

# Pest Management Advisory Committee Minutes

<b>Date</b>	Tuesday 14 November 2023, 1.30pm – 3.00pm
<b>Place</b>	TRC Boardroom, 45 Mabel Street, Atherton

Attendance			
Name	Role	Present	Apologies
Angus McLeod	WTMA		Y
Andrew Lilly	FNQ Weed Services		Y
Andrew Wood	Malanda Landcare	Y	
Bailey Hoch	TMR		Y
Brian Weinert	QPWS		Y
Christopher Mooney	DoR		
Dave Bilney	Committee Chair, Councillor, TRC	Y	
David Blair	Yungaburra Landcare		Y
Evizel Seymour	Terrain NRM		Y
Graham Weinert	Mareeba Shire Council		
Greg Binnie	Malanda Beef Plan Group	Y	
Howard Smith	Bega	Y	
Ken Goleby	TRC	Y	
Mario DiCarlo	DAF	Y	
Miki Bradley	QPWS	Y	
Teesha Wellington	NQLMS		
Travis Sydes	Regional Natural Asset Management and Sustainability Coordinator, FNQROC	Y	
Tudor Tanase	Manager Environment and Natural Resources, TRC	Y	

Guests: Dr Daniel Montesinos (JCU)  
Gordon Carcary (MBPG)  
Brian and Helen Poulos (Feral Management Qld)

<b>Confirmation of minutes</b>	Minutes of 8 August 2023 meeting Mover: Travis Sydes                      Seconded: Greg Binnie                      Carried
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No.	Agenda item	Responsible
1	<p><b>Guest presentation: Dr Daniel Montesinos - JCU / Australian Tropical Herbarium - Opportunities for collaboration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daniel Montesinos is a weed ecologist at the Australian Tropical Herbarium, James Cook University. Contact details are 0402548340, <a href="mailto:daniel.montesinos@jcu.edu.au">daniel.montesinos@jcu.edu.au</a>.</li> <li>• He can provide with weed and plant ID services through the ATH. He will start offering regular WeedID workshops starting 2024.</li> <li>• ATH-JCU secured funding to build a small plant quarantine glasshouse in Smithfield during 2024. This will support research, but it will also provide quarantine services to external parties. For instance, new crop varieties or other live plants could be imported directly via this approved arrangement, instead of faraway quarantine facilities.</li> <li>• Daniel is interested in developing small research projects with interested parties to tackle specific problems with specific weeds. Daniel can offer his time in-kind to be matched with whichever other small in-kind materials or contributions might be needed. Reach out to him to discuss potential ideas.</li> <li>• Updates about workshops and glasshouse will be sent during 2024 as things develop.</li> <li>• Please refer to additional information ATTACHED.</li> </ul>	Dr Daniel Montesinos (JCU)
2	<p><b>Agricultural Advisory Committee recommendation</b></p> <p>Background and detail of Ag Committee meeting of 20 October 2023 and motion which will be tabled at the November Council Ordinary meeting</p> <p><i>Motion1: that the PMAC supports the Ag Committee motion number 2 pending detailed consideration of feasible options, including development of interactive weed mapping to improve information exchange between all TRC staff and landholders.</i></p> <p>Moved: Howard Smith                      Seconded: Andrew Wood                      Carried</p>	TRC
3	<p><b>TRC pest management update (Aug – Oct 2023)</b></p> <p><b>Feral Animal Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dog Baiting &amp; Trapping</b></li> <li>• <b>7 station baits over 1000Kg of dog strength</b></li> <li>• <b>1 local coordinated bait with MBPG with 38 landholders and 900 baits of dog strength</b></li> <li>• <b>5 single property baits</b></li> <li>• Dog trap loaned to 1 landholder.</li> <li>• <b>Pig Trapping</b></li> <li>• 2 pig trap has been loaned out over three months to 2 landholders.</li> <li>• 1 Rabbit cat trap lent</li> <li>• Rabbit virus release on the 9.11.23 with 19 landholders involved.</li> </ul> <p><b>Weed management.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fireweed control 6-day 3 staff</b></li> <li>• <b>Bellyache bush 1 days 2 staff</b></li> </ul>	TRC

