

National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program – South East Queensland 2017-18 to 2027-28

PART 1: PRELIMINARIES

1. The purpose of this Schedule is to outline the delivery of agreed activities for the National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program (National Program) in South East Queensland from 2017-18 to 2026-27 and to facilitate the Commonwealth's cost-shared contributions to Queensland, the lead jurisdiction for this eradication program.
2. The National Program is being conducted as a National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement-like (NEBRA-like) response, as agreed by the Primary Industries Ministerial Council in November 2009 and by the Agriculture Ministers' Forum (AGMIN) in July 2017.
3. On 26 July 2017, AGMIN approved the 2017-18 to 2026-27 budget and Governance Plan and established the National Program Steering Committee (Steering Committee) to provide strategic oversight, guidance and support on all aspects of the National Program's delivery.
4. On 17 November 2017, the Steering Committee approved the *National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program South East Queensland, Ten Year Eradication Plan 2017-18 to 2026-27* (Ten Year Eradication Plan). The Ten Year Eradication Plan may be varied as agreed by the Steering Committee.
5. The Steering Committee's assessment of progress against the Ten Year Eradication Plan and annual work plans, as amended and agreed by the Steering Committee, may be taken into consideration in assessing performance under this Schedule.
6. Cost sharing arrangements between Queensland and the other State and Territory governments that are parties to the National Program, are subject to a separate agreement.

PART 2: FORMALITIES

7. The Parties to this Schedule are the Commonwealth of Australia and Queensland.
8. This Schedule will commence as soon as it is agreed between the Commonwealth and Queensland ministers with portfolio responsibility for national biosecurity emergency management. It will expire on 30 June 2028 or on completion or termination of the Ten Year Eradication Plan as agreed by the Steering Committee, including endorsement of the final project report and processing of final payments against milestones, unless terminated earlier or extended as agreed in writing by the Parties.

PART 3: PROJECT ELEMENTS AND MILESTONES

9. The project elements of the National Program are as described in the Ten Year Eradication Plan, as agreed, and annual work plans. The objectives of the Ten Year Eradication Plan are to:
- (a) reduce infestation until red imported fire ants (fire ants) are no longer present in the South East Queensland region;
 - (b) prevent spread of fire ants to non-infested areas;
 - (c) provide evidence to demonstrate freedom from fire ant infestation in the South East Queensland region; and
 - (d) help prevent establishment of new invasive ant species Australia-wide by building capacity and providing eradication expertise.
10. Table 1 and Table 2 summarise the milestones for the project, reporting dates and expected payments to be made.
- (a) The Commonwealth will make payments for performance milestones subject to satisfactory progress towards the project elements and agreed annual work plan. However, to support delivery of the 2022-23 annual work plan, payments for 2022-23 milestones may be made in advance of the process set out at clauses 12(c). In this circumstance, any actions under clause 13 must be addressed prior to the payment of 2023-24 milestones.

Table 1: Performance Milestones

Milestones	Due date	Payment
2017-18		
First and Second Quarterly report (2017-18)	May 2018 for period Jul 2017 to Dec 2017	Up to \$14,250,000
Third Quarterly report (2017-18)	May 2018 for period Jan 2018 to Mar 2018	Up to \$4,750,000
2018-19		
Annual report (2017-18) and First Quarterly report (2018-19)	Dec 2018 for period Apr 2018 to Sep 2018	Up to \$9,734,365
Second and Third Quarterly report (2018-19)	May 2019 for period Oct 2018 to Mar 2019	Up to \$9,734,365
The "2019 report on proposed changes to the eradication strategy in response to detections on the Western Boundary" and proposed addendum to the 10 Year Eradication Plan	April 2019	Up to \$5,219,065

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2019-20		
Annual report (2018-19) and First Quarterly report (2019-20)	Dec 2019 for period Apr 2019 to Sep 2019	Up to \$13,234,256
Second and Third Quarterly report (2019-20)	May 2020 for period Oct 2019 to March 2020	Up to \$13,234,256
2020-21		
Annual report (2019-20) and First Quarterly report (2020-21)	Dec 2020 for period Apr 2020 to Sep 2020	Up to \$13,480,327
Second and Third Quarterly report (2019-20)	May 2021 for period Oct 2020 to Mar 2021	Up to \$13,480,327
2021-22		
Annual report (2020-21) and First Quarterly report (2021-22)	March 2022 for period Apr 2021 to Sep 2021	Up to \$18,142,119
Second and Third Quarterly report (2021-22)	May 2022 for period Oct 2021 to Mar 2022	Up to \$18,142,119
2022-23		
Annual report (2021-22)	Dec 2022 for period Apr 2022 to Sep 2022	Up to \$15,000,000
Second Quarterly report (2022-23)	June 2023 for period Oct 2022 to Dec 2022	Up to \$15,000,000
2023-24		
Annual report (2022-23) and First Quarterly report (2023-24)	Dec 2023 for period Apr 2023 to Sep 2023	Up to \$3,108,491
Second and Third Quarterly report (2023-24)	May 2024 for period Oct 2023 to Mar 2024	Up to \$3,108,491
2024-25		
Annual report (2023-24) and First Quarterly report (2024-25)	Dec 2024 for period	Up to \$3,379,758

