Quarterly report No.2
October–December, 2022–23

Report to: NFAEP National Management Group
Prepared by: Program Office

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Fire Ant Eradication
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Background

This quarterly report provides information about the National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program (NRIFAEP) progress from 1 October–31 to December 2022, against the new key performance indicators (KPIs) outlined in the approved work plan for 2022–23 (the work plan).

A new strategy and response plan (2023–27) (the response plan) have been prepared and will be considered by all state and territory agriculture ministers in 2023. New strategic monitoring and evaluation measures and a project risk register will be developed as part of the eradication strategy.

Progress against key performance indicators

Progress against NRIFAEP KPIs is summarised in Table 1. Where individual activities are scheduled and finalised across the year, progress reporting may not be applicable to each quarter – for example, complete treatment in Quarterly Report 2 (Q2).

Table 1: Progress against KPIs traffic light report (31 December 2022)

Status	Key performance indicator	Target	Progress
Strategic goal (by 2027) **Foster public engagement and participation in fire ant responses in all affected areas**			
Waiting for data	An increase in percentage of households within the containment and eradication areas that disclose they look for fire ants in targeted surveys.	A 10% increase on 2021–22 survey results.	• The baseline for this KPI was measured in April 2022 with 64% of people in eradication and containment areas indicating they had checked their yards for fire ants. • The 2022–23 KPI target is 74%, there was no research conducted by the NRIFAEP during this reporting period. This KPI will be measure in the next round of market research which is scheduled for May 2023. Results will be available in June/July 2023
Strategic goal (by 2027) **Prevent the spread of fire ants beyond their current extent in Australia**			
On track	Total number of unique ha surveyed for fire ants in eradication and containment areas by remote sensing surveillance (RSS) or ground surveillance.	Minimum of 45,000 ha of land is surveyed.	• 25,564 unique ha of land was surveyed via remote sensing from 1 July–31 December 2022. • 9,040 unique ha was surveyed by ground surveillance (field and odour detection dog teams) during the same period.

Status	Key performance indicator	Target	Progress
			• The NRIFAEP is on track for the treatment target of 150,000, however theses will not be unique ha. Planned eradication treatment (300,000–315,000 ha) received more than 1 round.
On track	Evidence of a reproductively viable fire ant queen detected beyond of the outer limits of the containment area.	Zero detections.	There were no fire ant detections beyond the outer limits of the containment area during Q2.
On track	Response time to treat fire ants detected within the containment area.	All suitable habitat within 500 m of a fire ant outbreak within the containment area and outside the current treatment area is treated within 31 days of a confirmed fire ant detection.	• Six fire ant detections were made outside of planned treatment areas within the containment area during Q2. • All nests were destroyed within 31 days. • All nests were destroyed immediately upon detection and insect growth regulator treatment on all suitable habitat out to 500 m from the nests was applied within 31 days.
Waiting for data	Awareness of fire ant biosecurity zones that restrict the movement of fire ant carriers.	At least 80% of industry is fully aware of fire ant biosecurity zones that restrict the movement of fire ant carriers.	• The baseline for this KPI was measured in April 2022 with 71% fully aware of fire ant biosecurity zones. • The 2022–23 KPI target is 80%. This KPI will be measure in our next round of market research which is scheduled for May 2023.
Strategic goal (by 2027) **Suppress fire ants in all infested areas**			
Monitoring	Total number of unique ha of land receiving at least 1 round of treatment in the eradication area (379,000 ha).	One round of planned treatment completed across 150,000 unique hectares of land.	• The treatment season began 1 September and 134,505 ha have received 1 round since treatment season began. • The NRIFAEP is on track for the treatment target of 150,000 ha, however these will not be unique ha. Planned eradication treatment of 300,000–315,000 ha as the total of all the rounds of the eradication treatment areas on 31

Status	Key performance indicator	Target	Progress
			December was 315,000 ha. This ranges from 95–100% completion.
Monitoring	Total number of unique ha of land receiving at least 1 round of treatment in the containment area (205,000 ha).	One round of planned treatment completed across at least 36,000 unique ha of land.	• 26,134 ha in the Containment area have received 1 round. This is on track for delivery of treatment targets under the work plan.
Strategic goal (by 2027) **Achieve and prove absence of fire ants from targeted areas through eradication treatment and clearance surveillance**			
Off track	Total number of unique ha of land receiving 3 rounds of treatment in the Eradication area.	3 rounds of planned treatment across at least 150,000 ha.	• No sites have received 3 rounds of treatment in Q2 as it is early in the treatment season. It is also unlikely 3 rounds over 150 000 ha will be achieved given cuts to the treatment budget and aerial delays due to contract negotiations.
Waiting on data	Per cent of suitable habitat that was planned for, but not treated (e.g. treatment gaps).	Less than 2% gaps in suitable habitat that was planned to be treated.	• Treatment gaps can occur due to cropping cycles and entry refusals, that can lead to applying enforced entry provisions. • At the completion of the first round of treatment 1.8% of suitable habitat remained untreated. • Entry refusals accounted for the biggest portion of the gaps, followed by cropping. • The NRIFAEP is working with landowners to address their concerns and will treat cropping land when paddocks are fallow.

Summary of treatment

The treatment season commenced on 5 September 2022 and is planned to finish in June 2023. See Appendix 1 – Treatment round 1 (1 October–31 December 2022).

Figure 1 displays planned and achieved treatment progress for the 2022–23 season and does not include responsive treatment activities. The graph displays completed treatment to date and shows that the NRIFAEP has not achieved planned treatment targets for the year to date. This was due to unfavourable weather conditions, including rainfall and high winds, and due to procurement processes causing aerial operations to cease during November 2022.

The treatment plan will be reviewed in Q3 to determine operational feasibility of completion as originally planned.

