



Policy:

**Draft Integrated Pest
Management Policy**

August 2018

INFORMATION ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

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Further Document Information and Relationships

List here the related strategies, procedures, references, policy or other documents that have a bearing on this Policy and that may be useful reference material for users of this Policy.

Related Legislation*	<p>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Administration Act 1992</p> <p>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994</p> <p>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</p> <p>Biosecurity Act 2015 & Biosecurity Regulations 2017</p> <p>Companion Animal Act 1998</p> <p>Crown Land Management Act 2016</p> <p>Crown Land Legislation Amendment Act 2017</p> <p>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</p> <p>Forestry and National Park Estate Act 1998</p> <p>Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002 & Game and Feral Animal Control Regulations 2012</p> <p>Local Government Act 1993</p> <p>Local Land Services Act 2013</p> <p>National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974</p> <p>NSW Pesticide Act 1999 & Pesticide Regulation 2017</p> <p>Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979</p> <p>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</p> <p>Roads Act 1993</p> <p>Work Health and Safety Act (2011) & Work Health and Safety Regulations (2017)</p>
Related Policies	<p>State Environmental Planning Policy No. 19</p> <p>Camphor Laurel Management In Byron Shire Policy</p> <p>Personal Protective Equipment Policy 2016</p> <p>Byron Shire Work Health & Safety Policy</p>
Related Procedures/ Protocols, Statements, documents	<p>Byron Shire Integrated Pest Management Strategy (in prep)</p> <p>Byron Shire Pest Animal Management Plan 2018-23 (in prep)</p> <p>Byron Shire Council Pesticide Use Notification Plan</p> <p>Byron Shire Roadside Vegetation Management Plan 2012</p> <p>Byron Shire Tree and Vegetation Removal Procedure 2017</p>

	Byron Shire Chemical Sensitive Residents and Organic Growers Register National Standards For The Practice Of Ecological Restoration In Australia 2017 North Coast Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-22 North Coast Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plan 2018-23 (in prep) AS 4373-2007 Pruning of amenity trees - SAI Global
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Note: Any reference to Legislation will be updated in the Policy as required. See website <http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/> for current Acts, Regulations and Environmental Planning Instruments.



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DRAFT

1. INTRODUCTION

Pest species management is a reality for all public and private land managers, whether for the purposes of our economy, infrastructure protection, the protection of the environment or community health and welfare. Pest management must therefore aim for the efficient and effective control of pests while avoiding or minimising adverse effects of that management on economy, public assets, ecosystems and people.

1.1 Need for an integrated approach to pest management

Over time, and throughout the world, over reliance on pesticide use in both food production¹ and on public and private land that has led to many negative consequences including development of pesticide resistance, resurgence of pest populations, emergence of secondary pests, hazards to human and other beneficial organisms. This has been accompanied by an increased concern about the impacts of such pesticide use upon human health and the environment. Some extremely poor pesticide practices in the past are well documented and have led to wholesale poisoning of people and their environment, particularly in developing countries but also some industrialised countries including Australia. The uncertainty surrounding potential long term effects of pesticides is sufficient justification for concern. This has led to increasing advocacy internationally and locally to establish policy of risk minimisation and underpins and increasing effort to cease or minimise all pesticide use, as part of an integrated pest management approach.

As a result of local concerns about health and environmental problems associated with all pesticide use, but particularly highly hazardous pesticides, Council resolved (Resolution 13-621) in November 2013 (the Resolution) to develop an integrated pest management policy, followed by an integrated pest management strategy to guide day-to-day implementation of the policy. The aspirations of the Resolution can be summarised as: (i) cessation of the use of pesticides in highly frequented public use areas; (ii) promotion of integrated pest management; and, (iii) promotion of the responsible use of pesticides on private land e.g. farming land in the Shire.

This Integrated Pest Management Policy (Policy) is informed by insights and experience gained from five years of Council implementation of the Resolution, implementation that commenced immediately after the Resolution was passed. An internal review of this initial period revealed that some impediments exist in implementing the Resolution. This is particularly with respect to relative environmental costs and benefits of complete pesticide cessation and balancing these with Council's obligations relating to public and operator safety, biosecurity, the protection of infrastructure and financial responsibility. This Policy guides the control of pests in Byron Shire in a manner that supports the intent of the original Resolution while setting it in a more practical and secure long-term policy framework.

