

NORTHERN RIVERS JOINT ORGANISATION (NRJO) BOARD MINUTES OF MEETING HELD FRIDAY 11 AUGUST 2023 AT LISMORE CITY COUNCIL

The meeting commenced 10:02am

In attendance:

Mayors:

- Cr Sharon Cadwallader, Ballina Shire Council (Chair)
- Cr Kylie Thomas, Kyogle Council (Deputy Chair)
- Cr Chris Cherry, Tweed Shire Council
- Cr Michael Lyon, Byron Shire Council (*online*)
- Cr Robert Mustow, Richmond Valley Council
- Cr Ian Tiley, Clarence Valley Council (*online*)

General Managers:

- Mark Arnold, Byron Shire Council
- Troy Green, Tweed Shire Council
- Jon Gibbons, Lismore City Council
- Laura Black, Clarence Valley Council
- Paul Hickey, Ballina Shire Council

Other Attendees:

- Cr Electra Jenson on behalf of Cr Kreig, Lismore City Council
- Phillip Rudd, Executive Officer NRJO
- Anita Gambhir, Office of Local Government
- Michael Thurston, General Manager Destination North Coast (*online*)
- Lenna Klintworth, Regional NSW on behalf of Louise McMeeking (*online*)
- Nathan McGrath, Regional Development Australia (*online*)
- Vicky Scott, NRJO
- Robyn Waldron, Minute Taker

Address by official visitors:

- Scott Charlton, Dept. of Primary Industries (*online*)
- Dean Betts, Reconstruction Authority NSW (*online*)
- Jennifer Bott
- Kieron Hendicott, Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (NRRC)

1 OPENING OF THE MEETING

Chair extended a welcome to everyone to today's meeting.

110823/1 RESOLVED: (*Cherry/Mustow*) that Cr Ian Tiley and Cr Michael Lyon join the meeting via Teams platform.
(CARRIED)

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge that this meeting is held upon the land of the Bundjalung people who are the Traditional Custodians of this Land. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

3 APOLOGIES

110823/2 RESOLVED (*Cherry/Thomas*) that apologies be received and accepted on behalf of Mr Cr Steve Krieg (Lismore City Council), Graham Kennett (Kyogle Shire Council), Vaughan McDonald (Richmond Valley Council), Cr Jeff McConnell (Scenic Rim), Louise McMeeking (Regional NSW), Simon Draper (NSW Reconstruction Authority).

(CARRIED)

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

5 ADDRESS BY OFFICIAL VISITORS

5.1 Fire Ants – Department of Primary Industries (DPI), Scott Charlton

NOTED: Presentation is attached at end of minutes.

5.2 Feasibility study for the NRRC Cultural Infrastructure Northern Rivers - Jennifer Bott

NOTED: Presentation is attached at end of minutes

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

110823/3 RESOLVED (*Mustow/Cherry*) that the Minutes of the meeting held 19 May 2023 and business arising be approved as presented.

(CARRIED)

7 URGENT BUSINESS

7.1 Bush Fire Preparedness

110823/4 RESOLVED (*Cherry/Thomas*) that Bush fire preparedness be received and discussed as urgent business.

(CARRIED)

110823/5 RESOLVED (*Lyon/Mustow*) that: -

1. Members provide a report to Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO) on the following: -
 - a) Their LGA's approaches to, and levels of preparation for, the 2023-24 bushfire season
 - b) any implementation – by either member councils or state/federal agencies in their LGA – of the seventy-six recommendations of the Final Report of the NSW Bushfire Inquiry 2020;
2. That NRJO considers the implications for the region of the upcoming bushfire season and plans to collaborate on managing the 2023-24 bushfire season;

3. That any collaboration includes, but is not limited to, cross-border collaboration with Queensland in fighting bushfires in cross border areas including national parks.

(CARRIED)

7.2 Fire Ants prevention

110823/6 RESOLVED (Cherry/Thomas) that Fire Ants prevention be received and discussed as urgent business.

(CARRIED)

110823/7 RESOLVED (Cherry/Mustow) that Northern Rivers Joint Organisation write to Federal Minister Murray Watt to:-

1. Request the federal government to contribute to the NSW and Queensland State government's funding in the 'fire ant' eradication program;
2. Ensuring that private landowners are not financially impacted in the fire ant eradication program.