Figure 1: Planned treatment progress against achieved (ha)

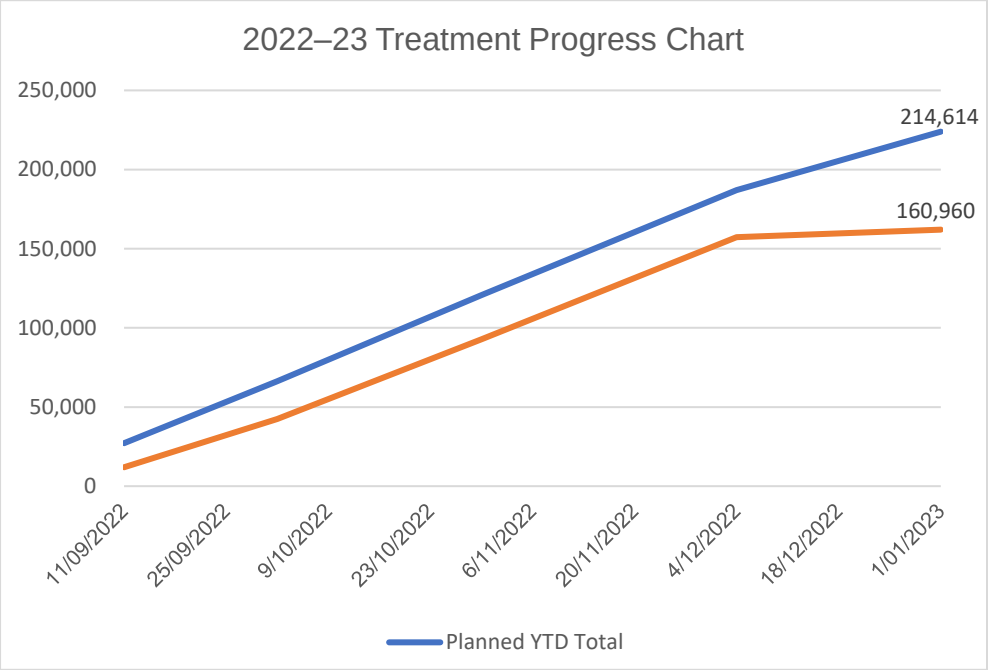


Table 2 outlines the numerical values of planned and actual treatment progress broken into treatment area for the reporting period. Eradication area 1, and polygyne/bait trials experienced reductions to the treatment plan due to budget constraints. Approval was granted in November 2022.

Table 2: Planned and responsive treatment progress (31 December 2022)

Treatment area	Planned ha	Actual ha	% Completed
Containment area 1	44,500**	0	0%
Containment area 2	61,650	19,606	32%
Containment area 3	15,900	4,221	27%

Treatment area	Planned ha	Actual ha	% Completed
Eradication area 1	276,000**	110,382	32%
Eradication area 2	34,750	16,475	47%
Eradication area 3	4,200	4,206	100%
Outbreak area 1	16,500	4,893	30%
Outbreak area 2	22,000	0	0%
Outbreak area 3	11,500	0	0%
Polygyne/bait trials	26,850**	1,177	4%
Responsive	5,000	3,897*	78%
Total	**518,850****	**164,857**	**27%**

Summary of surveillance

The winter surveillance season commenced in late June 2022 and concluded during September 2022. Field teams continued undertaking planned surveillance when ground conditions were not suitable for treatment.

Planned ground surveillance is slightly ahead of the planned target for end of December 2022. NRIFAEP has prioritised resources to ensure targets are achieved by the end of the financial year and will continue tasking field teams with surveillance activities when ground conditions are not suitable for treatment activities. See Figure 2, Table 3, and Appendix 2 – Planned and responsive surveillance activity (1 October–31 December 2022) for more detailed information.

Figure 2: Planned surveillance progress by field teams against schedule (31 December 2022)

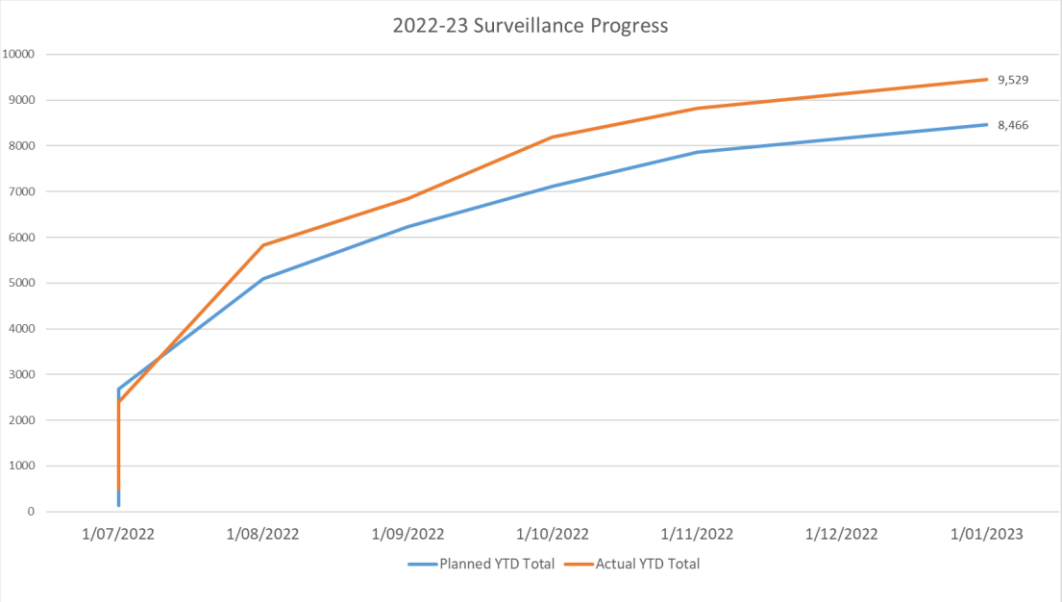


Table 3 outlines the numerical values of planned and actual treatment progress broken into treatment area for the reporting period. The targeted surveillance area includes:

- planned surveillance for outbreak control of previous season's detections of importance (500 m from detection)
- targeted sites out to 2 km for new detections during 2022–23
- targeted surveillance of locations flooded during 2022
- targeting of monitoring sites within the pre–eradication area.

The responsive surveillance area includes an allocation for delineation surveillance of new outbreak control detections.

Table 3: Surveillance progress planned and responsive year to date (31 December 2022)

Surveillance Area	Planned ha	Progress actual ha	Progress % completed
Clearance	3,350	2,855	85%
Targeted	7,050	3,356	48%
Responsive	5,000	3,224	64%
Odour dog detection surveillance	500	94	19%
Total	**15,900**	**9,529**	**60%**

No aerial image capturing using remote sensing surveillance (RSS) technology occurred in Q2. The 2022–23 RSS ran from May until the end of September 2022. RSS captured imagery from areas bordering planned treatment areas extending through to the containment area boundary. This strategy intended to assist prioritising risk areas for ground surveillance and to identify any residual infestation within previous planned treatment areas.