1.2 Integrated Pest Management

With increasing knowledge and understanding of the potential negative consequences of pesticides, safer and more environmentally friendly pest and disease control methods are becoming increasingly popular on public and private land. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is one such approach that aims to reduce the use of pesticides through a series of pest management evaluations and decisions that progressively improve the competitive ability of desirable plants and animals, coupled with the application of alternative pest control methods. These control methods include but are not limited to biological control, fire, steam, slashing and manual methods (for plants), and trapping and shooting (for animals).

¹ The issue of pesticide use in food production, while highly important, is considered a separate issue to the question of pesticide use on Council managed land.



Thus, integrated pest management is not a single pest control method but, rather, a holistic approach that integrates ecological factors with a range of control methods to manage and ideally reduce pest species. This concept has subsequently been widely accepted as a mainstream approach in the management of production and amenity landscapes around the world.

There have been many definitions for integrated pest management but has been defined by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides as *“the careful consideration of all available pest control techniques and subsequent integration of appropriate measures that discourage the development of pest populations and keep pesticides and other interventions to levels that are economically justified and reduce or minimize risks to human health and the environment.”*

Integrated pest management requires competence in three areas: prevention, observation and intervention. The first includes a range of practical strategies that can be rationalised to suit local conditions. Observation links monitoring with decision making and intervention involves a range of physical, biological and pesticidal methods optimally employed to cease or minimise effects on social, economic and environmental aspects.

In practicing integrated pest management it is desirable to:

Identify and Monitor Pests - Not all pests require control. Many organisms are innocuous, and some may even be beneficial under particular circumstances. IPM programs work to monitor pests and identify risks accurately, so that appropriate control decisions can be made in conjunction with action thresholds. This monitoring and identification removes the possibility that pesticides will be used when they are not really needed or that the wrong kind of action will be deployed

Prevention - Surveillance, education and awareness can help avoid pests or prevent their spread. Prevention methods such as prohibiting the sale of pest species or inadvertently distributing pests can be very effective and cost-efficient and present little to no risk to people or the environment.

Action Thresholds - Before taking any pest control action, IPM sets an action threshold, a point at which pest populations or environmental conditions indicate that pest control action must be taken. This will be species-dependent and scenario-dependent. Sighting a single pest does, in many cases, mean control is needed, but early detection and a rapid response can be vital in other cases. The level at which pests will either become a socio- economical or environmental threat is critical to guide future pest control decisions.

Evaluation of Control Methods - Evaluation of methods needs to be done in advance of the action threshold being reached – so that action can be taken without delay. This selection is based on an evaluation that takes into account effectiveness of the method to achieve the pest management outcome and minimising the risk to human and environmental health, infrastructure and responsible financial management

Control - Once identification, monitoring and action thresholds indicate that pest control is required, and preventive methods are no longer effective or available, IPM programs then implement the most appropriate control method.. Wherever possible a non-pesticide method should be tried prior to a pesticide method.

The extents to which Council’s Integrated Pest Management can be successfully promoted and adopted depend on a variety of enabling and inhibiting factors. Key enabling factors may include:

- Investment in Integrated Pest Management education, training and research
- Availability of alternative pest control methods
- Demonstration that alternative pest control methods work to the satisfaction of Council while balancing Council's obligations relating to public and operator safety, biosecurity, the protection of infrastructure and financial responsibility
- Incentives to favour Integrated Pest Management
- Incentives to improve, build and maintain respectful views within the community

A specific challenge is to identify and address factors that may foster pesticide use as the first option for pest control, and are likely to encourage overuse and counter efforts to promote Integrated Pest Management. Inhibiting factors may include:

- Promotion of calendar-based pesticide application schemes
- Shortcoming in Integrated Pest Management education, training and research
- Possible conflict of interest
- Disrespectful views within the community

1.3 Principles Underpinning the Policy

1.3.1 Pesticide risk reduction

Although pesticides play a role in integrated pest management, they also pose risks to human health and the environment. Pesticide risk reduction and risk management are thus essential to correct and responsible use of pesticides.

