

REPORT TITLE

Confirmation for Minutes

Ordinary Meeting of BAC – Friday 4 July 2025

MOTION

Moved by Ted Vinson

Seconded by Anthony McWatters

That the Minutes of the *Biosecurity Advisory Committee* dated *Friday 4 April 2025* be confirmed.

CARRIED

Minutes Biosecurity Advisory Committee (BAC)

4 April 2025

Meeting No:	2025/Meeting 1 (Committee 2024-2028)	Date: Friday 4 April 2025
Location:	Room 47 - 24 Nass Road, CHARLTON	Time: 9.00am – 12.00pm
Attendees:	<p><u>Committee Members</u></p> <p>Councillor Edwina Farquhar Toowoomba Regional Council</p> <p>Councillor Kerry Shine (Chair) Toowoomba Regional Council</p> <p>Renee Ould Healthy Land & Water</p> <p>Chris Job Queensland Parks & Wildlife Services</p> <p>Kevin Charlesworth Toowoomba Landcare Groups</p> <p>Ted Vinson Department of Primary Industries</p> <p>Nicki Lewis Department of Primary Industries</p> <p>Steven Moore Lockyer Valley Regional Council</p> <p>Chris Gaschk Western Downs Regional Council</p> <p>Gillian Meppem Southern Queensland Landscapes</p> <p>Bryan Potter Southern Downs Regional Council</p> <p>Anthony McWatters Community Representative</p> <p>Bill Krautz Community Representative</p> <p>Thomas (Rob) Brodribb Community Representative</p> <p><u>Guests (non-voting)</u></p> <p>John Scriven SWQROC – DD Southwest Qld Feral Pig Coordinator</p> <p>Amanda Nixon Parks Volunteer Support Officer</p> <p><u>Council officers (Voting)</u></p> <p>Nick Hauser TRC – General Manager ECS</p> <p>Sally Egan TRC – Manager Parks & Recreation</p> <p>Mark Ready TRC – Principal Conservation and Pest Management</p> <p>Brett Dalzell TRC - Coordinator Conservation and Pest Management Operations</p> <p><u>Council officers (non- Voting)</u></p> <p>Kellie Casagrande Administration Officer</p>	

Apologies:	<p>Leanne Petersen South Burnett Regional Council</p> <p>Steven Brennan Somerset Regional Council</p> <p>Mat Warren Darling Downs Moreton Bay Rabbitt Board</p> <p>Peter Sparshott Department of Transport & Main Roads</p> <p>Lucinda Williams Community Representative</p> <p>Rebecca Morrissy Goondiwindi Regional Council</p> <p>Belinda Callanan Agforce</p>
Prepared by:	Kellie Casagrande Toowoomba Regional Council
Attachments:	<p>Managing invasive species (Report 1: 2023–24)</p> <p>Presented by Ted Vinson DPI – Reference Item 5</p> <p> TRCBAC Biosecurity Update Presentation.p</p>

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER
1.	<p>Meeting Opened at: 9:02 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledgement of Country • Welcome Attendees (including Special Guests) • Apologies – Cr Edwina Farquhar joining later on teams, Steve Brennan, Lucinda Williams, Rebecca Morrissy, Peter Sparshott, Mat Warren & Belinda Callanan. • Resignation – No resignations received. <p><i>Acknowledgement of Country - I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians whose song lines traverse these lands on which we meet today. I pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging for they hold the knowledge, rich traditions, and bold ambitions of Australia's first peoples. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.</i></p> <p>Tea and Coffee available.</p>	Chair Cr Shine
2.	<p>Adoption of Previous Minutes (16 February 2024)</p> <p>Motion:</p> <p>That the minutes presented from the BAC Meeting held on the 16 February 2024 are accepted as a true and accurate record.</p> <p> #9322196-Biosecurity _Advisory_Committee_</p> <p>Moved by Anthony McWatters, Seconded by Mark Ready</p> <p>Carried</p>	Chair

