

Draft Pest Animal Management Plan

My comments and suggestions on the draft management plan

I have read through the management plan and overall find it to be a very thorough document, though I do have a couple of suggestions and queries as listed below for your perusal.

Page 12/13 – wild dog issues – Hydatid worms not mentioned. Wild dogs carry Hydatid worms and cause transfer to cattle, other livestock and domestic dogs (and is possible to transfer to humans). I had to put down a cow 6 months ago due to cysts on the liver from Hydatid worm infestation that was identified by my vet after autopsy.

Page 33 SA1.1 – Partners should include Local Land Services (LLS)

Page 35 SA13.1 – *“Most targeted pest animal management by Council is within peri-urban or urban environments, except free ranging dogs (wild dogs), European red fox and feral cat management which generally occur in remote and isolated areas,”*

This statement is I believe incorrect as the pest animals identified are commonly found in peri urban areas and are causing the most problems in peri urban areas.

Page 42 – table 5 – Trapper – Feb – why just then? We need a trapper control officer available whenever outbreaks are reported. Has the trapper been in discussion as to when is the best times for control efforts to be instigated? On page 29 7.1.1 states Autumn is the time of most dog activity ...“mating takes place between March through to June”...

Page 46 – funding for trapper – I am a bit confused, only \$10,000/yr – cannot achieve much with so little funds, then goes on to say \$20,000 for subsequent years with \$6,000 for specific council lands, does this include crown lands as described in earlier section of the document.

Regards,

Dave Thorpe

From:
To: [submissions](#)
Subject: Pest Animal Management Plan
Date: Monday, 27 August 2018 5:06:45 PM

To Whom it May Concern :

I note that the above Plan does not include Brush Turkeys.

From my own observations, and communication with many other residents in Byron Shire, the Brush Turkeys have increased exponentially in number. When I first moved to Byron Shire, I saw them only at Clarkes Beach, Byron; now they are seen all over the Shire.

I, and many other residents I have spoken to, are having great difficulty maintaining our gardens, because of the habits of the Brush Turkey in raking everything up into their mound.

I would like to grow my own vegetables, etc., and it is impossible because two of these "pests" regard my land as their territory, and constantly "patrol" here.

I really feel the time has come for Brush Turkeys to be listed on the Pest List, and their populations managed.

I look forward to hearing your comments.

Regards,
Jennifer Trueman.

From:
To: [submissions](#)
Subject: Submission to Draft Pest Animal Management Plan
Date: Tuesday, 11 September 2018 1:06:48 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

If no assistance is given to landholders for feral animals the problem will grow with far larger impacts and far larger costs for all, including Council. Council has in the past been involved financially in control programmes in partnership with community groups and individuals which have proven effective in this Shire. I suggest that Council allocates an appropriate \$ amount each year to directly fund a trapper at the appropriate times of year and directs that dollar to the areas identified as hot spots in the Plan. At the same time Council should look for opportunities to achieve grant funding and additionally seek to work collaboratively with State and Federal bodies to develop this space in a way which might tackle the issue in a holistic way. Byron Shire is an ecological hotspot. We should take that responsibility seriously enough not to shy away from committing resources to helping find workable solutions to problems that if controlled will have great benefit to our region.

Kind regards,
James Mayson

From:
To: [submissions](#)
Subject: SUBMISSION – Byron's Draft Pest Management Plan
Date: Friday, 17 August 2018 3:49:45 PM
Attachments: [180808_Draft_Pest_Animnal_Management_Plan_public_exhibition_version.pdf](#)
[180808_WildDog-GBG-web.pdf](#)

Dear Clare

I've read through the Council's Draft and think it an excellent and mostly comprehensive document. I've added a few comments to the attached version ... I hope you can access them.

In case you can't access my markups, I made the following points:

1. the word "compliment" appears in a few places where I think "complement" was intended (if I'm wrong, no problems: I'm sure the community will benefit from free services/resources);
2. disappointing the Council has chosen not to run baiting programs using 1080 (see Appendix 4, p. 60). Or have I misread this? If so, no mention has been made of para-aminopropiophenone [PAPP] toxin, lethal trap devices or canid pest ejectors as alternatives (see Glove Box Guide for Managing Wild Dogs, attached, p. 10f). Rejecting 1080 as an options appears contradictory to the referencing of 1080 throughout the body of the Plan, which seems somewhat supportive.
3. most native animals have a high resistance to 1080, given its natural occurrence in parts of the Australian environment, particularly in the north (gidgee bush, heartleaf) ... this lends support to the careful use of 1080 for baiting but isn't mentioned anywhere;
4. 'Alert Species' should now include the yellow crazy ant, given its proximity to the Byron Shire (Lismore).

