FNQROC Animal Management & Wildlife Stewardship Policy (AMWS)

Draft for consultation - September 2017

Wildlife management and stewardship policy development

Background and consultation

The FNQROC Animal Management and Wildlife Stewardship Policy (AMWS) policy development process was initiated as an FNQROC Board directed project. The policy was developed in response to animal attacks on wildlife and the resultant Board directive (Item 2269) - *"FNQROC facilitate an initial meeting of Local Government officers to investigate whether a regional approach could improve the profile of member councils as responsible animal management bodies, and improve animal management outcomes across the region with the group reporting back to FNQROC on the viability of or opportunities that exist for developing a more united strategic approach to animal management across the region"*

In the absence of a regional technical committee for local laws the regional Natural Asset Management Advisory Committee (NAMAC) convened in November 2016 and agreed to the following two recommendations:

Action 28.2 - *Develop a short document mapping or defining the jurisdiction and limits of local government in regard to the responsible management domestic/feral animals in relation to their impact on wildlife.*

Action 28.3 - *Facilitate a regional workshop across LG departments including local laws, natural assets/area management, community services/engagement, regional NRM, and relevant state departments. The key outcomes of the workshop are to be the identification of, or proposal for development of, solution based outcomes (to the above). These will include a clear recommendation for consistent messaging, resourcing and education and deliver a regional policy for adoption which can be adapted locally to suit all participating councils.*

The policy development took place over two workshops with the preliminary outcomes of workshop one presented to the FNQROC Board prior to workshop two.

- Workshop one focused on establishing scope and policy considerations in-house with local government technical officers.
- Workshop two invited external agencies to the table to guide the development of the regional policy based on the recommendations compiled in workshop one.

Further information on the process and outcomes of workshops are available in the proceedings records.

Policy logic framework

A program logic approach was used to map the policy vision against the outcomes it seeks to achieve and the underlying products, processes and approaches which are best suited to deliver them. It includes time deliverable outcomes which will assist to ensure the intent of the policy vision remains in clear view. The logic framework aims to provide a concise overview to guide the delivery, monitoring and evaluation of the policy and as such provides the key content for the development of an operational plan. The framework is designed to work in an adaptive learning-by-by doing approach so that it may be revised in the future as new information, obstacles, issues or successes are encountered or achieved.

Executive summary

Local government is often the first point of contact in relation to responding to threats posed to and by native wildlife. It is also the key point of contact and authorised agent to plan for and respond to domestic and feral animal management. The AMSW Policy provides a joint policy/strategy approach to understanding the jurisdiction, obligations and capacity of local government in regard to the responsible management of domestic/feral animals in relation to their impact on wildlife; and provides key recommendation for consistent messaging, resourcing, education and delivery of a regional approach which can be adapted locally to suit all participating councils.

The policy is framed to address two key concepts which have phrased as management and stewardship (in a nutshell what wildlife do to us; and what we do to/or on behalf of wildlife). By simple definition these can be described as;

> *Management –* responding to complaints from; or threats to; community in response to wildlife and animal management matters.

> *Stewardship –* ensuring local governments and the communities they represent act in a way which ensures that the wildlife of our region is sustained into the future.

Local government has two discrete but ultimately related legislative jurisdictions relating to animal management and wildlife matters with the provisions of local law being both the common and discretionary element between the two.

> *Animal management-* refers to directives and actions undertaken in accordance with the provisions of Local Laws and the Animal management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008.

> *Pest management –* refers to directives and actions undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Biosecurity Act 2014 and Local Laws.

Policy context and local government obligations

In addition to creating definitions to guide the scope of the policy, workshop one unpacked the context of the dual nature of local government obligations to animal management and wildlife stewardship.

> *Legislative obligation -* This policy is guided by legislation relating to domestic animal management, pest animal management (biosecurity) and land use planning. Other legislation may not provide a specified role for local government, but applies to councils as it applies to all persons.

> *Representative obligation -* the Local Government Act 2009 describes the obligations councils have in representing the current and future needs of their communities. Inherent in this is the delivery of councils 5 year corporate plan which reflect both councils and communities aspirations. Corporate plans variously describe the expectations community has of council beyond meeting legislative obligations.

Animal management and wildlife stewardship requires a multi-scaled approach and is structured around coordinated implementation of local through to global actions and initiatives. Understanding where, when and how local government are either best placed or obliged to participate or respond forms the basis of this policy approach.

Intended results —outcomes and changes

Policy goal (vision)

Improve the profile of member councils as responsible animal management and wildlife stewardship bodies, and improve animal management and wildlife stewardship outcomes across the region

Long term outcomes (10 year horizon)

	Stewardship	Management
Issue of concern:	Communities impact on wildlife	Wildlife's impact on community
Current state:	Unsatisfactory mortality and disruption to wildlife	Concern arising from wildlife's disruption and damage to people
Desired state:	Wildlife populations are sustained into the future and the threat to them is reduced	Situations which cause concern and conflict are reduced to a level which is acceptable to the community

Intermediate outcomes (5 year horizon)

- Councils have a developed understanding and commitment to improving AMaWS outcomes across relevant areas of operation
- Community have an improved understanding of their obligations and the practical approaches they can take to improve AMaWS outcomes
- Partnerships across all relevant players are working to deliver shared goals and improved AMaWS outcomes

Short-term outcomes (1-2 year horizon)