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER
	<p>Action items from previous minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cr Sommerfield requested that feral deer management updates be included in future agendas. <p>Noted that this item will be incorporated into future agendas as and if necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To forward alert regarding the freshwater gold clam to committee members. <p>Noted actioned 16 February 2024.</p>	
3.	<p>Member Introductions</p> <p>Cr Kerry Shine TRC Councillor and this is my first BAC meeting.</p> <p>Nick Hauser – TRC General Manager for Environment & Community Services Parks & Recreation is part of my portfolio in which pest management sits. Thank you all for being part of the committee. I will not be able to attend every meeting, but Sally Egan will report back to me regarding these meetings.</p> <p>Sally Egan – TRC Manager Parks & Recreation Services Direct responsibility for the BAC portfolio.</p> <p>Robert Brodribb – Community Representative Friends of the Escarpment Parks – Member of executive committee.</p> <p>Chris Gaschk – Western Downs Regional Council NRM supervisor for the Western Downs Regional Council.</p> <p>Bryan Potter – Southern Downs Regional Council Compliance Officer for Pest Management at Southern Downs Regional Council.</p> <p>Nicki Lewis – Department of Primary Industries Network Coordinator DPI.</p> <p>Ted Vinson – Department of Primary Industries Senior Principal Biosecurity Officer at DPI.</p> <p>Brett Dalzell – TRC Coordinator CPM Services Coordinator of CPM Services, which oversees the strategic planning of CPM, previously I had worked for Parks & Wildlife in South Australia which was heavily involved with the eradication of pigs and deer.</p> <p>Amanda Nixon – Parks Volunteer Support Officer Parks VSO, and I support the onboarding of new Community Representatives and oversee the volunteer programs.</p> <p>Kellie Casagrande – Administration Officer I have been involved with assisting Mark with the Biosecurity Meetings for the last 2 ½ years.</p> <p>John Scriven – SWQROC – DD – SWQ Feral Pig Coordinator Feral Pig Coordinator at SWQROC.</p> <p>Steve Moore – Lockyer Valley Regional Council Pest Management at Lockyer Valley Regional Council.</p>	All Committee Members

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	<p>Anthony McWatters – Community Representative Community Representative, and this is my second term with the BAC, I am a retired Solider and have a family farm near Haden, I was a complainant regarding Biosecurity and now I am a part of helping with these issues.</p> <p>Kevin Charlesworth – Toowoomba Landcare Groups I am involved with the Toowoomba Landcare Groups.</p> <p>Gillian Meppem – Southern Queensland Landscapes Newly appointed CEO of Southern Queensland Landscapes this is my 8th week, and I was previously the Senior Regional Manager – North for Grains Research & Development Corporation.</p> <p>Renee Ould – Healthy Land & Water Agricultural Project Manager within the Sustainable Agriculture Team at Healthy Land & Water.</p> <p>Bill Krautz – Community Representative I was previously involved with the BAC when it first started then had some time off, I am dealing with the same problems.</p> <p>Chris Job – Queensland Parks & Wildlife Services Senior Ranger at QPWS and have previously worked with Council.</p> <p>Mark Ready – TRC Principal CPM Council Officer for 26 years involved with Biosecurity since 2012. Cr Shine thanked all committee members, with the great experience and new ideas what the BAC is set out to achieve we can combat any risks and dangers that are apparent.</p> <p><u>Disclosure of Interests:</u> Cr Kerry Shine – Disclosed a potential Conflict of Interest as a landholder with property in the Brisbane Valley, which was noted and recorded in the minutes for transparency and to manage any potential conflicts of interest in future discussions and decisions. Members agreed that simple ownership of land does not represent a conflict of interest with Biosecurity matters.</p>	
3.	<p>Insurance and Volunteer Registration</p> <p>I will be looking after the Community Representatives who will be covered under Council’s insurance. Community Representatives will have the opportunity to discuss the registration process during the break and fill out necessary paperwork.</p>	Amanda Nixon
4.	<p>Timing of Meetings and Standing Agenda Items</p> <p>TOR have changed, the committee is now to decide the timing and number of meetings required, previously meetings were prescribed for the 3rd Friday of each quarter being the months of February, May, August & November.</p> <p>Focus of the committee is to be more strategic, addressing activities or emerging issues that Council might not be aware of and/or priorities the committee would like to see addressed rather than as simple a forum for updates.</p> <p>Sally discussed the opportunity to refresh the Biosecurity Plan.</p>	Chair/ Mark Ready