Distinction is made between hazard and risks. The Policy defines these terms as follows:

- **hazard** means the inherent property of a substance, agent or situation having the potential to cause undesirable consequence (e.g. properties that can cause adverse effects or damage to health, the environment or property);
- **risk** is a function of the probability of an adverse health or environmental effect, and the severity of that effect, following exposure to a pesticide.

Risk can thus be reduced by using less hazardous products and/or by reducing exposure to the product.

The selection of any pest management method, whether involving a pesticide or not, must consider risk to human health, environmental health, infrastructure and responsible financial management.

This Policy supports Integrated Pest Management approaches that reduce pesticide risk by:

1. Preventing pest problems through improved biosecurity practices and management and maintenance of man-made assets and natural resources
2. Reducing reliance on pesticides by determining to what extent current levels of pesticide use are actually needed and make optimum use of alternative control methods and eliminate unjustified pesticide use..
3. Selecting pesticides with the lowest risk. If use of a pesticide is deemed necessary, select products with the lowest risk to human and the environment from the available registered product that are effective against the pest.

4. Ensuring proper use of the selected product for approved applications and in compliance with Australian standards.

1.3.2 Continuous improvement

While in some cases the continued use of a pesticide may be necessary, in other cases, an alternative may not yet exist. Although substantial progress has already been made by staff, further improvements towards lower risk methods may take time to be researched, developed and disseminated.

For this reason, this Policy adopts the principle of 'continuous improvement' to ensure that the best possible outcomes are attained in a practical manner and timeframe.

Continuous improvement in the minimisation of pesticide use within an Integrated Pest Management context is a desirable policy position for staff to encourage aspiration and innovation while at the same time taking into account any real constraints. Progress towards the aspiration of minimisation is to be evaluated annually by each Division of Council with respect to attainment of the pest management goals identified for that Division in Council's IPM Strategy. Criteria for success will therefore be based on reduction of pesticide use to a minimum level required to maintain the pest management goals of Council.

2. GOAL

To provide a policy framework for the effective and efficient control of pests on Council-managed land through an Integrated Pest Management approach that uses a range of appropriate prevention and control methods while minimising the use of pesticides on a continuous improvement basis.

3. OBJECTIVES

Objective 1. Provide guidance for the development of an Integrated Pest Management Strategy (IPM Strategy) that will optimise efficient and effective resolution of pest problems while avoiding adverse impacts upon human health and the environment.

Objective 2. Establish decision-making tools to underpin and inform Integrated Pest Management. These tools include (but are not limited to):

(i) **a digital map** that identifies a Pesticide Exclusion Zone in which pesticides are no longer used; as well as a Pesticide Minimisation Zone where pesticide use may remain a necessary and justifiable part of an integrated pest management toolkit but is minimised on a continuous improvement basis. The principles of this mapping is to be consistent with the intent of Council Resolution 13-621 that reflects (i) cessation of the use of pesticide in high public use areas on Council-managed areas and (ii) minimisation of the use of pesticides in other areas on a continuous improvement basis,

(ii) **a set of protocols** to enable Council managers to approve the use of a pesticide in a Pesticide Exclusion zone in an emergency or where this is deemed necessary to meet its legislative and other obligations (including public safety, biosecurity, the maintenance of infrastructure and responsible financial management) in a manner that results in the lowest adverse outcomes for people and the environment. This will include:

- a. criteria and a decision tree to assist staff decide on whether to use a pesticide and, if so, which pesticide; and,

- b. examples of thresholds and pest action points in which a pesticide may need to be used.

Objective 3. Provide impetus for Council to build, improve and maintain employee and contractor knowledge and skills for selecting the lowest risk methodologies, including but not exclusively applying non-pesticide methods, for attaining the desired pest management outcome on Council-managed land.

As Council staff play a fundamental role in pest prevention, management, surveillance and reporting, it is essential that training is provided to optimise staff actions and encourage innovation. This may be achieved by building a consistent level of understanding of Integrated Pest Management and providing training in the multidisciplinary approach to:

- pest identification relevant to Byron Shire;
- Integrated Pest Management principles and operations (including information and training on prevention, surveillance, monitoring, implementation and reporting) to attain the desired management outcome in an efficient, effective and environmentally sound manner; and,
- alternatives to pesticide (particularly herbicide) use.

