

# National Tropical Weeds Eradication Program

## PART 1: PRELIMINARIES

1. The purpose of this schedule is to outline the delivery of agreed activities for the National Tropical Weeds Eradication Program from 2021-22 to 2023-24 (National Program) and to facilitate the Commonwealth's cost-shared contributions to Queensland, the combatant state for this eradication program.
2. The National Tropical Weeds Eradication Program is being conducted as a National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement-like (NEBRA-like) response as agreed by the Primary Industries Ministerial Council in 2009.
3. The emergency Response Plan for the Eradication of Tropical Weeds (*Miconia*, *Mikania* and *Limnocharis*) 2021-24 (the Response Plan) was approved by the National Management Group (NMG) on 23 June 2021.
4. This schedule will be reviewed in conjunction with reviews of the National Program.
5. This schedule continues schedule C for the National Tropical Weeds Eradication Program for 2018-19 to 2020-21 signed on 9 October 2019.

## PART 2: FORMALITIES

6. The Parties to this schedule are the Commonwealth of Australia and Queensland.
7. 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 2025 or upon completion or termination of the National 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

8. The project elements for the National Tropical Weeds Eradication Program are described in the Response Plan. Queensland is responsible for delivering the following elements in accordance with the Response Plan:
  - (a) *Program Management*
    - i. The Response Plan is coordinated through Biosecurity Queensland. A Program Leader provides central management and coordination of operational, surveillance, extension, research, compliance, evaluation, and reporting activities.
    - ii. A National Tropical Weeds Management Committee provides stakeholder oversight of the program and meets annually.

(b) *Surveillance and Treatment*

- i. The focus of the surveillance and treatment is to monitor for the presence or absence of the five target species, determine the extent of the infestation areas, and apply best practice methods to control plant populations.
- ii. Surveillance regimes for each of the species are based on available information on the following parameters:
  - a. time to reproductive maturity,
  - b. seed longevity,
  - c. potential dispersal vectors and pathways, and
  - d. the level of confidence that the survey technique will detect seedlings and mature plants
- iii. Treatment occurs through the destruction of target weed species through either manual removal or herbicide application and will be completed at a frequency that prevents the addition of fresh seed into the soil seedbank.
- iv. Surveillance and treatment operations are undertaken with collaborative resource contributions from a range of stakeholders, including Local Government and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife.
- v. A National Tropical Weeds Operational Group enables effective communication and collaboration between all stakeholders involved in National Tropical Weeds Eradication Program operational activities and meets annually.

(c) *Research*

- i. Research activities are necessary to provide accurate information on the control methods, local ecology, reproductive biology, seed bank dynamics, detection, and dispersal of the target species in invaded ecosystems.
- ii. Current and proposed biological research includes:
  - a. seed longevity, density and depth,
  - b. additional control measures and alternative detection methodologies including eDNA,
  - c. iv. Current and proposed eradication reporting research includes:
  - d. continuation of database analysis for reporting progress towards eradication and
  - e. refining the criteria for declaring infestations as eradicated.
- iii. New research areas are regularly identified by the program, researchers or during external reviews.

(d) *Community engagement*

- i. The focus of the community engagement is to engage the broader community to help identify any undetected plants and report. The activities include multimedia campaigns (including social media) increase community engagement in northern NSW, training workshops and updates and improvements to extension materials.
- ii. Deliver formalised MOUs with the key National Tropical Weeds Eradication Program stakeholders including: Local Government, Queensland Parks and Wildlife, and Wet Tropics Management Authority.

9. To qualify for the associated payment, Queensland must meet the following milestones:

**Table 1: Milestones**

Milestones	Due date	Payment
<b>2021-22</b>		
Annual progress report including financial expenditure reporting (2021-22) endorsed by the National Biosecurity Management Consultative Committee (NBMCC) as demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above project elements as per the endorsed Response Plan.	March 2023	Up to \$1,915,000
<b>2022-23</b>		
Annual progress report including financial expenditure reporting (2022-23) endorsed by the NBMCC as demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above project elements as per the endorsed Response Plan.	March 2024	Up to \$1,980,500
<b>2023-24</b>		
Annual progress report including financial expenditure reporting (2023-24) endorsed by the NBMCC as demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above project elements as per the endorsed Response Plan.	March 2025	Up to \$2,044,000

## PART 4: REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

10. Queensland will report against the agreed milestones as outlined in Table 1.
11. An independent review of the program may be undertaken in 2023-2024 and presented to the NBMCC for review and endorsement. The outcomes from the independent review, where endorsed by the NBMCC, will be incorporated into revised response plans for endorsement by the NMG. Independent external reviews of the program have occurred in 2006, 2010, 2013, 2017 and 2020.
12. The NBMCC will review progress to eradication for *Miconia nervosa* 12 months after the commencement of the Response Plan to ascertain whether it should remain a target species of the National Program.
13. Circumstances may give rise to additional reporting being sought by the Commonwealth, NBMCC or NMG in accordance with the NEBRA-like arrangements of the Response Plan.

## PART 5: FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

14. The Commonwealth's agreed financial contribution for the National Tropical Weeds 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\***

Jurisdiction	%	2021-2022 Milestone	2022-23 Milestone	2023-24 Milestone	Total
Australian Government	50	\$1,915,000	\$1,980,500	\$2,044,000	\$5,939,500

\*Note that these figures are for activities undertaken in the financial year described. Payments are made in the following financial year.

## 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**

**Date** 7.3.22

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

*Signed for and on behalf of the State of Queensland by*

  
**Signature**

**Date** 23/03/2022

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