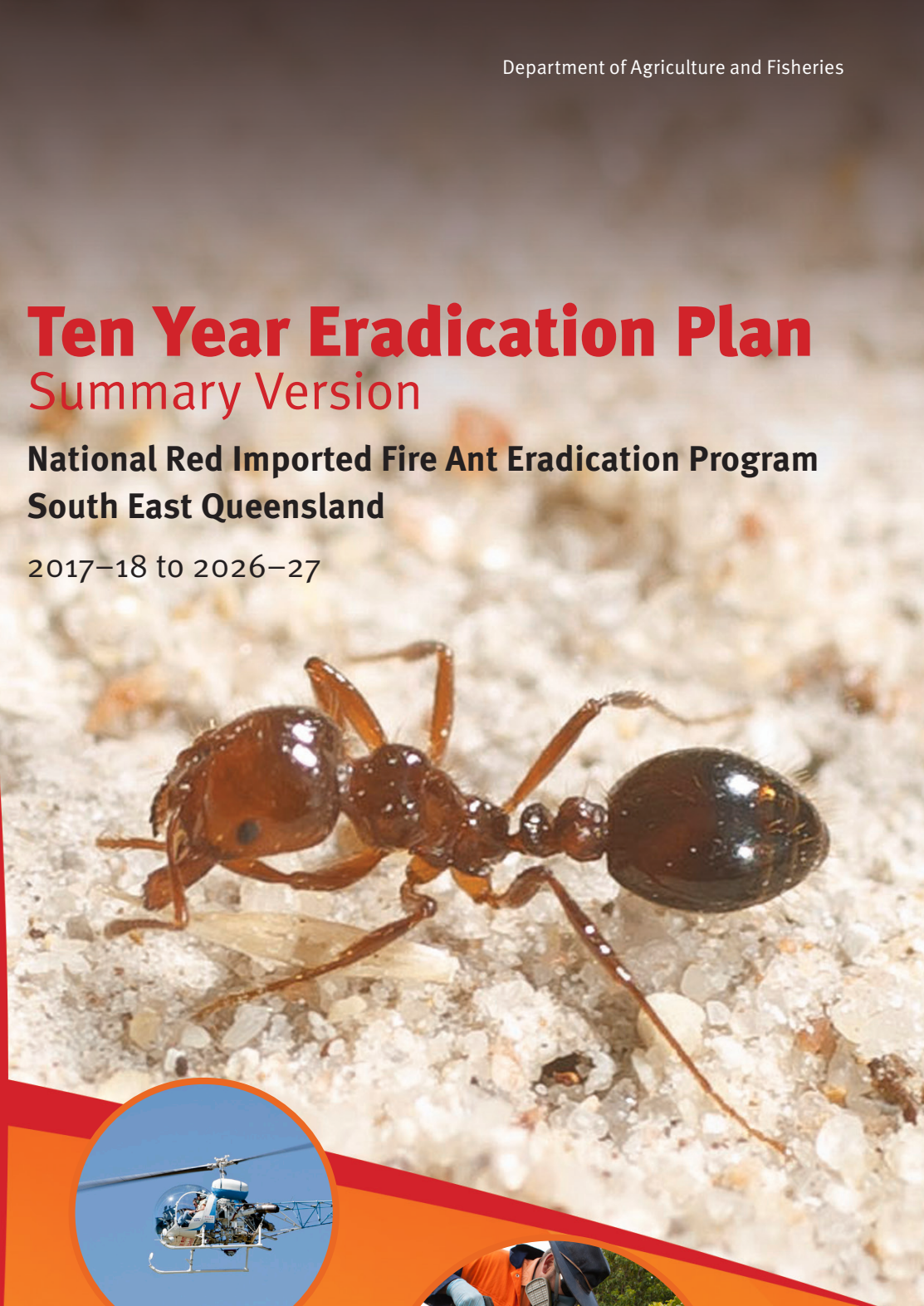


Ten Year Eradication Plan

Summary Version

**National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program
South East Queensland**

2017–18 to 2026–27



The Plan

On July 26 2017, members of the Agricultural Ministers' forum approved the Governance Plan for the National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program – South East Queensland.