8 NOTICES OF MOTION

8.1 Chair's Minute – Master plan and vision needed for region's rebuild post floods

110823/8 MOVED: (Cadwallader) that the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Board call on the NSW Reconstruction Authority, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces and Minister for Emergency Services to work collaboratively with Northern Rivers communities and councils to develop a CSIRO led long-term master plan and vision for rebuilding the region post the 2022 flood disaster.

RESOLVED: (Cadwallader) that the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Board call on the NSW Reconstruction Authority, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces and Minister for Emergency Services to work collaboratively with Northern Rivers communities and councils to develop a CSIRO informed long-term master plan and vision for rebuilding the region post the 2022 flood disaster.

(CARRIED)

8.2 Byron Shire and the IPC Recommendations

110823/9 RESOLVED (Lyon/Cherry) The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Board recognises Byron Shire Council's efforts to address the housing crisis;

1. Notes that alleviating the housing crisis in the region will require a multi-faceted and coordinated approach;
2. Notes that the concentration of holiday letting in the Byron Shire is at the highest level in Australia;
3. Notes support for the regulation of holiday letting where appropriate by the NSW Upper House and the Federal Minister for Housing;
4. Supports Byron Shire Council in its efforts to regulate holiday letting in its shire as per the recommendations by the Independent Planning Commission of April 2023;
5. Requests the Planning Minister, Paul Scully to meet with a delegation of Byron Shire Council prior to handing down his decision on this issue.

(CARRIED)

9 REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION

9.1 Executive Officer Report

110823/10 RESOLVED (*Mustow/Cherry*) that the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Board receive and note the Executive Officer report including: -

- Project Manager report - Joint Organisation Disaster Risk Reduction Fund
- Project Manager report - Northern Rivers Rail Trail
- Project Manager report - NetZero

(CARRIED)

9.2 Financial Report

110823/11 RESOLVED (*Thomas/Cherry*) that the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Board receive and note the financial report.

(CARRIED)

9.3 Microsoft Enterprise Agreement

110823/12 RESOLVED (*Cherry/Mustow*) that the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Board :

1. Receive and note this report;
2. Recognise the Information Technology Group's significant achievement in securing a new Enterprise Agreement with Microsoft for member councils and thank it for delivering such a fantastic outcome for the region.

(CARRIED)

10 INFORMATION REPORTS

110823/13 RESOLVED (*Mustow/Tiley*) that the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation Board received and noted the following reports.

1. NRRC Advisory update - the Chair (verbal update)
2. ARIC meeting update, minutes and Performance review 2022-2023
3. Written Return of Interests
4. Delegate report – Clarence Valley regional update
5. Associate member report – Office of Local Government
6. Associate member report – Destination North Coast
7. Associate member report – Regional Development Australia Northern Rivers NSW (no verbal update given)
8. Associate member report - Regional NSW – Lenna Klintworth on behalf of Louise McMeeking (verbal update)
9. Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (NRRC) – Jamie Simmonds (verbal update)
10. Correspondence – incoming and outgoing

(CARRIED)

11 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Nil

12 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

14 CLOSE OF BUSINESS

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12:58pm

Next scheduled meeting Friday 10 November 2023 - Byron Shire Council,
70 Station Street Mullumbimby



