

**PROPERTY PEST MANAGEMENT
PLAN**

FOR

JIM'S JOINT

CAPE YORK PENINSULA

**March 2012 to February 2016
Reviewed April 2012**

Introduction:

Jim's Joint is located at 387 Shiptons Flat Road, Rossville on Lot 3 SP145486, approx 50k South of Cooktown.

By preparing this plan it is hoped to control these weeds and pests effectively.

GOAL:

- To protect the economy and environment of "Jim's Joint" from the adverse impacts of weeds and feral animals.
- To have a productive property with no declared or environmental pest plants or pest animals.
- To manage the land of "Jim's Joint", in a sustainable way, by controlling weeds and pest animals and to ensure economic and environmental viability.
- To have no declared plants or environmental weeds actively growing on "Jim's Joint" and to have a workable management plan to control declared and other feral animals.

PERIOD OF PLAN:

March 2012 to February 2016

OBJECTIVES: To be achieved within the life of the plan (4 years)

1. To prevent the introduction of any new weeds in the next 4 years.
2. To reduce in area all high priority weeds and/or to reduce the density of current infestations.
3. To contain or reduce medium and low priority weeds within 4 years.
4. To reduce the number of feral animals within 4 years.

1. PRINCIPLES:

- Weed management is an integral part of land management on Jim's Joint.
- Every effort will be made by "Jim's Joint" owner to cooperate with regional, sub-region and catchment pest management programs. These include:
 - The Cook Shire Pest Management Plan
 - Cape York Peninsula Pest Management Plan
- This pest management plan will be reviewed annually and will have a life of 4 years.

OBSTACLES / ISSUES TO ACHIEVING OUR OBJECTIVES:

- Time and money
- Long viability of some weed seeds
- Shiptons Flat Road runs through the property
- Weather
- Attitudes of neighbours upstream not properly treating Sicklepod and undeveloped government land at rear of property.

MAPPING OF PESTS

The approximate distribution of Sicklepod located on Jim's Joint is shown in Map 1 (Appendix 1)

PRIORITISING PESTS

Pest plants and animals were prioritised for future action as high, medium or low priority based on the following criteria:

- Potential threat the species imposes
- Achievability rating
- Strategic importance
- Declaration category (if any)
- Operational, technical, administrative, financial and social feasibility

The methodology used for prioritising pests is at Appendix 2. The following table is a result of this process.

PESTS ON JIM'S JOINT

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	THREAT		ACHIEVABILITY	DECLARATION CATEGORY	PRIORITY <small>(Overall rating)</small>
		Natural areas	Agriculture areas			
Plants						
Common Sensitive plant	<i>Mimosa pudica</i>	1	2	4	N/A	Low
Lantana	<i>Lantana camara</i>	1	2	3	Class 3	Medium
Sicklepod	<i>Senna obtusifolia</i>	1	2	2	Class 2	High
Snake weed	<i>Stachytarpheta cayennensis</i>	3	3	3	N/A	Low

Animals						
Feral pigs	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	2	1	2	Class 2	High
Wild dogs/ Dingoes	<i>Canis familiaris</i> <i>C.familiaris dingo</i>	3	3	2	Class 2	Medium

ACTION PLANS

Objective 1:

To prevent the introduction of any new weeds in the next 4 years.

Current situation:

Shiptons Flat Road runs through the property which needs constant monitoring for new pests. With past ownership of property weeds have been brought into the property via machinery and other vehicles and have been able to establish themselves through neglect. Not all neighbouring properties are aware of the need for pest management and what pests can threaten our properties.

Strategies / Actions	By Whom	When	Performance Indicator
When the opportunity arises discuss weed problems with neighbours, coordinate control work. Suggest they have someone from the CYWAFAP check their property for weeds.	Landholder	Before wet season	Meeting with neighbours held
Limit movement of vehicles to the first 80mt of the property to contain weed seed spread.	Landholder	As required	Weed spread is stopped
If buying equipment from outside the local area ensure that it is washed down before use.	Landholder	When machinery is purchased	Machinery is washed down before use
Use only hay cut from the property.	Landholder	On going	No new weed infestations on property
Undertake spray program with recommended herbicides for appropriate weeds	Landholder	After wet season when weeds are actively growing	Spray program undertaken as required
Monitor roadsides for any new or declared weed outbreaks and notify Cook Shire Council of new infestations found	Landholder	On going	Visual inspections of road sides during general operations
Resources Needed			
Chemicals, Vehicle, Washdown area			

Objective 2:

To reduce in area all high priority weeds and/or to reduce the density of current infestations.

Current situation:

Currently Sicklepod is contained to creek lines. The majority of the property is free of other invasive weeds.

Strategies / Actions	By Whom	When	Performance Indicator
Continue spraying and slashing programs as required	Landholder	As required /before onset of seeding	No new outbreaks of weeds in clean areas. Reduction of weed density
Check known weed areas for secondary germinations after control methods have been undertaken	Landholder	2 weeks after initial control work is undertaken	Secondary germinations are treated if required
Apply to CYWAFAP for incentive scheme for herbicide	Landholder	Annually	Application submitted

Resources Needed

Personal protection equipment
Chemicals
Spray unit
Slasher

Sicklepod (<i>Senna obtusifolia</i>)		
Threat 1	Achievability 2	Priority High
Impact/Current situation: Scattered throughout creek systems. Unable to slash due to onset of wet but able to spray using quad bike and spray tank. Property upstream not treating their infestation of Sicklepod adequately.		
Infestation type: Scattered		
Goal: Reduce outbreaks; treat infestation on creek bank and grazing paddock.	Performance Indicators: Areas of Sicklepod are reduced; no new outbreaks detected.	
Obstacles: Longevity of seed life (up to 10 years). Wet flood plains restrict slashing. Ongoing reinfestation from upstream.		
Actions	By Whom	When
Slash prior to wet and flowering.	Landholder	As soon as possible
Spray before plant flowers	Landholder	As soon as possible
Pest Monitoring Process: Visually check areas of known outbreaks for reduction in size and along tracks for new outbreaks.		
RESOURCES NEEDED:		
Vehicle Quad Bike Ute	Equipment 100lt 12V spray unit/200lt petrol driven spray unit	

Objective 3:

To contain or reduce medium and low priority weeds within 4 years.

Current situation:

Currently medium and low priority weeds are scattered over the property. These weeds need to be controlled and monitored to reduce the areas within the yearly program. This control work will be coordinated with the spraying of the high priority weeds.

Strategies/actions	By whom	When	Performance indicator
Continue spraying/slashing	Landholder	After rainfall/when actively growing	All medium and low priority weeds have been reduced in density or size
Carry out follow up spraying	Landholder	As new seedlings germinate	
Monitor spread of medium/low priority weeds.	Landholder	Ongoing	

Resources Needed

Spray unit
Herbicide
Slasher

Strategies to control Medium to Low priority weeds:

NAME	STRATEGIES	WHO	WHEN	RESOURCES
Lantana	Spray/slash or hand pull	Landholder	After rain. During active growth	Chemical/spray unit
Sensitive weed	Spray/slash or hand pull	Landholder	After rain. During active growth	Chemical/spray unit
Snakeweed	Spray/slash or hand pull	Landholder	After rain. During active growth	Chemical/spray unit

Objective 4:

To reduce the number of feral animals within 4 years.

Animal	Threat	Achievability	Priority
Feral Pigs	1	2	High
Wild dogs/dingoes	2	2	Medium

Impact/Current situation:

Feral pigs follow the seasonal and permanent creeks which flow through the property. The destruction of these creeks causes erosion and habitat loss and are also destroying some pastured paddocks. Feral pigs have the potential to carry disease and infest other parts of the property by transporting weed seed. Current control method is ad-hoc hunting. Wild dogs/dingoes seem to follow the feral pigs.

Strategies / Actions	By Whom	When	Performance indicator
Apply for incentive scheme support for building traps	Landholder	Annually	The number of feral animals has been reduced
<u>Feral pigs</u>			
Trap feral pigs	Landholder	Ongoing	
<u>Wild dogs/dingoes</u>			
Trap Wild dogs/dingoes	Landholder	As required	