Nests were confirmed by field teams during RSS validation activities on 47 sites at locations where infestation was previously unknown. Remote sensing validation by field teams has been conducted on more than 2,700 sites since remote sensing ground validation began in June.

Detections of importance

During Q2, detections of importance (DOI) continue to be a major concern for the NRIFAEP's eradication efforts, resulting in the development of an alternative treatment approach under the proposed eradication strategy as detailed in Table 4. See Appendix 3 – Detections of importance (1 October–31 December 2022).

Table 4: Fire ant detections of importance

Type	No.	No. detections receiving planned treatment
Detection beyond the containment boundary	0	0
Containment area	36	26
Eradication area	149	132
Serious outbreaks	185	159

Serious outbreaks

NRIFAEP confirmed one serious outbreak in Carrara and Worongary on the Gold Coast in Q2 (included in the containment area figure above). During November 2022, 45 nests were detected on a recently developed industrial estate that is located outside the fire ant biosecurity zones. This detection was a risk to the NRIFAEP, being approximately 4.7 km south of the closest previous known detection in Nerang. NRIFAEP has initiated the process to review the fire ant biosecurity zones because of this detection. Compliance investigations determined that all traced movements of fire ant carriers followed the *Biosecurity Regulation 2016*, despite no movement controls being in place outside the fire ant biosecurity zones.

Genetic analysis has found no strong relationship links. Further testing will be undertaken to see if a relationship can be established. A multimedia communication plan was implemented on 18 November 2022, starting with roadside signage being installed in key locations, and a social media campaign targeting the local community. The plan will ensure landowners in the area are made aware of the infestation and remind them of their general biosecurity obligation (GBO).

All nests were destroyed, and the area received a broadscale treatment and surveillance out to 500 m from the nests, in keeping with NRIFAEP protocols.

Stakeholder mobilisation

Raising stakeholder awareness

In Q2, NRIFAEP focused on empowering communities to look for and report fire ants and let the NRIFAEP's treatment teams in if they required access. Activities included localised engagement in treatment areas and broadscale advertising in sections of South East Queensland. Website traffic continues to grow as does the number of people completing fire ant training.

Primary communication channels

Primary communication channels used to engage with stakeholders, including trends across quarters.

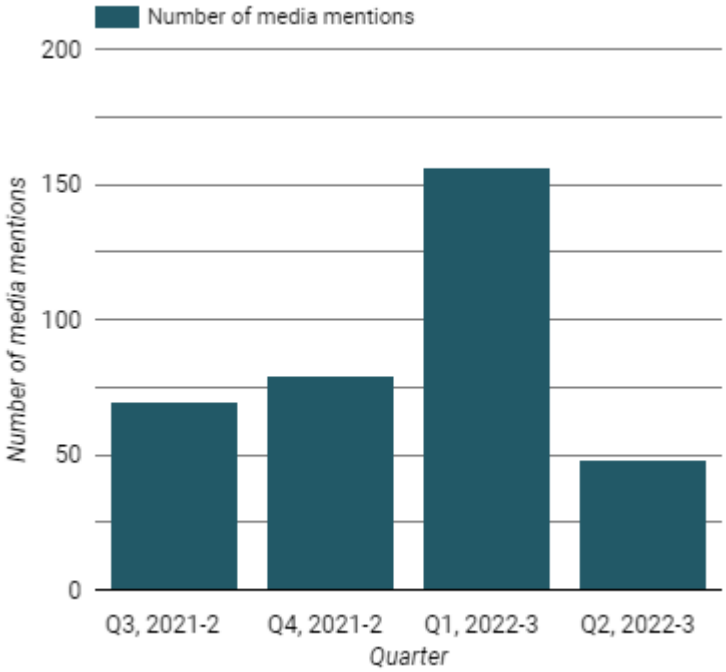
Media stories

The following media stories mentioned the fire ant programs:

- A total of 48 news media stories mentioned NRIFAEP or fire eradication this quarter, a drop of nearly 70% from the Q1 result.
- While there was a large decrease from Q1, the number of mentions was only slightly lower than our average quarterly result.
- Most of the media stories published had a neutral sentiment (98%), with just one story deemed negative. The stories included discussion about continued community angst NRIFAEP’s planned treatment area, Senate estimates and free fire ant bait being given to Ipswich residents.

Figure 3 provides a graphical depiction of the media stories mentioning the fire ant programs.

Figure 3: Media stories



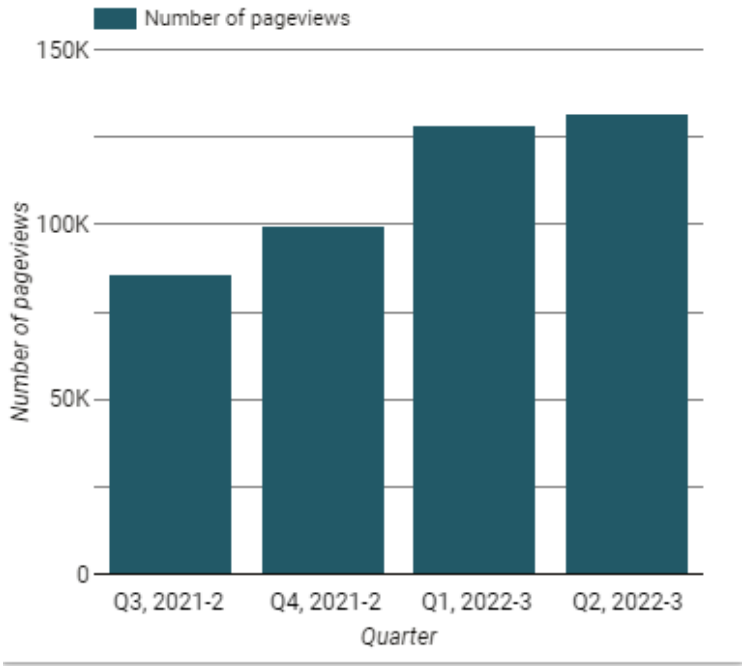
Website views

The following website page views (fireants.org.au) have been recorded during the reporting period:

- Traffic on NRIFAEP's website fireants.org.au continues to grow, with 132,005 pageviews recorded in the quarter.
- This quarter, we passed half a million lifetime pageviews on our website, rounding the year out with 519,292.
- Most visitors are using a mobile (64%) or tablet device (5.5%) to navigate our website – spending an average of 1.16 minutes online.
- Social media advertising continues to drive most traffic (38%) – up 4% on last quarter.
- The number of people navigating to our website from Google remains steady at 15%.