Department of
Primary Industries

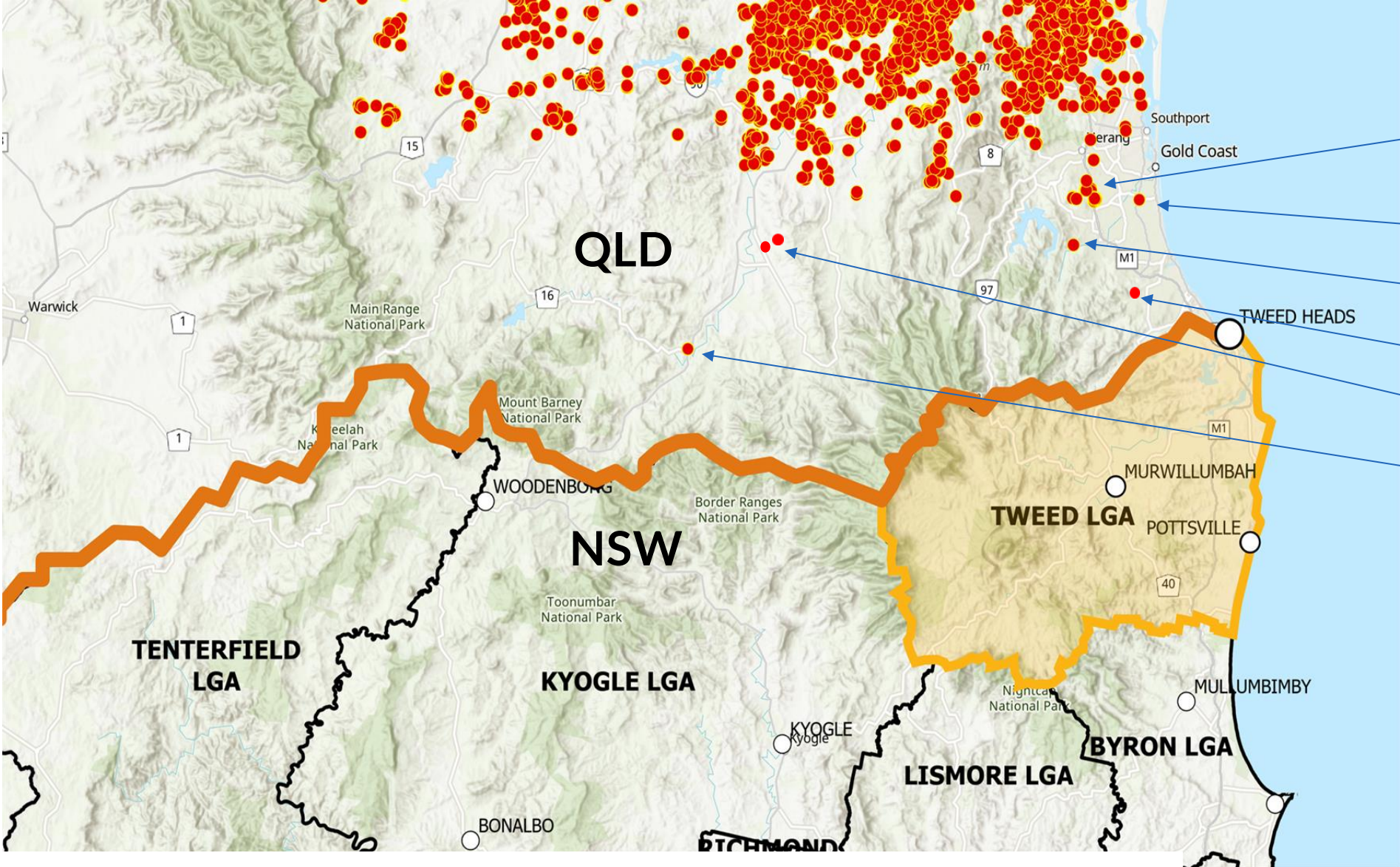
Invasive Invertebrates Biosecurity

Red Imported Fire Ant Preparedness and Response 2023

Presentation to Northern Rivers Joint
Organisation (NRJO)

Invasive Species Biosecurity





- Worongary, Carrara Nov 22
- Mermaid Waters May 23
- Mudgeeraba May 23
- Tullebudgera July 23
- Tabooba July 23
- Innisplain May 23