Other markups in the attached are generally editorial (typos).

Kind regards

Justin Toohey

8th September 2018

Submission to Byron Shire Council

Goonengerry Landcare Group

Re: Draft Pest Animal Management Plan

We would like to make the following points to the Draft Plan;

By way of background; Goonengerry Landcare has for about a decade now been coordinating a community lead approach to feral animal control in our area. We have learnt a lot and feel comfortable that our approach has developed into a sensible on ground plan that involves property residents and Council working together. While we accept that Council has no legal responsibility to control feral animals outside of the specific lands it actually manages as legislative responsibilities lay with the land owner and state bodies, which at the moment is the Local Land Services NSW (to which rural landholders pay annual rates partly to fund such actions). However the reality is that over the years, and when called different names, this body has either been unwilling to assist very much on anything but land used for livestock or has not been able to use its preferred control method, 1080 poison, because of the numbers of domestic pets in the vicinity. This is why locals fully funded the contracting of a trapper using humane methods. Eventually we encouraged Council to fund the retainer part of the trapper's fees for at least some portion of each year. Council paid their share by attaining grants or directly from its Biodiversity Levy Fund. We also accept that Council must plan for activities around other pest animals other than those we are discussing here. Goonengerry Landcare has in the past participated in cane toad and Indian Myna eradication programmes and has consistently argued for such programmes to be designed to be ongoing rather than one offs.

What is our local approach right now? We have come to realise over the years that (a) even if we wanted to we would never get rid of all the feral animals in the area. (b) Wild dogs have always been a part of the ecology and that rather than aim for eradication we need to aim for a balanced situation. That said the balance is easily tipped in favour of the feral animals as we have many absentee landholder and amongst those active on their lands there are few who control numbers themselves with their own guns or trapping. (c) it doesn't work to focus on one feral species and not another as there can be unintended consequences, as an example; wild dogs hunt mostly small wallabies of which there are plenty (more die on our roads than by wild dog attack), but of course we would not want wild dog numbers to get too large. If we cull large numbers of wild dogs their absence seems to create a void which is quickly filled by foxes and cats (who feel safer to be about and breed without dogs around). Both these species, cats and foxes, actually prey on threatened species of native fauna which are more threatened than wallabies.

So we must approach any control plan with a holistic approach. We don't react to every individual feral dog sighting but we do collect the sighting information and act when we truly know we have a specific need to target a particular problem pack of dogs or fox den.

We have been involved with research for Centre for Invasive Species by collecting sighting and culled information and additionally sending dna samples of feral trapped.

https://invasives.com.au/research#pest_animals

Additionally we have discussed our approach with Guy Ballard, Research Officer - Wild Dog Management, Vertebrate Pest Research at NSW Dept of Primary Industry and he would be willing to involve us in his research as financing becomes available as he has long used our community approach as a case study for future approaches;

We remain hopeful that these relationships will result in long term funding for our area and would encourage Council to develop these as well.

Given the above we would submit;

- We do not accept that just because it is not Council's legislative responsibility to contribute funding to assist landholders to control feral animals on their lands that Council should therefore not make contributions. Council continues to contribute monies to all manner of things to which it has no legal obligation to do so.
- Council has in the past been involved financially in control programmes in partnership with community groups and individuals which have proven effective in this Shire. Actual dollar costs to Council have been low and yes improvements could be made to project delivery but the partnership methodology is workable. This approach has been successful in other parts of NSW and is being supported by research by both The Dept of Industry and the Centre for Invasive Solutions.
- The Draft is too quick to handball the responsibilities to other bodies such as Local Land Services. It is clear from their publications and from discussions with them that that organisation sees its role as bringing state holders together to achieve best outcomes. This approach seems extremely similar to Councils in this plan. Both approaches have and will result in many discussions but no willingness to assist the landholder. The landholder it must be remembered already pays rates to both the LLS and Council.
- One thing is clear, that is if no assistance is given to landholders, as is the present state of affairs, the problem will grow into an emergency with far larger impacts and far larger costs for all, including Council.
- The expenditure of relatively small amounts in an ongoing and sustainable way will never eliminate the issue but it will provide a maintenance approach which will assist us to achieve something approaching a balance.
- The Draft Plan's concept of Council controlling feral pest animals on Council land only is simply just not workable. To state the obvious, pest animals don't either know about property boundaries or care about them. This is why the pooling of

community member's resources along with Council's has a far broader impact on a large landscape basis. Moving outwards this approach could then be joined with similar approaches with our neighbouring Shires.