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	<p>Cr Shine asked members for comments and any questions regarding the change of the new proposed agenda.</p> <p>Anthony McWatters commented that the updates have been very good. Advised that the planning or advising how Council plans for 1080 is a good item, as well as briefs from DAF and contingency planning for foot and mouth and other issues, and a group like this providing feedback to council is well liked, with the change of focus a very positive idea.</p> <p>Discussed that committee meetings continue to be held on Fridays. Special Meetings to discuss bigger issues should need arise may be called under the TOR. Council is supportive of quarterly meetings with special meetings and/or smaller group meetings as required.</p> <p>Agreed to conduct meetings quarterly on a Friday and after a year can discuss if these meetings need to be changed.</p> <p>Chairing of meetings to be shared/rotated between Cr Shine and Cr Farquhar.</p>	
5.	<p>Dept of Primary Industries – Biosecurity Update</p> <p>Attached Presentation – attachment in attachment section of Minutes along with the report.</p> <p>Backing Local Government Projects Ted Vinson advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPI are reviewing the role out of the 100 NRM Officer's and 50 million investment as announced in state budget. This is expected to proceed in the new financial year. • Investment in and support to Local Government will be informed by responses to current survey distributed to Council CEO's. <p>Mark Ready asked if all LGs were aware that the survey closed today, and if they had received them.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Confirmed.</p> <p>Sally Egan asked if a session will be undertaken on what's on the Audit at the next meeting.</p> <p>ACTION(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Ready <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Circulate copy of Qld Audit Office Report ○ Provide briefing and considerations for State/Federal Plans as they are reviewed to future meetings. • Ted Vinson to talk through findings of the Qld Audit Office Report at the next meeting. 	Ted Vinson
6.	<p>Presentation - DDSWQ Feral Pig Program Coordinator</p> <p>John presented to the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Three (3) year fully funded project positioned by the Qld Government through the QLD feral pest initiative round 8a which costs around 2.1 to 2.3 million. • Planned roll out – partnering with councils, mentoring and workshops. <p>Cr Shine thanked John for presentation.</p>	

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7.	<p>Morning Tea – held between 10.20 am to 10.50am.</p> <p><i>Nick Hauser left the meeting at 10.25am.</i></p>	
8.	<p>General Business</p> <p><i>Cr Edwina Farquhar joined the meeting online at 10.50am.</i></p> <p>Mark Ready read the reports from Committee members that were apologies.</p> <p><u><i>Mat Warren (DDMRB)</i></u></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>FINAL - April 2025 TRC BAC DDMRB Rep</p> </div> <p><u><i>Peter Sparshott (TMR)</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main item I was going to report on was TMR are currently mapping all our roads for pest plants and using a spatial TDx platform from Arc View to undertake the task, we should be finished data collection by the end of April. This data will form the basis for the RMPC spraying program for LG's. <p><u><i>Belinda Callanan (Agforce Queensland)</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> African Lovegrass has increased its range and is popping up along a lot of roadsides in the TBA region due to largely slashers and vehicle movements. Feral Pigs have increased considerably in numbers, and we seek efforts to work with Council for rural landholders to enact an aerial shoot campaign supported by a baiting and ground shoot campaign, could look at a cost recovery campaign coordinated by council, Landcare, NRM Group with some funds across key areas within the TBA region with an aerial company and specialist shooter. e.g. Cambooya Landcare did a program using Scott Bridle a few years back and it knocked numbers considerably and then landholders did a ground shoot campaign also. With JEV detected at Inglewood and in SEQ feral pig populations are a major concern. Continue to promote a general awareness of Fire Ants and the risks posed by bringing in carrier material (hay, mulch, soil, turf, potted plants etc) from within a RIFA zone how to identify where to report, what to do if you think you have them. Engage with the RIFA team to see if they are able to attend key community events, shows etc. Fire Ants continue to be a major concern for our members. <p>Cr Shine asked that the reports as read be received and notes added to the minutes with no objections being received.</p> <p>Ted Vinson advised that Agforce should direct their concerns regarding Love Grass, including details of spread, through Council officers. Mark advised he would discuss matter with Belinda. Bill Krautz discussed that Council do spread it, all along the roadsides which is an unsustainable battle. MR advised Council has a program directed at it with the spread through slashers.</p> <p>ACTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mark Ready – arrange for an update from the National Fire Ant Eradication Program to be included in a future agenda. 	Chair