Fire ant locations in Queensland

- Fire ant locations
- Queensland-New South Wales border
- Tweed Shire

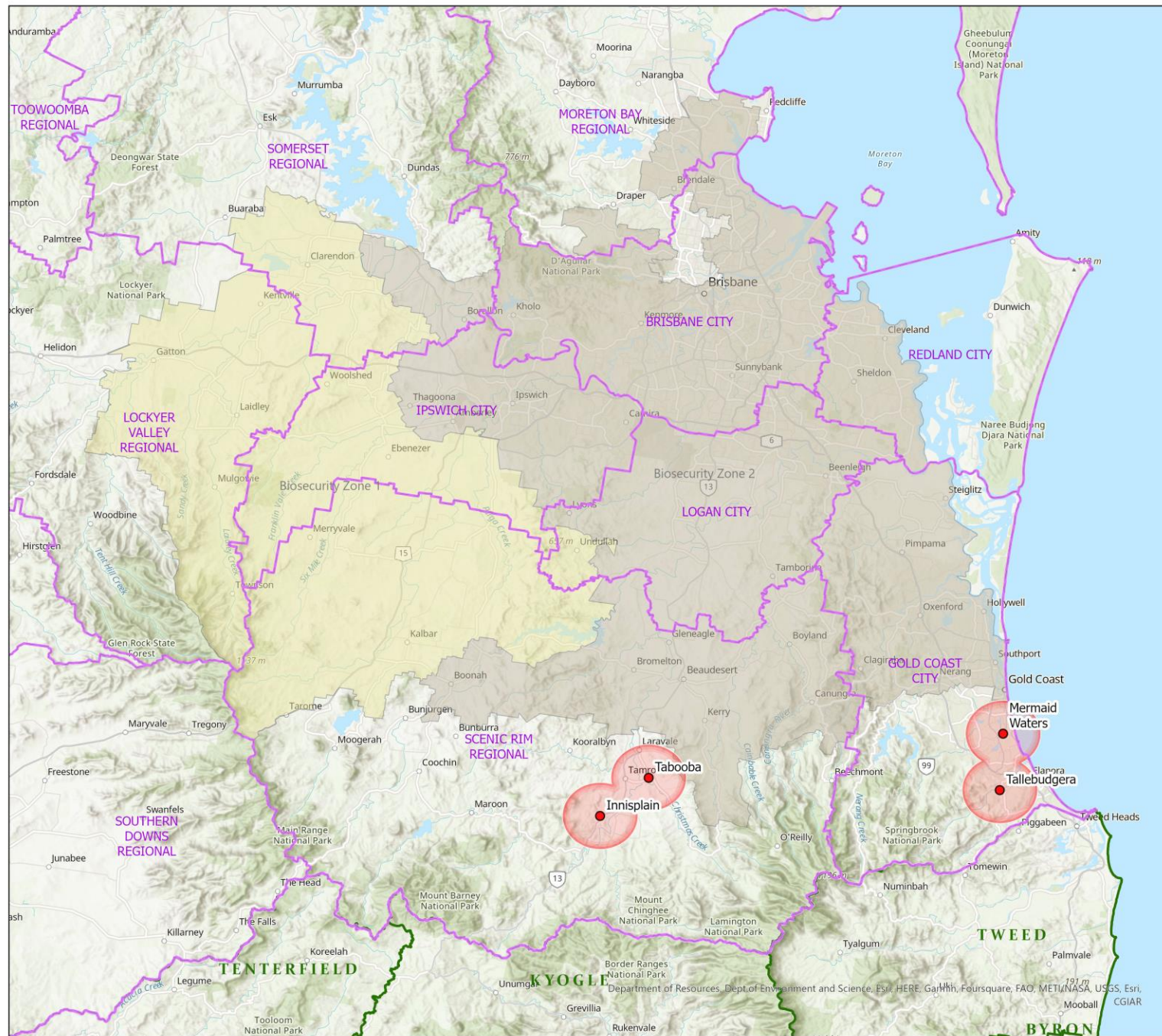


NSW Biosecurity (Invasive Ant Carriers) Control Order

- Specifies entry conditions for carrier materials coming from within 5 km of the known infested area in QLD
- Different conditions depending on carrier material
- Requirements in place since 2002
- Separate to the QLD requirements

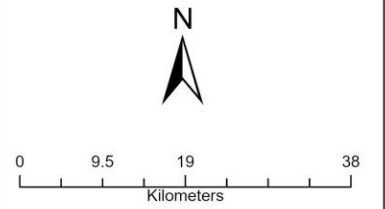
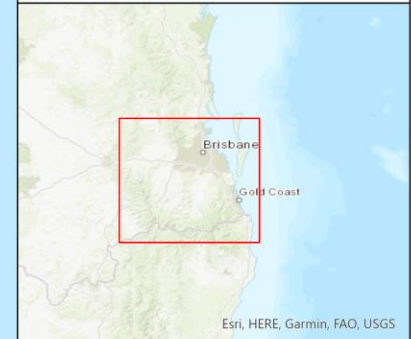


Map of the known infested area in QLD



QLD Fire Ant Zones

- QLD RIFA Cases
- QLD RIFA Biosecurity Zones
 - Fire ant biosecurity zone 1
 - Fire ant biosecurity zone 2
 - NSW Local Government Areas
 - QLD Local Government Areas
 - QLD RIFA Cases 5km Buffer



Date: 24/07/2023 1:53 PM
 Sources: Data used may include NSW Land and Property Information - Towns, parks and forests, roads, water, imagery. NSW Dept of Industry - Administrative boundaries. Includes material © CNES 2009, Distribution Spot Image S.A. France, all rights reserved.

