’ or ‘barrier’ fence being constructed from the Herries Range (north-western edge of Shire) to the New South Wales Border (south-western edge of Shire) covering a total length of 93 kilometres. The construction of this fence was aimed at stopping the migration of wild dogs and dingo’s from the eastern parts into the western traprock sheep grazing country.

In 1986, management of the Stanthorpe Shire Dingo Barrier Check Fence was handed to the Stanthorpe Shire Council. In accordance with the Rural Lands Protection Act, it became Council’s responsibility to maintain the fence to a standard acceptable to the Department of Natural Resources.

Fence Summary

To provide a short summary of the fence, the Stanthorpe Shire Council considers that the terrain over which the Barrier Fence traverses is amongst the most rugged of any barrier fence in Australia. The maximum speed in most areas is 5 km per hour and on rare occasions a speed of 30 kph can be reached. To comfortably drive the entire length of 93 km takes a minimum of 12 hours spread over a two day period. This is without performing maintenance works. Whilst the fence was brought to a dog proof standard by the State Government prior to the 1986 handover, a considerable amount of the dog-proofing was done by attaching netting to existing boundary fencing. In many cases the existing fencing was a 14 wire construction, built in the 1840’s - 1860’s. As ironbark timber was readily available along the fence, its durability provided a solid fence construction however during reconstruction quite a number of cypress pine posts were used by Government contractors which does not provide stability nor longevity. In other parts where new K-Wire was used, rust on panels is a concern and this appears to be a manufacturing fault as galvanising was not effectively done. This rust is well above ground height and therefore cannot be confused with in-ground rust.

The fence style referred to in the body of this report is “New Fence (1986 K-Wire)” meaning that these sections were constructed almost entirely using new posts and new wire. These sections are generally 1.8m high dog proof K-Wire with ironbark and cypress posts. This is the wire that is showing fatigue through rust. Reference to “older fence” means that dog proofing was attached to existing boundary fences normally by use of rabbit netting on bottom, dog netting on top finished off with foot-netting on top again to provide the required height. All fences were entrenched into the ground at various depths.

Local Government Area Pest Management Plan (Version 1)

Soil Types

The soil types of the Granite Belt varies and on the northern section acidity is a major issue which can quickly rust through galvanised fencing that is on or near ground level. In the southern section acidity is not as much of an issue but damage to the fence by feral pigs, deer and dingoes is a major problem.

Management Committee

The structure of the Dingo Spur Fence Committee (DSFC) was examined and in 1997 through public consultation and involvement by the Stanthorpe branch of the United Graziers Association (now AgForce), eight community members were appointed and a Chairman elected. All were property owners along the fence line and since then others have been elected to the committee. The current committee is:-

| | |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| Clive Smith | “Mulgowan” (Chairman) |
| Gordon Smith | “Alum Rock” |
| Scott Jamieson | “Karalea” |
| Peter Blundell | “Wobur” (Councillor) |
| Gordon Leahy | “North Springdale” |
| Dan Bogoure | “Fiesta” |
| Mick Ross | “Calm Downs” |
| Ross Campbell | “Montrose” |
| Greg Thouard | Council Employee (Secretary) |

Consultation is held regularly with Land Protection Officers from the Department of Natural Resources. The Committee meets quarterly or more regularly if required.

The appointment of this committee has had results and the benefits of community interest members is reflected by knowledge of terrain, local conditions, feral animal movements but more importantly an effective contribution by members of the wool producing industry for and on behalf of all producers in that part of Stanthorpe Shire which is benefited by the existence of the Dingo Barrier Check Fence.

Patrol

The current patrol of the fence is now performed over 10 days in each four-week period and is split into three sections, Section 1 - 31 km, Section 2 - 35 km and Section 3 - 27 km for a total driving distance of 93 km.

The entire length of the fence is patrolled and maintained two times per every four-week period. The Patrol Officer provides his own four wheel drive vehicle and all tools of trade to carry out patrol and maintenance works. The Council provides all wire and steel products for fence repair and any chemicals for control of native pests.

Local Government Area Pest Management Plan (Version 1)

Capital Works

Following approaches by the Department of Natural Resources to reconstruct at least 5% of the fence per year, the DSF Committee has inspected the fence and have settled on a Capital Works Program broken into 'replace' and 'reconstruct' conditions. The principle is to **replace** fencing that is of a nature that restoration works will only provide a temporary fix. In these cases removal of unsound fencing will occur with total replacement of all components that make the fence. The reconstruct condition is to bring to a dog proof standard existing fences that do not show signs of gross fatigue and install any component that will provide stability and longevity.

Since 1998, capital works have been carried out in the Moss Section (3.5 km 1998/2000), Bendee (230 m 2000/01), Calm Downs (200 m 2000/01), Calm Downs (3.0km 2001/02), Shatte (1km 2002/03), Farnbro (3.0km 2003/04) and North Springdale (2.0km 2003/04). 2004/05 – nil to March 2005.

