

How to develop a Property Pest Management Plan using the Cook Shire Council template

The Property Pest Management Plan template may seem like a large document however it is relatively simple to complete. All you are required to do is provide information about your property, including the pest issues of concern, in the relevant sections of the template as outlined below.

1. *Introduction* (page 2) – please provide some basic information about your property. Some hints about the type of information required to complete the introduction are included in the template.
2. *Obstacles to achieving objectives* (page 3) – as with the introduction some suggestions are provided in the template but these are far from exhaustive. Please list anything that you believe may hinder your efforts to manage pests. By identifying obstacles it is hoped that you can then develop strategies to overcome them.
3. *Current situation with pests* (page 5) – this requires you to list all weed and pest animal species that you wish to control/eradicate. The table provided consists of seven columns. Listing the common name will obviously present no problems and generally speaking both the scientific name and declaration category can be found following a quick search online. The “Priority” column requires a personal judgement on your part as to what priority the pest should be assigned, generally either high, medium or low. The remaining columns designate the threat levels to agricultural production and environmental assets in addition to the potential outcome (or achievability) of targeted control works on a particular species. A guide to assessing threat levels and potential outcomes can be found in Appendix 3.
4. *Strategies to achieve objectives* (pages 6-9) – as you can see the first field named “Objectives” has been completed and this correlates to the predetermined objectives outlined on page 3. As an example let's work through objective 2 to give you a brief example of the types of information required. The fields to be completed are:
 - 4.1. *Current situation* – this is largely self explanatory, describe current circumstances on your property with reference to the weed or pest species referenced in the objective (i.e. Objective 2 refers to *high* priority weeds).
 - 4.2. *Strategies/actions, By whom, When* – in these three columns list the action/s that have been developed to eradicate the pest (i.e. spraying with a glyphosate based herbicide), who will undertake the action (in most cases this will be you the landholder) and when the action will be undertaken, for instance most weeds will be sprayed while actively growing so “January to May” would likely be entered in this field.
 - 4.3. *Performance indicators* – when considering what to put in this field think of outcomes that would indicate your efforts had been successful. This may be as simple as “*infested areas have been reduced in size*” or “*no new outbreaks of sicklepod detected for 12 months*”.
 - 4.4. *Pest monitoring process* – this refers to the methods by which you will determine the success of the actions undertaken to manage pest issues. The most common method would be visual assessment however others may include reduction in stock losses, decreased evidence of damage caused by feral pigs around watering points or the use of GPS units or photo points to determine the extent of certain weed species.
 - 4.5. *Resources* – what do you need to undertake the various pest management activities to reach your nominated objectives. This may include herbicides, spray units, traps, ammunition, labour etc.
5. *Maps* (page 10-11) – the Pest Management Plan requires the insertion of two maps, one depicting the extent of weeds on your property and the other showing the distribution of feral animals. It is preferable that locations are obtained using GPS data however if this is not readily available affected areas can be shaded freestyle to provide an estimated area of infestation. Maps showing the boundary outline of your property can be readily obtained online and Council's Biosecurity staff can help you obtain this if necessary.