Barcoo
SHIRE COUNCIL

Rural Lands Roadmap.

2026-2028

PURPOSE

This roadmap provides a clear path for Council and the Barcoo Rural Lands Group to coordinate action on pest and weed management, strengthen landholder engagement, and maximise funding opportunities.

VISION

A coordinated, well supported rural sector where landholders and Council work together to effectively manage pests, weeds, and land challenges across the Barcoo Shire.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. Strengthen Coordination & Leadership

Key Focus: Reinvigorate the Rural Lands Officer role

Actions

- Fill and support a dedicated Rural Lands Officer position
- Coordinate baiting and control programs across the Shire
- Act as the key link between Council and landholders
- Improve communication, engagement, and program visibility
- Identify and leverage external funding opportunities
- Magnify the investment made by local landholders through the Barcoo Shire Rural Lands Levy by leveraging Government investment to support land management objectives and enhancing partnerships with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services and other key organisations like Desert Channels Queensland

2. Deliver Effective Pest Management

Key Focus: Reduce impact of wild dogs and other pests

Actions

- Continue annual aerial baiting program (September)
- Maintain and expand ground baiting programs
- Prioritise wild dog control as the highest risk
- Trial a scalping bounty program (based on Winton model)
- Expand scope to include pigs, cats and other priority pests
- Help local landowners collaborate with Queensland Parks and Wildlife as they undertake control activities in National Parks (including shooting and baiting programs)

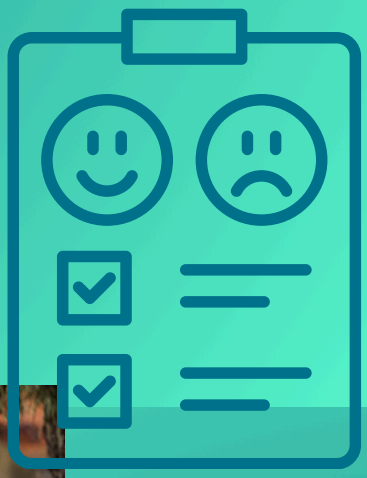


3. Strengthen Weed Management
Key Focus: Target priority weeds across the Shire

Actions

- Identify priority weed species and affected areas
- Coordinate control efforts across properties
- Allocate and advocate for dedicated weed funding
- Apply for Weed Control Funding from the State from funding available for the 2025 Flood Events.
- Leverage funding for weed control from other sources in partnership with Desert Channels Queensland (DCQ)
- Work with landholders to ensure targeted, practical outcomes

4. Improve Data & Decision Making
Key Focus: Build evidence to guide action



Actions

- Develop an annual landholder impact survey
- Capture data on stock losses and pest impacts
- Collect local observations and anecdotal evidence
- Partner with Desert Channels Queensland on scientific approaches:
  - Camera monitoring grids
  - Tracking collars and movement data





IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Short Term (0–6 months)

- Progress funding applications
- Recruit Rural Lands Officer
- Plan upcoming baiting programs
- Engage landholders on weed priorities

Medium Term (6–18 months)

- Deliver expanded pest and weed programs
- Launch data collection and survey processes
- Trial new pest control initiatives (e.g. bounty model)

Long Term (18+ months)

- Evaluate outcomes and refine approach
- Strengthen long-term funding streams
- Build a data-driven, sustainable rural lands program





SUCCESS MEASURES

- Increased participation in baiting programs
- Reduction in reported stock losses
- Improved control of priority weeds
- Stronger landholder engagement
- Successful acquisition of external funding