Practices and processes
- Obligations and jurisdictions across authorities are agreed, understood, and communicated
- Communication materials and processes are targeted toward areas of most need/influence
- Gaps in capacity and required strategies identified

Commitment
- Co-investment and collaborative resources are in place to deliver the planned works
- Regional partnerships, alignments and knowledge sharing are in place
- Regional buy-in is reflected in governance support
- Integration across business areas

Planned work– deliverables to achieve outcomes

Outputs and products

- Case studies, demonstrations and best management practice
- Communication and education tools
- Guidelines, instructional , self-help approaches
- Compliance tools and approaches
- Operational policies, and workflows
- Customer request systems and referrals
- Revised or streamlined local laws
- Operational and service delivery structures and agreements

Activities

- Internal communication development and delivery
- Data collection, reporting and evaluation
- Participation and compliance
- Building partnerships and shared ownership with community and agencies
- External communication development and delivery
- Understanding community experience and perception
- Research, development and innovation
- Knowledge and information sharing

Inputs

- Partnerships
  - Regional collaboration
  - External partners
- Staff skills and capacity
  - Knowledge sharing
  - Training
- Legislative tools
  - Local laws
  - Legislation
- Monitoring and evaluation
  - Performance indicators
  - Review process
- Governance
  - Representation
  - Leadership
- Resourcing
  - Procurement
  - Co-investment
- Communication
  - Tools and approaches
  - Delivery
- Technology and tools
  - IT & corporate systems
  - Facilities/plant

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Planned work

The planned work elements of the policy logic identify the deliverables required to achieve the outcomes of the policy. These are broken down into to three key components; outputs and products; activities and inputs.

Outputs and products

Outputs and products are the tangible deliverables required to achieve the purpose of the policy. They are wide ranging and could include anything from a formal agreement to a graphics-based communication product. Outputs and products may be one-off or they may be subject to periodic updates to keep them current. They have been grouped into the following themes with examples of deliverables identified from the policy development workshops.

Case studies, demonstrations and best management practice
- Examples of resolution or adaptation approaches to AMSW issues.
- Promotion of successful programs, partnerships and approaches.

Operational policies, and workflows
- Compliance process workflows and decision trees.
- Internal integration and collaboration across local laws and biosecurity.

Communication and education tools
- Infographics and social media products.
- Education processes, messaging and delivery.

Customer request systems and referrals
- Shared knowledge bases and data collection approaches for customer service requests.
- Call forwarding between councils and state departments.

Guidelines, instructional, self-help approaches
- Pre-customer request education and decision support tools, approaches and programs.
- Minimum fencing/housing standards for certain species (restraint or exclusion).

Revised or streamlined local laws
- Uniform/regional approaches to domestic dog management requirements.
- Introduction of local law zoning approaches for protection of wildlife in key habitats.

Compliance tools and approaches
- Compliance process decision support and communication approaches for community education/engagement.
- Training packages and materials for frontline and customer service staff.

Operational and service delivery structures and agreements
- Integrated approaches across biosecurity and local laws.
- Communication and reporting agreements and shared systems across departments.
- Agreements or accords mapping key responsibilities/capacities between councils and state agencies.

Activities

Activities are the actions and processes required to develop and deliver the outputs and products which will achieve the purpose of the policy. They represent the types of work required to deliver the policy outcomes and have been grouped into the following themes with examples identified during the policy development workshops.

Internal communication development and delivery

- Intra-council/cross department communication.
- Governance workshops and awareness programs.

External communication development and delivery

- Management activity notifications, reporting and information sharing.
- Joint communication/management approaches.
- Regional advisory groups, technical committees or forums.

Data collection, reporting and evaluation

- Design universal reporting and evaluation attributes.
- Uniform reporting of animal attack records.

Understanding community experience and perception

- Surveys and marketing approaching to understand obstacles and design incentives.
- Developing and delivery communication tools for target audience

Participation and compliance

- Community incentive programs and initiatives.
- Zone or cluster based management programs.

Research, development and innovation

- Commission research, strategy, policy, guideline or communication products/processes.

Building partnerships and shared ownership with community and agencies

- Collaborative programs and management agreements.
- Co-investment in in shared initiatives.

Knowledge and information sharing

- Collaborative programs and management agreements.
- Regional forums, training programs, technical committees.

Inputs

Inputs are the foundations of implementing the policy and its supporting strategies. They are the resources, capacities, tools and other mechanisms we have out our disposal to deliver the desired outcomes. They are broken down into key themes to assist in identifying the approaches to achieving the intended results of the policy. They are the essential building blocks of current capacity and future activities, outputs and products.

Key definitions

Wildlife – native fauna which is 'wild by nature' as per the Queensland Nature Conservation Act 2002. Although not exclusive, a range of key species for a considered response were identified in workshop one, primarily these include key iconic wildlife species of the region.

Domestic animals – non-native animals including stock animals, owned, kept, fed or otherwise sustained by people.

Pest animals – non-native animals living in a wild state (non-domestic).

Key legislation

- *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001.*
- *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*
- *Biosecurity Act 2014*
- *Commonwealth Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC)*
- *Local Government Act 2009*
- *Nature Conservation (Estuarine Crocodile) Conservation Plan 2007*
- *Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2006*
- *Nature Conservation (Macropod) Conservation Plan 2006*
- *Nature Conservation (Wildlife Administration) Regulation 2006*
- *Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006*
- *Nature Conservation Act 1992 (NCA)*
- *Vegetation Management Act (VMA)*