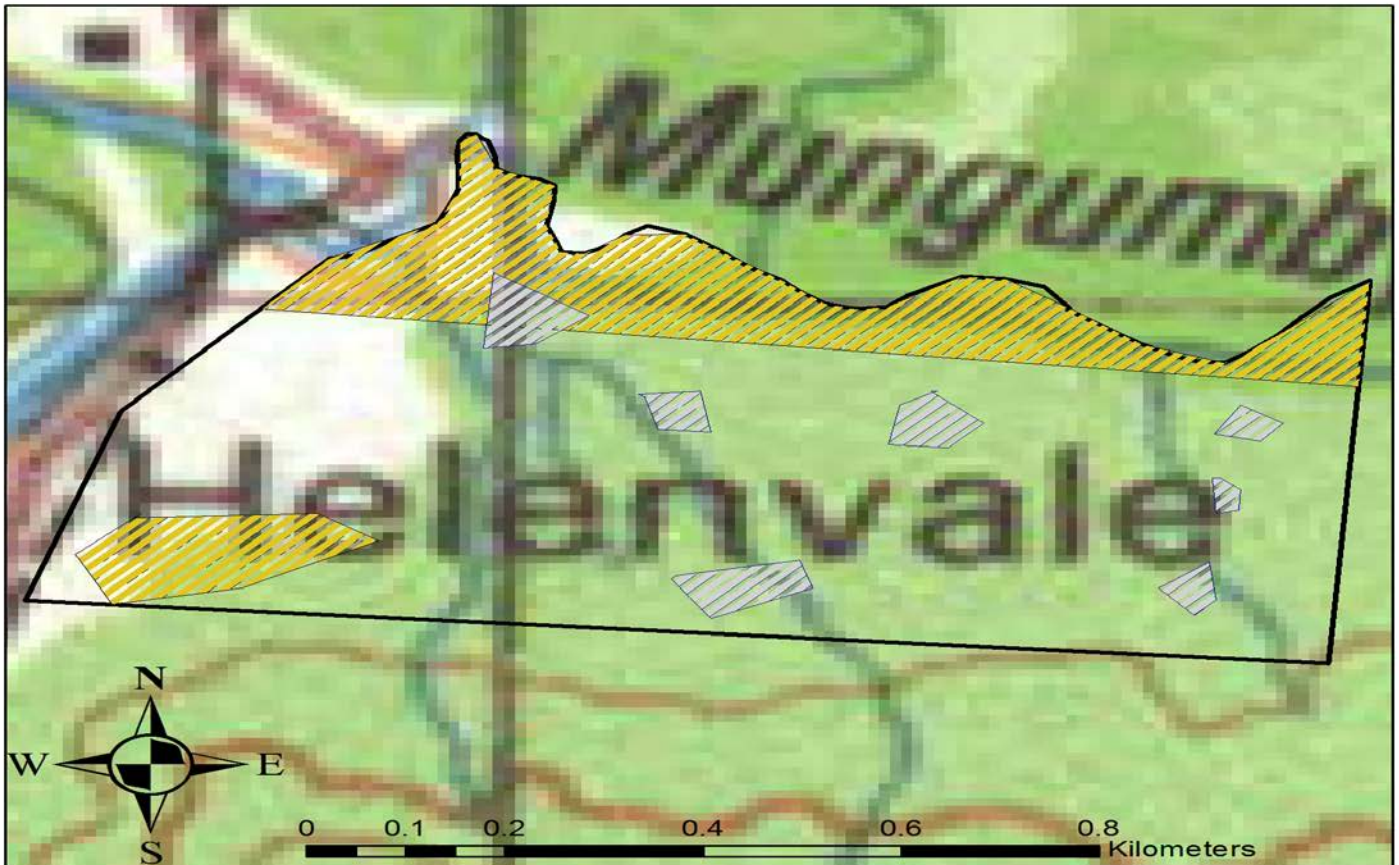
Resources Needed

Traps
Vehicles
Labour

APPENDIX 1

Map 1:

Weed Distribution on Jim's Joint



Legend

-  lantana
-  Sicklepod
-  Property boundry

Distributions are only in close proximity as described by owner and have not been mapped by GPS

APPENDIX 2

Methodology for Prioritising Pests.

Pest plants and animals are rated or prioritised for future action as high, medium or low priority based on the following criteria:

- Potential threat the species imposes
- Achievability rating
- Strategic importance
- Declaration category (if any)
- Operational, technical, administrative, financial and social feasibility

Potential threat

Based on the pests' biology, ecology and distribution, each pest plant and animal is rated according to its potential "risk" or "threat" to areas of high value or importance. The rating categories are:

- 1 = High threat
- 2 = Medium threat
- 3 = Low threat
- 4 = No threat

Achievability rating

An "achievability" rating is assigned to each pest as follows:
(Those species where there is no possibility of achieving any positive outcomes from control measures are not included).

- 1 = Could be **eradicated** from the property or specific area
- 2 = Could be significantly **reduced** in area (plants) or numbers (animals) in the property or specific area
- 3 = Could be **contained** / prevented from spreading (plants) or could prevent major / rapid increase in numbers (animals)
- 4 = Could be **managed** effectively with biocontrol or fire

Declaration Status

The *Declaration Category* for declared pests is listed in the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* and Regulations 2003 as well as in the Cook Shire Pest Management Plan.