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	Apr 2024 to Sep 2024	
Second and Third Quarterly report (2024-25)	May 2025 for period Oct 2024 to Mar 2025	Up to \$3,379,758
2025-26		
Annual report (2024-25) and First Quarterly report (2025-26)	Dec 2025 for period Apr 2025 to Sep 2025	Up to \$3,657,717
Second and Third Quarterly report (2025-26)	May 2026 for period Oct 2025 to Mar 2026	Up to \$3,657,717
2026-27		
Annual report (2025-26) and First Quarterly report (2026-27)	Dec 2026 for period Apr 2026 to Sep 2026	Up to \$3,942,533
Second and Third Quarterly report (2026-27)	May 2027 for period Oct 2026 to Jun 2027	Up to \$3,942,533

Non-progress reporting milestones

11. The Commonwealth will also make a milestone payment for the following milestone:

<p>Delivery to the National Biosecurity Committee of a detailed proposal for future RIFA eradication program arrangements in response to the August 2021 Strategic Review including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A revised response strategy and plan, with indicative budget • Assessment of technical feasibility and cost benefit of eradication • Draft 2023-24 work plan • Monitoring and evaluation framework 	June 2023	Up to \$20,964,000
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PART 4: REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

12. Queensland will provide performance reports in accordance with Table 1 during the operation of the Schedule. All reports will:

- (a) demonstrate delivery against agreed annual work plans;
- (b) address any Steering Committee endorsed recommendations from completed National Program financial and efficiency audits; and
- (c) be provided to and endorsed by the Steering Committee.

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13. Should reports not be endorsed by the Steering Committee or require further information to enable progress to be determined, the Commonwealth may request additional information within 15 business days of having received a report.
14. Queensland will provide a final report demonstrating completion of the eradication program in 2026-27, or earlier if the program terminates early, within three months of completion including demonstration of completion of outputs for the final May to June quarterly period under the agreed Ten Year Eradication Plan.
15. In accordance with the *Principles for Cost-sharing Arrangements*, Queensland will also maintain auditable records of costs and provide the following reports to all cost sharing parties, including the Commonwealth:
 - (a) financial expenditure forecast report for each quarter, at the beginning of each financial year
 - (b) annual acquittal of revenue and expenses at the end of each financial year.
16. Queensland will provide the Commonwealth with annual detailed financial expenditure reports demonstrating the activities that the brought forward funding provided for over the 2018-19 to 2020-21 financial years, the activities provided by the funding brought forward to support the 2021-22 annual work plan, and the activities provided by the funding brought forward to support the 2022-23 annual work plan.
17. An efficiency and a financial audit of the National Program will be undertaken every two years at a minimum or as requested by the Steering Committee. Scientific and operational reviews may also be requested by the Steering Committee.
18. Queensland will ensure that all recommendations arising from an efficiency or financial audit, or a scientific, operational review of the National Program, which are also endorsed by the Steering Committee, are incorporated into the annual work plan and reported against in all subsequent Quarterly Program reports.

PART 5: FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

19. The Commonwealth's agreed financial contribution for the National Program is outlined in Table 2 and payable in accordance with the milestones set out in Table 1. All payments are exclusive of GST.

Table 2: Estimated financial contributions

Year	Total Commonwealth Budgeted Liability
2017-18	\$19,000,000
2018-19	\$ 19,468,730
2019-20	\$ 31,687,577
2020-21	\$26,960,654
2021-22	\$36,284,238
2022-23	\$50,964,000
2023-24	\$6,216,982
2024-25	\$6,759,516
2025-26	\$7,315,434
2026-27	\$7,885,066
Total	\$212,542,197

20. The Commonwealth's financial contribution to the National Program may be revised in response to:
- (a) any reviews or audits of the Ten Year Eradication Plan;
 - (b) any change in the objectives of the Ten Year Eradication Plan;
 - (c) the National Program being 10 per cent or more under budget for three consecutive years;
 - (d) performance indicators, as set out in the Ten Year Plan, not consistently being met;
 - (e) other cost-sharing partners withdrawing from the National Program or substantially changing their financial contribution;
 - (f) evidence that re-profiled funding has not been applied as agreed by the Steering Committee and as set out in the Ten Year Plan (as amended); and
 - (g) other circumstances deemed appropriate by the Commonwealth.
21. In accordance with the *Principles for Cost-sharing arrangements*, should funding sources additional to existing cost sharing partners be secured, the Commonwealth's financial contribution may also be revised by a proportional amount. Additional funding sources or cost sharing partners include, but are not limited to:
- (a) industry contributions;
 - (b) public contributions;
 - (c) private organisation contributions;
 - (d) contributions from risk creators;
 - (e) local government contributions;
 - (f) income derived from National Program intellectual property; and
 - (g) any income received by Queensland as a direct result of National Program activities.
22. Should the program be terminated prior to the expected completion date (30 June 2028), in recognition of both Queensland's and the Commonwealth's increased financial contribution compared to other cost sharing partners over the 2018-19 to 2021-22 financial years, the Commonwealth retains the right to seek reimbursement, recognising that Queensland will seek re-payment from other cost share partners first to bring both the Commonwealth's and Queensland's proportionate share back in line with the agreed cost-sharing formula set out in the *Principles for Cost-sharing arrangements*.

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PART 6: SIGN OFF

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this Schedule as follows:

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by



Date

20/6/23

Signature

The Senator the Hon. Murray Watt
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Signed for and on behalf of the State of Queensland by



Date

29/06/2023

Signature

The Honourable Mark Furner MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries