

# National Browsing Ant Northern Territory Eradication Program

## PART 1: PRELIMINARIES

1. The purpose of this Schedule is to outline the delivery of agreed activities for the *National Browsing Ant Eradication Program – Northern Territory for 2021-22 to 2023-24* (the Eradication Program) to facilitate the Commonwealth's cost-shared contributions to the Northern Territory, the combatant state for this eradication program.
2. The Eradication Program is being conducted under the National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement (NEBRA) as agreed by the National Management Group (NMG) in December 2015.
3. The National Browsing Ant Program (NT) Response Plan Version 3.0 and associated 2021-22 to 2023-24 budget was approved by the NMG in accordance with the NEBRA on 24 August 2021.
4. If required, this Schedule will be reviewed in conjunction with reviews of the Eradication Program in accordance with the provisions of the NEBRA.

## PART 2: FORMALITIES

5. The Parties to this Schedule are the Commonwealth of Australia and the Northern Territory.
6. This Schedule will commence as soon as it is agreed between the Commonwealth and Northern Territory ministers with portfolio responsibility for national biosecurity emergency management. It will expire on 30 June 2024 or upon completion or termination of the Eradication Program as determined by the NMG, including endorsement of the final progress report and processing of final payments against milestones, unless terminated earlier or extended as agreed in writing by the Parties.

## PART 3: PROJECT ELEMENTS, MILESTONES AND PAYMENT SUMMARY

7. The project elements are described in the *National Browsing Ant Eradication Program – Northern Territory for 2021-22 to 2023-24*.
8. The Northern Territory is responsible for delivering the following elements in accordance with the Eradication Program:
  - (a) *Treatment*
    - i. The treatment plan is based on a cycle of two rounds of multiple treatment methods, and registered treatment products include Distance Plus Ant Bait and Fipronil.
  - (b) *Surveillance*
    - i. Surveillance will focus on the infested premises in Darwin and Kakadu, and those identified as at-risk by trace activities.
    - ii. Trace surveillance and targeted surveillance at truck stops, various sites within the mine and local Jabiru area will be undertaken in addition to surveillance at key sites within Kakadu National Park.
    - iii. Sentinel sites, where browsing ant may be introduced and spread through human assisted movement e.g. shipping containers and similar freight handling systems for oil, gas and mine industry (which are considered the most likely vector for moving browsing ant), will be identified and surveyed.
  - (c) *Community engagement*
    - i. Stakeholder packs will be developed and distributed to target stakeholders.
    - ii. Direct and tailored correspondence will be delivered to infested property landholders.
    - iii. Other communication and engagement will be delivered through a variety of materials with key risk businesses, schools and community groups.
  - (d) *Efficiency auditing*
    - i. An efficiency audit will be completed in 2022 to assess the program practices and provide advice on opportunities for efficiencies and operational strategy for the program.
  - (e) *Proof of freedom*
    - i. A proof of freedom report will be provided after surveillance has been completed.
9. To qualify for the associated payment the Northern Territory must meet the following milestones:

**Table 1: Milestones**

Milestones	Due date	Payment
<b>2021-22</b>		
Annual milestone report including financial expenditure reporting (2020-21) endorsed by the National Biosecurity Management Consultative Committee (NBMCC) demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above elements of the agreed Eradication Program. NMG agreement to the 2021-22 to 2023-24 eradication program.	February 2022	Up to \$1,041,404
<b>2022-23</b>		
Annual milestone report including financial expenditure reporting (2021-22) endorsed by the NBMCC demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above elements of the agreed Eradication Program.	February 2023	Up to \$696,509
<b>2023-24</b>		
Completed project report endorsed by the NBMCC demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above elements of the agreed Eradication Program.	October 2023.	Up to \$65,500

#### PART 4: REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

10. The Northern Territory will report against the agreed milestones as outlined in Table 1.
11. Circumstances may give rise to additional reporting being sought by the Commonwealth, NBMCC or NMG in accordance with the NEBRA.

#### PART 5: FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

12. The Commonwealth's agreed financial contribution for the Northern Territory Government for the Eradication 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 by year of activity**

	2021-22 (\$)	2022-23 (\$)	2023-24 (\$)	Total Budget
Commonwealth Liability to Northern Territory	\$1,041,404	\$696,509	\$65,500	\$1,803,412

## 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*

  
**Signature**

7.3.22  
**Date**

**The Honourable David Littleproud MP  
Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia**

*Signed for and on behalf of the Northern Territory by*

  
**Signature**

7.4.22  
**Date**

**The Honourable Nicole Manison MLA  
Minister for Agribusiness and Aquaculture**