- We accept that the solutions do not simply lay with Council, however by doing nothing the problem will certainly be one for Council to deal with and on a much larger scale.
- Council cannot solve the big problem but it can act with its community locally to make a difference.
- We would submit that Council inverts its approach slightly from that which is proposed in the Draft Plan. We suggest that Council allocates an appropriate \$ amount each year to directly fund a trapper at the appropriate times of year and directs that dollar to the areas identified as hot spots in the Plan. At the same time Council should look for opportunities to achieve grant funding and additionally seek to work collaboratively with State and Federal bodies to develop this space in a way which might tackle the issue in a holistic way. Byron Shire is an ecological hotspot. We should therefore take that responsibility seriously enough not to shy away from committing resources to helping find workable solutions to problems that if controlled will have great benefit to our region.

From: .
To: [submissions](#)
Subject: Pest Animal Management Draft Plan
Date: Wednesday, 8 August 2018 10:41:14 AM

Hello

I have looked at the above draft plan and have the following comments:

- Upper Coopers Creek should be added to the list of priority localities, since wild dogs wander into the valley from Whian Whian, Goonengerry and Wanganui Gorge. In the past, many wild dogs (up to 20) have been trapped in the Valley itself.
- How do you propose to distinguish between wild dogs and dingoes? Is there a rapid dna test available that you could use something like hair? I'm not sure that it is good practice or sensible to take out the natural apex predator in the area, however wild dogs are more destructive, breed more often, and not a native predator.

Thank you

regards

Maggie Wheeler

From:
To: [submissions](#)
Subject: Draft Pest Animal Management Plan 2018-2023
Date: Wednesday, 22 August 2018 11:27:50 AM

A very comprehensive document however there is a lot of repetition of content, thus the document is too long. To maximise community feedback and avoid repetition the document should be no longer than 20 pages (excluding references and Appendices).

Specific comments:

The Executive Summary should state that the Plan does not include aquatic and insect pests.

It is not clear how the European rabbit will be controlled and managed. There is mention of calicivirus in SA1.2.2. Maybe prohibit keeping domestic rabbits as in Queensland. Guinea pigs make far better pets.

It is not clear how the Indian myna and cane toads will be controlled and managed. Plan states "Best practice control methods". 'Trapping' of Indian mynas gets a mention but no details are given.

Cats both domestic and feral have the largest detrimental impact on small native wildlife. The domestic cat issue also needs to be addressed by education and council regulations. A domestic cat is always a "wild cat" and a natural killer.

The use of 1080 is acknowledged as the most cost-effective management tool for wild dogs and foxes but the Plan states council will not use this method. Why??

Strategic Action.

1. Education and Awareness – GOOD Highly commended
2. Operational – GOOD . "humane control "of feral cats and Indian myna – no details given
3. Best Practices Approaches- GOOD Highly commended
4. Technical Advice - Good Highly commended

Engagement Method (Appendix 2). Highly commended.

Why are the sewage treatment plants such an issue with wild dogs/foxes and feral cats and the focus for the operational plan? No explanation is given.

Regards

Margaret Greenway

To: [Manning, Clare](#)
Subject: RE: Draft Pest Animal Management Plan
Date: Friday, 10 August 2018 1:15:27 PM
Attachments:

Hi Clare

The draft plan is looking fabulous. Byron Council (and you and the plan development team of course) are to be commended for the quality of this this document.

Below are my (very minor) comments.

1. Page 9, paragraph 4. There is a word missing from the last sentence.
2. Page 11. Paragraph 3. First sentence – maybe has a word missing?
3. Section 7.1.2. I found it tricky to understand what is being said in the last sentence of this section.
4. Section 7.1.4 makes reference to a community portal. Would it be possible to expand on this a little either in this section or elsewhere in the document?
5. Is there any option to be more prescriptive in the management options for reducing the impacts of domestic dogs and cats on both social and environmental values? I realise this is a big ask, but even if just for if they are found roaming in Council managed areas?