Figure 4 provides a graphical depiction of the website page view of the fire ant programs.

Figure 4: Website page views – fireants.org.au



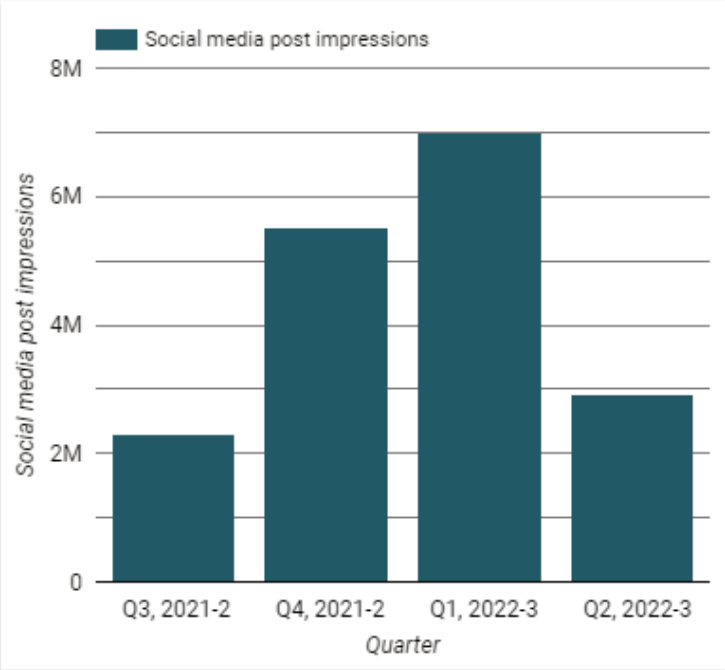
Social media

The following social media reaches have occurred during the reporting period:

- Social media reach decreased this quarter, but is still very large with almost 3 million post impressions. A post impression is recorded when a social media post is displayed in a personal social media feed. An individual may see multiple posts, or a post multiple times.
- Social media advertising cost $27,560 this quarter and resulted in almost 34,000 people clicking links in our posts seeking additional information.
- The decrease is related to lower social media advertising in this period, as compared to the previous 2 quarters. Social media reach is expected to increase again next quarter with new social media advertising planned.

Figure 5 provides a graphical depiction of the social media reaches for the fire ant programs.

Figure 5: Social media reach



Additional communication material

The following additional communication materials have been utilised to raise awareness:

- More than 280,000 direct mail pieces were delivered across South East Queensland in Q2. Communication was also sent to residents following the DOI in Carrara and Worongary.
- 19 electronic newsletters were sent to external stakeholders in the form of our monthly newsletter, and general community and industry notifications in Quarter 2. Overall, 56,064 people received the communication with 33,540 (60%) opening or reading the message.

Building support and empowering stakeholders

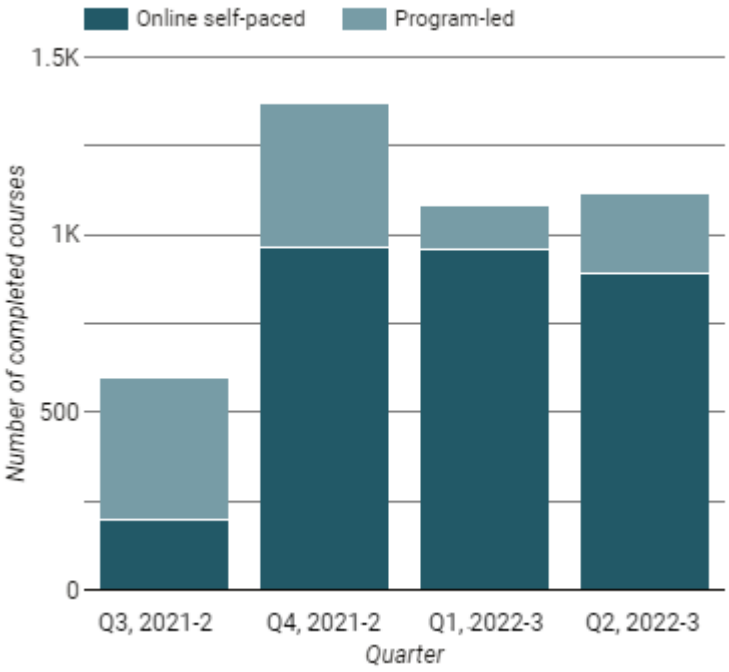
Stakeholder training status

Figure 6 Stakeholder fire ant awareness training, indicates that:

- A total of 892 people undertook one of the modules offered in online self-paced training this quarter, with 638 people completing the workplaces training module and 223 people completing the course for residents. The new pest manager training module was launched in November with a total of 31 participants undertaking the session in November and December.
- The overall satisfaction rating of the online courses rated at 4.45 out of 5 this quarter. This is consistent with previous quarters.

- The number of attendees in NRIFAEP led training sessions increased this quarter due to the changes in the fire ant biosecurity zones to include Moreton Bay Regional Council area. A total of 8 training sessions were delivered in person to 187 council officers.
- Regular monthly training sessions delivered through MS Teams was discontinued in December due to low attendance. The October and November 2022 sessions were delivered to only 9 and 10 participants respectively.

