



PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN

AREAS MANAGED BY QUEENSLAND PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

July 2003 – July 2008

Disclaimer:

While this document has been prepared with care it contains general information and does not profess to offer legal, professional or commercial advice. The Queensland Government accepts no liability for any external decisions or actions taken on the basis of this document. Persons external to the Environmental Protection Agency should satisfy themselves independently and by consulting their own professional advisors before embarking on any proposed course of action.

Purpose and scope

This document has been written to meet the obligations of Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* and State government policy. It also details the strategies and objectives developed by QPWS for pest management on the areas it manages.

This plan applies to all QPWS managed areas including:

- protected areas (tenured) managed under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*;
- State forests, timber reserves and forest reserves managed under the *Forestry Act 1959* (noting that a memorandum of understanding and operational guidelines exist with the Department of Primary Industries (Forestry) with respect to the management of areas used for timber production);
- other land held by the Department as reserved or freehold land; and
- land and water managed under the *Marine Parks Act 1982* (including the day-to-day management under the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Parks Act* (Commonwealth)).

Where leases, permits or other authorities involving an interest over QPWS managed areas exist, then the holders of such interest assume the role of an 'occupier'. As such, they have varying degrees of management control over the subject land and have a responsibility for pest management.

This plan is not a stand-alone document. To be effective, pest management must be linked across plans and strategies developed at all levels within and across jurisdictions. For QPWS, such plans and strategies may address individual pest species, pests in general, regional and/or reserve management and natural resource management regimes as a whole.

Links to State land pest management planning and other related planning and management processes are illustrated in Attachment I.

Background

Declared pests in Queensland are weed and pest animals that cause significant adverse economic, environmental and social impacts to the State. They reduce industry productivity, threaten environmentally significant areas or species, contribute to land degradation and impact on health, recreational use and social amenity. These impacts, and the cost of controlling the pests, place a large burden on communities.

The *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* and the Queensland Government Policy on the Management of Pests on State Lands place a responsibility on government agencies, including QPWS, to develop, adopt and implement strategies and plans to control pests on land and water bodies for which they have direct management responsibility. These agencies also have a responsibility to contribute to local government planning.

With responsibility for nearly 12 million hectares of land as well as large areas of marine and freshwater environs, pest management is a major component of the QPWS' custodial management role. Almost 4.4 million hectares of this land area is also subject to leasing or is under permit for grazing and other purposes.

Conservation of natural communities and the maintenance of natural integrity are prime responsibilities in the management of protected areas. In areas such as State forests, the sustainable use of timber and other natural resources may occur within appropriate management guidelines.

Over all areas managed by QPWS, the control of non-endemic species (both plants and animals) is an important component of management. Consideration of the use and management of surrounding lands is also an integral part of the management of those areas. Effective pest management cannot be achieved without integrated action across all land regardless of tenure or ownership.

Native animal species will be managed as problem animals as defined in the Queensland Pest Animal Strategy. Management goals for native problem animals include conservation of the species and control measures are usually directed at managing local impacts. This contrasts with the management goals for exotic pest animals, which are normally directed at some form of population control or eradication.

Any non-endemic species can potentially threaten or impact on natural environments. The degree of this impact is used by QPWS as a measure of the priority that is placed on the pest's control and/or eradication. The impact a pest species has or could have on surrounding land use will also be an important prioritisation measure.

This plan is directed at a broad range of matters related to pest management including control, eradication, quarantine (for example - weed seed protocols, transport of all plant and animal materials), rehabilitation and regeneration, monitoring, research, impact on natural integrity, impact on resource exploitation, impact on recreational use (both active and passive) and relationships with surrounding land use and the community.

In managing the impact of pests in Queensland, the cost effectiveness of any pest eradication or pest control program will be a major consideration for the whole community, including QPWS, neighbours, local government and other stakeholders.

In managing pests on areas under its control, QPWS strives to:

- effectively contribute to a co-operative statewide approach to pest management;
- effectively respond to its pest management obligations, subject to consideration of:
 - The provisions of relevant legislation and State and QPWS policies;
 - The principles of pest management for land (refer Attachment II);
 - An assessment of the risk posed by the pest including consideration of the location and extent of the pest occurrence and the probability of effective eradication or control;
 - Priorities for specific action and resources available for pest management; and
 - Best practice control techniques;
- protect the environment, natural and cultural integrity and natural processes;
- facilitate the management of native animals and plants that may become problem species;
- for leased areas or areas over which a permit or other authority has been issued;
 - appropriately condition such leases, permits or authorities to clearly prescribe pest management responsibilities; and
 - monitor and enforce such conditions;
- monitor and regulate any environmental impacts of pest animal and weed control methods.