With this approval, the program can now move forward with a budget of \$411.4 million jointly funded by the Commonwealth, state and territory governments of Australia from 2017–18 to 2026–27.

A new independently-chaired, National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program Steering Committee has been established to provide clear guidance and support and ensure program transparency and accountability. This committee will monitor program progress against targets and milestones to ensure long-term eradication success.

The program will commence implementation of a comprehensive Ten Year Eradication Plan to find, contain and destroy fire ants in South East Queensland. The plan incorporates the key recommendations of the 2015–16 Independent Review of the program. The key strategies of the plan are summarised in the table below.

Key Strategies	Description
A significant boost in all eradication activities	The total area receiving treatment and undergoing surveillance will be increased, and additional resources will be dedicated to preventing human-assisted spread, encouraging the industry and community to look for and report suspect fire ant infestation and other eradication activities.
Planned and responsive eradication activity	Eradication activity in the Ten Year Plan is grouped into two types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned – Priority areas will undergo 3 phases of planned activity including search and suppression, treatment, and search and clearance; at different stages throughout the ten-year life of the program, and Responsive – Responsive activities, including immediate treatment and surveillance, will occur in response to detections in areas which are not currently in a planned treatment area.
Progressive 'rolling' strategy	A progressive 'rolling' strategy will be implemented that focuses intensive eradication activities initially in infested areas on the outer western and south-western perimeter of the operational area, and then shifts eradication effort inwards to areas with persistent infestation.
Risk-based eradication planning approach	Different types of modelling including spread (mathematical and trend), optimal eradication strategy, scientific, and land use and habitat classification will inform the prioritisation of treatment and surveillance areas based on the risk of fire ant spread.
Coordinated and focused eradication activity	Coordinated and intensive eradication activities will occur in priority areas over three phases: search and suppression, treatment, and search clearance.
Extended operational area	Eradication activities will extend 5km beyond all known existing infestation.
Collaboration to promote shared responsibility between the program, industry and the wider community to achieve eradication objectives	Communication and engagement with the public and other stakeholders will occur to encourage reporting of suspect ants, to prevent human-assisted movement and ensure awareness of their general biosecurity obligation ¹ in regards to fire ants.
Quality assurance to closely monitor the implementation of eradication activities	Quality assurance is critical as this will ensure success and continued absence of infestation in treated and cleared areas.
Staged clearing of suburbs and confirmation of area freedom from fire ants	There will be concerted effort to confirm that priority areas ² are free from fire ants throughout the life of the Ten Year Eradication Plan, following the completion of treatment. A proof of freedom verification process will be implemented following the completion of final treatment.

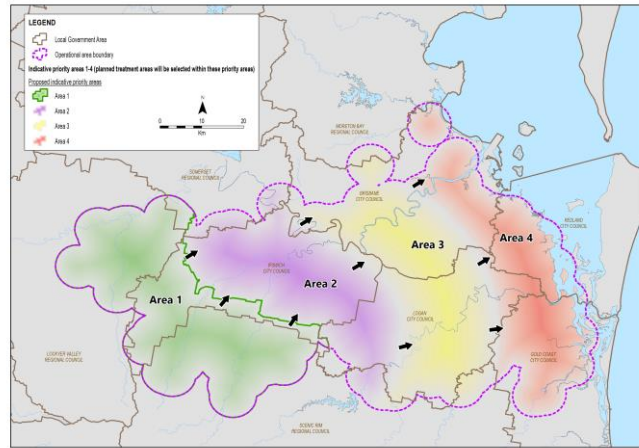
¹ All Queenslanders have a 'general biosecurity obligation' (GBO) under Queensland's *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

² Geographical sub-areas within the operational area, which will receive coordinated and focused eradication activity.

