STRATEGIC PLAN

2016-2022

invasive species council

Keeping nature safe from dangerous new invaders

Building an informed & motivated community...

Builds political support & contributes to solutions...

Leading to a good biosecurity system...

Lowering the risk of new invasive species becoming established...

And lowering future impacts on our environment

Photos: Cassowary chick, Emmagen Creek (Dan Gordon | Flickr | CC BY-NC 2.0); in the lab (Ibbl | Flickr | CC BY-NC 2.0); Yellow crazy ant, David Wilson.

Prevention & early action

When Europeans first arrived in Australia they ushered in an era of unprecedented invasions that continue to this day.

First came the rabbit, fox and feral cat, then the cane toad. Noxious overseas weeds now number in their thousands.

Some can be controlled and contained, but most continue to wreak havoc on our wildlife and environment, our farming communities and economy.

If we have learned anything it is that Australia cannot afford anymore harmful invasive species.

That's why we want Australia to develop a first line of defence, a biosecurity system that will keep us safe from new harmful invasive species like yellow crazy ants, which threaten Queensland's Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

The key to this biosecurity system is prevention and early action.

BIOSECURITY

is the protection of the environment, economy and public health from negative impacts associated with pests, diseases and weeds.

Cover photos: Myrtle rust on scrub myrtle, Tim Low; Asian black-spined toad, DEPI; yellow crazy ant, David Wilson; smooth newt; John Beniston (CC BY-SA 3.0); Koster's curse, Kim Starr; feral deer; Federation Training students.

Below: Fox on the hunt in Edithvale wetlands, Victoria (Wayne Butterworth | Flickr | CC BY-NC 2.0); Koster's curse, Kim Starr.

Eradication, containment & control

On the Australian mainland we still have time to eradicate recently introduced invasive species such as yellow crazy ants and red fire ants before they get out of control.

And on our 8300 islands we have unique opportunities to remove pests such as rats, cats and rabbits, liberating native wildlife from harmful invaders.

Control of widespread invasive species must be science-based and supported by research. Governments and community effort must target those areas where the damage is greatest.

That's why our work includes:

- **Facilitating eradication** of recent mainland arrivals and invasive species from offshore islands.
- **Lobbying for government-led containment** strategies for emerging pests such as feral deer and horses.
- **Supporting targeted control measures** underpinned by science.
- **Promoting the 'general biosecurity obligation'.**

Invasive species threaten more than 75%
of amphibians, birds and mammals listed as threatened in Australia.

Invasive species threaten more than half
the native plants, fish, reptiles and invertebrates on Australia's threatened species list.

Feral animals and introduced diseases
pose a greater ongoing threat to Australia's most vulnerable native animals than habitat loss.

Feral cats: the biggest problem for our threatened mammals
outranking inappropriate fire regimes, foxes and habitat loss.

A report written by Tim Low and commissioned by the Invasive Species Council in 2017 indicates invasive species have caused the most animal extinctions and pose the main threat to a number of animal groups in Australia.