Using the above replace and reconstruct principle, the following five year forward program of capital works has been recommended by the Dingo Spur Fence Committee:

- 2005 - 2006 Replace 1km of fence at Mulgowan. Reconstruct to a dog proof standard existing fence through Bendee for a length of 4 km.
- 2006 – 2007 Reconstruct to a dog proof standard various sections over 30 km from Texas Road to Mt Malakoff. Track maintenance on Springdale section.
- 2007 – 2008 Replace 2km of fence at Calm Downs
- 2008 – 2009 Reconstruct to a dog proof standard existing fence through Springdale for a length of 2.5km.
- 2008 – 2009 Reconstruction works and track maintenance at Karalea.

The DSFC recommends maintenance of vehicular tracks. Given the inaccessibility of much of the fence line and the nature of the terrain, Council cannot consider all requests due to the extreme cost in transporting heavy machinery to and from the site.

Ongoing Community Engagement

The DSFC intends to continue with its culture of nurturing interest in the check fence by property owners benefiting from the protection offered against wild dogs. The community interest since 1997 has been high and it is seen that the existence of and the protection offered by the check fence will only survive through community engagement.

Annual Pest Action Plans

2005-2006

| Strategic action | Ref. | By whom |
|--|-------------|----------------|
| Ensure adequate and responsible stakeholder representation on Pest Management Working Group | | SSC |
| Make available the PMP for public viewing after approval | | SSC |
| Ensure consistency between PMP and related resource management plans | | SSC |
| Encourage landholders to complete a pest management plan for their own property and provide assistance if required | | SSC PMWG |
| Investigate options for wider and proactive control including potential of a 1080 baiting service | | SSC |
| Continue with current roadside spraying program | | SSC |

2006-2007

| Strategic action | Ref. | By whom |
|---|-------------|----------------|
| Place copies of PMP in council office, public library, agricultural services and suppliers also neighbouring shire offices. | | SSC LLO |
| Investigate possibility of erecting Pest Awareness signs in rest areas within the Stanthorpe Shire | | LLO |
| Ensure map of urban area of shire is available at shire office | | LLO |
| Create register of enforcement activities | | |
| Continue shire annual weeds control program to control declared plants and eradicate strategic, isolated infestations. | | WCO LLO |
| Monitor likely points of pest entry into the shire. | | LLO & WCO |
| Make use of Pestinfo following installation of new computer | | LLO |
| Promote the potential impacts of declared pests for all stakeholders through key events and media releases | | DNR&M LLO |
| Maintain monthly pest management reports to Council as a basis for reporting on the success of control program, reports of new outbreaks and action taken | | LLO |

Local Government Area Pest Management Plan (Version 1)

| Strategic action | Ref. | By whom |
|--|-------------|---------------------|
| Review the annual action plan 3 months prior to the end of each financial year. | | PMWG |
| Working group to meet on a regular basis to review actions outlined | | PMWG |
| Continue participation in Emergency Response Agreement between five shires for the coordination of responding to new outbreaks | | SSC |
| Identify areas of high weed seed spread and encourage the community to assist in the prevention of seed spread. | | PMWG, SSC & DNR&M |
| Maintain existing wild dog barrier fence | | SSC |
| Liaise with LPO to coordinate impact reduction programs for established pest animals such as rabbits (harbour removal & ripping) | | LPO, SSC, WCO & LLO |
| Promote incentives to landowners for pest plants and animals such as (hire of spray units for weed control and use of DNR&M single tyne ripper for warren destruction) | | SSC DNR&M |

2007-2008

| Strategic action | Ref. | By whom |
|--|-------------|-------------------|
| Continue to monitor all previous actions and carry over if necessary | | All concerned |
| At least 5 pest related media releases to be developed for the local area | | LLO, WCO |
| Local Government Officers to be trained in accordance with National Competences for Weed and Pest Animal Pest Management | | LLO, WCO |
| Carry out inspections of previous outbreaks of declared plants | | LLO, WCO |
| Contribute local pest data to the NR&M Annual Pest Assessment (state wide mapping of all declared pests) | | SSC LLO |
| Look into methods of mapping declared pests on private property. | | PMWG |
| Ensure Stanthorpe Shire Councillors are aware of pest management priorities and outcomes. | | PMWG |
| Develop implementation and hygiene procedures for any new outbreak of priority pests such as Parthenium. | | PMWG, LLO, SSC |
| Identify key priority declared pests to be targeted through awareness programs (Parth. GRT, CNG etc) | | PMWG LLO |
| Develop policy and procedure for SSC and state land owners that ensure work practices do not contribute to introduction of new pest species or increase existing infestations of declared plants | | PMWG |

Local Government Area Pest Management Plan (Version 1)

| Strategic action | Ref. | By whom |
|---|-------------|----------------|
| Continue to implement and promote timely and effective best practice management for priority pest species that considers; Timing, techniques, non-target damage, costs, WH&S and monitoring | | PMWG LLO |

2008-2009

| Strategic Action | Ref | By whom |
|---|------------|----------------|
| Complete a new PMP at least three months before the expiry of the existing plan | | PMWG SSC |