The indicative map provides a visual representation of the progressive rolling' strategy to be implemented under this plan. Initially the operational area will be divided into four indicative priority areas for focused eradication activity over the four successive stages of the ten year life of the program (boundaries are indicative only).

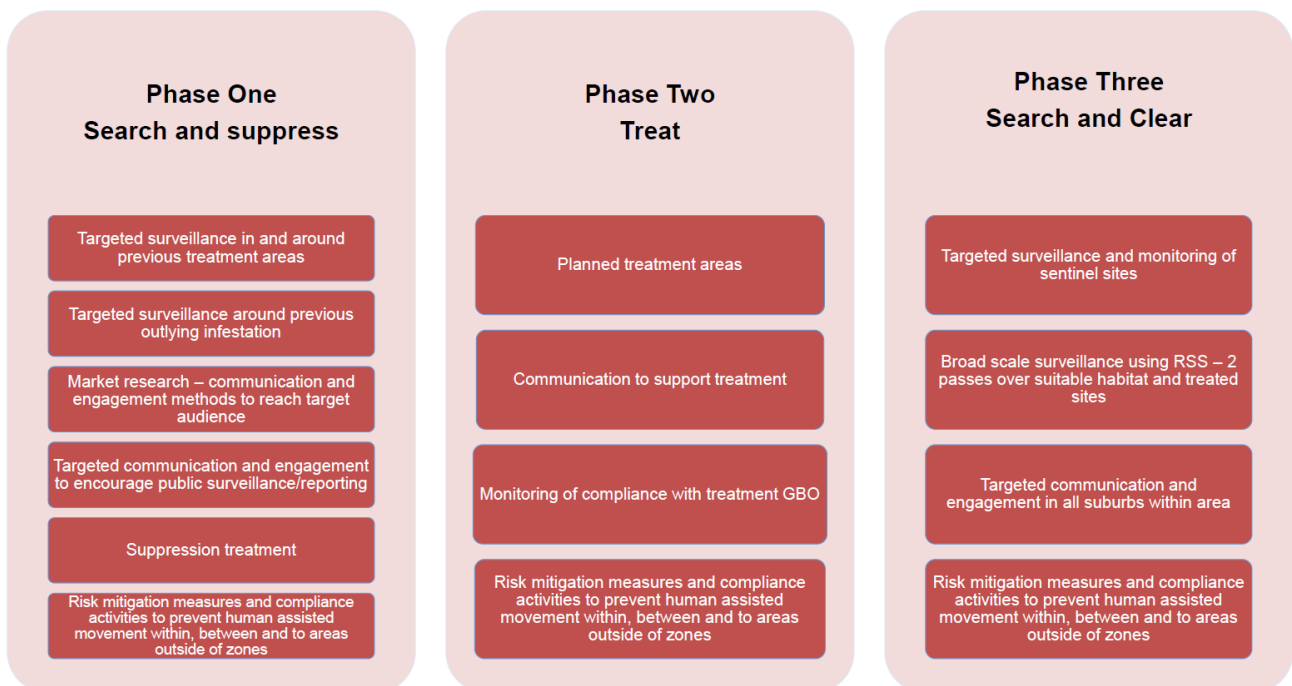
It is proposed that intensive treatment will commence in Priority Area 1 during 2017–2018. Planned surveillance, suppression treatment and responsive treatment will continue in Priority Areas 2, 3, & 4 until those areas undergo intensive treatment respectively.

