Strategic pest management: controlling and managing weeds and pests in the Mackay Whitsunday region (feral pig management)

Project summary

Proponent: Reef Catchments (Mackay Whitsunday Isaac) Ltd

Value: $162,209

Project duration: 1 October 2013 – 30 June 2016

Project description

This project will control feral pigs that impact on high quality agricultural land and environmental assets within the Mackay Whitsunday region. Feral pigs have a significant negative impact in the region and are considered to be one of the highest priority pests under the Mackay Regional Pest Management Plan and state government legislation.

This project will deliver on-ground control activities in conjunction with Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association, Whitsunday Catchment Landcare, Whitsunday Regional Council and Mackay Regional Council. In-kind support will be provided by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Cane Growers Inc. and the Mackay Regional Pest Management Group.

This project will cover two areas totalling 50,000 hectares—the Rocky Dam Creek and Carmilla Creek Catchments, the Gregory River Catchment and Whitsunday Coast Catchment.

Both project locations include significant agricultural land that includes highly productive sugar cane land. These areas also contain highly important wetlands and associated habitats, in particular Tedlands Wetlands and the Goorganga Wetlands Complex. The control of feral pigs will reduce the economic impact to graziers and sugar cane growers through the large scale efficient control program and remove the significant threat to the region’s most important wetlands.

The project will undertake the following activities:

- aerial baiting
- aerial shooting
- trapping
- ground baiting
- training landholders in pig trapping.
Project outcomes

Long-term outcomes (5-10 years)

- Priority landscapes have improved resilience to weed and pest impacts.
- The condition, physical stability and resilience of the natural resource base for agriculture is protected and improved to secure and increase resource availability and productivity.
- The condition, physical stability and resilience of waterways, wetlands and the Great Barrier Reef lagoon is protected and maintained.

Intermediate outcomes (3-5 years)

- The detrimental economic, social and environmental impacts from weeds and pests are reduced.
- Reduced impact and spread of established feral pig incursions at identified high priority sites across 50,000 hectares.
- Capacity building communication activities such as displays, fact sheets and the regional pest management trailer will target the general community and industries and communicate the latest information on strategic pest management activities.
- Best management practices and innovative technologies are more widespread and enduring in strategic areas to reduce the impact of pests and weeds.

Further information

For further information on the ‘Strategic pest management: controlling and managing weeds and pests in the Mackay Whitsunday region (feral pig management)’ project, please contact Reef Catchments (Mackay Whitsunday Isaac) Ltd.