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Navua Sedge:</b> Ongoing roadside spraying with both Main and local roads 30 days of treatment 1-3 staff</li> <li>• <b>Broadleaf weeds over</b> 7 days of various species controlled by 3 staff.</li> <li>• <b>Giant rats' tail and Gamba grasses</b></li> <li>• GRT sprayed roadside 2 staff over 5 days.</li> <li>• Gamba grass control 1 days 2 staff</li> <li>• <b>Parthenium weed and Lions tail</b> 2 day by 2 staff at known locations of Parthenium.</li> <li>• Lions tail 2-day 2 staff</li> <li>• <b>Turbina, Madeira</b> control at various sites 1 days 2 staff</li> <li>• <b>White ball Acacia</b> 1 day 2 staff</li> <li>• <b>Prickly Acacia</b> 1 day 2 staff</li> </ul> <p><b>Other items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fire Ops 12 days 2-4 staff</li> <li>○ Electric ant surveys 2 days 4 staff</li> <li>○ Numerous Customer requests with information advice and control.</li> <li>○ Malanda Landcare help with new project Malanda 2 staff 2 days.</li> <li>○ TMR road survey for weeds on contract requirements 4 days 2 staff</li> <li>○ Weed symposium Dalby for Ken networking and gaining new ideas and weeds.</li> <li>○ Trainee involved in Indigenous youth leader's forum Brisbane.</li> </ul> <p><b>TMR roadside weed management contract finalised and executed</b></p> <p><b>TRC motion to LGAQ was passed at 2023 Annual Conference:</b></p> <p><b>Motion</b></p> <p>The LGAQ calls on the State Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) List navua sedge as a restricted invasive plant under the Biosecurity Act 2014;</li> <li>2) Provide urgent funding to accelerate research into potential biological controls for navua sedge; and</li> <li>3) Provide urgent funding for the control of navua sedge particularly on main roads.</li> </ol> <p><b>Outcome Sought</b></p> <p>The LGAQ calls on the State Government to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) List navua sedge as a restricted invasive plant under the Biosecurity Act 2014;</li> <li>2) Provide urgent funding to accelerate research into potential biological controls for navua sedge; and</li> <li>3) Provide urgent funding for the control of navua sedge particularly on main roads.</li> </ol>	
4	<b>Agency updates</b>	All

	<p><b>Malanda Landcare:</b> Update on North Johnstone River project. Aboriginal sites need to be considered during work planning.</p> <p><b>DAF:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White ball acacia: Rocky Creek, Walkamin, Southedge. Very good progress at Rocky Creek, done with DoR and TRC assistance, will be burnt next year.</li> <li>• Enforcement: presence at markets. Will also target TRC markets</li> <li>• Cecropia: high resolution drone work. Surveyed 835ha by drone. Intended to use AI to identify weeds.</li> </ul> <p><b>QPWS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brian Wienert is now Resource Ranger for Tablelands – permanent and will be on PMAC</li> <li>• Control of Mt Baldy Siam infestation going well</li> <li>• New infestation on Barron River Rd – survey over next few weeks</li> <li>• Turbina – Geoff Onus doing Mabi forest survey at Curtain Fig. No mature plants at previous survey.</li> <li>• Wild dog and cat – camera trapping to determine whether Dingo or crossbreeds.</li> <li>• Remote trigger pig trapping at Ravenshoe forest.</li> <li>• Applied for threatened species grants – Brood Frog – sound recognition – at <b>Millstream/Ravenshoe/Bluff locations</b>. Working with JCU who also applied.</li> </ul> <p><b>MBPG:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog baiting program with TRC, looking at doing it 2x/year. Moderate to small uptake of bait reported</li> <li>• Discussed opportunity to have TRC officers attend MBPG meetings</li> </ul> <p><b>Motion 2: <i>that Council consider the installation of automated washdown facilities to improve the uptake and efficiency of weed seed prevention</i></b></p> <p>Moved: Greg Binnie      Seconded: Andrew Wood      Carried</p> <p><b>Bega:</b></p> <p>Business as usual, with Navua sedge of principle concern <b>Action: send Ubeniq and Sempra information to Howard</b></p> <p><b>Guest presentation:</b> Feral Management Queensland (Helen and Brian):</p> <p>Pests lead to weed problems. Potential emerging issues with pets turning feral (e.g. abandoned cats). Volunteer service available to assist. Can deal with the destruction of animal pests. Need information, need written permission to access. Can tailor services to client requirements. Humane destruction. Trail camera monitoring. Collect, process and forward data. Insured. Further information is ATTACHED.</p>	
5	<p><b>General business</b></p> <p>none</p>	All

