

National Browsing Ant Northern Territory Eradication Program

PROJECT AGREEMENT FOR PEST AND DISEASE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROGRAMS

Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule	
Parties	Commonwealth Northern Territory
Duration	<p>This Schedule is expected to expire on 30 June 2026.</p> <p>For the purposes of Clause 10 of the <i>Project Agreement for Pest and Disease Preparedness Programs</i>, this Schedule also expires if the National Biosecurity Management Group (NBMG) determines that the <i>Lepisiota frauenfeldi</i> (Browsing Ant) Northern Territory Response Plan (the Response Plan) should be terminated early. However, in those circumstances this Schedule still allows for the processing of any payments for milestones met up to termination.</p>
Purpose	<p>This Schedule will support the delivery of the Response Plan which commenced in December 2015 to eradicate the exotic invasive ant species, <i>Lepisiota frauenfeldi</i>, Browsing Ant from the Northern Territory.</p> <p>The activities under this schedule, continues to build on work previously undertaken for the National Browsing Ant Northern Territory Eradication Program (the Program) between 2015-16 to 2022-23, with a further intensive strategy for 2023-24 to 2025-26.</p> <p>This schedule also allows for the payment of 2021-22 and 2022-23 contributions for activities completed under the previous version of the Response Plan. Accordingly, this Schedule varies and replaces <i>Schedule Q - National Browsing Ant Northern Territory Eradication Program</i>, which was executed in April 2022.</p>

Project Elements	<p>The Northern Territory will deliver the actions set out in the National Browsing Ant Northern Territory Eradication Program (the response plan): Version 4 (<i>the Response Plan</i>), which was approved by the NBMG on 8 August 2023.</p> <p>The project elements for the Eradication Program are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Treatment: Initial treatment plan based on multiple treatment methods has been revised to a spray treatment only. Additionally, preventative treatment measures will be deployed for areas identified with a detection confidence as low or medium risk. (b) Surveillance: Surveillance methods include odour detections dogs, luring, observation, and community reporting focusing on the infested premises in Darwin and Kakadu, taking into consideration factors such as weather, temperature, humidity, and the environment being surveyed. (c) Community engagement: Direct tailored correspondence will be delivered to infested property landholders. Other communication and engagement activities will be delivered through a variety of media and materials. (d) Science: Scientific and technical activities for diagnostics and treatment efficacy will be undertaken to support the eradication program and Proof of Freedom claims. (e) Containment: The response plan includes strategies such as movement controls, treatments, tracing, and surveillance activities, which are conducted in conjunction with extensive community engagement. (f) Policy and planning: Surveillance activities will be undertaken in accordance with the Northern Territory Plant Health Act. The Energy Resources Australia (ERA) mine site has multiple pieces of legislation that govern activities, in particular the <i>Atomic Energy Act 1953</i> and <i>Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011</i>. Restrictions apply to accessing certain areas or removal of items that pose a radiation or injury risk. National Browsing Ant Northern Territory Eradication Program is working with ERA. (g) Support services: The program will continue collaboration across government agencies and non-government organisations, traditional owners, industry, and community groups. Queensland Government will maintain a Browsing Ant colony and supply scent laden items to the Northern Territory for a fee (cost recovery).
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<p>Estimated financial contributions</p>	<p>The agreed maximum financial contribution for the National Browsing Ant Northern Territory Eradication Program is outlined in Table 1 and payable in accordance with the milestones set out in Table 2. All payments are exclusive of GST.</p> <p>The Commonwealth will provide an estimated total financial contribution to the States of \$3,057,912 in respect of this Schedule.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="398 534 1426 781"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="398 534 541 586">Table 1 (\$)</th><th data-bbox="636 534 732 586">2021-22</th><th data-bbox="747 534 843 586">2022-23</th><th data-bbox="859 534 954 586">2023-24</th><th data-bbox="970 534 1065 586">2024-25</th><th data-bbox="1081 534 1176 586">2025-26</th><th data-bbox="1303 534 1378 586">Total</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="398 601 636 781">Maximum Australian Government Contribution to State/ Territory</td><td data-bbox="636 601 732 781">\$715,356</td><td data-bbox="747 601 843 781">\$696,509</td><td data-bbox="859 601 954 781">\$815,508</td><td data-bbox="970 601 1065 781">\$564,550</td><td data-bbox="1081 601 1176 781">\$265,989</td><td data-bbox="1303 601 1378 781">\$3,057,912</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Note: this differs to financial year of payment. Total may not add due to rounding.</p>	Table 1 (\$)	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	Total	Maximum Australian Government Contribution to State/ Territory	\$715,356	\$696,509	\$815,508	\$564,550	\$265,989	\$3,057,912
Table 1 (\$)	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	Total									
Maximum Australian Government Contribution to State/ Territory	\$715,356	\$696,509	\$815,508	\$564,550	\$265,989	\$3,057,912									
<p>Additional terms</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Program will be conducted as a National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement (NEBRA) response. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. Reporting obligations are set out in Table 2, but circumstances may give rise to additional reporting being sought in accordance with the NEBRA arrangements. 2. Each party will contribute funding in accordance with the financial commitments approved by the NBMG on 8 August 2023. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1. Final contributions will be based on actual expenditure and determined by the custodian (Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) in accordance with the NEBRA and the Response Plan. 2.2. The Commonwealth's maximum potential payments are set out in the Table 2 milestones however, where applicable, will be adjusted to match the Commonwealth's share of actual expenditure as determined under additional term 2.1. 2.3. The Commonwealth Minister may, at their discretion, move all or part of an underspend against a milestone in a financial year to a milestone in another financial year. Such a circumstance may arise where the NBMG has agreed that the Response Plan can be varied to include additional cost-shared activities, or extend duration, without increasing the overall maximum contribution under this schedule. 														