4. SCOPE

The Policy seeks to support a transition from a reliance of pesticides wherever practicable. It does not provide details about when and where an authorised person undertakes pest management activities or uses a pesticide as these details will either be provided in Council's Integrated Pest Management Strategy or will be determined on a case-by-case basis subject to the principles outlined in this Policy. However, standards of practice for pest species management and pesticide application on Council owned or managed land must continue to meet or exceed federal and state government requirements.

The Policy applies to pest management on Council owned or managed land. It does not apply to pest management on all other public land or private land. However, fostering a coordinated, cooperative approach to pest management is a principle supported by Council as pests occur at the landscape scale and therefore pest management must also occur at that scale.

Additionally, Council is supportive of any efforts by other public and private land managers to adopt an Integrated Pest Management approach to cease or minimise adverse impacts upon human health and the environment.

5. DEFINITIONS

Authorised person	A person authorised by Council to undertake explicit pesticide operations. An authorised person must have the appropriate competency for the application to be undertaken. Also see competent person.
Biosecurity	A critical part of Council's efforts to prevent, respond to and recover from pests that threaten the economy and environment.
Competent person	A person who has acquired through training, qualifications and experience the knowledge and skills to carry out explicit pesticide operations. The following may be considered competent persons for this policy: a pest control operator employed and/or contracted by Council; a horticulturist having studied pesticide usage; or a person having undertaken registered training in the management and application of pesticides.
Continuous improvement	A strategy of adaptive management that aspires to improved practices over time to progressively attain highest practicable extent



	progress towards a goal
Council infrastructure	Infrastructure (e.g. buildings, water supply, sewer, stormwater, road verges, road reserves, laneways, pathways and easements, drains and drainage systems, cemeteries, landfill, swimming pools, parks and sports fields) necessary to serve urban development at the desired standard of service in a coordinated, efficient and financially sustainable manner owned and/or managed by Council.
Council managed land	Land owned, occupied and/or managed by Byron Shire Council.
Emergency	An urgent need to mitigate or eliminate a pest that threatens public and/or authorised person health and safety, biosecurity and/or Council infrastructure.
Exposure	Occurs when a person, property or the environment comes into contact with a hazard. The four routes of exposure for people are: inhalation, skin absorption, ingestion and inoculation.
Integrated Pest Management (IPM)	A pest management strategy that carefully considers all available pest control techniques and subsequent integration of appropriate measures that discourage the development of pest populations and keep pesticides and other interventions to levels that are economically justified and reduce or minimize risks to human health and the environment (FAO 2003)
Minimisation	The careful use of the smallest amount of the least hazardous effective pesticide necessary to attain the pest management goal and saving a pesticide application as a last resort wherever possible and appropriate.
Pesticide hazard	The property of a product that causes the product to represent a risk to people or the environment if it is released to an environment where it can be active.
Pest	A species, strain or biotype of a plant or animal, or a disease agent that has the potential to cause, either directly or indirectly, harm to (a) human, animal or plant health or (b) the environment (Biosecurity Act 2015).
Pest control action	The point of which control measures are necessary to prevent a pest population from exceeding the threshold.
Pesticide	An agricultural chemical substance as defined by the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994. Definition of pesticides covers, bactericides baits, fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, lures, rodenticides and repellents. Pesticides are used in commercial, domestic, urban and rural environments (Pesticides Act 1999). A pesticide may be natural or synthetically produced. For the purposes of this Policy, a pesticide continues to be regarded as a pesticide even when it is mixed with some other substance (whether or not the other substance is a pesticide). Products that are pesticidal in their action but are entirely based on biological agents not harmful to humans are not considered a pesticide for the purposes of this policy.
Pesticide exclusion zone	An area or stretch of land under the jurisdiction of Byron Shire Council having a particular characteristic, purpose, or use, and subject to exclusion of pesticides as covered by the policy unless control of a pest in the identified area or stretch of land is deemed by Council to require a pesticide.
Pesticide minimisation zone	An area or stretch of land under the jurisdiction of Byron Shire Council having a particular characteristic, purpose, or use, and subject to the least practicable amount of pesticide use as covered by the policy.