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	<p>Sally Egan – (TRC Manager PRS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversees the Biosecurity Program, within Parks & Recreations Services the CPM unit consists of Mark Ready, Brett Dalzell and the Coordinator of CPM Operations which Council is currently advertising for the 3rd time. The coordinator of Operations has Three (3) teams made up of Bushland Parks, Northern & Southern Rangers. Brett's team consist of Biosecurity officer's working on compliance through biosecurity orders, every year the biosecurity surveillance program is reviewed. These biosecurity officers work on the improvements which can be made within audits or improvements that need to go back and be reviewed. Council also has roadside spraying agreement with TMR under element 5, which we need to get better at maintaining our 7000 ha of bushland regarding the coordination of our pest teams, we also conduct show presentations and attend most of our local shows, maintain the wild dog check fence, 1080 baiting. Mark commented that feral pigs are the Landholders responsibility, but Council will help organise pre feeding and provide the 1080 bearing in mind there are rules around baiting which have not changed. Wild dog bounties are still collected by Council. Bill Kruatz questioned that Council used to have the rate of \$100 per dog, then \$40 now it's just \$30 per dog. Sally advised that the value of the scalp bounty is set in Council's adopted fees and charges. There have been recent conversations regarding this value and if bounties are effective. Sally advised that she would be interested in DPI conducting a presentation on foot and mouth. Chris Gaschk commented that Richard Bradshaw from Melbourne has also presented on this topic. <p>ACTION</p> <p>Ted Vinson to provide a presentation to a future meeting addressing foot and mouth disease preparedness.</p> <p>Chris Gaschk – (WDRC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported feral animal issues (foxes, dogs & cats). Road networks transits on highway. GRT. Have recently experienced Human/wildlife interaction within the Bunya Park similar to Fraser Island. Phytophthora continues to be a concern – linked to pig disturbed sites and not disturbed sites. <p>Bryan Potter – (SDRC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baiting. Bounties. Conflict with pig baiting and grain baiting with neighbours' and the hesitation. Baiting of dingoes in the environment. <p>Ted Vinson – (DPI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advised that these meetings-maintained networks and are good to catchup as this group is invaluable. <p>Brett – (TRC Coordinator CPM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advised intends to share the national deer coordination programs and that TRC has gained support from the Toowoomba bus network promotion, where on the back of a bus there will be contact details for the reporting of deer. Currently reviewing the baiting program for effectiveness to ensure we are 	

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	<p>targeting and are in the right locations, this needs to be a more integrated program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biosecurity surveillance currently looking at the 3-year program with updates at the next meeting. <p>John Scriven - SWQROC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two (2) million going to feral pigs with 1 million on ground through action plans, six (6) coordinators are going to be key with these action plans. • Keen to gain input for action plan on how this best suit the footprint, committee can contact John through email with any feedback. <p>ACTION</p> <p>Feral Pig Action plan updates to be included in future agendas as and when required.</p> <p>Steven Moore – (LVRC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advised TRC are in a good position regarding Fire Ants TRC as early intervention and good education is the key. <p>Anthony McWatters – (Community Representative)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction/interests as a community member: biosecurity risks and issues around livestock grazing and farming in Northeast areas of the region. Advocacy for small commercial rural businesses. • Supported change in focus of committee this term of Council towards advice to Council and less on updates and BAU. We might do well to draft resolutions or correspondence on the big issues to inform and advise the Council on emerging biosecurity issues, risks and opportunities. • Appreciates work of TRC, NRM Groups, Landcare, Industry (and in neighboring LGAs) to integrate activities, operational efforts and resources to get best value for biosecurity outcomes. Thanks, TRC for grant of \$8K to Emu Creek Catchment Landcare Group for members to spray roadside and road reserves weed infestations (Lantana a target in our area). Also, wild dog baiting and weed spraying programs are prominent in the area and achieving results. Thank you TRC. • Mentioned cattle tick vigor this 24-25 season and impacts for producers near Tick Line. • Keen to hear about big picture planning (contingency planning and policy) for disease outbreaks (FMD, LD, JE, Avian Flu) and the emerging issues with Fire Ants. <p>Kevin Charlesworth – (Toowoomba Landcare Groups)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deer & fox issues are interesting looking forward to sitting on in meetings. • Rabbits are back at Highfields. • Chinese celtuce seed seem to have exploded. • Fire Ants would like to know how to cut down on the perception. Steve advised that he received a lot of funding and that a program has been developed against radicals surrounding the fire ant media, where they can filter through using an algorithm program and they have been investing in all aspects of this area. <p>Gillian Meppem – (SQL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advised successful with two projects out of twenty-nine projects delivered by the QLD Government, unfortunate that we missed out on the biosecurity program e.g. fire ants but will persists in the biosecurity area. • Heavily in the recruitment phase with Three (3) project officers rolling out. • Assisting with the impact out in the west with the flooding. 	

