

From: DAVIES Russell [Russell.Davies@des.qld.gov.au]

Sent: Monday, 26 February 2018 10:59 AM

To: SPINKS Troy; BRITTINGHAM Geoff

CC: ROGERS Darren

Subject: RE: Feral Horse Coroner's inquest and management action Toolara and Tuan areas - Meeting Report

Thanks Troy & Geoff – will be discussing with Darren to develop a plan to implement these actions in locations that are worthwhile.

Cheers

Russell Davies

Assistant Principal Ranger – Technical Support

South East Queensland Region

Department of Environment and Science

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TO Sig Block (2)

From: SPINKS Troy

Sent: Monday, 26 February 2018 10:41 AM

To: BRITTINGHAM Geoff; DAVIES Russell

Cc: ROGERS Darren

Subject: RE: Feral Horse Coroner's inquest and management action Toolara and Tuan areas - Meeting Report

Likewise Russ.

Might be a good one for the next round of SPMP bids? Background of the issue I think justifies escalating it.

Regards,

Troy Spinks

Principal Ranger - Technical Support

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service | South East Queensland Region

Department of Environment and Science

P 07 5669 2045 | **M** sch4p4(6) Personal information

Gold Coast Area Office, Kabool Rd, WEST BURLEIGH QLD 4219

PO Box 3454, Burleigh Town LPO, BURLEIGH HEADS QLD 4220

From: BRITTINGHAM Geoff
Sent: Thursday, 15 February 2018 4:31 PM
To: DAVIES Russell; SPINKS Troy
Cc: ROGERS Darren
Subject: RE: Feral Horse Coroner's inquest and management action Toolara and Tuan areas - Meeting Report

Thanks Russell

Actions supported

Geoff Brittingham

Regional Director – South East Queensland



Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

Department of Environment and Science

P 07 5459 6112 M sch4p4(6) Personal information

Mike Ahern Centre

Lvl 6, 12 First Ave, Maroochydore, QLD, 4558

From: DAVIES Russell
Sent: Thursday, 15 February 2018 3:22 PM
To: BRITTINGHAM Geoff <Geoff.Brittingham@des.qld.gov.au>; SPINKS Troy <Troy.Spinks@des.qld.gov.au>
Cc: ROGERS Darren <Darren.Rogers@des.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Feral Horse Coroner's inquest and management action Toolara and Tuan areas - Meeting Report

Gents – Darren and I attended the Feral Horse Coroner's inquest and management action Toolara and Tuan areas meeting organised by Gympie Regional Council (GRC) today. Fairly benign meeting to get an overview of where the stakeholder groups are in relation to the Coroner's Report, what concerns did we have regarding the risk horses posed to the Tin Can Bay Rd and Cooloola Rd, and what could we contribute to the group.

Formal minutes will soon follow from GRC, but notes taken at the meeting are here for your immediate info:

Stakeholders in attendance:

- ❖ Gympie Regional Council (GRC)
- ❖ Sunshine Coast Regional Council (SCRC)
- ❖ Fraser Coast Regional Council (FCRC)
- ❖ QPWS
- ❖ Queensland Police Service (QPS)
- ❖ Department of Defence (DD)
- ❖ Hancock Queensland Plantations sch4p4(6) Personal information
- ❖ Transport and Main Roads (Mike Chambers & Geoff Schuller) (TMR)
- ❖ Biosecurity Queensland (BQ)
- ❖ Department of Natural Resources and Mines (Mike Hoare) (DNRM)
- ❖ Department of Agriculture and Forestry – Skyped in but left early due to poor audio (Cory Scherer)

Notes on discussions:

- QPWS SEQR and CIR both stated that they were a minor stakeholder and would only fulfil a support role. Assistance to

the group would be through sharing data on feral animal numbers known in relation to Toolara Tuan Complex (TTC), and sharing expertise and advice on horse management, including contractor contact details.

