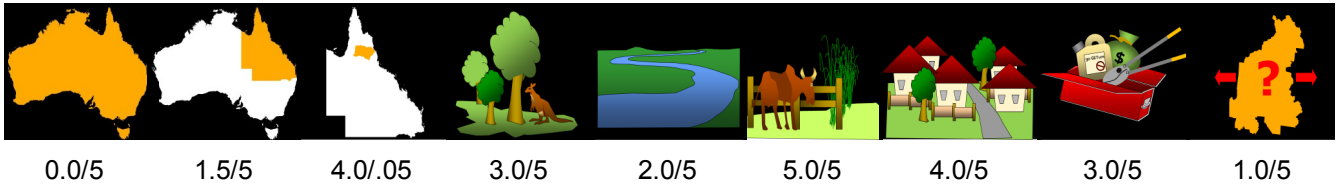


Feral Cat *Felis catus*

National priority State priority Previous local Conservation Water resources Agriculture and industry Community and residential Feasibility of control Current extent

Priority



Details

Description Feral Cats are derived from domestic cats and have a long history of naturalisation in Australia. They are similar in appearance to domestic cats but are generally larger in size particularly around the head and shoulders. Feral Cat fur is generally short and a range of colours. Males weigh up to 6kg and females up to 4kg. They are usually most active at night.

Distribution Feral Cats are present in all areas of mainland Australia and many islands.

Impacts Feral Cats eat small to medium prey including birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, fish and insects. They compete directly with native carnivores and carry toxoplasmosis, which is harmful to marsupials. Feral Cats scavenge around urban areas and may prey on domestic pets and poultry. They are potential carriers of the rabies virus if it were to enter Australia.

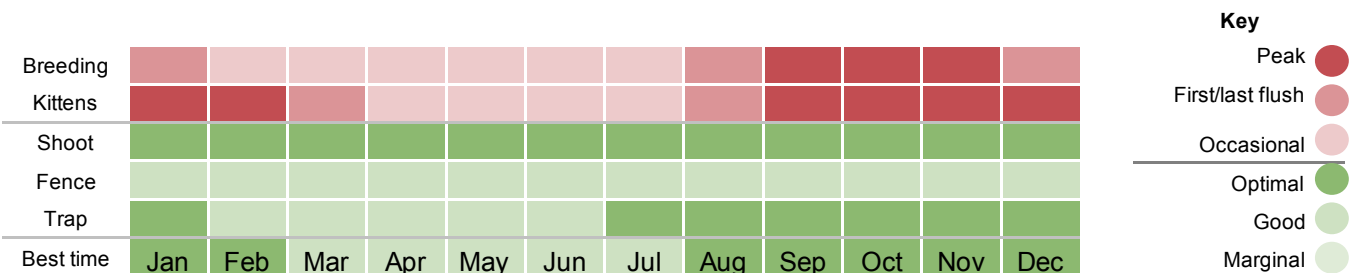
Key projects Feral Cats are usually not managed on a landscape scale but are targeted in species recovery programs and protection of key environmental assets. No coordinated management programs are active

Background

Despite a lack of coordinated management, other options for control can be applied at a local level including shooting, trapping (cage and leg hold traps), restricting access to food sources and responsible domestic cat ownership (including desexing and keeping cats confined). Integrated management using a number of these methods is recommended.

Feral Cats pose a threat to all native wildlife and particular attention is required in areas where key biodiversity assets occur. Feral Cats can capture prey up to 3kg in size but more commonly hunt small mammals, reptiles and birds. Feral Cats have been implicated in the extinction of several Australian mammal species and are present across over 99% of Australia.

Control calendar



For more information on using this biosecurity action plan fact sheet, and further information on control tools, refer to the [Tablelands Biosecurity Plan](#) available at trc.qld.gov.au and customer service centres.

1300 362 242 (24hr Customer Service)