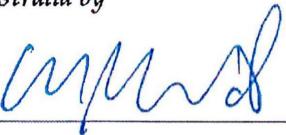
	<p>3. This Schedule will be reviewed in conjunction with reviews of the National Browsing Ant Northern Territory Eradication Program and decisions by the NBMG.</p>
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Table 2: Northern Territory – Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary

Output	Performance milestones	Report due	Payment
Implement strategy to eradicate the exotic invasive ant species, <i>Lepisiota frauenfeldi</i> browsing ant from the Northern Territory.	Milestone 1 – 2021-22 Annual progress report (2021-22) endorsed the National Biosecurity Management Consultative Committee (NBMCC) as demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above project elements of the Response Plan.	Submitted in June 2023	Up to \$715,356 subject to the additional terms.
	Milestone 2 – 2022-23 Annual progress report (2022-23) endorsed by the NBMCC as demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above project elements of the Response Plan.	March 2024	Up to \$696,509 subject to the additional terms.
	Milestone 3 – 2023-24 Annual progress report (2023-24) endorsed the NBMCC as demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above project elements of the Response Plan.	December 2024	Up to \$815,508 subject to the additional terms.
	Milestone 4 – 2024-25 Annual progress report (2024-25) endorsed by the NBMCC as demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above project elements of the Response Plan.	December 2025	Up to \$564,550 subject to the additional terms.
	Milestone 5 – 2025-26 Annual progress report (2025-26) endorsed the NBMCC as demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above project elements of the Response Plan. Or Final (Proof of Freedom) report endorsed by the NBMCC.	June 2026	Up to \$265,989 subject to the additional terms.

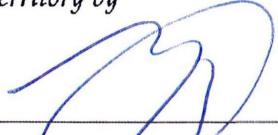
The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this schedule as follows:

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by


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

[Day] [Month] [Year] 5/2/24

Signed for and on behalf of the Northern Territory by


The Hon Mark Monaghan MLA
Minister for Agribusiness and Fisheries

[Day] [Month] [Year] 6/3/24