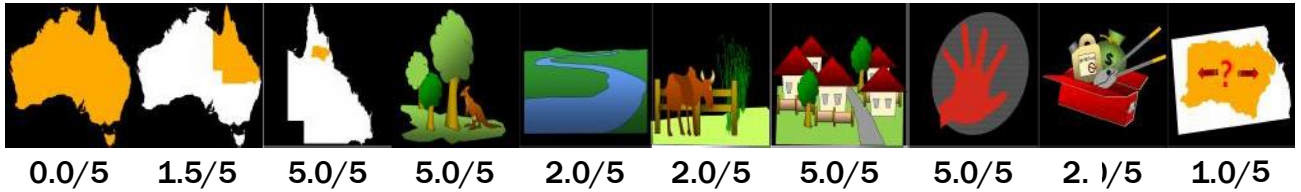


Felis catus (Feral cat)

Priority



Details

Description: Feral cats are derived from domestic cats which have a long history of naturalisation in Australia. They are similar in appearance to domestic cats but are generally larger in size particularly around the head and shoulders. Fur is generally short and they may be any colour. Males may weigh up to 6 kg, females up to 4 kg. They are usually most active at night.

Distribution: Feral cats are present in all areas of mainland Australia and many islands.

Impacts: Feral cats eat any small to medium prey item they can catch including birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, fish and insects. They compete directly with native carnivores and carry toxoplasmosis which is harmful to marsupials. Feral cats scavenge around towns and may prey on domestic pets and poultry. They are potential carriers of the rabies virus if it were to enter Australia.

Key projects: Feral cats are usually not managed on a landscape scale but are targeted in species recovery programs and protection of key environmental assets.

Management requirements

Asset protection

As a result of the lack of broad scale management options for the control of feral cats (i.e. baiting programs) there is currently no coordinated management program active within the Cook Shire local government area.

Despite this a range of management options that can be applied at a local level do exist and these include shooting, trapping using both cage and leg hold traps, restricting access to potential food sources such as dump points and responsible domestic cat ownership (de-sexing, keeping cats confined etc.). Integrated management utilising a number of these methods is recommended.

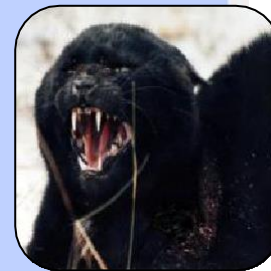
While feral cats pose a threat to all native wildlife particular attention to management is required in areas of central Cape York Peninsula inhabited by the golden shouldered parrot given its endangered species status and susceptibility to feral cat predation.

Domestic cats are managed in accordance with local laws. For domestic cat enquires contact Cook Shire on 07 4069 5444.

Control Calendar

breed	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	●	●	●	●
young	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	●	●	●	●	●
trap	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
shoot	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
fence	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Biology Control		Peak			First/last flush			Occasional				n/a
		Optimal			Good			Marginal				Not recommended

Felis catus (Feral cat)



Vertebrate pest

carnivore

Category

2

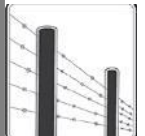
3

4

5

6

Control



What is my biosecurity obligation?

Asset protection zone

Feral cats are restricted matter under the Biosecurity Act 2014. They must not be moved, fed, given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit. This includes releasing or dumping of domestic cats. The description of feral cat includes Bengal cat hybrids derived from *Prionailurus bengalensis* x *Felis catus*. Any other species of cat is prohibited in Queensland and must be reported within 24 hours to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

Domestic cats are managed in accordance with Cook Shire Councils local laws.

For more information on management aims in each zone refer to *Using the pest plan templates*