



MEDIA RELEASE

Council Pest Management

Council has recently endorsed the Norfolk Island Regional Council Pest Management Plan (NIRCPMP). The plan identifies a number of pest plants and animals that impact Norfolk Island, including their environmental, economic and social impacts.

Some of the key pest animal species identified include rats, free-roaming cats, feral chickens, red parrot (Crimson Rosella), Tarler Bird (Purple Swamphen) and Argentine Ant. Major weed species include African Olive (*Olea europaea*), Porpieh (*Psidium cattleianum*) and Hawaiian Holly (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), while the impact of pathogens such as Phellinus and Myrtle Rust on Norfolk's tree species is also identified. These threats impact our native flora and fauna and cost the local economy through impacts to agriculture and tourism.

NIRC currently manages a number of pests through routine control activities in the public reserves, within the road reserve and on other public land. To manage pest and noxious weeds successfully, coordination between public and private landholders is required. NIRC is assessing opportunities for greater coordination and funding, for example through a Conservation Management Network (CMN), which is identified in the plan. Such a group can coordinate activities, identify priorities and seek funding for control activities on both public and private land.

NIRC continues to encourage the community to manage pests and noxious weeds on their property. Weed infestations are not only a threat to native flora by outcompeting endemic species, they also pose a risk to our water resources through greater demand on the water table, as has been identified in the CSIRO Water Resources Assessment Report.

The Pest Management Plan is now available on the NIRC website at <http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/services/waste-and-environment/pests-and-noxious-weeds>. Please contact our Planning and Environment Department if you have any questions about council's pest management activities.

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