

## National Electric Ant Eradication Program

### PROJECT AGREEMENT FOR PEST AND DISEASE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROGRAMS

Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule	
Parties	Commonwealth Queensland
Duration	<p>This Schedule (B3) is expected to expire on 30 December 2029.</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 Management Group (NMG) determines that the National Electric Ant Response Plan (<i>the Response Plan</i>) 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 supports the delivery of the Response Plan to eradicate Electric Ants from Queensland.</p> <p>The <i>Electric Ant Eradication Response Plan 2024-2029</i> was agreed to on 29 January 2025.</p> <p>Activities under this revised schedule continue to build on work previously undertaken during <i>National Electric Ant Eradication Response Plans 2017-18 to 2021-22 (Response Plan v4.2)</i> and <i>2022-23 to 2023-24 (Response Plan v5.0)</i> while delivering a more intensive strategy spanning 5 years for 2024-25 to 2028-29 (<i>Response Plan v6.0C</i>).</p> <p>This Schedule (B3) replaces <i>Schedule B2 – National Electric Ant Eradication Program 2022-23 to 2023-24</i> signed in June 2023 which expired on 31 December 2024.</p>
Project Elements	<p>Queensland will deliver the actions set out in the <i>National Electric Ant Response Plan (the Response Plan)</i>, as approved by the NMG on 29 January 2025.</p> <p>The project elements for the Eradication Program are:</p> <p>(a) <b>Treatment:</b> Integration of precision aerial treatments for broadscale bait application through the use of drones and helicopters to expedite the on-ground hand-spreading bait regime.</p> <p>(b) <b>Surveillance:</b> Activities to support eradication efforts including infestation delineation and post treatment validation surveillance; proactive activities including regular inspections conducted by field teams and odour detection dogs of footpaths in high-risk populated areas, targeted surveillances; surveillance of sentinel sites, waste disposal sites and</p>

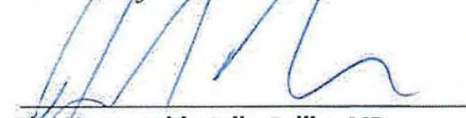
	<p>properties registered by the community for yard checks and properties selling plants interstate.</p> <p>(c) <b>Community engagement:</b> Social media campaigns promoting free yard checks in support of operational efforts; engaging stakeholders through community channels including local schools, community markets and events; building skills and capabilities with key stakeholders including landholders and local Indigenous rangers.</p> <p>(d) <b>Science:</b> Collaboration with TropWater (James Cook University) to develop water-based surveillance methods using eDNA and eRNA analysis to supplement proactive surveillance methodologies and proof of freedom activities.</p> <p>(e) <b>Containment:</b> Implementation of tailored movement controls and compliance actions to minimise risk of spread. Increased on-ground compliance officer presence to assist with monitoring, both within and outside each area in the restricted zone.</p> <p>(f) <b>Policy and planning:</b> Drones deployed in accordance with the <i>Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998</i>. Movement controls established under Section 128 of the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> and the application of baits conducted as per the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).</p> <p>(g) <b>Support services:</b> The program continues to collaborate with relevant states, national and international organisations including National Exotic Invasive Ant Scientific Advisory Group (SAG), Wet Tropics Management Authority's (WTMA) Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program (YCAEP). The program is supported by Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and collaborates with local government areas expanding activities through initiatives such as investigation of increased control measures.</p>																		
<p>Estimated financial contributions</p>	<p>The Commonwealth will provide an estimated total financial contribution to Queensland of up to \$22.66 million in respect of this Schedule (B3).</p> <p>The agreed maximum financial contribution for the National Electric Ant Eradication Program is outlined in Table 1 and payable in accordance with the milestones set out in Table 2.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="475 1644 1369 1863"> <thead> <tr> <th>Table 1 (\$ million)</th> <th>2025-26</th> <th>2026-27</th> <th>2027-28</th> <th>2028-29</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Australian Government</td> <td>8.52</td> <td>4.68</td> <td>4.65</td> <td>4.81</td> <td>22.66</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Maximum Australian Government Contribution to Qld</b></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>22.66</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Note:</b> Table 1 reflects financial year in which response activities are conducted and may differ to financial year of payment which is shown in table 2 below. All payments are exclusive of GST. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand and are outlined in full in table 2.</p>	Table 1 (\$ million)	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total	Australian Government	8.52	4.68	4.65	4.81	22.66	<b>Maximum Australian Government Contribution to Qld</b>					22.66
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Additional terms	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Program will be conducted as a National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement – like (NEBRA-like) response as agreed by the Agriculture Ministers’ Meeting (AMM) in September 2022. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1. Reporting obligations are set out in Table 2; however, circumstances may give rise to additional reporting being sought. Queensland will provide such additional reporting at the request of the Commonwealth as is reasonable.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Each party will contribute funding in accordance with the financial commitments as agreed by the Agriculture Ministers’ Meeting in September 2022. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1. The Commonwealth’s maximum potential payments are set out in Table 2. Milestones however, where applicable, may be adjusted to match the Commonwealth’s share of actual expenditure.</li> <li>2.2. The Commonwealth may, at its 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 NMG 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.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. This Schedule will be reassessed in conjunction with reviews of the National Electric Ant Eradication Program and decisions by the NMG.</li> </ol>
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Table 2: Queensland – Performance requirements, reporting, and payment summary			
Output	Performance milestones	Report due	Payment
Implementation of a strategy to find and eradicate all known electric ant infestations in Queensland, mitigating the risk of further spread.	<p><b>Milestone 1 – 2024-25</b></p> <p>Commonwealth acceptance of evidence of NMG agreement of the revised Response Plan 2024-29 and the associated budget and activities.</p> <p>Commonwealth acceptance of annual progress report (2023-24) endorsed by National Biosecurity Management Consultative Committee (NBMCC) as demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above elements of the Response Plan.</p>	August 2025	Up to \$3,857,255 subject to the additional terms.
	<p><b>Milestone 2 – 2025-26</b></p> <p>Commonwealth acceptance of annual progress report (2024-25) endorsed by NBMCC as demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the Project Elements of the Response Plan.</p>	December 2025	Up to \$4,668,928 subject to the additional terms.
	<p><b>Milestone 3 – 2026-27</b></p> <p>Commonwealth acceptance of annual progress report (2025-26) endorsed by NBMCC as demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the Project Elements of the Response Plan.</p>	December 2026	Up to \$4,676,627 subject to the additional terms.
	<p><b>Milestone 4 – 2027-28</b></p> <p>Commonwealth acceptance of annual progress report (2026-27) endorsed by NBMCC as demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the Project Elements of the Response Plan.</p>	December 2027	Up to \$4,649,602 subject to the additional terms.
	<p><b>Milestone 5 – 2028-29</b></p> <p>Commonwealth acceptance of annual progress report (2027-28) endorsed by NBMCC as demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the Project Elements of the Response Plan.</p>	December 2028	Up to \$4,810,319 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



**The Honourable Julie Collins MP**  
Minister for Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry

[Day] [Month] 2025  
12 December 2025

Signed for and on behalf of the State of Queensland by



**The Honourable Anthony Perrett MP**  
Minister for Primary Industries

[Day] [Month] 2025  
30/04/2026