The implementation of the strategies contained in this plan will provide a basis on which:

- a common vision for pest management can be articulated;
- performance can be monitored and reported;
- effectiveness of action plans can be optimised;
- resources can be negotiated;
- community support can be engendered;
- community, industry and local government confidence in the capacity and willingness of State land managers to participate in whole of community pest management programs can be improved;
- co-ordination and communication between State land agencies, particularly at the regional level, consistent with the Queensland Government Policy on the management of Pests on State Land can be improved; and
- informed decision making for sustainable, holistic management is undertaken.

Strategies

The following strategies provide a framework for achieving QPWS pest management objectives of:

- managing co-operatively the ecological, social and economic impacts of the current and potential pest animal and weed problems on QPWS managed areas; and
- ensuring pest management on QPWS managed areas is:
 - aligned with State government and departmental policies; and
 - properly planned and executed to produce tangible long-term outcomes.

1.0 Awareness and education

Responsibility

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| 1.1 | Establish and maintain clear points of contact for access to and dissemination of information to all stakeholders including staff. | Central Office/ Regions |
| 1.2 | Involve key internal staff in the development and review of departmental pest management policies, procedures and guidelines. | Central Office |
| 1.3 | Promote the QPWS Good Neighbour Policy and approach to pest management. | Central Office/ Regions |
| 1.4 | Provide high quality specific training for all staff involved in pest management. | Regions |

2.0 Information and data (distribution, abundance, actions, etc)

Responsibility

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|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2.1 | Implement the use of ParkInfo at all QPWS management centres as the standardised protocol for data collection, spatial recording and reporting of pest distribution by July 2003 and provide on-going enhancement. | Central Office |
| 2.2 | Map the distribution of all high priority pests and native problem species using ParkInfo, in particular significant environmental and/or declared pest species by July 2006. | Regions |
| 2.3 | Ensure staff have access to relevant and up-to-date technical information. | Central Office/ Regions |
| 2.4 | Develop and implement protocols for rapid assessment of emerging pest problems by December 2004. | Central Office/ Regions |

3.0 Communication

Responsibility

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| 3.1 | Maintain active representation on relevant statewide and regional land/pest management forums (e.g. Land Protection Council, Inter-Agency Pest Management Committee, State Land Pest Management Committee, Responsible Use of Managed Plants, Regional Natural Resource Management Committees etc) and working groups. | Central Office |
| 3.2 | Ensure stakeholders are kept informed of departmental strategies, policies and practices regarding QPWS pest management and proactively manage incorrect information or perceptions. | Central Office/ Regions |

| | Responsibility |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 3.3 Promote integrated approaches to pest management. | Central Office/ Regions |
| 3.4 Promote pest management obligations and issues with lessees, contractors and other users of QPWS managed lands. | Regions |
| 3.5 Proactively use media to communicate pest management strategies, initiatives and programs to the public. | Central Office/ Regions |
| 3.6 Undertake consultation with traditional owners before implementing control strategies. | Regions |

4.0 Planning

| | Responsibility |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 4.1 Incorporate the principles underpinning the maintenance of natural and cultural integrity into all QPWS pest management policies, procedures and practices. | Central Office |
| 4.2 Develop and implement a standard pest management system for adoption across QPWS managed areas by December 2005. | Central Office |
| 4.3 Actively promote pest management responsibilities in the departmental business planning process and negotiate achievable pest management targets in annual business plan agreements. | Central Office/ Regions |
| 4.4 Proactively use ParkInfo as a tool for all pest management planning. | Regions |
| 4.5 Develop QPWS pest management plans covering specific geographic areas or a particular species at local, district and regional scales to effectively operationalise the Statewide pest management plan. | Regions |
| 4.6 Contribute to the development and review of local government area pest management plans, including support in identification of environmentally sensitive areas, and regional pest strategy development. | Regions |
| 4.7 Incorporate pest management requirements into environmental management plans and contracts administered by QPWS. | Regions |

