



## Fire ant eradication program

The Queensland Government has been delivering the National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program in South East Queensland on behalf of the Australian and all state and territory governments since 2001.

Fire ants are a pest of national significance, based on the massive potential negative impacts they would have on Australia's economy, environment, public health and lifestyle.

Although small, 2–6 millimetres in size, fire ants can inflict incredibly painful stings, which in some cases can lead to anaphylactic shock and death.

Since fire ants were first discovered in Brisbane in 2001, the Program has kept fire ants contained to a relatively small region in South East Queensland. The Program has also eradicated fire ants from the Port of Brisbane, Port Botany, and twice from the Gladstone area.

On 26 July 2017, Agriculture Ministers from across Australia committed to fund a 10-year \$411.4 million eradication plan to rid Australia of fire ants.

All ministers at the Agricultural Ministers' Forum (AGMIN) agreed it was in the national interest to effectively double the current amount of treatment and surveillance.

If left uncontrolled, the impacts of fire ants in Australia have been estimated to be \$45 billion over 30 years.

The Program welcomes this decision and remains committed to eradicating fire ants from Australia.

While we still have a lot of work to do, Australia is the closest any country has come to eradicating fire ants, and we need to keep going.

The Program looks forward to working with all our stakeholders and the South East Queensland community to eradicate fire ants once and for all.