Figure 6: Stakeholder fire ant awareness training

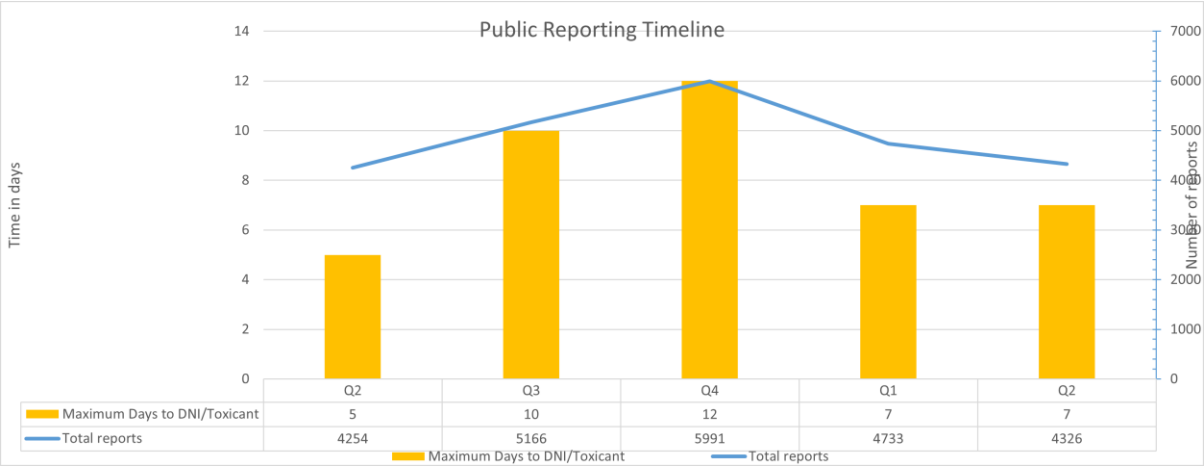


Community reports of fire ants

Figure 7 illustrates to maximum number of days from public reports to direct nest injection (DNI). The graph illustrates that:

- There were 4,733 public reports of suspected fire ants in Q2, a decrease of 1,258 (21%) from the previous quarter.
- The maximum days to respond to public reports was 7 days.

Figure 7: Public reports and maximum days to DNI



Compliance

Through various processes such as field inspections, compliance inspections, and paying for business data, NRIFAEP identified businesses which may not be compliant with Queensland biosecurity regulations in relation to the movement high risk fire ant carrier products. These are shown Table 5.

The compliance team prioritised industries based on their level of risk of potential movement of fire ants. Focus continued the hay and construction sectors.

During this period there were only 4 compliance officers conducting audits. A new approach was introduced to increase awareness of the fire ant biosecurity zones.

Table 5: High risk industry audits – numbers compliant vs. non-compliant

High risk industry	No. audits	% non–compliant	Outcome
Hay	56	26%	• Biosecurity Orders issued for non-compliance with the regulation. Orders were issued due to incorrect storage and process, and as the NRIFAEP was not able to gauge compliance as the client was refusing entry. This was resolved with communication and the client was found compliant with the regulation. • Advisory Notices issued to hay producers and sellers for not storing hay in compliance with Section 71 of the Biosecurity Regulation 2016. All producers worked with compliance to rectify non-compliances.
Earthmoving	40	7.5%	Biosecurity Orders issued as company failed to discharge their general biosecurity obligation.
Civil construction and builders	97	Nil	Nil

High risk industry	No. audits	% non–compliant	Outcome
Landscaping supplier (potted plants)	13	23%	Advisory Notices issued for not drenching potted plants and not storing plants in compliance with Section 71 of the Biosecurity Regulation 2016.
Quarry	4	25%	Biosecurity Order issued for not following section 71A of the Biosecurity Regulation 2016.
Local council	4	Nil	Nil.
Waste management	7	14%	Advisory Notice issued as client did not keep adequate records. Client worked with compliance to rectify.
Produce agent	5	20%	Advisory Notice issued due to inadequate chemical application. Client is not compliant.
Nursery/potted plants	3	Nil	Nil.
Turf	1	100%	Advisory Notice issued for treating in accordance with the bifenthrin permit. Transition organised.
Total	**230**	**10%**	**100% of businesses audited are now compliant.**

Clearance and proof of freedom strategy

The Proof of freedom strategy is currently being updated to reflect feedback from the National Steering Committee, which has recommended the strategy be independently assessed before final endorsement. The assessment is expected to take place early in Quarter 3. Furthermore, the expectations for clearance of local areas and proof of freedom are being adjusted based on the possibility of a new overall NRIFAEP response strategy. Conclusions and recommendations from the Proof of freedom strategy analyses are being directly incorporated into several components of the draft response strategies (e.g. ‘sentinel’ surveillance protocols and clearance protocols).

Research and innovation

An externally conducted feasibility study found that using remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) to complement the NRIFAEP’s current treatment and surveillance methods is both feasible and viable. The study reviewed the activities conducted by the NRIFAEP and presented drone technology types that could be used within the NRIFAEP. The study also provided guidance on meeting Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) regulations and possible deployment pathways.

Planning was well underway for a proof-of-concept demonstration for both treatment and surveillance, which is scheduled in early in 2023. The goal is to test several platforms and gain hard data on the efficiency and capabilities of RPA performing NRIFAEP specific tasks. This demonstration will conclude the discovery phase of the project and will inform actions to be taken as part of the project’s pilot phase. Results of this will be provided in Quarter 3.

Assessment of risk register

Risk management

Risks to the NRIFAEP and its activities are identified and monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure they adequately reflect the NRIFAEP's current operating environment. Risks will be periodically reviewed and brought to the attention of the Senior Leadership Board (SLB), the National Steering Committee (NSC), and Risk Management Sub–Committee (RMSC) if required. A review of the risks under the 2022−23 workplan has been undertaken. Table 6 shows the risks identified as being actively managed and mitigated.