5.0 Maintenance of natural and cultural integrity

5.1 Pest prevention

| | Responsibility |
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| 5.1.1 Develop and maintain pest prevention policies and protocols to risk manage potential incursions onto QPWS managed lands including the prescription of appropriate management practices, terms and conditions for lessees and permittees. | Central Office |
| 5.1.2 Monitor likely points of pest entry into QPWS managed areas and implement rapid response control measures if pests are detected. | Regions |

| | Responsibility |
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| 5.1.3 In all activities conducted on QPWS managed areas, limit the level of physical disturbance and/or the presence of attractants that may increase the potential for pest plant or animal incursion. | Regions |
| 5.1.4 Develop and implement work practices that limit contamination of vehicles and machinery and where necessary, provide wash-down facilities at regional, district and management unit centres if there are no such facilities readily accessible in the local area. | Regions |
| 5.1.5 Develop and implement procedures to ensure that contractors and lessees/permittees adopt work practices that do not contribute to the introduction of new pest species or increase existing infestations. | Regions |
| 5.1.6 Wherever possible, use locally endemic plants in rehabilitation, stabilisation and development activities and any exploitative use of QPWS managed areas. | Regions |
| 5.1.7 Instil an attitude of pest responsibility into field staff as part of induction and training in pest identification, ecology and management techniques. | Regions |
| 5.1.8 Develop policy on appropriate plantings and holding of domestic animals, create an inventory of all plants occurring on QPWS work centres and residences and determine their potential weediness by July 2005. | Regions |
| 5.2 Management of existing pests | |
| | Responsibility |
| 5.2.1 Annually review statewide priorities for pest management on QPWS managed areas. | Central Office |
| 5.2.2 Develop and implement policies to guide effective pest management by QPWS employees and others with an interest on QPWS managed areas, such as lessees and permittees. | Central Office |
| 5.2.3 Implement pest control programs utilising best practice management including the early recognition of invasive species. | Regions |
| 5.2.4 Actively participate in co-ordinated pest control programs with other land managers. | Regions |
| 5.2.5 Monitor and enforce pest management responsibilities in relation to agreements with any other parties, in particular lessees and permittees, for the use of QPWS managed areas. | Regions |
| 6.0 Resources | |
| | Responsibility |
| 6.1 Identify and continue to foster opportunities for partnerships with other public and private sector land managers to ensure effective and efficient pest management, avoid duplication of effort and enable whole of government and/or regional priorities to be achieved. | Central Office/ Regions |
| 6.2 Provide adequate equipment, materials and time to control priority pests, with a focus on incursion management and continuing strategic programs. | Regions |

7.0 Monitoring and evaluation

| | | Responsibility |
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| 7.1 | Develop and implement a monitoring system for the environmental impact of pests, pest management activities and impacts on non-target species. | Central Office |
| 7.2 | Monitor, review and evaluate this statewide pest management plan every five years. | Central Office |
| 7.3 | Develop and monitor performance indicators to enable auditing of pest management practices. | Central Office/ Regions |
| 7.4 | Monitor the effectiveness of pest programs and practices to agreed standards and report annually. | Regions |
| 7.5 | Use ParkInfo as the system for managing all data on pest management programs. | Regions |

Key stakeholders

A broad range of external stakeholders has an interest in QPWS pest management. Key stakeholders include:

- all direct users of QPWS managed areas and their industry and interest groups. These groups include (in no particular order or priority) pastoralists, timber and other resource users (for tenures under both the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and *Forestry Act 1959*), mining and extractive industries, fishing and recreation groups;
- neighbouring landholders and their industry/interest groups;
- the conservation movement;
- State agencies and entities, in particular:
 - Department of Natural Resources and Mines.
 - Department of Primary Industries (Forestry).
 - Department of Main Roads.
 - Queensland Rail; and
- local governments.

In accordance with its Good Neighbour Policy, QPWS will co-operate with neighbouring landholders, government departments and local authorities to meet its legislative requirements for pest plant and animal control.

Compliance

QPWS will undertake pest management on the areas it manages in accordance with relevant legislation, State and departmental policies and the spirit of local government ordinances.

The QPWS also has a duty of care to take all steps necessary to prevent foreseeable environmental harm. The implementation and maintenance of a sustainable system of management to ensure ongoing compliance with pest management regulations will be a part of the compliance framework adopted by QPWS.

Refer Attachment IV for relevant legislation and policies.