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	<p>Renne Ould – (Healthy Land & Water)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investing in a couple of projects. Heavily hit with the fire ants' early intervention and educations and the fire ant guys presentations and giving out resources. Restrictions for fodder looking for donations for fodder but exclude us due to fire ants difficult cause can't help. <p>Bill Krautz – (Community Representative)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advised that at a solar farm wild dogs were sighted and may not be subject to control actions by the landholder. Advised of reports from Millmerran and Pittsworth of landholders spraying lantana using a drone across property boundaries. Neighbours upset as other plants died. Bill asked if there is any way to stop drones with rules? Ted Vinson advised there are rules and regulations regarding the aerial use of chemicals, these would also apply to drones. <p>Chris Job – (QPWS)</p> <p>QPWS Southwest Region.</p> <p>Southern Downs (Toowoomba & Inglewood)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing pig trapping at Ravensbourne NP & McEwans SF (unfunded; removed sixteen pigs in March) Wild dog baiting at Arcot SF (unfunded) along boundary in conjunction with Goondiwindi Regional Council annual baiting programs Aerial shoot planned for Inglewood areas for vertebrate pest control (funded through TTN funding 'better neighbours') Parthenium treatment continues in Bringalily State Forest. Monitoring dogs in Umbercollie SF with plans to also set up monitoring in Booroondoo State Forest due to neighbour complaints. Crow's Nest National Park Brush Tail Rock Wallaby project, undertaking fox and cat control. Phelix <p>Granite Belt (Girraween & Sundown)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing Coolatai control at Girraween NP (funded through federal funding & TTN funding) Aerial shoot planned for feral deer, pig, and goat control in Sundown NP – collaborative project with DPI and neighbours (funded through SPMP) Collaborative monitoring project with DPI to establish baseline population data on feral deer within Sundown NP & on neighbouring properties – deployed sixty cameras in 2024 and again in 2025 (funded through SPMP) <p>Scenic Rim (Lockyer & Main Range)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coolatai control in small areas in Main Range NP (funded through SPMP) Ongoing pig baiting in Black Duck section of Main Range NP (unfunded) <p>South Burnett (Kingaroy & Bunyas)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing pig control at Bunya Mountains NP including trapping & baiting (funded through SPMP and federal funding) – constructed 4G-activated traps to allow traps to be set off remotely. Ongoing Phytophthora management at Bunya Mountains NP (existing MOU with DPI) – continuing research into Phosphite treatments Monitoring feral deer, feral pig & wild dog project in Wondai SF (funded through TTN 'better neighbours') – cameras to be deployed May 2025 to establish baseline population data on feral animals in the SF to identify management required. 	

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	Westerns Down (Dalby & Taroom) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing aerial shoots in Western Downs area for large vertebrate pests (horses) (funded through TTN 'better neighbours) Aerial shoot around Lake Broadwater. 	
9.	Next Meeting – 4 th July 2025 Chair to be rotated with Cr Farquhar to chair the next meeting. NOTE: Location to be confirmed – seeking venue with ability for on-line attendance Cr Shine thanked everyone for attending.	Chair
10.	Lunch and Close 12pm	Chair

Actions Completed Since Last Meeting

Meeting Date	Details and Action Required	Responsible Officer	Action Taken to Date / Comment	Completed Date
16 Feb 2024	To forward alert regarding the freshwater gold clam to committee members.	Mark Ready	Completed	16.02.2024
17.11.2023	Cr Sommerfield requested that feral deer management updates be included in future agendas.	Mark Ready	Noted – This was an action from the previous committee – updates can be provided as and if necessary.	Complete

Outstanding Actions BAC Committee 2024-2028

Meeting Date	Details and Action Required	Responsible Officer	Action Taken to Date / Comment	Due Date
04.04.2025	Circulate copy of Qld Audit Office Report to committee members	Mark Ready		
04.04.2025	Provide briefing and considerations for State/Federal Plans as they are reviewed to future meetings.	Mark Ready		
04.04.2025	Talk through findings of the Qld Audit Office Report at the next meeting.	Ted Vinson		
04.04.2025	Arrange for an update from the National Fire Ant Eradication Program to be included in a future agenda	Mark Ready		
04.04.2025	Provide a presentation to a future meeting regarding foot and mouth disease preparedness.	Ted Vinson		
04.04.2025	Feral Pig Action plan updates to be included in future agendas as and when required.	Mark Ready		