Ongoing

| Strategic action | Ref. | By whom |
|--|-------------|----------------------|
| Organise community awareness raising programs | | PMWG SSC DNR&M |
| Make fact sheets available at Shire Office at all times | | LLO |
| Council staff undertake relevant training | | SSC |
| Assist in weed identification for members of the community | | LLO & WCO |
| Liase with neighbouring shires | | SSC, LLO & WCO |
| Carry out regular inspections of previous outbreaks of declared plants | | LLO & WCO |
| Continue Shire annual weeds control program | | WCO |
| Monitor likely points of pest entry into the shire | | LLO & WCO |
| Map any outbreaks of class 1 declared plants | | LLO & WCO |
| Promote the potential impacts of declared pests for all stakeholders through key events and media releases | | SSC, & PMWG |
| Maintain monthly pest management reports to council | | DH&BS |
| Maintain existing wild dog check fence | | SSC |

Figure 1 – Town & Village Locations

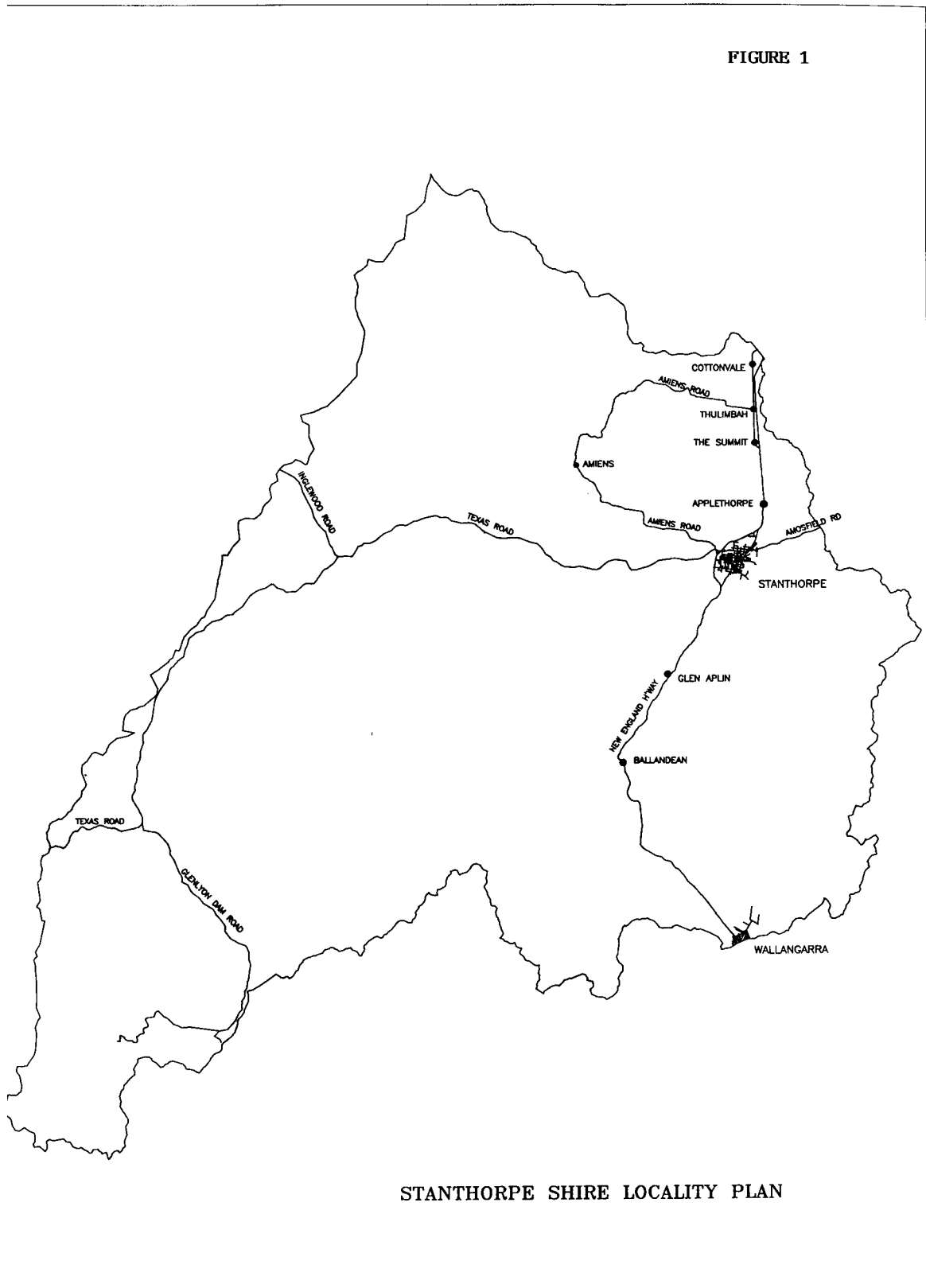


Figure 2 - Legend

FIGURE 2