PUBLISHED JUNE 2017

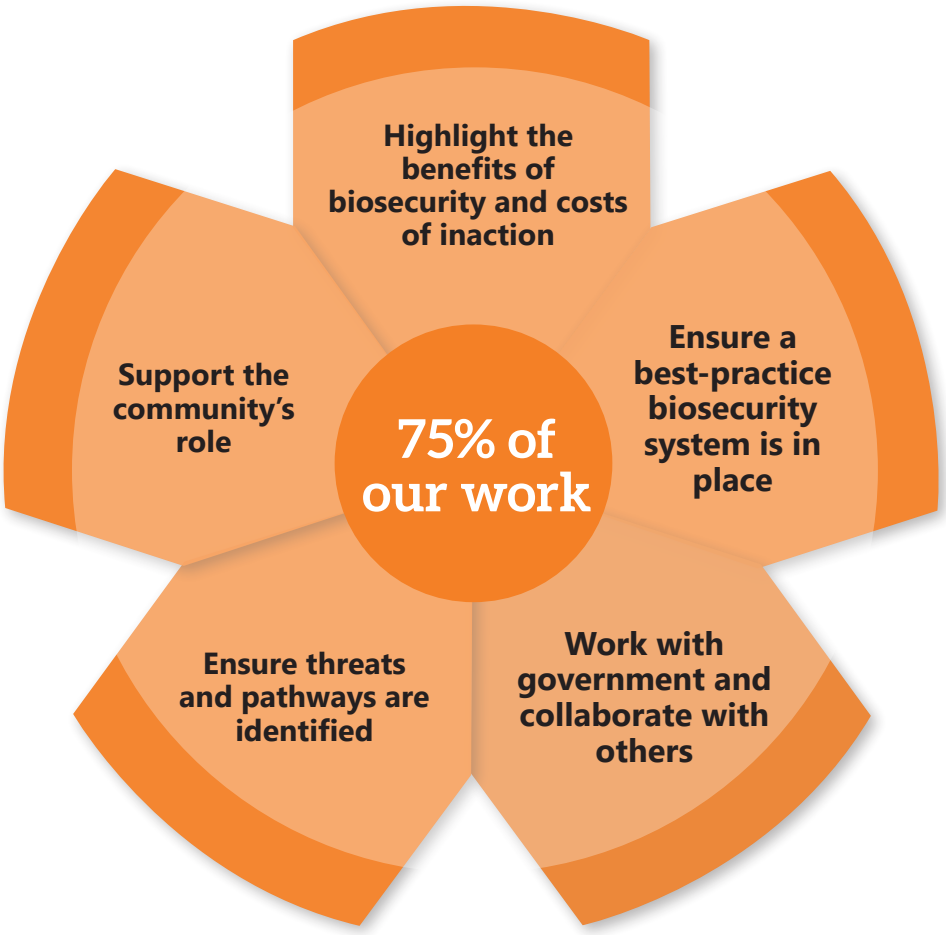
OUR OBJECTIVES

1 PREVENTION & EARLY ACTION

A 'biosecurity system' is in place by 2022 that reduces the risk to Australia's natural environment.

An effective biosecurity system requires a systematic identification and reduction of risks. It requires leadership by federal, state and territory governments, community involvement and institutions armed with the necessary resources and clear responsibilities for preparedness, risk reduction and rapid responses.

This objective makes up 75% of the our external effort.



Strategies to achieve this

Provide compelling information to the broader public

1.1 **Develop case studies and stories about invasive ants, plant diseases, invasive species on offshore islands and other threats** that highlight the cost of inaction and demonstrate the benefits of prevention and early action.

1.2 **Help local communities understand the impact of invasive species and their role** in bringing about change.

1.3 **Track and publicise new incursions** and where feasible encourage rapid action.

Promote an effective biosecurity system and reward success

1.4 **Seek the adoption of a biosecurity system** that protects Australia from invasive ants, plant diseases, marine pests and other environmental threats.

1.5 **Seek improved compliance for the keeping of illegal reptile pets** and tighten state and federal laws permitting invasive aquarium fish, invasive pastoral grasses and weedy garden plants.

1.6 **Encourage and reward success** such as through the Froggatt Awards and highlight required improvements.

Work with processes and organisations

1.7 **Provide targeted input** to government and political party policy development.

1.8 **Collaborate with non-environmental organisations** that seek similar goals.

Support practical action

1.9 **Promote the community's role** in designing biosecurity systems, minimising risks and undertaking surveillance.

1.10 **Initiate or support efforts to identify threats** from invasive ants, plant diseases and other priority invasive species and their potential pathways.

OUR VISION

Australia and the southwest Pacific have a biosecurity system that stops new invasive species and has reduced the impacts of existing invasive species.

Invasive rats and mice have been responsible for the extinction of five bird species on Lord Howe Island. Eradicating the rodents would help save remaining birds like the endemic Lord Howe Island White-eye. Photo: Eric de Leeuw | Flickr CC licence 2.0

2 ERADICATION, CONTAINMENT & CONTROL

Eradicate invasive species from selected offshore islands and sites, contain emerging species and direct public and community control efforts to threatened sites.

Eradication of invasive species is achievable and highly beneficial on offshore islands. Where eradication is not possible containment must be attempted, while for widespread species the impact must be reduced using a coordinated science-based approach involving land managers, government, scientists and the community.

This objective makes up 25% of our external effort.

Strategies to achieve this

Facilitate eradication

2.1 Through partnerships, **facilitate the eradication of invasive species from offshore islands.**

2.2 **Encourage the eradication** of recently introduced invasive species on the mainland such as **yellow crazy ants and red imported fire ants** in Queensland and **smooth newts** in Victoria.

Advocate for containment

2.3 **Advocate for government-led strategies that** contain feral deer and other emerging species.

Support targeted control

2.4 Advocate for financial and practical **support for community and government-led invasive species containment and targeted control initiatives.**

2.5 **Promote adoption of a 'general biosecurity obligation',** supported by education and compliance.

2.6 **Promote adoption of control practices** advanced by leading scientists and practitioners.

2.7 **Urge government funding for research** to develop biological controls and innovative control methods.

OUR MISSION

To protect the environment from harmful new invasive species through prevention and early action.

Lord Howe Island. Photo: Robert Whyte

CONTACT US

- web: invasives.org.au
- email: contact@invasives.org.au

@ISCAustralia

facebook.com/
invasivespeciescouncil

invasive species council