- GRC received approximately 50 reports of horses on/near Tin Can Bay Rd or Cooloola Rd last year. So far this year 79 reports have been received. GRC do not attend reports of stock on unfenced roads and GRC considered Tin can Bay Rd and Cooloola Rd to be unfenced through the TTC area.
- 7 Feral horse carcasses have been moved by GRC staff this year. Vehicle collision was the cause of all 7 horse deaths.
- HQP commissioned a study into horses within the Toolara Tuan Complex. "The Understanding population dynamics of feral horses in the Toolara and Tuan State Forest for successful long-term population management" is on the Maroochydoore server at <Z:\QPWS\SEQR\TECH SUPPORT\FIRE AND PEST\PESTS> and is 271 pages.
- Department of Defence has done a study which has shown that aerial culling is the most effective and humane method of reducing wild horse numbers. DD recently (12-18 months ago aerial culled 700 horses from Shoalwater Bay training area). Last survey reported no horses but suspect there are still a few present.
- HQP recently removed horses from Beerburum SF with funding assistance from TMR.
- FCRC reported they didn't have a wild horse problem, and one of their representatives stated he wasn't aware of any wild horse issue in the last 20 years in FCRC area.
- HQP raised the point that the State owns the land within TTC not HQP. SCRC pointed out that the new Biosecurity Act made it the occupiers responsibility to manage biosecurity matter, where the replaced Pest Management Act made it the owners responsibility. However if Councils wanted to force the issue they could pass a local law similar to what Townsville Council did in relation to the horses on Clemant State Forest, in which case any action would be issued and taken against the owners. Councils also have the option of dealing with the issue through the Biosecurity Act which would be a more lengthy, less enforcement type of action and would target the occupiers. GRC stated that issuing a local law would only be done as a last resort.
- Virtual Fencing may be an option in some areas. Virtual fencing uses cameras that are programmed to recognise different animals which are setup along the road verges. If they detect an animal they activate electronic signs that display a predetermined message, e.g. "Slow Down Horses Ahead"
- BQ stated that managing biosecurity matters such as this were a shared responsibility and that raising the issue to the State Land Management Council would be limited in effectiveness. The local type of working group would be more effective in collaborating a risk reduction, pest control strategy. However the State Land Management Council is currently reviewing the Wild Horse Policy.
- QPS can possibly utilise Road safety Week to get a message out to beware of livestock/horses.
- Issue was raised that Coroners Report was critical of lack of data sharing between agencies and that the group should investigate data sharing of horse number near or on the two roads. TMR will develop a spreadsheet and send to all agencies with a timeline for reporting. QPS can provide stats on number of livestock reports for those roads received by the Gympie Call Centre. QPWS can provide results of any past or future monitoring programs. GRC can provide reports received also. GRC are to coordinate the collation of agencies data and forward to TMR. Any data received by TMR would be sanitised to ensure privacy and confidentiality especially from QPS.

The meeting as a whole was mainly an information gathering exercise and not much action was committed to. There will be a follow-up email to each stakeholder group with further discussion points, and official minutes release. Next meeting will be scheduled at a later date, timing unknown but 6 months may be feasible for next gathering of stakeholders.

Recommended actions for regional endorsement:

After attending the meeting I recommend the following actions be taken by SEQR, to be coordinated by Technical Support Fire & Pest Management with operational support:

1. Investigate large sized vertebrate pest numbers in QPWS managed lands surrounding TTC (Poona NP, Curra SF, Neerdie SF, etc) which may pose a risk to Tin Can Bay Rd, Cooloola Rd, or the Bruce Highway (current alignment and future alignment after Gympie Bypass).
2. Establish monitoring cameras in strategic locations to assist with item 1 above and help establish movement patterns. No

new cameras are required, but need to investigate current camera placement and priorities.

3. Commit to the assistance offered by information sharing with local councils and TMR regarding various large vertebrate pests posing a risk to TMR roads.

Regards

Russell Davies

Assistant Principal Ranger – Technical Support

South East Queensland Region

Department of Environment and Science

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Feral Horse Management Stakeholder Meeting

Ben Curley – Manager, Lands Protection



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Overview of the Coroner's Findings of Inquest

- On 31st July 2015, a motorcyclist collided with a Feral Horse on the Bruce Highway north of Townsville and died
- On 30 September 2015, a 15 year passenger in a vehicle was fatally injured when the vehicle he was travelling in collided with a feral horse on the Bruce Highway north of Townsville

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Overview of the Coroner's Findings of Inquest

“Management of Feral Horses on the Highway

It is important that I acknowledge from the outset that every road user has an obligation to exercise care while driving to avoid hazards that might be present, including animals on the road at night. However, rather than focusing on the action or inaction of individuals, it is important from a road safety perspective to investigate the broader context to see what was done and what might be done to mitigate the risks associated with animals on the road in the first place.”

“I note the lessons learnt from these incidents may have application in situations where local roads are under the control and management of TCC and the land from which an animal strays is privately owned. Each of these organisations have a different history and perspective about the issue of feral horses that needs consideration.”



Overview of the Coroner's Findings of Inquest

“It is clear that QPWS knew the feral horses posed a hazard to road users although the extent of the risk was not formally assessed. In any event, what control measures were used in response to this hazard?”

“In 2006-07 a Feral Pest Control Plan for Clemant State Forest was funded for \$22,000. A proposed cull of horses did not occur after protests from animal rights advocates. A subsequent tender was offered for the Removal of Feral Stock (including horses) from Clemant State Forest. Both preferred tenderers withdrew their offers, citing fears for their property and wellbeing due to threats from outside parties.”



Overview of the Coroner's Findings of Inquest

“In 2012-13, \$38,000 was allocated to assist a contractor with set-up costs associated with a 3-year feral horse re-homing project.”



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Overview of the Coroner's Findings of Inquest

"In September 2013, an aerial survey over Clemant State Forest resulted in the sighting of about 114 horses. QPWS flew over Paluma Range National Park, to the west of Clemant State Forest, and did not find any evidence of large horse numbers in the Paluma Range National Park, which was consistent with the observations about seasonal movements."