Overall though, this is a really good example of a vertebrate pest animal management plan. You are doing a great job 😊

Thanks for the opportunity to be involved Clare.

Kind regards
Pam

Pamela Gray
Program Leader - Pest Management



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To: [submissions](#)
Subject: Pest Management Plan
Date: Tuesday, 18 September 2018 3:06:37 PM

Dear People,

The impact of climate change on mammals and birds to date is currently greatly underestimated and reported upon. The co-author of a study, Dr James Watson of the Wildlife Conservation Society and University of Queensland, wrote: "Australia has ferocious hot summers—and it's getting worse. Fruit bats die daily by their thousands from extreme heat, as do mammals. Australia also has great losses of wildlife from bush fires. Millions of Australian wildlife animals are killed every year by drivers on roads. Australia uses 1080 poison and traps causing long agonizing deaths to wild dogs. Animals who ingest 1080 endure vomiting, screaming fits, drooling, seizures, frenzied behaviour and uncontrolled paddling. This awful poison has been banned in most countries around the world. Birds too, die when they feed on the carcasses. The Australian federal government is allowing land clearing in Queensland, which has accelerated to almost 300,000 hectares each year, [to destroy the habitat of threatened species and increase pollution on the Great Barrier Reef](#), according to

analysis by WWF. *Eleanor Ainge Roy* *The Guardian*

Cats are dumped in the bush and become feral. Cats are often maligned, unjustly — *Time* magazine published research some years ago that showed wild cats were feeding mainly on rabbits and were saving farmers and other animals from the destruction of plants caused by rabbits. A minister in the Australian Government, Mr. Greg Hunt, has issued a mistaken strategy to *save wildlife* by killing approximately 2 million cats by 2020! It has spurred the heroic, dedicated animal rights activist, Brigitte Bardot, to write to him: "*Your country is sullied by the blood of millions of innocent animals so please, don't add cats to this morbid record.*" Bardot said the government should instead look at sterilisation of cats, a position backed by animal rights group Peta Australia, which called the planned cull cruel and said it was unlikely to succeed. There are many reasons why this is wrong. First, the cats are not the ones causing Australian wildlife to become endangered. For the most part, it's humans themselves. Development or logging activity destroys

habitat and causes colony collapse. As humans destroy nature, wild animals find themselves trapped or with no home. Humans displace and kill our wildlife when they build homes, commercial buildings, roads, gardens, spray poisons on the land, let their dogs run free (decimating koala populations), play deafening music and use machinery, amongst other things. Snakes are the number two killers of humans in the world (mosquitos are no.1). Snakes eat birds; they even climb trees to get the nesting birds. They also eat other creatures, from the smallest to the largest, in great numbers. "A 99 percent reduction of fur-bearing animals" in the Everglades has been reported due to ravenous Burmese pythons. Past attempts to decrease the cat population have proven that killing cats is not an effective or humane way to do this. As litters of kittens are born, the population of cats will, slowly but surely, continue to rise. If you truly must decrease the number of cats in an area, use the trap-neuter-release method, a humane strategy that will, slowly at first, lower the number of cats in an area.

In Australia, a council posted a bounty

on the scalp of any cats that were caught and killed. After the Banana Shire Council offering a \$10 reward for a cat scalp, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) negotiated with an outdoor advertiser to put up a billboard near the council's headquarters in Biloela urging everyone to keep cats indoors in order to protect them from falling victim to the cruel scheme.

"It's never safe to let animal companions outdoors unattended, even for 'just a minute'," says PETA Associate Director of Campaigns Ashley Fruno. "And feral cats who are shot or poisoned suffer in the same way and feel the same pain that our companion feline friends would." Feral cat colonies don't spring up out of nowhere. They're the direct result of the irresponsible actions of people who abandon their unaltered cats or allow them to roam outside.

Every day, koalas and their homes are being destroyed by excessive tree-clearing, driving them to the brink of extinction. Also people letting their dogs roam and kill koalas. One woman was woken up by screams from an animal being savaged by dogs. When she went to investigate she saw two dogs mauling a koala who had a baby in her pouch. She managed to rescue the baby but couldn't save the mother from the dogs. She said, "*I will never forget her screams as long as I live.*" There is a photo of a koala mother holding her baby in one arm—the other arm has been torn off.