Poison	Medicines and chemicals (including pesticides), whether naturally occurring or synthetic, that are listed on the Therapeutic Goods Administration's <i>Poisons Schedule</i> .
Action Thresholds	A level of pest presence above which is unacceptable amounts of danger or injury to the public and/or authorised person health and safety and/or biosecurity and/or asset protection is likely to occur, therefore a pest control action is required.

6. STATEMENT

In recognition of the desirability to effectively and efficiently control pests while reducing risk of potential adverse effects from pesticide use on people and the environment, pesticide use in Byron Shire is:

- I. prohibited in mapped 'pesticide exclusion' zones representing high public use and sensitive locations on Council-managed land and,
- II. minimised in all other areas of Council-managed land on a continuous improvement Integrated Pest Management basis;

while providing a mechanism for Council staff to use pesticides responsibly, on the basis of an agreed protocol, in any zone where pesticide use is deemed necessary for public and staff safety, biosecurity and protection of infrastructure within a framework of responsible financial management.

The desired long term outcome of the Policy is to attain public spaces in which people and the environment are not exposed to pesticides yet where pests are managed efficiently and effectively.

7. LEGISLATIVE AND STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Many Commonwealth and NSW government agencies, as well as other organisations including local government agencies, manage pesticides.

7.1 Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA)

The APVMA is an Australian government statutory authority established in 1993 to centralise the registration and sale of all agricultural and veterinary chemical products into the Australian marketplace. Previously each State and Territory government had its own system of registration. The APVMA was previously known as the National Registration Authority.

7.2 NSW Pesticides Act 1999 and NSW Pesticide Regulation 2017

NSW Environment Protection Authority (NSW EPA) is the independent statutory authority that sits in the Environment portfolio as part of the Planning and Environment Cluster. The NSW EPA is the State's primary environmental regulator, working with businesses, government, community and environment groups to manage and reduce pollution, waste and adverse impacts on the environment. NSW EPA regulates the safe and correct use of pesticides in NSW, from the point of sale, under the Pesticides Act 1999 and the Pesticides Regulation 2017 to protect the environment and community.

The Pesticides Act 1999 aims to reduce risks to human health, the environment, property, industry and trade in relation to use of pesticides and promote collaborative and integrated policies for pesticide use. Under the Pesticides Act 1999, all pesticide users in NSW must only use pesticides registered or permitted by APVMA or obtain an APVMA permit if they wish

to use a pesticide in a way not covered by the label. Users in NSW must also read the approved label and/or APVMA permit for the pesticide product (or have the label/permit read to them) and strictly follow their directions, only keep registered pesticides in containers bearing an approved label, prevent injury to people, damage to property and harm to non-target plants and animals from using a pesticide.

The Pesticides Regulation 2017 has provisions which require users of pesticides for commercial and occupational purposes, or in connection with agricultural, farming or forestry operations, to make and keep records of pesticide use and be trained to particular levels of competency in pesticide use. The Pesticides Regulation 2017 also requires certain pesticide users to give notice of pesticide use. Public authorities including Council applying pesticides in public places, such as parks and ovals, and those near sensitive places, such as schools and nursing homes need to develop a notification plan, often referred to as a Pesticide Use Notification Plan, describing how they will provide the public with prior notice about their pesticide use in outdoor public places.

Council's Pesticide Use Notification Plan is publically available via the Council website and aims to meet the community's right to know about pesticide applications made to outdoor public places that are controlled or owned by Council. The Pesticide Use Notification Plan allows members of the community to take action to avoid contact with pesticides, if they wish.

Additionally, the Pesticides Regulation 2017 defines what classes of users require a licence under the Pesticides Act 1999, sets the fees for licences, and the particulars to be included with the application for such licences, prescribes the qualifications required to obtain a licence, prescribes certain substances as restricted substances and prescribed produce for the purposes of the Pesticides Act 1999 in relation to agricultural produce and prescribes certain offences as penalty notice offences and prescribes penalty notice amounts.