"Given the low number of horses trapped and re-homed (34 in total) the contractor advised QPWS that without additional funding he could not continue the project as it was not financially viable. In July 2013, the passive trapping program was terminated due to poor results and ongoing animal welfare issues."

Local Roadkill young Rusa



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Overview of the Coroner's Findings of Inquest

“On 26 March 2014, a QPWS teleconference was held to discuss the report, safety implications, and to map out a plan of action. The meeting concluded the horses posed a risk to public safety, and that an aerial cull should form the basis of the control program. Liaising with QPS about the extent of horse encounters and assessment of risk was included in a project funding application to the Regional Pest Management Team. At that point, the three-year feral horse re-homing project was in its second year of operation, and the project funding application only sought enough funding to manage the project (\$5,200). Northern Region ranked the project as a medium priority, and it was submitted for assessment as part of the State-wide Strategic Pest Management Program. The application was not successful.”

“The first fatality occurred on 31 July 2015.”

“The second fatality occurred on 30 September 2015.”



Overview of the Coroner's Findings of Inquest

"Townsville Council has fast tracked the pest declaration to support the State Government in responding to the recent tragedies and the unacceptable safety risk these animals pose to the public," Cr Veitch said. (Council media release 7 October 2015)

"The first stage of an aerial cull was carried out on 21 October 2015, 143 horses were removed. Ground shooting of 20 horses along Setter Road and Leichardt Creek followed the initial aerial control action. The second stage of the aerial cull was carried out on 9 December 2015 and 34 horses were removed. Rangers also conducted several ground inspections and humane destruction activities of small numbers, concluding on 11 January 2016."

"A total of 203 horses were removed from Clemant State Forest."



Overview of the Coroner's Findings of Inquest

“On my assessment, the following are the key points:

- QPWS knew about the presence of the feral horses, approximate numbers and seasonal movements.
- QPWS sought to manage the risk by reducing the numbers of feral horses and preventing access to the highway through fencing.
- Both strategies faced challenges which limited their effectiveness. A cull was fiercely opposed by community advocates and containment of the horses to the State Forest was practically impossible.
- The primary avenue for funding available to QPWS was through the pest management program and the merits of those applications were assessed predominantly against environmental criteria, not safety to motorists.
- Query whether a comprehensive, formal risk assessment of the potential for harm to road users and possible control measures might have better informed QPWS management, opened up further options for funding and helped mitigate community opposition to an eradication program.



Overview of the Coroner's Findings of Inquest

Department of Transport and Main Roads

“Each of the fatalities occurred on the Bruce Highway which is under the management of TMR and it had the opportunity and power to manage the risk to road users from feral horses.”

“A few of immediate observations. TMR may not have jurisdiction to monitor horse movements outside the road corridor, but it certainly does have jurisdiction to monitor inside the corridor. QPWS may have ‘primary’ responsibility for monitoring feral horses in Clemant State Forest for its purposes, but that does not lessen the responsibility of TMR for ensuring the safety of road users. If that requires TMR to obtain information from QPWS and QPS or monitoring of feral horse incursions into the road corridor to assess risk to safety, then TMR must do so.”



Overview of the Coroner's Findings of Inquest

“Council has followed the same procedure about erecting warning signs in respect of reports about feral horses. That system was utilised on the night before the accident on 30 September 2015, with a council local laws officer attending the scene and in conjunction with the police mustering the horses away from the road.”

“Following the fatalities, Council was instrumental in facilitating remedial action through the making of an emergency declaration that feral horses were a local pest so that other agencies could dedicate resources to feral horse control measures.”



Overview of the Coroner's Findings of Inquest

“Recommendations:

1. Transport and Main Road as lead agency, together with Townsville City Council and Qld Police Service, develop and implement a trial joint management plan to manage the risk to road users from animals on the roads, addressing:
 - a. Roles, responsibilities and powers covering each scenario (local or state controlled road);
 - b. Information/data gathering, analysis and reporting protocols;
 - c. Communications protocols including identification of key personnel and contacts, regular meetings and minutes arising;
 - d. Risk assessment methodology to be applied;
 - e. A stratified/escalating approach to control measures commensurate with the assessed risk;
 - f. Processes for engaging with landowners and other stakeholders.”



Overview of the Coroner's Findings of Inquest

Recommendations cont'd:

"2. Transport and Main Roads consider the outcomes from the trial and the potential for wider application of like arrangements throughout Qld."

"3. QPWS review the potential for a separate line of funding, or better criteria and weight in an existing line of funding, so that risk of harm to people on roads adjacent to land it manages is mitigated appropriately. As a road manager, Transport and Main Roads or Council should share its information and risk assessments, fixing QPWS with relevant knowledge of the risk emanating from its land and collaborate on developing, funding and implementing controls measures to mitigate that risk."



What is the current situation at Toolara/Tuan?

Reports to Council and staff observations in late 2017 and early 2018 have indicated that around 16 Feral Horses regularly frequent areas in close proximity to the Tin Can Bay Road and the Cooloola Coast Road. In some cases these Feral Horses are crossing these road posing a significant risk to road users

Whilst Council doesn't have exact data, a review of Councils Call Centre records of sightings of Feral Horses on Main Roads in the Toolara/Tuan area to Council indicates that approximately fifty reports per year are received by Council regarding Feral Horses on these Main Roads corridors



Recent photos taken from Main Roads within Toolara



What is the current situation at Toolara/Tuan?