Biosecurity (Invasive Ant Carriers) Control Order

Regulated fire ant carrier materials include:

- Baled material (hay, sugarcane mulch)
- Mining and quarrying materials
- Potted plants
- Organic mulch
- Turf
- Agricultural and earthmoving equipment
- Soil and anything with soil in it



Checklist for buying hay from south-east Queensland



- it comes from outside the fire ant biosecurity zones, and
- it comes with a vendor declaration

If it comes from inside the fire ant biosecurity zones:

- it comes with a Plant Health Certificate stating:
- it's been chemically treated (fumigated) for fire ants, and
- it's been stored off the ground and under cover, and
- it's dry and free of soil



Need more info? Call us
1800 680 244

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/fire-ants

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/insect-pests/fire-ants

+ Agricultural and earth moving equipment

To move agricultural and earth moving equipment into NSW from or through the fire ant biosecurity zones in Queensland it must be accompanied by a [Plant Health Certificate](#) that certifies it has been:

- inspected and found to be free from fire ants, soil and other materials such as hay, straw, turf or mulch 48 hours prior to dispatch.

Tweed & Kyogle engagement

- Letter box drop (40,000 Tweed, 4000 Kyogle)
- Media releases (jointly with Councils)
- Social media campaign

Seen these ants in the Tweed?

Red imported fire ants



Solenopsis invicta

How could fire ants affect you?

- they swarm aggressively, stinging over and over, causing a severe burning feeling and allergic reactions
- they restrict use of backyards, parks, playgrounds, and beaches, and sting pets and livestock
- they kill off native plants and animals and damage ecosystems beyond repair



Actual size (above)



Fire ant locations in Queensland

- Fire ant locations
- Queensland-New South Wales border
- Tweed Shire

Fire ants are getting closer

- they could be moved into NSW from Southeast Queensland in hay, potted plants, soil, sand, mulch, turf and on agricultural machinery
- they could spread from nests close to the border

Seen them? Call us **1800 680 244**

Keep the Tweed free of fire ants

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/fire-ants



Look for nests that are:

- flattish patches of soil or mounds up to 40 cm high, with no obvious entrance holes
- loose or crumbly looking, with a honeycomb appearance inside



Fire ants are reddish brown with darker abdomens

Look for ants that are:

- dark reddish-brown with a darker brown-black abdomen
- different sizes in the one nest (between 2 and 6 mm long)
- aggressive, swarming out of the nest if gently poked with a stick



Fire ant nests are patches or mounds of soil

Check:

- sunny, open areas of lawn or pasture, areas of disturbed soil
- gardens, backyards, parks, roadsides, paddocks, fence lines, cropped land
- where hay, turf, mulch, soil, potted plants, sand, gravel or agricultural machinery has been used or stored, especially if it came from southeast Queensland

If you see nests or ants like this or you've been stung multiple times and the stings form white pustules, call us.



48 hours after fire ant stings

Seen them? Call us **1800 680 244**

Protect our backyards, pets, parks and beaches

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/fire-ants



Toolbox talks with staff and councillors



Actions councils can take

- Assist DPI by amplifying our key messages through social media and council websites
- Be alert to the risk associated of the movement of fire ant carrier materials into local council areas
- Be aware of movement requirements
- Have outdoor staff aware of what to look for and how to report suspect nests
- Work with the DPI Fire ant response to ensure communities are aware of the risk and actions required
- Add an advisory note to Development Approvals that the Control Order applies to material movements

Check for Fire ants



Fire ants shown at actual size

Check for fire ants



CHECK:

- Open sunny areas like lawns, parks, paddocks and disturbed ground
- Where hay, turf, soil, sand, gravel, mulch or potted plants have been used or stored



Fire ants attack and sting over and over

LOOK FOR:

