



HOPE Strategic Plan 2024–2029

Focus Area Presentation

- 7. Pest Plants & Animals

*Advocating for responsible and sustainable
stewardship of the environment*

Pest Plants & Animals

- HOPE promotes sustainable living and supports community-led environmental action. The Strategic Plan 2024–2029 emphasises collaboration, awareness, and protecting native ecosystems.
- This focus area supports education, forums, and responsible management of invasive species, which pose one of Australia’s greatest ecological threats and are responsible for most native animal extinctions. HOPE works with universities, councils, and environmental organisations to promote awareness and effective pest control.
- In 2025, HOPE supported partner initiatives focused on invasive species management and raised awareness through e-news publications and the sale of SE QLD Weeds at community events. Efforts emphasised the impacts of pest species on biodiversity and encouraged responsible control practices.



Footnote:

- *Invasive species are responsible for 76% of native animal extinctions since the 1960s.*
- *DNA evidence shows many “wild dogs” are genetically dingoes, meaning control programs often target a native species.*

SWOT Analysis

Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Established governance frameworks and national recognition systems- Strong partnerships with USQ, community groups, and pest forums- National recognition system through Weeds of National Significance (WoNS)- Established control methods, including household and farm-scale practices, as well as biological and coordinated management approaches.
Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Limited capacity and resources, including reliance on volunteers and high costs for large-scale control.- Low public awareness of invasive species impacts and management needs.- Complex, overlapping jurisdictions complicating coordinated pest management.
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Stronger national coordination through WoNS, TAPs, and better integration across federal, state, and local governments.- Stronger use of Threat Abatement Plans for major pest animals.- Greater community involvement supported by promoting citizen reporting tools, weed-ID apps, and expanding local engagement programs.- Promoting advances in biological control and funding, including successful examples (cactus moth, rabbit viruses) and increasing investment in invasive species management.
Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- High-impact invasive species driving major biodiversity loss- Reduced funding for biosecurity and long-term control programs- Climate-driven expansion and rapid spread of key pest plants and animals

Further Information – Pest Plants & Animals

- USQ – <https://www.unisq.edu.au>
- Invasive Species Council – <https://invasives.org.au>
- NSW WeedWise – <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au>
- HOPE – www.hopeaustralia.org.au