Between 2009 and present, Council has removed Seven (reported) dead Feral Horses from the Tin Can Bay, Rainbow Beach and Cooloola Coast Roads. These horses were fatally injured due to vehicle strikes. Two Domestic horses were also struck by vehicles and killed during this time.



Understanding Population Dynamics of Feral Horses in the Tuan and Toolara

Magdalena Zabek has submitted a thesis with the University of Queensland in 2015 titled: ***“Understanding Population Dynamics of Feral Horses in the Tuan and Toolara State Forest for Successful Long-term Population Management”***

“4.5 Conclusion (Population Growth)

Although the population of feral horses in the TTSF is only increasing slowly, there are reasons to be concerned about the rate of growth. Overpopulation is likely to occur in the near future and will lead to horses moving into unpopulated areas both within and outside the plantation. Thus, effective management emphasis should be on substantial and continuing removal of adult horses, or manipulation of survival and fecundity. The greatest success would be achieved by targeting adult females because reducing the number of 85 males may increase reproductive rate of the population by increasing the stability of harems (Dobbie and Berman 1992).”



Understanding Population Dynamics of Feral Horses in the Tuan and Toolara

5.4 Discussion (Population Size)

“If the 2009 estimate was accurate, the TTSF population has increased from 2009 to 2012 by about 32%, an annual average growth of 10%”

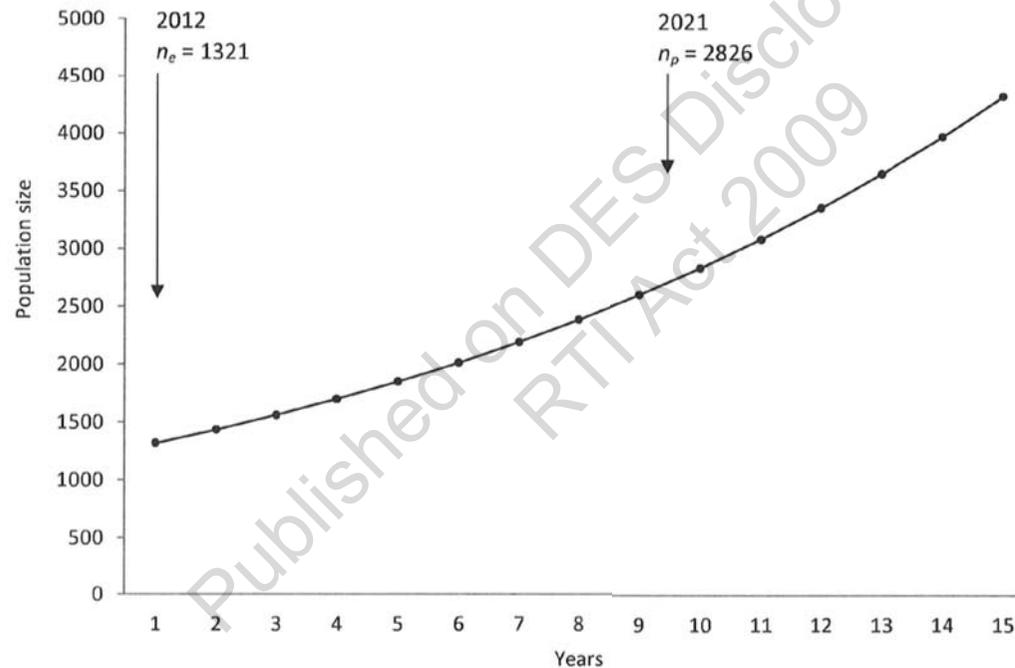


Figure 4.4: Projected population size of feral horses in the TTSF over 15 years using the Leslie age-structured matrix simulation model. n_e – estimated population size in 2012, and n_p – projected population size in 2021.



Understanding Population Dynamics of Feral Horses in the Tuan and Toolara

“8.1 Significant Outcomes and Management Recommendations

It had been proposed that trapping and re-location of TTSF feral horses from plantation areas located near the major roads would reduce the risk of vehicle collisions (Crittle and Jackson 2004; Berman 2013). The proposal recommended that horse-free zones be established parallel and on either side of busy roads and in other specified areas where horses were likely to cross roads (Berman 2013). These liberated areas would provide a buffer zone and it would take time for horses to re-occupy them.”

“Management of horses along the major public roads, involving the capture and removal of 77 horses, has been successful since its implementation in 2009, with the risk of collisions being reduced by 68% (Berman 2013). However, as the population grows, there will be a need to remove a greater number of horses (Lundie-Jenkins et al. 2006).”



Understanding Population Dynamics of Feral Horses in the Tuan and Toolara

“As shown by others (Lundie-Jenkins et al. 2006), management strategies such as local buffer zones bordering roads will not be effective as stand-alone programs but must be incorporated into forest-wide programs that are inclusive of the considerable mobility of feral horses.”