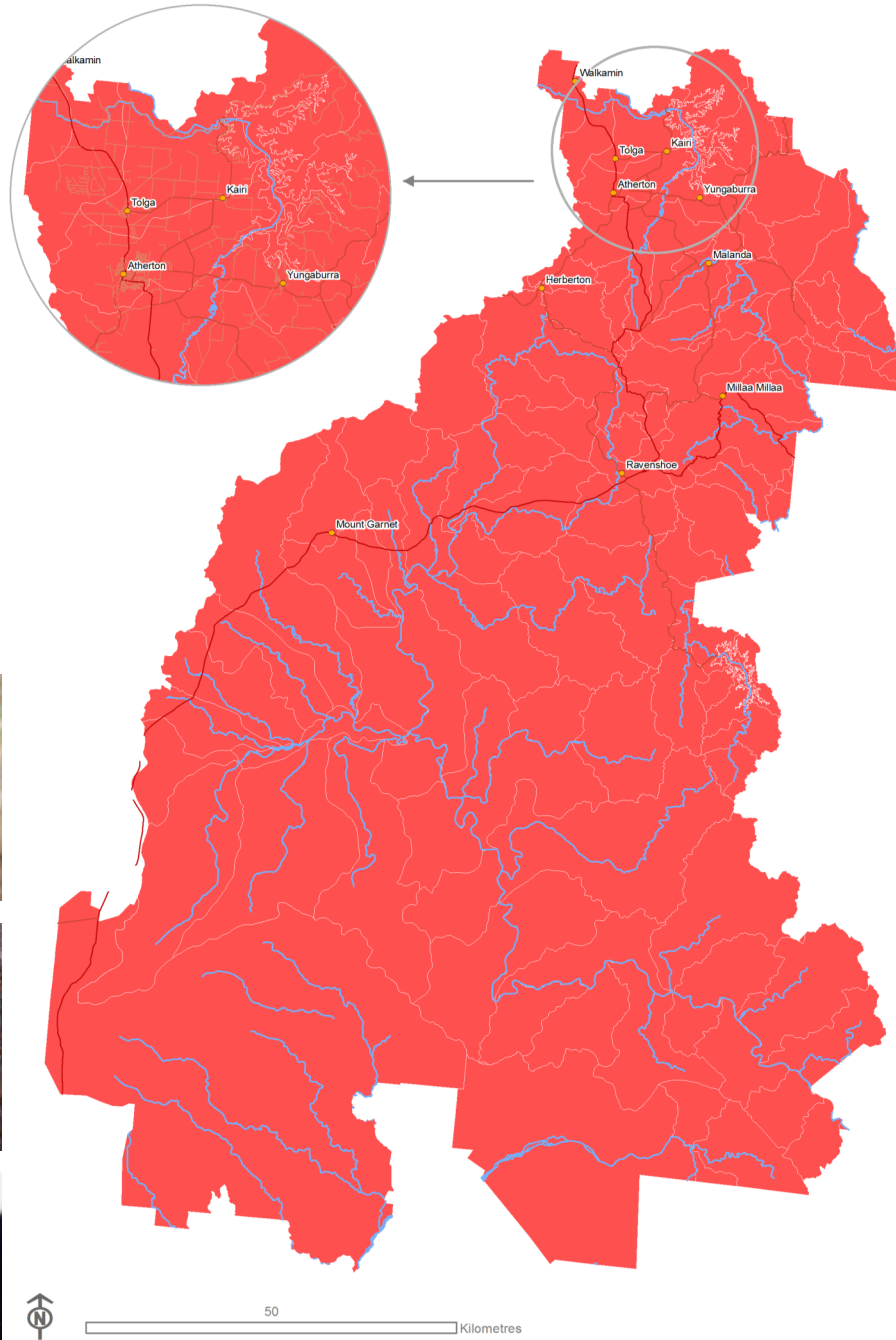
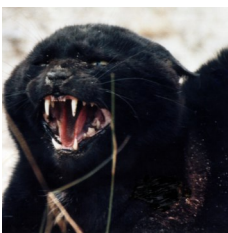
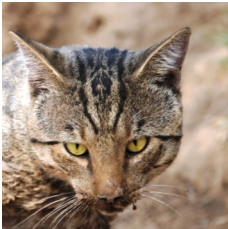
info@trc.qld.gov.au

www.trc.qld.gov.au

PO Box 573, Atherton QLD 4883

Tablelands Regional Council

Customer Service Centres in Atherton, Herberton, Malanda & Ravenshoe



Vertebrate

Carnivore

Biosecurity Act Restricted matter category

2
Must be reported

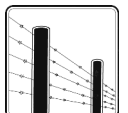
3
Do not distribute

4
Do not move

5
Do not keep

6
Do not feed

Control



What is my biosecurity obligation?

In the asset protection zone

Feral Cats are restricted matter under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. They must not be moved, fed, given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit. This includes releasing or dumping of domestic cats. The definition of a feral cat includes Bengal cat hybrids derived from *Prionailurus bengalensis* x *Felis catus*.

Any other species of cat is prohibited in Queensland and must be reported within 24 hours to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

Domestic cats are managed in accordance with Tablelands Regional Council Local Laws.