Approved by:

Alan Feely

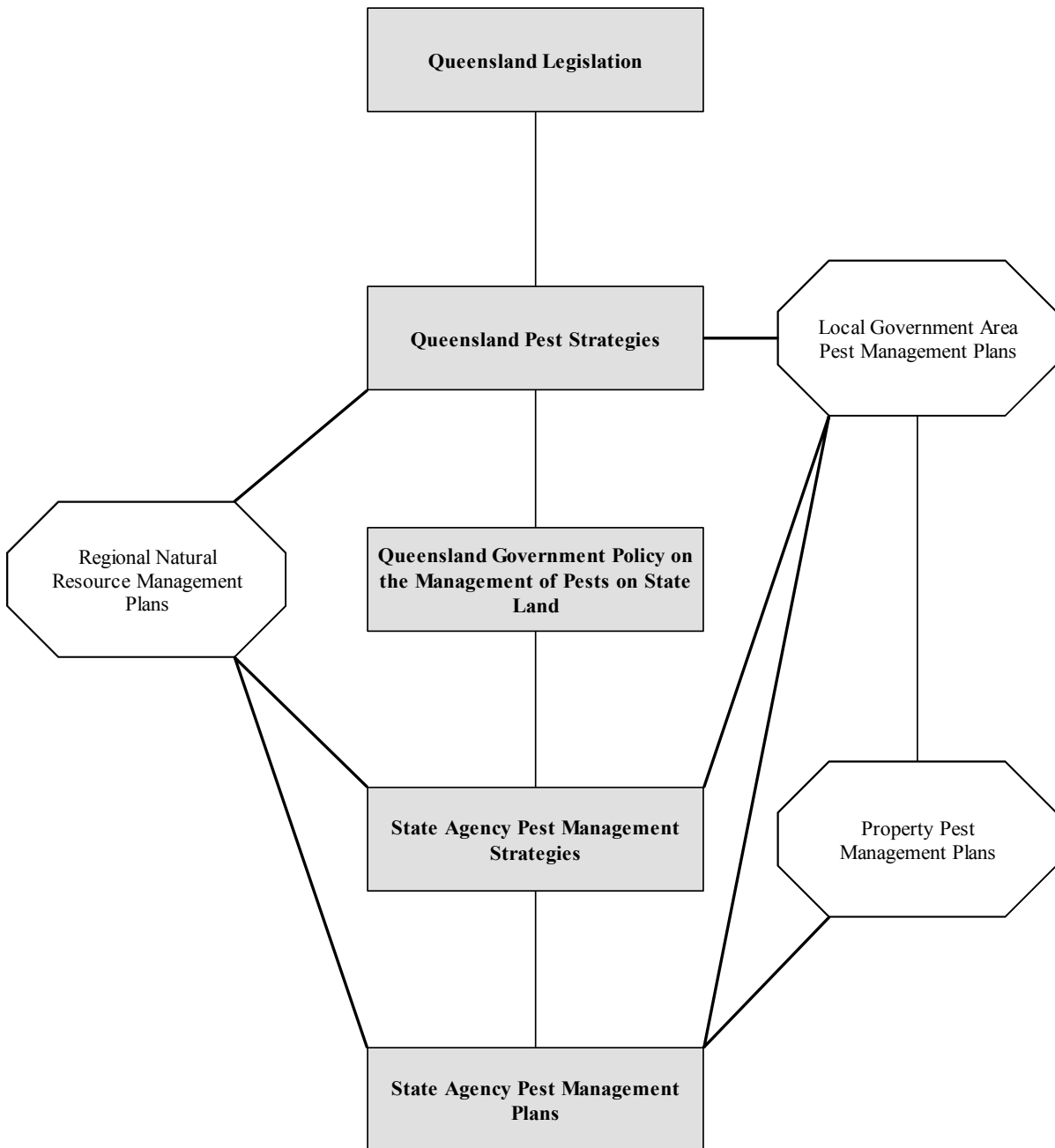
Signature

24 June 2003

Date

Alan Feely
Executive Director, Parks

ATTACHMENT 1: The State land pest management planning framework



Source: Queensland Government Policy on the Management of Pests on State Land

ATTACHMENT II: Principles of pest management for land

Integration

Pest management is an integral part of managing natural resources and agricultural systems.

Public awareness

Public awareness and knowledge of pests must be raised to increase the capacity and willingness of individuals to manage pests.

Commitment

Effective pest management requires a long-term commitment to pest management by the community, industry groups and government entities.

Consultation and partnership

Consultation and partnership arrangements between local communities, industry groups, State government agencies and local governments must be established to achieve a collaborative approach to pest management.

Planning

Pest management planning must be consistent at local, regional, State and national levels to ensure resources target priorities for pest management identified at each level.