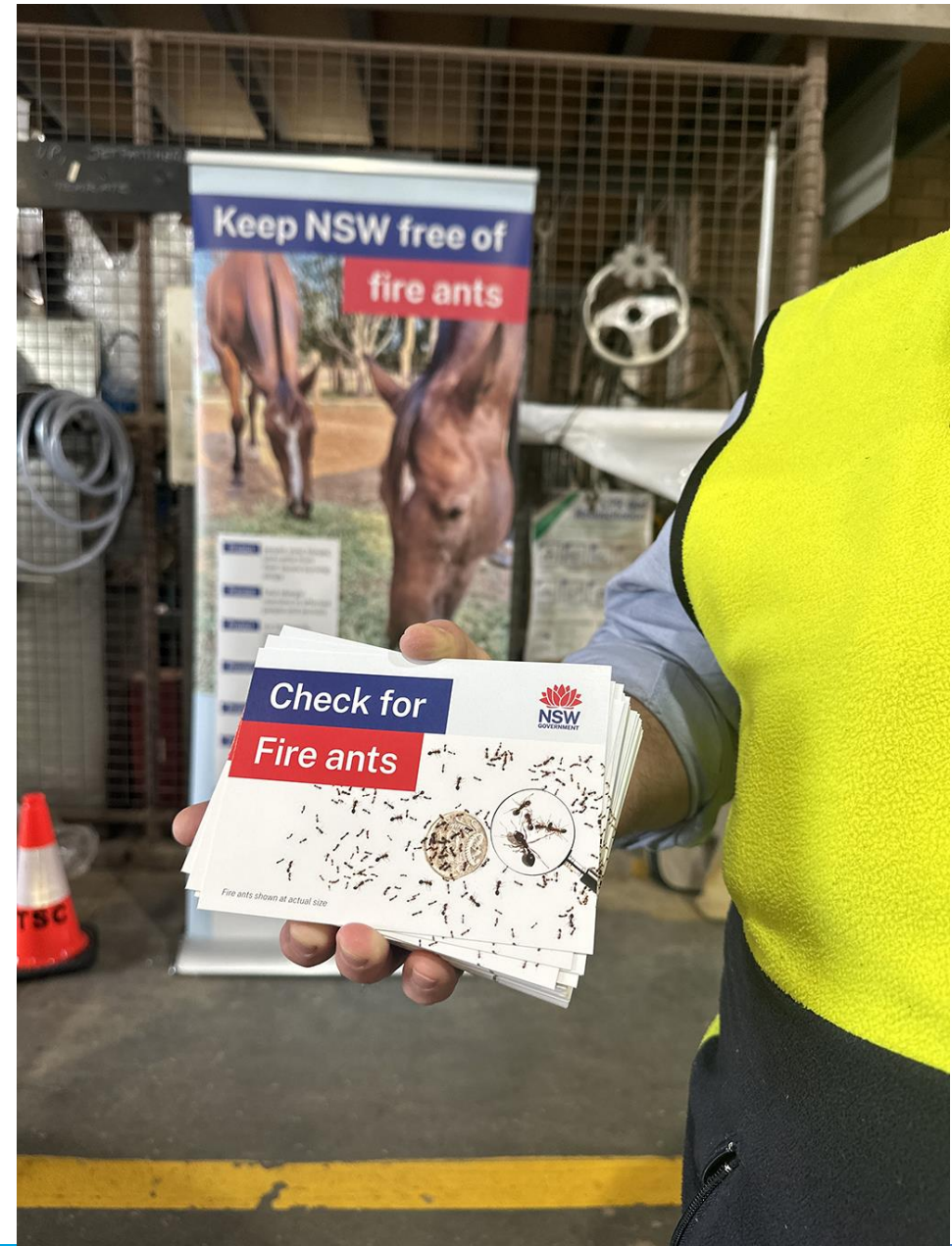
- Nest mounds or patches of soil up to 40 cm high, with no obvious entrance holes
- Aggressive ants, swarming from the nest if gently prodded with a long stick
- Small, dark reddish-brown ants with darker black abdomens
- 2-6 mm long and a range of sizes within a nest



Scan the QR code for more information
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

Think you've seen them?
Call us **1800 680 244**

182889 06/23



Northern Rivers Cultural Infrastructure Feasibility Study

Love for One Night, NORPA
Credit: Kurt Petersen Photography



**What are the biggest
gaps in cultural
infrastructure in the
Northern Rivers?**

**What is your view of the
centralisation/decentralisation
approach for cultural
infrastructure investment in
this region?**

**What infrastructure
investments would excite,
inspire and invite partnerships
and big responses?**

**What investments could create
a fresh approach and impact
in the creative industries in
this region?**

Thank you

Jennifer Bott AO, Lead Consultant

Northern Rivers Cultural Infrastructure Feasibility Study

ncistudy@gmail.com