Table 6: Risk and mitigation

Risk	Description	Mitigation plan	Contingency plan	Management and mitigation
Quantum of funding is insufficient to implement plan	The NRIFAEP budget is insufficient due to issues, such as: • errors or increases in input costs • inflation rates beyond that planned • detections of fire ants beyond the scope of the plan • delay to aerial contracts resulting in aerial treatment unable to be completed as planned from November to the end of Q2.	• Invest in management and research that increases efficiency of operations. • Plan for sufficient contingency budget each year.	• Priorities containment over eradication. • Raise issues with National Steering Committee for resolution. • Due to delay in aerial contract, revise the treatment plan in Q3.	• A NRIFAEP balanced budget will not be delivered at the end of the financial year. • A significant review of the expenditure position will be undertaken, by end of April 2023 to identify potential carryover/s. • Following discussions with the operational team, it has been advised there will be no catch up on the last 3 months aerial treatment. • Two major contributors to the underspend are baiting costs and

Risk	Description	Mitigation plan	Contingency plan	Management and mitigation
				aircraft hire, due to no aerial treatment not occurring in December and January. • As revenue for the NRIFAEP comes from national cost share partners and any underspend will be subject to a decision from the partners as to how it is used. • Currently, the NRIFAEP is looking to use part of the underspend to fund unbudgeted projects and activities. • The NRIFAEP funding for 2023−24 is not confirmed.
Loss of community and political support for continuing fire ant eradication efforts	A lack of community support may lead to: • community resistance to treatment and surveillance on land they control • lack of political	• Dedicate resources to raising fire ant awareness and support for eradiation strategies. • Conduct targeted engagement of stakeholders who are most important to fire	• Dedicate resources to raising fire ant awareness and support for eradiation strategies. • Conduct targeted engagement of stakeholders who are most	• There has been an approximate 150% increase in advertising. The attributable outcomes of this are seen in the outcomes of the KPIs

Risk	Description	Mitigation plan	Contingency plan	Management and mitigation
	support for implementing legislation like movement control compliance and right of entry to treat • reluctance to communicate risks of fire ants to the community • loss of political support and funding for fire ant control.	ant eradication success. • Conduct regular surveys of the community to measure community sentiment towards fire ant eradication and develop strategies in response to survey feedback. • In accordance with the whole–of–government approach to diversity, clear and succinct language is applied to messages. • Key messages are both educational and directive. • The characteristics of the sectors with which the NRIFAEP engages (i.e. residents, businesses, and industry) have been identified and are considered in all communication approaches to those sectors.	important to fire ant eradication success. • Conduct regular surveys of the community to measure community sentiment towards fire ant eradication and develop strategies in response to survey feedback. • In accordance with the Whole–of–Government approach to diversity, clear and succinct language is applied to messages. • Key messages are both educational and directive. • The characteristics of the sectors with which the NRIFAEP engages (i.e. residents, businesses, and industry) have been identified and are considered in all communication approaches to those sectors.	(e.g. increased website traffic and training).
Fire ant treatment not	Some land types may be suitable for fire ant	• Systematic identification of treatment gaps	• Priorities containment	• The NRIFAEP resolved 82

Risk	Description	Mitigation plan	Contingency plan	Management and mitigation
possible in 100% of fire ant suitable habitat	habitation, but not accessible for treatment due to: • growth of organic produce • workplace health and safety (WH&S) issues (e.g. railways, highways) • chemical sensitivity of residents • chemical sensitivity of produce (e.g. crayfish farms) • community opposition.	and reasons for their existence. • Dedicated team to manage gaps. • Research into alternative treatment methods where required.	over eradication. • Raise issues with National Steering Committee for resolution.	of 167 treatment refusals (of 24,324 sites visited) for round 1. • 50% of the round 1 refusals were from the Boonah, Mt French, and Dugandan hot spot areas. These areas are targeted for escalated NRIFAEP action.
Fire ant surveillance and monitoring is ineffective	Surveillance is ineffective at detecting fire ants.	• Ongoing monitoring of surveillance progress and detections (weekly progress monitoring occurs). • RSS effectiveness review report to be submitted to National Steering Committee in Q3. • Conduct Quality assurance and quality control assessments on field surveillance activities at least once a year. • Odour detection dog surveillance assessment/audit completed in Q2	• Raise issues with National Steering Committee for resolution. • Fast track research into alternative surveillance technologies (e.g. unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) surveillance technologies). • Field surveillance assessment will be completed Q1 2023–24.	• Remote sensing surveillance (RSS) currently under review and will be raised with the National Steering Committee. • Ground and odour detection dog surveillance has been assessed as effective at locating fire ant nests.

Risk	Description	Mitigation plan	Contingency plan	Management and mitigation
		and were found to be compliant. • Invest in management and research that increases effectiveness of surveillance.		

Workplace health and safety

The WH&S team is committed to creating workplaces where staff can thrive and perform at their best. This is being achieved through good work design, safe work environments, and providing resources and tools for staff to do their jobs safety. NRIFAEP demonstrates its commitment to the HS&W of our workers and empowering everyone to Think, Act and Be Safe at all times, thus contributing to a proactive and preventative safety culture.

During this quarter this was demonstrated through maintaining a robust and responsive work health and safety management system, integrating effective risk management processes into our operations and work practices, ensuring hazards are thoroughly identified, incidents are promptly reported and investigated, and deficiencies are addressed in a timely manner.

In addition, NRIFAEP continues to communicate, consult, and engage to secure active participation in decisions that may impact on health and safety. This is achieved though consultative arrangements with the workplace with our Health and Safety Committee and working collaboratively with stakeholders within NRIFAEP, Biosecurity Queensland and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) to ensure best practice WH&S and adherence to legislation. This has included reviewing procedures and protocols, collaborating with the training, and developing area and reviewing risk and controls within NRIFAEP.

NRIFAEP remains vigilant in its priorities of reducing risk and harm to ensure the safety of field officers and continues to investigate the best ways possible to further decrease the number of incidents.

NRIFAEP continues to align with the DAF workforce strategy and action plan for 2021–25, which is for people to be empowered and engaged to innovate and collaborate, demonstrating strong leadership, adaptability, agility, and foresight. In Q2, this has been achieved by supporting NRIFAEP with the recruitment of temporary and permanent employees, while maintaining employee caps and budgetary restrictions.

Finance

The 2022–23 budget is comprised of the estimated cost of delivering the workplan and target treatments agreed by the National Steering Committee. To date the Commonwealth, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, and Northern Territory governments have confirmed bringing forward funding to 2022–23 to support the agreed plan and treatments.

The Australian Capital Territory and South Australia have confirmed they will not be bringing forward funds. Western Australia is considering an amount to be brought forward. The 2022–23 NRIFAEP budget has been aligned to the funding profile of $90.8 million which now includes the $6.2 million carryover of funds from last financial year.

The budget to expenses trend is shown in Figure 8.