Italians are the most compassionate, caring, civilized people in the world. They don't mind stray animals and it's a part of their beliefs to not kill stray animals like they do in other countries. Cats are a cultural feature of Rome. Rome's municipal council, according to an Italian national law of 1991, banned the killing of stray cats and dogs, and protects the cats by giving them a *biocultural patrimony* label. Spaying and neutering are important priorities, and the public veterinary service provides for free sterilisation of cats who belong to these feline settlements. In addition, there are voluntary organisations who raise funds to provide medical help and food for the strays. An organisation called Friends of Roman Cats is American based and offered tours at one time. 300,000 cats live in the Eternal City; 180,000 in houses and 120,000 in the streets. The latest

animal census was commissioned by the [Office for Animal Rights](#), and counted more than 4,000 colonies of cats.

Cats are omnipresent in Rome; they can rightly be considered citizens and a symbol of the Eternal City. They are so popular that a regional law states that a group of more than 5 cats in the natural urban habitat constitutes a protected feline colony. There the animals are entitled to food, shelter and protection, and cannot be kicked out. Sterilisation keeps the feline population under control. Romans love cats, because they are graceful, harmless, clean and keep the rats at bay.

It is not usual if you mention *cats* in Rome, whether to a porter in the lift of a hotel, a manager of a chic shop, or a driver of a limousine, to elicit these responses: "Ah, you must see this photo on my phone of my beloved Siamese cat *Aurelia*." "Please, take a look at these photos of my beautiful *Leonardo* and his brother *Dante*!" "My wife suffered very bad from depression. I didn't know what to do. One day I brought home a kitten, *Baci*. It has changed her. Saved her life and our marriage!" Italian men absolutely adore their cats.

The cats hang around tourist attractions in Rome and have become an attraction themselves. In Rome there are thousands of people who voluntarily feed, provide medical care and sterilise cats. They used to be mainly women (so-called *gattere*) but now both sexes are represented. Some of them have created an association, the ARCA, which numbers 1,000 members. See romancats.de for an example. About 200 cats live in the Colosseum, fed regularly by older women called *gattere*. They are happy and healthy and the cats receive not only canned food, but also fresh liver and meat, and lots of loving care. http://www.the-colosseum.net/around/gatti_en.htm

The toxoplasmosis flag is waved every now and then, striking terror in the hearts of Australian pregnant women. They've been doing that for years. Perhaps because people have stopped taking any notice of these scare tactics (how many people's lives have been undone because of this? Do you know any?) So now they're blaming wild life dying, on cats again. How pathetic! They tried to blame all sorts of things on the cancerous growths of the poor Tasmanian Devils when the cause was there all along—pesticides poisons from the timber

plantations. Humans again. The devils! As the wonderful Swedish philosopher, writer and physician, Axel Menthe, wrote: "The wild, cruel animal is not behind the bars of the cage. He is in front of it." I know someone who traps cats. I've been haunted by what he does to cats. Does he ever think what a cat, a sentient creature must feel when he or she find themselves trapped in one of his traps? Beating themselves against the metal, trying to break free? Being attacked by ants, snakes, wasps, wild weather, hail, blazing heat, wild dogs, humans? Not being able to return to feed and protect their young? And how hypocritical of him to have several dogs on his property when we know what dogs do to koalas—and to farm animals. More than one dog is a pack and they are killers.

There is a wonderful film called "Kedi" (Turkish for cat) on the Internet. Feral cats roam the streets of the city. Each with a distinct personality. They are welcome in bazaars, cafes and restaurants, bringing smiles to people's face. The residents of the city love the cats, feed them, protect them and take them to the vet if they're sick. Cat videos are number one on the Internet, bringing joy and laughter as they do. So why this intense hatred amongst some Australians? We see horrific stories of animal suffering, especially in the vile Live Export Trade. It takes only one cruel, powerful politician or corporation, to give Australians a bad name.

Australia is a backward country when it comes to animal protection. A government which is indifferent to animal suffering will not care for its people. "Australia's suicide rate has peaked to a terrifying new height." Young men are particularly vulnerable. So are women and children caught in domestic violence. Human lives are connected with our fellow creatures.

V.A. Thompson