“However, when the population reaches the carrying capacity threshold, it may substantially impact on the environment by destroying water sources, damaging native vegetation (Caughley 1976; Dyring 1990) and possibly young pine stands (**Figure 8.1**; Crittle and Jackson 2004). This may also have welfare implications because of food and water shortages.”



Understanding Population Dynamics of Feral Horses in the Tuan and Toolara

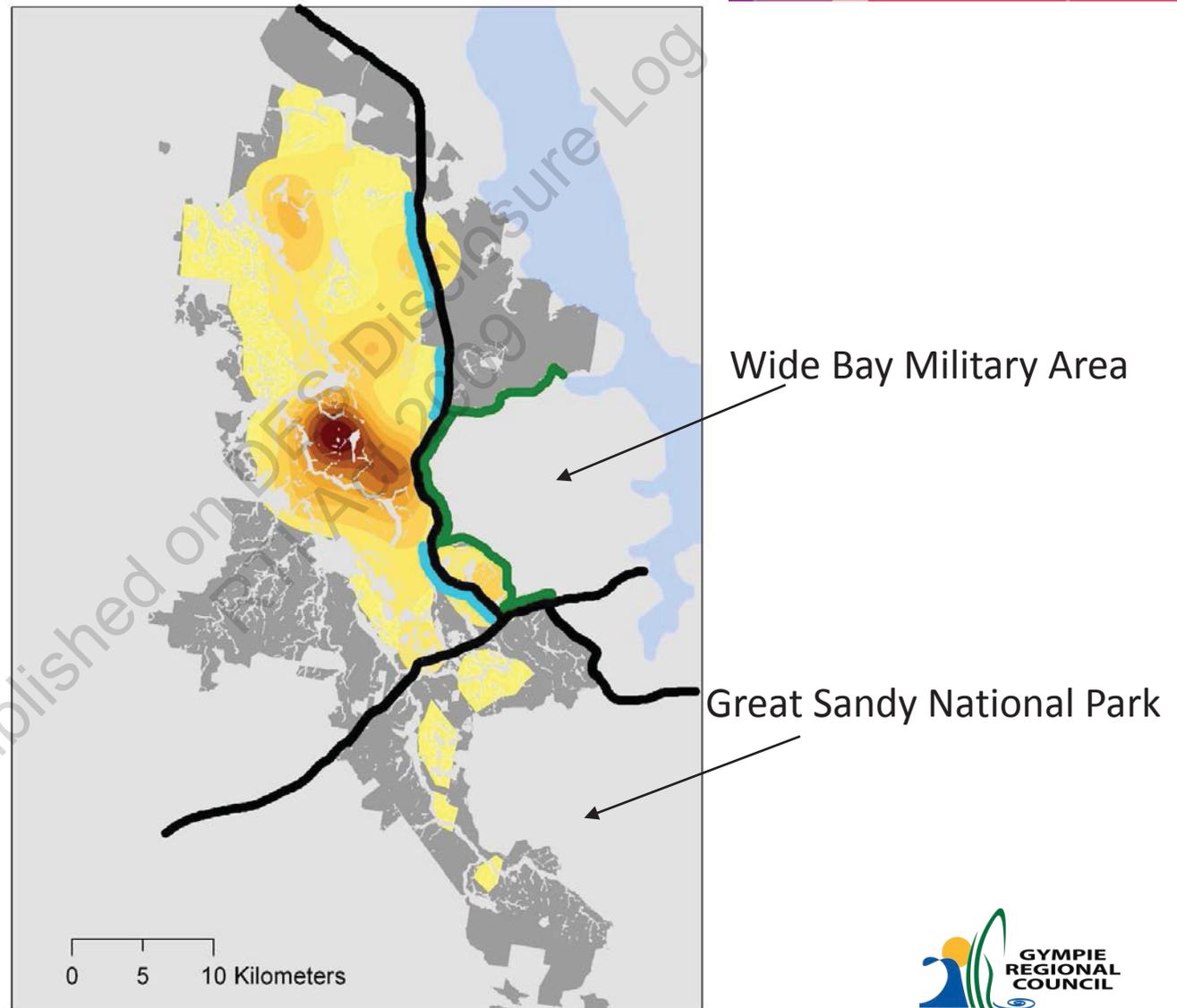
Chapter 8. General Discussion

“By 2021, based on current rate of population growth, horse density per km² across the entire forestry will be 3.58, which will severely test the carrying capacity of the TTSF. As the population increases, horses will move to minimally occupied or unoccupied areas, including areas outside the TTSF, as has been shown to be the case in the Australian Alps (Dawson 2005). The area of particular concern would be the border of the TTSF with the Great Sandy National Park, which is unfenced and provides no barrier to expansion of horses into the national park.”



Understanding Population Dynamics of Feral Horses in the Tuan and Toolara

Figure 8.2: Location of proposed fence (blue lines) to discourage horses from crossing major roads (black lines) and recolonising eastern areas of the plantation once all horses have been removed from these areas. Green lines – fenced off Military Area.