Figure 8: Budget to expenses trend

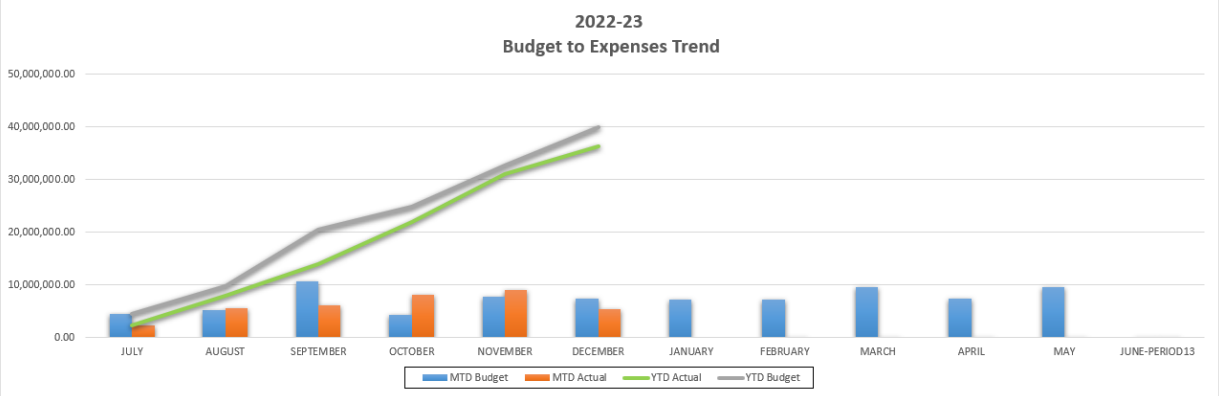


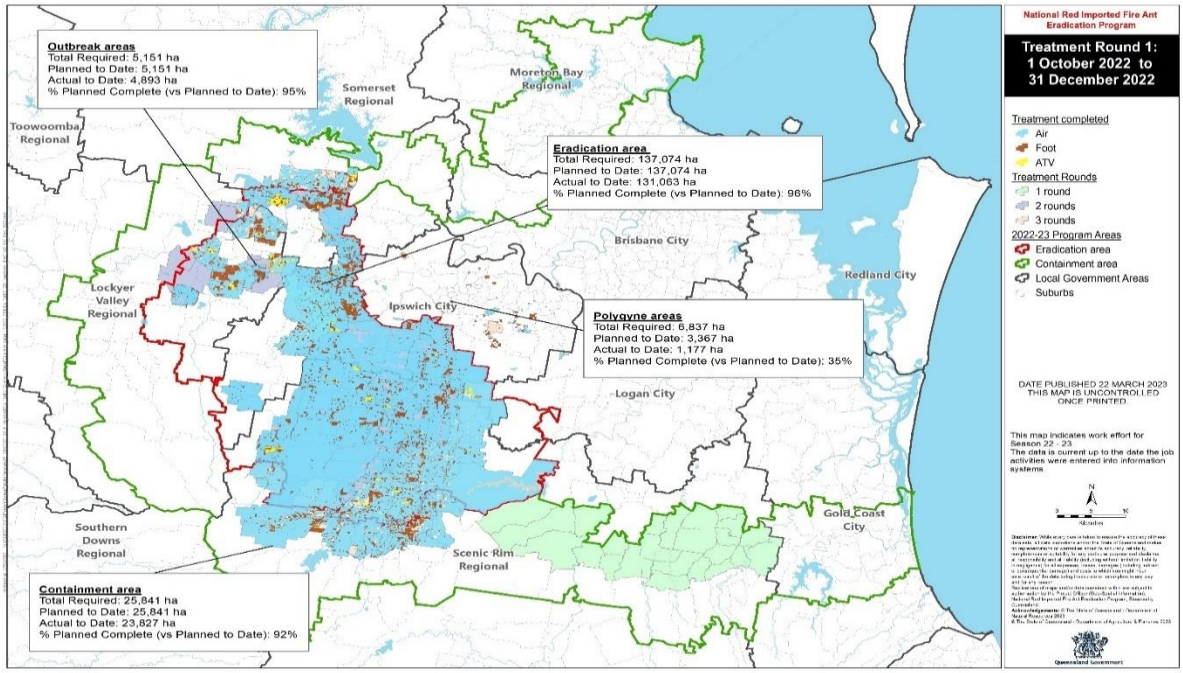
Table 7 outlines the quarterly financials of the program.

Table 7: Quarterly financials

		Values				
Class	Subclass	Original Budget	Revised Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Var ($)
4 - Revenue	41 - User Charges	(33,100,928)	(33,584,266)	(15,860,814)	(14,419,869)	(1,440,945)
	45 - Grants from the Commonwealth	(50,964,000)	(50,963,999)	(24,068,727)	(21,882,098)	(2,186,629)
4 - Revenue Total		**(84,064,928)**	**(84,548,265)**	**(39,929,541)**	**(36,301,967)**	**(3,627,574)**
5 - Expenses	51 - Employee related expenses	23,684,938	18,045,200	7,288,395	7,169,890	118,505
	52 - Supplies & services	58,758,382	65,956,738	32,284,780	28,906,880	3,377,900
	53 - Depreciation, amortisation and deferred	433,659	278,379	139,712	139,701	11
	56 - Miscellaneous expenses	1,187,950	267,950	216,654	73,056	143,598
5 - Expenses Total		**84,064,929**	**84,548,267**	**39,929,541**	**36,289,527**	**3,640,014**