No.	Action items from previous meetings	Responsible	Completed
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<b>Meeting Close</b>	3.40pm
<b>Next Meeting</b>	Tuesday _____TBC_____, 1.30-3.00pm, Atherton Boardroom

<b>Attachments</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Navua Trial 2023</li> <li>2. Introducing Feral Management Queensland</li> </ol>
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## Solarization for local control of *Navua sedge*. Call for volunteers for a pilot study.

### What is the problem?

- *Navua sedge* is a significant weed at the Atherton Tablelands.
- Hard to manage due to persistent seeds and rhizomes in the soil.

### What is solarization?

- Solarization is a weed control farming technique that uses plastic sheets and natural sun and humidity to kill seeds and roots in the topsoil layer (5-15cm).
- Solarization has been anecdotally reported to be moderately to highly effective for the local removal of sedges in other tropical regions.
- It requires accessible locations and 6-12 weeks of time in order to work.

### What can we do?

- Adjusting the technique to the Tablelands conditions could result in a low cost solution to remove *Navua sedge* from localised areas.
- Variables to test include best season for application, days after rain/soil humidity, length of application, and others.

### What can I do?

- If you own or manage land with *Navua sedge* problems, you can provide access to your land and help with the study during 2024.
- Pilot study will require to set up several 3x3m plots replicating different treatments (at different times of the year, set up in days with different soil humidity, etc.) that will be surveyed to assess changes in temperature, humidity, and survival of *Navua sedge*.
- Replication across many different paddocks/areas would be ideal, thus many interested parties can get involved.
- Help might be required to prepare the plots, including some tilling and levelling when necessary.

If interested, please reach out to:

Daniel Montesinos

0402 548 340

[daniel.montesinos@jcu.edu.au](mailto:daniel.montesinos@jcu.edu.au)



*Picture credit: landscapeontario.com*

### Australian Tropical Herbarium (CNS)

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**Street:** Sir Robert Norman Building (E2), JCU Cairns Campus, McGregor Road, Smithfield QLD 4878, AUSTRALIA

**Tel:** +61 (0)7 4232 1837, **E-mail:** [enquiry@ath.org.au](mailto:enquiry@ath.org.au), **Web:** [www.ath.org.au](http://www.ath.org.au)

CITES code: AU047

Feral Management Queensland  
PO Box 45  
Samford  
QLD, 4520

10th November 2023

Tablelands Regional Council  
Mabel St  
Atherton



### **Introducing Feral Management Queensland**

Dear Sir/Madam

Feral Management Queensland Incorporated (FMQ) is a dedicated proven volunteer, not for profit organisation, operating through regional hubs located throughout Queensland, specialising in the control and monitoring of feral pest animals using a variety of proven techniques including the latest thermal night vision technology. We offer our free services to State Government Organisations and Pastoralists to assist in the control of feral pests. Please find attached our current brochure.

Our accredited members have and are operating cooperatively and in consultation with State government agencies, private conservation groups, local government, and indigenous groups in Queensland to provide levels of effective control of feral pests that supplement existing feral control policies.

Our organisation operates under an enforced Code of Conduct to ensure ethical hunting standards and compliance with government guidelines. Members operate under established Standard Operating Procedures and are trained and supervised to operate safely and in teams within a corporate structure.

Our presence on the ground is another line of defence against the introduction and spread of zoonotic and other diseases which may be a threat to native fauna and domestic livestock.

We would welcome the opportunity to supplement your feral management strategy. For more information, please contact Helen Poulos or Greg Prior on any of the brochures contact details.

Yours Sincerely

Helen Poulos  
Secretary  
Feral Management Queensland

Greg Prior  
President  
Feral Management Queensland