

BIOSECURITY APPLICATION IN QUEENSLAND

PROTECTING LAND. SUPPORTING INDUSTRY. STRENGTHENING REGIONAL COMMUNITIES.

WHY IT MATTERS

Queensland is facing increasing biosecurity risks across agriculture, the environment and regional communities. Industry leaders, councils and landholders are calling for stronger action and long term investment. Feral animals and invasive weeds are spreading faster than many regions can manage, affecting food production, water quality, public health and community resilience.

In the Isaac region, feral pigs damage land, waterways and natural habitats. Weeds undermine pasture systems and increase costs for landholders. These pressures affect industry, community life and the broader economy. Biosecurity is no longer a background task. It is now a frontline responsibility that requires consistent funding and coordinated effort across all levels of government.

WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW

Isaac Regional Council delivers feral animal control and weed management programs with landholders and regional partners where resources allow. These programs work, but risks are increasing. Feral pig populations recover quickly. Weed incursions spread after each wet season. Without stable funding, communities lose the gains they have made.

Across Queensland, industry and councils warn that biosecurity threats will continue to rise. They are calling for a whole of government approach that strengthens preparedness, surveillance and response.

KEY CHALLENGES

General Biosecurity Obligation - The General Biosecurity Obligation lacks clarity and consistent application. Local governments are unsure about legal thresholds and enforcement, especially where restricted and non restricted species move across property boundaries. Councils need certainty and clear guidance from the State to apply the obligation effectively.

Leucaena - Leucaena is impacting environmental, cultural and agricultural values across Queensland. It affects council networks, drainage, pasture access and biodiversity, and is identified as a priority species in the Isaac Region Biosecurity Plan. Despite this, it remains excluded from restricted declaration due to

its use as a fodder crop. This approach has echoes of past weed management failures that still burden landholders and councils.

The Act allows species to be declared feral when not under cultivation. Declaring unmanaged leucaena a restricted invasive species would strengthen control efforts, require State agencies to act consistently and support research into best practice management.

Funding and capability - Biosecurity Queensland has shifted away from being a true partnership agency. Funding is short term, cyclical and fragmented. Regional NRM models do not always reflect local priorities, leaving councils and landholders to carry increasing costs. Regions like Isaac need stable funding to plan ahead, build capability and maintain effective control programs across large landscapes.

WHAT WE'RE ADVOCATING FOR

We are seeking an ongoing State and Federal Government funding program that supports

- Leucaena declared a restricted species in Queensland.
- State agencies recognition of Local Government Biosecurity Plans and their priorities.
- Long term feral animal and weed management programs that align with local needs.
- Regional biosecurity capability, including training and coordinated control.
- Stronger partnerships between councils, industry and government.
- A fair funding model that does not shift rising costs to regional communities.
- Regional biosecurity zones to improve planning and coordination.
- Investment that protects agriculture, natural landscapes and community wellbeing.

WORKING TOGETHER

Biosecurity protects our environment, our food systems and our way of life. Regional communities are doing their part every day. With a stable funding commitment, Queensland can build a biosecurity system that is strong enough to meet the challenges ahead and protect the industries and landscapes our State depends on.