Understanding Population Dynamics of Feral Horses in the Tuan and Toolara

8.4. KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE STUDY

1. Changes in distribution of horses can be detected by monitoring dung counts on forest roads.
2. Accurate evaluation of population abundance can be achieved through distance sampling of dung.
3. Further monitoring of the TTSF population is necessary to account for annual changes in population growth.
4. Monitoring body condition scores of horses, particularly of the adult females, will alert management to feed shortages associated with increasing population pressure, which has the potential to cause adverse publicity around welfare.
5. Effective management strategies should involve substantial and continuing removal of adult female horses, or manipulation of survival and fecundity to control population growth. As selective removals will likely alter the adult sex ratio and age structure of the population, ongoing assessment is necessary to minimise adverse welfare outcomes.
6. When designing long-term control measures for the TTSF population, obtaining ongoing accurate estimates of adult survival should be of the highest priority.
7. If fertility control is to be one of the future management strategies, it would be most effective to initially reduce the current population by other means before using such a strategy. Financial expense and the logistical difficulties of applying fertility control measures need to be further evaluated to identify the cost-benefit relationship.
8. Strategic use of fencing to reduce horse movement across the public roads.
9. Maintenance of narrow strip of closed canopy habitat bordering main roads to take advantage of the preference for open habitats thereby reducing the likelihood of horse- vehicle collisions
10. Continuing removal of horses from the forested areas located near the public roads together with recording the number of horse-vehicle collisions, to assess the success of the removal program.



Feral Horse Management

“The management of feral horses is one of the most contentious issues facing wildlife managers in Australia” (see Symanski 1994; English 2000).

sch4 Contrary to public interest

sch4 Contrary to public interest



Thank You. Questions?





FERAL HORSE MANAGEMENT STAKEHOLDER MEETING –

15 February 2018

MINUTES

Location: The Madill Room, The Pavilion, Gympie Showgrounds, Exhibition Road, Gympie

Meeting start 10.00am

Chair: Dimitri Scordalides – Director Infrastructure Services, Gympie Regional Council

Present:

- Ben Curley, GRC
- Paul Algie, QPS
- Grayden Curry, GRC
- Mike Hoare, DNRME
- Duncan Swan, BQ
- Geoff Schuler, DTMR
- Mike Chambers, DTMR
- Craig Kelly, SCRC
- Jesse Wojtala, SCRC
- Jason Brewer, SCRC
- Dimitri Scordalides, GRC
- Wayne Hoyle, FCRC
- Col Zemek, FCRC
- sch4p4(6) Personal information HOP
- sch4p4(6) Personal information HOP
- Richard Poli, DOD
- Kerri Lock, DOD
- Moyra McRae, QPWS
- Russell Davies, QPWS
- Darren Rogers, QPWS

Apologies: Shannon Ireland – DTMR, Helen Stevenson – DTMR, Rebecca Morello – DAF, Scott Stanton – DNRME, Anthony Cathcart – SCRC, Wyn Boon – QPWS, Gina Vereker – GRC, Lawry O'Brien – GRC

Dimitri did a welcome to everyone attending. Everyone introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of their position and their interest in this meeting.

1. **Presentation** - Summary of Coroner's Inquest and an Overview of the Current Situation in the Toolara/Tuan areas – Ben Curley (30 minutes)

The purpose of today's meeting is to get all stakeholders together to deal with an issue for the better good of the wider community.

Ben gave a presentation which outlined an overview of the Coroners findings and subsequent recommendations on and inquest into the fatal accidents on the Bruce Highway near Townsville in 2015.

The current situation at Toolara/Tuan:

Reports to Council and staff observations in late 2017 and early 2018 have indicated that around 16 Feral Horses regularly frequent areas in close proximity to the Tin Can Bay Road and the Cooloola Coast Road. In some cases these Feral Horses are crossing these road posing a significant risk to road users

Whilst Council doesn't have exact data, a review of Councils Call Centre records of sightings of Feral Horses on Main Roads in the Toolara/Tuan area to Council indicates that approximately fifty reports per year are received by Council regarding Feral Horses on these Main Roads corridors

Between 2009 and present, Council has removed Seven (reported) dead Feral Horses from the Tin Can Bay, Rainbow Beach and Cooloola Coast Roads. These horses were fatally injured due to vehicle strikes. Two Domestic horses were also struck by vehicles and killed during this time.

Ben also presented information on a thesis written by Magdalena Zabek (University of Queensland Student 2015) which focused on Population Dynamics of feral horses in the Tuan and Toolara State Forest.

sch4p4(6) advised that no formal monitoring has been done by HQP. Initial control strategy was to remove the horses adjacent to the Main Roads corridor. Environmental conditions determine horse numbers.

Russell Davies – QPWS, didn't only try the recommendations from the report, but did extra control works such as small ground shooting projects to help control numbers of horses.