Prevention

Preventative pest control is achieved by:

- a) preventing the spread of pests, and viable parts of pests, especially by human activity; and
- b) early detection and intervention to control pests.

Best practice

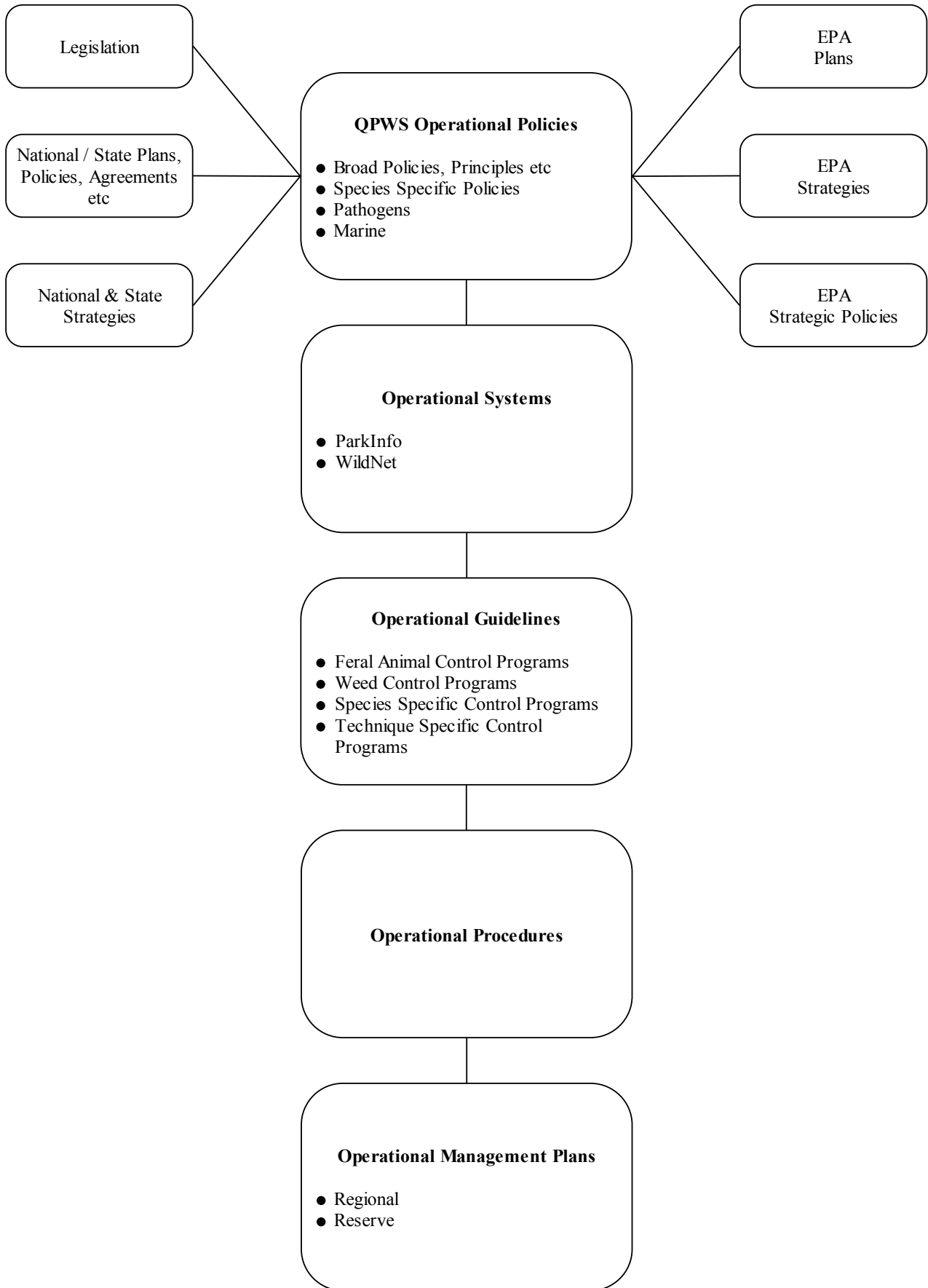
Pest management must be based on ecologically and socially responsible pest management practices that protect the environment and the productive capacity of natural resources.

Improvement

Research about pests, and regular monitoring and evaluation of pest control activities, is necessary to improve pest management practices.

