

Biosecurity Queensland update

Mitchell River Forum

Saturday 10 October 2025

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What is biosecurity?

It is a system to protect animal, plant, human and environmental health.



Economy



Communities



Food and Fibre



Environment



Lifestyle

Our biosecurity system

Every Queenslander plays a part in preventing and responding to plant and animal pests and diseases that threaten our great state.



Government election commitments

Commitment	Status
Boost Queensland's farm gate output to \$30 billion by 2030	Already up – Agtrends figures show Qld primary industries GVP of \$26.79 billion for 2024-25
Review the closure of the Cape York Biosecurity Facility at Coen and move to reinstate our northern line of biosecurity defence.	Review recently completed – with Minister for review
Strengthen frontline biosecurity with \$50m investment in 100 staff over 4 years (50 staff in 25/26 and 25 in both out years)	Currently sitting around 40FTE recruited/being recruited
Increase private protected areas in Queensland	(DETSI programs)

Introducing the “North Region” team



Emma Atkins
Regional Director
Biosecurity
(North)



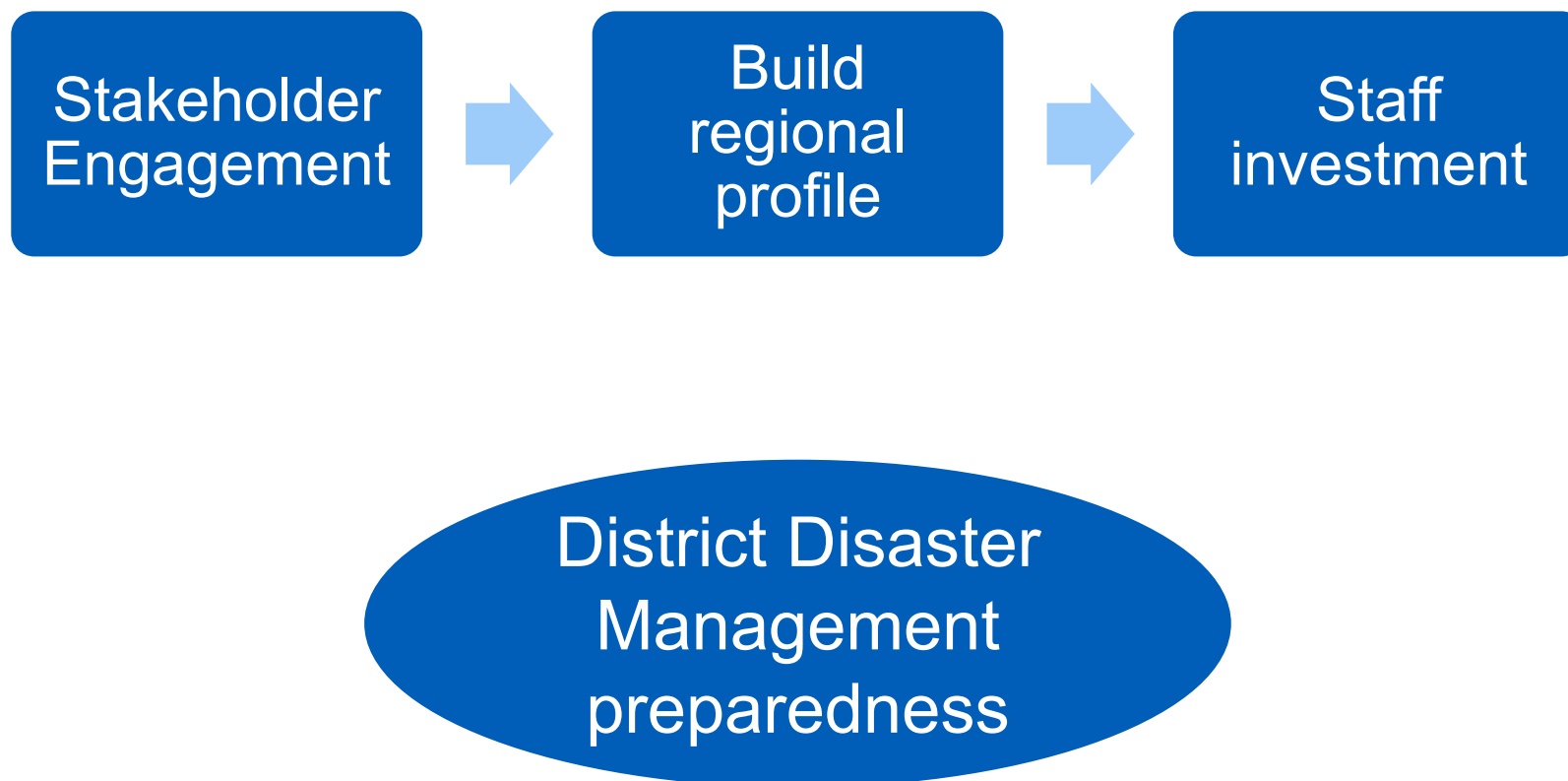
Jennifer McKee
Regional Biosecurity
Senior Executive Officer
(North)



Louise De Lai
Regional Biosecurity
Senior Support Officer
(North)



Our mission



Biosecurity in the Mitchell River Watershed

- Many considerations
 - Large landmass
 - Challenging terrain
 - Complex land tenure
 - Low rates base/funding
 - Staffing
 - Borders our “Frontline area” for Australia’s biosecurity – cattle and Lakeland
 - Looking at not just agricultural impacts on biosecurity but also reliance on natural resources for food security and continuation of culture



Biosecurity in the Mitchell River Watershed

Key threats

- Invasive ants (Electric ants, Yellow Crazy Ants, Fire Ants)
- Avian Influenza
- Feral pig
- Invasive weeds
- Wild dogs
- Pest fish
- ??? What are your threats ???



What we are hearing so far

- Roles and responsibilities is challenging in regional areas
- General Biosecurity Obligation – compliance is not easy
- Not enough resourcing and funding for biosecurity
- Many regional Council's are underfunded/no rates base – though some have achieved successes
- Attraction and retention of staff is problematic
- Who is who in the zoo

How we can help...

- We are looking for the blockers to effective biosecurity
- We are also conduits to our researchers, project teams, resources
- Meet and greet – preferably in person, in your neck of the woods
- Presentation and deep engagement with your teams and senior leaders
- On-ground site visits
- Workshops
- Events – meet and greet, stalls etc

Please let me know what you would like to see from us and how best to engage

Contact us

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