Under the NSW Pesticides Act 1999 and NSW Pesticide Regulation 2017, Council have planning, regulatory, management, research and monitoring roles. Council together with Rous County Council are responsible for local pest weed control in Byron Shire and Council together with NSW Local Land Services are responsible for local pest animal control in Byron Shire.

7.2 NSW Biosecurity Act 2015

The Biosecurity Act 2015 has repealed the Noxious Weeds Act 1993, which has provided regulatory controls and powers to manage noxious weeds in NSW. The Biosecurity Act 2015 streamlines and modernises the way weeds are managed in NSW as it:

- embeds the principle of shared responsibility for biosecurity risks (including weeds) across government, community and industry
- applies equally to all land in the state, regardless of whether it is publically or privately owned
- is premised on the concept of risk, so that weed management investment and response is appropriate to the risk
- supports regional planning and management for weeds, as recommended by the Review of Weeds Management in NSW.

In keeping with its premise that biosecurity is a shared community responsibility, the Act introduces the legally enforceable concept of a General Biosecurity Duty. For example, for weeds, the General Biosecurity Duty means that any person dealing with plant matter must take measures to prevent eliminate or minimise the biosecurity risk (as far as is reasonably practicable).

7.3 The Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Council has a duty under the Work Health Safety Act 2011 to provide and maintain a work environment without risk to health and safety, to provide and maintain safe systems of work, to provide and maintain safe plant and structures and to ensure safe use, handling, and storage of plant, structures and substances. In the pursuit of Council's aspirations the health and safety of workers, whether directly employed by Council, contracted or volunteer workers must not be put at risk by the use of chemicals and hazardous substances or by causing workers to be put at risk from other hazards while using alternative means to control pests.

7.4 Byron's Community Strategic Plan 2028

Council is reviewing its current Community Strategic Plan referred to as Our Byron, Our Future. The document outlines the vision, community objectives and supporting strategies which will guide Council's long-term decision making.

In recognition of the draft document the Policy will align with:

- *Community Objective 1 Infrastructure, Transport and Services Which Meet Our Expectations* in that the Policy will contribute to providing a road network which is safe, accessible and maintained to an acceptable level of service through a continuous improvement Integrated Pest Management basis
- *Community Objective 3 Protect and Enhance Our Natural Environment* in that the Policy is framed to guide pest management decision-making with respect to pesticide cessation in some areas and minimisation in others; while also enabling a discretionary use by Council in either area if deemed necessary to meet its pest management obligations.

7.5 Byron's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy

The Byron Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (Strategy) is the key document which provides a framework and guidance to Council and the community in managing Byron's biodiversity. The Strategy identifies the values of the Shire, the threats that are impacting on these values and provides a detailed action plan with a wide range of actions intended to reduce threatening processes and protect and restore habitat.

The Strategy also considers alignment with other Council initiatives and plans such as the Rural Land Use Strategy, Small Steps to Healthier Rural Roadsides and the Roadside Vegetation Management Plan all of which support the intent of the original Resolution.

7.6 Byron's Pest Animal Management Plan

Council has recently reviewed its Pest Animal Management Plan to provide a framework for the continued management of pest animals primarily but not whole heartedly on Council managed land across Byron Shire. The Plan enables Council to meet its statutory requirements under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015 and Local Land Services Act 2013, whilst fostering a collaborative, cross-tenure approach to pest animal management.

The Pest Animal Management Plan provides desired outcomes, objectives and actions to address and manage the impacts of pest animals. These actions are based on the principles of pest animal management being, prevention, eradication, containment and asset based protection. Objectives include increasing the community understands of the benefits of integrated pest animal management, encouraging community-led, coordinated and integrated pest animal control activities, using safe, effective and humane approaches to pest animal



management such as the exclude of pesticides (e.g. 1080) and promoting research and development.

The Pest Animal Management Plan draws on the experience and knowledge of local stakeholders and community members who provided advice and input during the development phase.

8. SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability involves considerations of social, environmental and economic factors to maintain or develop viable operations in our shared spaces.

8.1 Social

Social responsibility in the pest management context involves Council considering effects of pests and their control on society in general as well as (i) groups within society who have close involvement in managing pests with or without pesticides (e.g. farmers, landcare groups) and (ii) individuals who may be sensitive to pest species or to chemicals.