2. **Round Table discussion:**

QPWS

Russell Davies – two points of view from QPWS across 2 regions – as far as Toolara/Tuan area, QPWS play a support role with information, however the surrounding NP and state forest we would have the lead in controlling pests on these lands. We do use cameras for monitoring and do counts on all feral animals seen. Some data collection is done. No movement of horses into Poona National Park. Would be interested to know what movements of horses are going through Bauple/Curra area. Happy to pass on any information

Moyra Mcrae - will be more than happy to supply any data collected. Currently our monitoring really looks at environmental damage however horses coming into Inskip recreational area, where we have had horses coming into the camp grounds. We need a better understanding how many are in the National Park. Our pest weed program does take priority over feral horses at the moment.

Russell D – the coroners report is being dealt with at central level down in Brisbane, not out in the region so we'll get guidance from a higher level. Happy to provide details of contractors that QPWS use.

Kerrie Lock – since about 2012 and up until just recently DOD have been doing some informal, ad-hoc surveys on the western boundaries and southern boundaries. Up until 2014 no horses on Defence land. 2014 fallen tree on 3 strand fence, horses got in and on ground control was carried out. Risk assessments were undertaken to get funding for control work was done. Three females and one male, it took 6 months to get them caught and taken away. Regular checks and maintenance carried out now on fences, fences have been made a lot firmer. Regularly put cameras out, and at this point in time are defence land is hopefully horse free. Western and Southern boundaries are the boundaries that are monitored mainly. Current program running which does have feral horses on the radar, and if seen they will be removed. The coroners findings actually increase the chances of gaining funding for control.

Richard Poli – DOD – training areas are used daily now and on the increase, anecdotal reports are received more or less immediately. Regular annually funded control programs. Aerial cull in 2012 done at Shoalwater and one done again last year an no horses were found. At Shoalwater Bay, it can be shut off. Happy to share any information. Annual control program at Shoalwater Bay of all pest animals in area. Driver was purely environmental reasons, however with the increased use at the training areas, has then driven the risk of physical encounters.

sch4p4(6) Personal information HQP isn't the landowner, the State owns the land. HQP have engaged a Contractor sch4p4(6) Personal information in a small group at Maryborough Cooloola Road. Did some significant work at the other plantation at Beerburum adjacent to the Bruce Highway with horse removal. MR assisted with some funding with this. In terms of that several goes at control, one occasion all electrical fences were cut up so there was public opposition to controlling the horses. Media discussion around horses on the highway helped push the control program at Beerburum. Passive trapping technique are effective in small numbers. The disposal mechanism after that is problematic. Small capacity for re-homing. No formal risk assessment has been undertaken. At a State level HQP have made representations to the State Lands Pest Management committee on this issue and its position is that there is a degree of resolution that the state needs to take control of this issue. Happy to share information, the issue is the management.

Col Zemek – Fraser Coast doesn't have a lot of interest in the feral horse issue, in saying that, we work closely with QTMR if feral horses/cattle are on the road and we would take action with landowners on that. Under the Biosecurity hat we believe they are not feral, and have not done much with Feral Horses. No wild horse problems in Fraser Coast region really. Happy to help where we can.

Livestock control is not in the agreement with QTMR for the maintenance contract.

Jason Brewer – ICT – camera recognition of animal species and separates species based on photo recognition. No monitoring of horses being done in Sunshine Coast Region. Beerwah Officer in charge has been in contact as her area of concern is the Bruce highway. 79 customer requests to date this year about wild horses.

Geoff Schuler – action from today would be to take notes, no commitments can be made today. Has dealt with HQP in 2013/14, first lot of mapping of pod locations were. signage was erected on Maryborough Cooloola Road and currently 3 pairs of signs on temporary sign spikes, which can be easily moved. We don't here about the accidents unless they are fatal. If we could get info from Council on sightings etc we can fine tune where more signage could be erected. The more information we can get, the more chance we have to get funding for control. We will be feeding this information back through the State Office.

Russell Davies – coroner was pretty clear – a risk assessment was needed to be done, adamant that all agencies need to share data to then base an informed risk assessment.

Duncan Swan – shared responsibilities is critical, this is a good opportunity for this group to make an impact. Duncan believes it is important to make decisions locally within this group, and not expect the state pest management committee to provide the solution. Happy to provide technical advise/support.

Mike Hoare – not a lot of involvement specifically in this area. Has summarized it for people in his region. Hasn't been considered on a state-wide basis to his knowledge. Mike's interpretation is that QTMR is the lead agency, DNRME should reach out to QTMR to be on a trial management committee. Monitoring has been done in his area and there is quite a bit of movement with horses. Have moved animals on. Happy to be involved.

Col Zemek – horses are very nomadic in the northern area of the region, trying to get them captured is a problem.

Grayden Curry – As far as the Maintenance Contractor managing roads on behalf of our client being DTMR Council would attend and removed deceased animals if they posed a risk to the road user. We consider this area as an unfenced road. If there are stock/cattle on unfenced road reserves Council does not attend unless directed. Many KM's of unfenced council road reserves as well as a few declared main road reserves, and in these areas stock on the road is a known driving issue, but our contractual arrangement is to attend particularly after hours if there is a deceased animal we will remove it.