Source: Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002

Attachment III: QPWS Pest Management Framework



Attachment IV: Relevant legislation and policies

Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002

An Act about the management of particular pests on land and the management of the stock route network, and for other purposes.

This Act provides laws for the management and control of certain plants and animals, the prohibition and regulation of the introduction and spread of certain plants and the introduction, spread and keeping of certain animals, the establishment of sufficient fences for the purposes of preventing the ingress into the pastoral and agricultural areas of the state of certain animals, the management and control of stock routes and reserves for travelling stock and for incidental and other purposes.

Environmental Protection Act 1994

An Act about the protection of Queensland's environment.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

A Commonwealth Act relating to the protection of the environment and the conservation of biodiversity and for related purposes.

Nature Conservation Act 1992

An Act about the conservation of nature. It allows for the dedication of protected areas, and for the management of protected areas and forest reserves.

Marine Parks Act 1982

An Act to provide for the setting apart of tidal lands and tidal waters as marine parks and for related purposes.

Forestry Act 1959

An Act to provide for forest reservations, the management, silvicultural treatment and protection of State forests, and the sale and disposal of forest products and quarry material, the property of the Crown on State forests, timber reserves and on other lands, the management and protection of forest reserves; and for other purposes.

Local Government Act 1993

An Act to provide for local government and for related purposes.

Animal Care and Protection Act 2001

An Act to provide for the responsible care and use of animals and to protect animals from cruelty, and for other purposes.

QPWS Master Plan Strategy – Protecting Natural Integrity

A strategy to guide regional operations and to improve the level of natural resource management on protected areas with respect to ensuring the protection of ecological integrity and cultural values.

National Forest Policy Statement 1992

A statement outlining agreed objectives and policies for the future of Australia's public and private forests.

Qld Government Policy on the Management of Pests on State Land

A policy aimed at ensuring that Government agencies with major landholding responsibilities develop, adopt and implement agency strategies and management plans for the control of pests on land and water bodies for which they have direct management responsibility.

This includes Queensland weed and pest management strategies.

QPWS Good Neighbour Policy

A policy to provide for co-operation with neighbours and local communities to ensure that negative impacts from actions, activities or management of QPWS managed areas are minimised.

Attachment V: Glossary of terms

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| Animal | Any member of the animal kingdom, other than human and whether dead or alive including any amphibian, bird, coral, fish, invertebrate, mammal or reptile and the whole or any part of the progeny, larvae, pupae, eggs or genetic or reproductive material of an animal and the carcass or another part of an animal. |
| Control | To destroy; or take such measures as are approved to reduce pest numbers, distributions or spread; or do such acts, matters and things for the management and regulation of the movement, numbers and distribution of those pests as are set out in a management program having effect in the area in which those pests are situated and applying to pests of that class. |
| Declared pest | A live animal or plant declared to be a declared pest under section 36 or 37(2) of the <i>Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002</i> , including reproductive material of the animal or plant. |
| Declared pest animal | An animal that is a declared pest. |
| Declared pest plant | A plant that is a declared pest. |
| Environmental harm | Any adverse or potentially adverse effect (whether temporary or permanent and of whatever magnitude, duration or frequency) on an environmental value (as defined in the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>). |
| Forest reserve | An area dedicated as a forest reserve under section 70C of the <i>Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2000</i> , the dedication for which has not been revoked under section 70E of that Act. Forest Reserve is managed under the <i>Forestry Act 1959</i> and associated regulations. |
| Local eradication | For an animal or plant, its removal or destruction from an individual parcel of land or other particular area. |
| Native wildlife | Any taxon or species of wildlife indigenous to Australia. |
| Natural integrity | The condition of an ecosystem where biological diversity and ecosystem processes are optimal and are likely to persist. |
| Plant | A member of the plant kingdom, other than a protected plant under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> , including all or any part of the flowers, seeds or genetic or reproductive material of the plant. |
| Protected area | An area dedicated and managed under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> or an area identified under a conservation plan under that Act as a critical habitat or area of major interest. |
| QPWS managed areas | QPWS managed areas include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protected areas managed under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>; • State forests, forest reserves and other lands managed under the <i>Forestry Act 1959</i>; and • other areas over which QPWS has control or trusteeship and has an obligation for conservation and/or management. |
| State forest | An area declared and managed under the <i>Forestry Act 1959</i> as a State forest. |
| Timber reserve | An area declared and managed under the <i>Forestry Act 1959</i> as a timber reserve |
| Wildlife | Any taxon or species of an animal, plant, protista, procaryote or virus. |