Pests can affect the health of the community in a range of ways, as can methods of controlling pests. This means that actions to control pest animals (e.g. disease-spreading or biting insects and mammals) or pest plants (e.g. weed growth that cause trip hazards, impinge upon road safety or impact on biodiversity) need to be carried out in a manner that avoids and minimises further harm or adverse impacts to the environment and people.

Community members across Byron Shire participate in collaborative and coordinated pest animal management programs, as well as Landcare and Coastcare activities all of which cross multiple land tenure including Council managed land and on private land. Whilst Council's obligations under the Biosecurity Act are being met, it is important that private land managers and volunteers are respectfully supported in their choice of whether to use pesticides or not use pesticides. Notwithstanding, the Policy may influence and empower other public and private land managers to adopt an integrated pest management approach that seeks to carefully consider all available pest control techniques keep pesticides and other interventions to levels that are economically justified and reduce or minimize risks to human health and the environment.

Where Council staff, contractors or volunteers to use pesticides it is vital that they are sufficiently supported and trained and that all worker health and safety obligations regarding the safe use of pesticides are adhered to by Council, that this is reflected in Council's Worker Health and Safety Policy and Safe Work Method Statements, and that these are implemented accordingly.

Any authorised person acting on behalf of Council needs to consider the health and safety of the public and operators while performing any pest management activity that could foreseeably harm others or the environment.

8.1.1 Chemical Sensitive Residents and Organic Growers

Council has established a register for Chemical Sensitive Residents and Organic Growers. Residents sensitive to pesticides and certified organic growers may apply to Council in writing via the application form available on Council's website.

Residents sensitive to pesticides and certified organic growers who are on the registered are notified before pesticides are applied to the public space. Details are kept confidential and only given to an authorised person for the purposes of notifying applicants of proposed use of pesticides.

Being on the register for Chemical Sensitive Residents and Organic Growers does NOT stop an authorised person spraying pesticides near where resident lives or organic growers operate. It means that pesticide applicators must notify those registered when certain types of spraying will occur next to the primary residence in which the registered person lives or operates from.

To enable records to be kept up to date, Council posts a renewal notice for the register in April each year.

8.2. Environmental

A primary consideration for environmental sustainability is the protection, restoration and rehabilitation of Byron Shire's highly valued biodiversity consistent with Byron Shire's Biodiversity Strategy. This includes conserving and protecting native vegetation (whether remnant or regrowth) and native fauna of the Shire in a manner that prioritises the control of pests that outcompete or otherwise negatively affect native species. Actions relevant to this Policy include the timely, efficient and effective management of biosecurity risks including pest plants and animals, particularly with respect to Threatened species or Endangered Ecological Communities listed under State or Federal legislation.

Other highly important primary considerations are the protection of soil, water and air quality in the treatment of pest, through the avoidance of erosion or contamination of soil and water by pesticides and consideration of carbon emissions.

8.3. Economic

Pest management actions must consider the responsible use of Council funds. While cost should not be used as justification for any management actions including for pesticide use, there will be limits to the cost effectiveness of any one or more control methods for managing pests, particularly around managing pests at larger scales.

The consideration of suitable pest control methods for protecting valuable infrastructure includes not only built infrastructure such as public roads, drains and buildings but also green infrastructure such as the natural and built components of a streetscape, defined as the design quality of the street and its visual effect. The 'sustainable streetscape' concept recognises that a street is a public place where people are able to engage in various activities. Sustainable streetscape plays an important role in forming the visual image of the Shire's sustainable towns and villages, as it is one of the most important factors which help in the success of towns and villages in attracting visitors. Towns and villages that lack good streetscape may adversely affect the behaviour of users and aesthetic aspects of the built environment, through deterioration of the perceived visual image of towns and villages within the Shire.

8.4. Governance

The Policy must comply with all relevant legislation and Council's policies. Implementation of a workable framework, consistent with the intent of Council Resolution 13-621, for the management of pests will require the development of staff procedures for appropriate decision-making with respect to identifying Thresholds and Action Levels of all management actions but in particular for pesticide use in either Pesticide Exclusion Zones or Pesticide Minimisation Zones with consideration of public views and perspectives.