Paul – QPS – attend to any accidents that occur. Reports are prepared to the Coroner if the accident is fatal, Police with assist with human destruction where the animal is not deceased. A place we could go further in this space would be in community messaging where there is discretionary funding for road safety on

this issue in Road Safety week. QPS would be happy to join in the joint messaging on this issue. Can't give any undertaking on release of stats, it would be on a case by case basis. Local call centre stats should be able to be released. Stats do get reviewed by road policing from Brisbane. Dimitri advised that this issue was going to be raised at a Traffic Advisory Committee Meeting

Ben – pleased to hear DNRME are willing to work with DTMR on this issue. Sharing of data to be an action coming out of this meeting, QPS, Council, TMR, DOD etc. Suggestion made by Ben Curley: If stakeholders in future agree to implement some form of management actions, rather than taking an ad-hoc approach, suggested to go down the track similarly with how they have managed the Feral Rusa Deer Project at Lower Wonga whereby a detailed planning process was implemented to properly manage the issues. Ben also commented on the importance of continuing to remove horses that are currently occupying these roads while a more detailed long-term plan could be developed.

[sch4p4(6) Personal information] multiple stewardship of tenures, objective of a group forming to any work whatsoever has to be focused on the risk of something bad happening.

Jason Brewer – suggested that approach LGAQ to address the State Minister for Transport for strategic leadership on the issue of Feral Horse Management.

Dimitri - Strategic guidance require from DTMR and LGAQ – is there another avenue from landholders

[sch4p4(6) Personal information] HQP Has made its view known to the State Pest Management Group as to what its position is on feral horse management.

Dimitri – If Council was to make representation to LGAQ, potentially we would like to make reference to HQ making representation to the SPMG. Would you be able to shoot an email to Council along those lines. [sch4p4(6) Personal information] to go to executive on that but [sch4p4(6) Personal information] believes it would be well minuted in the State, we've already done that.

[sch4p4(6) Personal information] believes that there should be no reason why a group of stakeholders such as this shouldn't be able to carry out a risk assessment on this matter. Ben Curley asked [sch4p4(6) Personal information] is HQP still removing feral horses from the DTMR corridors? [sch4p4(6) Personal information] responded with yes, only the three horses that have been seen regularly on the Tin Can Bay Road. Ben asked what about the Cooloola Coast Road or other roads. [sch4p4(6) Personal information] replied that we have no plans to remove other horses from other areas.

Local Governments to work together to form a letter to LGAQ asking for the ministers response to the coroners report and what is the regional response to this issue.

Mike Chambers to go back and to find out what is happening internally with rectification, this will be our first step.

Kerrie Lock - suggested to Geoff Schuler QTMR for him to provide a spreadsheet to all stakeholders present requiring specific information which each stakeholder can populate each month/quarter which will then help provide base data for a risk assessment. Geoff agreed that he would do this.

Geoff Schuler - Things that will provide more ammunition is more data on sightings of animals.

sch4p4(6) Personal Information HOP - how do you do risk assessments on roads for collision risks – what are the drivers to change the risk from one risk level to another.

Geoff Schuler - Comes down to number of accidents/hazards, based also on traffic volumes also. Concerns that we have with the plantation areas is where are the horses likely to congregate, that are likely to be in our road area.

Kerrie Lock – anecdotal evidence have noticed to see the horses in harvested areas. Is there a feeding mechanism on how often you do harvesting and then where the horses tend to go.

sch4p4(6) Personal Information No not in a scientific sense, the thesis that was done was based on dung counts. We can tell you when an area is going to be harvested.

Group discussion determined that it was difficult for any further actions to be discussed/determined until group members had a clearer understanding of DTMR's position on future feral horse management actions/plans. There was some more discussion regarding the Queensland State Government.

Ben Curley express concern that waiting for a DTMR position, which may take some time, would leave the risk to the public there. How long should we wait before taking more action?

Actions from the meeting:

- Gympie Regional Council, Fraser Coast Council and Sunshine Coast Regional to compose a joint letter to LGAQ asking for a response from the Local Government Minister in relation to the coroner's report and what is the regional response to this issue is.
- That GRC (Ben Curley) discuss collecting and sharing data with DTMR (Geoff Schuler) and the QPS Gympie Police (Paul Algie) regarding all three call centres and periodically share this information to ensure that Feral Horse reports (at all three call centres) are being captured and shared. -
- That DTMR Representatives (Geoff Schuler, Mike Chambers and Jamie Daniel) seek advice from DTMR Senior Management regarding intended/future Feral Horse management action/plan (State-wide) from their department. It is understood that DTMR is currently reviewing Feral Horse Management (in a whole of Department context) following the Coroner's Inquest. Once the DTMR has provided their Departmental Feral Horse management action/plan to this group, Council will liaise

further with this group's members to determine future actions, which may include a second meeting. The group agreed that confirming DTMR's (whole of Department) direction on this matter is important before the group can progress with any other actions.

3. **Next meeting**

To be advised

Meeting close 12.41pm

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