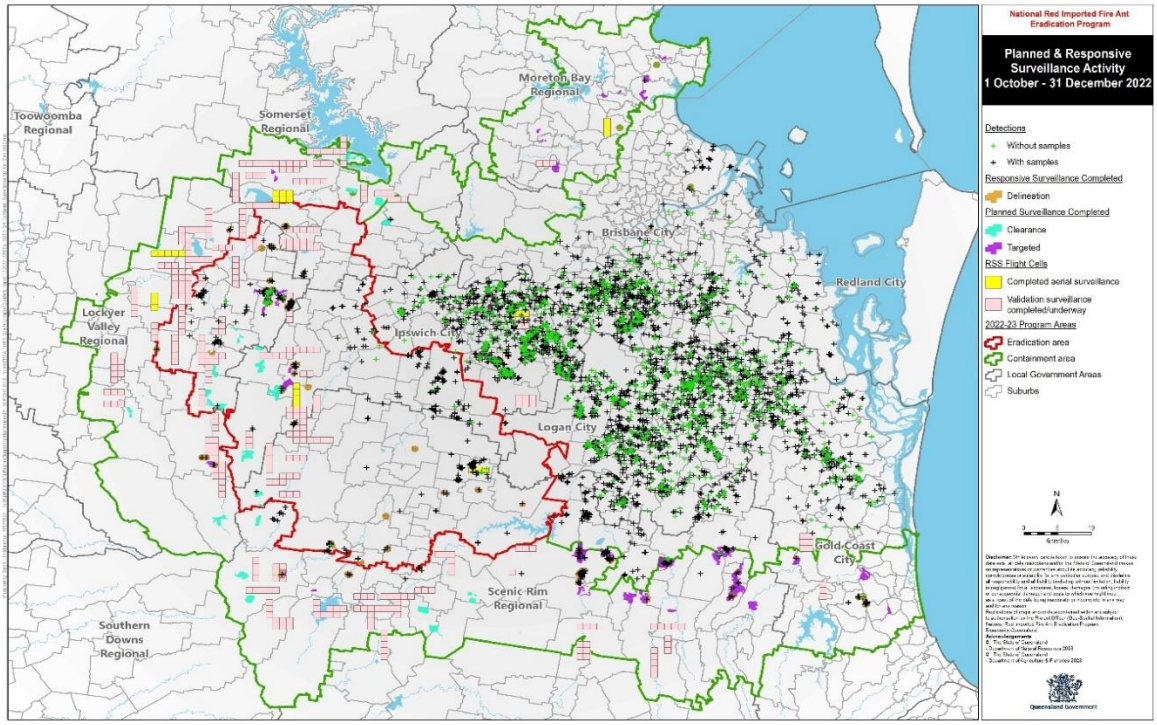
Appendix 1 – Treatment round 1 (1 October–31 December 2022)

The map provided below outlines the round 1 treatment progress conducted during the reporting period. Details within the map indicate air (blue), foot (brown) and utility terrain vehicles (UTV/ATV – yellow) treatments were carried out within the eradication area (red). Planned treatment rounds are indicated in 3 pastel colours (green – round 1, purple round 2, and cream round 3) identifying the treatment round within the containment (bright green) and eradication areas.



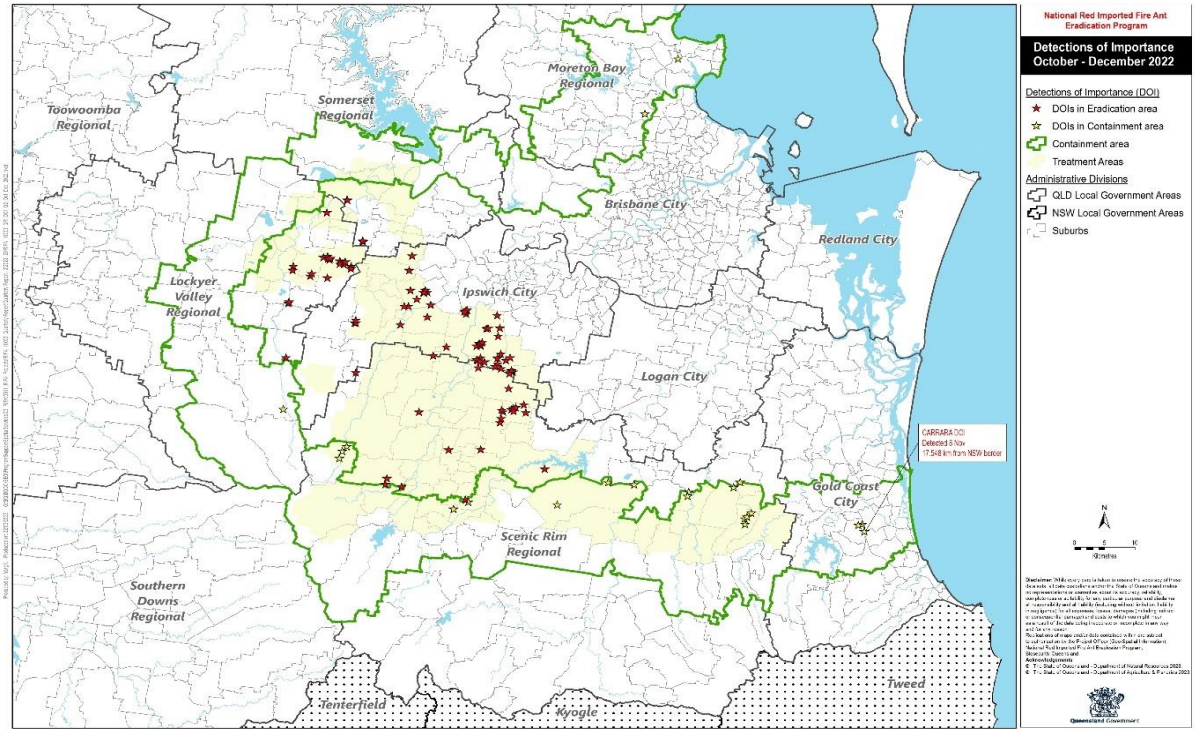
Appendix 2 – Planned and responsive surveillance activity (1 October–31 December 2022)

The map below outlines the planned and responsive surveillance activity carried out during the reporting. Indications of the map state that surveillance was completed through responsive (delineation – orange) and planned surveillance (clearance – cyan, and targeted – magenta), and RSS. RSS flight cells both completed (yellow) and validated (pink) surveillance. Fire ant detections were both sampled in the laboratory and identified on site in the field.



Appendix 3 – Detections of importance (1 October–31 December 2022)

The map below outlines the DOI within containment (green) and treatment (yellow) areas. Geographical locations are bound in local government (NSW – grey dots, and Queensland – grey) and suburbs (light grey).



Appendix 4 – Compliance activity (1 October–31 December 2022)

The map below indicates the compliance check activities within the fire ant biosecurity zones. Compliance is indicated by a green triangle, non-compliance a red triangle. There are 2 fire ant biosecurity zones indicated in yellow and grey.