The following table shows the indicative timeframes for planned eradication activity³:



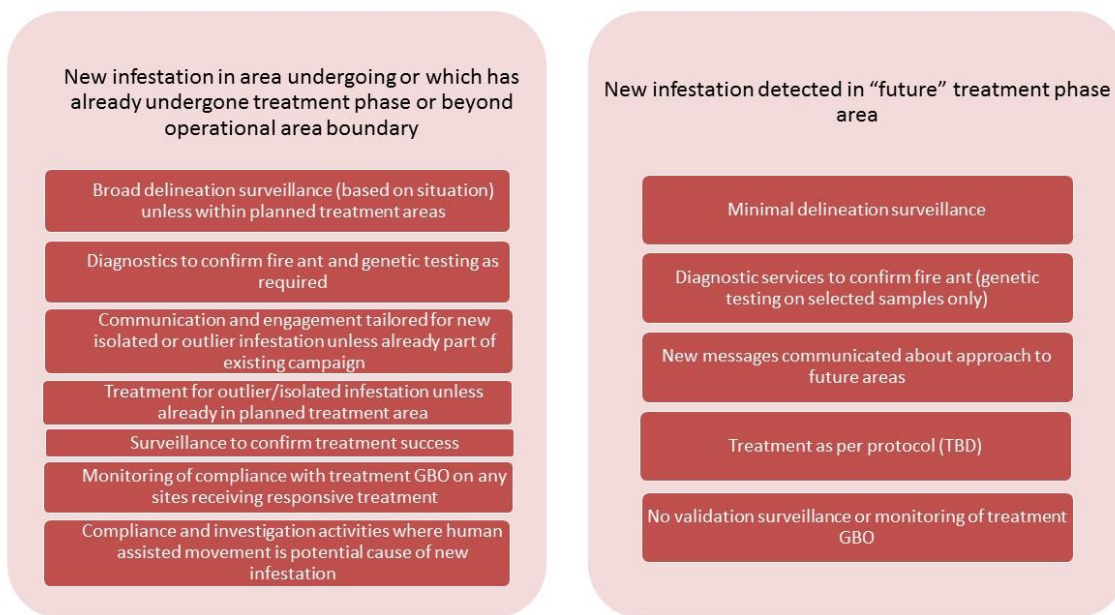
	2017-18 & 2018-19	2019-20 & 2020-21	2021-22 & 2022-23	2023-24 & 2024-25	2025-26 & 2026-27	Post Plan
Priority Area 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	95% Cleared	Cleared	Cleared	Proof of freedom
Priority Area 2	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	95% Cleared	Cleared	Proof of freedom
Priority Area 3	Phase 1	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	95% Cleared	Proof of freedom
Priority Area 4	Phase 1	Phase 1	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Proof of freedom

The following diagram shows the planned approach for each priority area:



³ Note that these timeframes are indicative only and subject to change due to factors such as the weather and program success.

The following diagram shows the responsive approach:



A detailed risk management plan which considers a range of risk sources, such as community, environment, health, legal, planning and implementation, will be monitored by the steering committee. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation are an important part of the Ten Year Plan. Efficient, value-adding strategic governance will increase the chance of eradication success.

Detailed targets will be developed each year as a part of the annual Work Plan, for approval by the Steering Committee and will include the following where appropriate:

- Targets for amount of hectares to receive planned treatment⁴
- Targets for amount of hectares to undergo surveillance (search and suppress, and search and clearance)
- Number of sentinel sites to be monitored
- Targets for community engagement events, training sessions and schools visited
- Targets for scientific trial sites.

The program is recognised as a world leader in the eradication of fire ants and it does this through the continual refinement and improvement of treatment, surveillance and diagnostic techniques, methodologies, technologies and methods. These tools and processes were used to successfully eradicate three incursions of fire ant (from Yarwun in 2010, the Port of Brisbane in 2012 and a second Yarwun incursion in 2016 (discovered 2013)). This demonstrates that fire ant can be eradicated provided there is sufficient funding to do so. The challenge for the program now is to apply these tools and processes in a more sophisticated manner to eradicate the larger SEQ incursion.

For further information on the 10 year National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program in South East Queensland, please call Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23
or check online at www.daf.qld.gov.au

⁴ Due to the nature of responsive actions, it is difficult to estimate targets for responsive treatment and surveillance.