

## The Ten Year Eradication Plan

The National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program has commenced a comprehensive Ten Year Eradication Plan to find, contain then eradicate fire ants in South East Queensland.

The aim of the eradication strategy, running from 2017–2027, is to reduce the size of the infestation until fire ants are eradicated in a staged, rolling treatment program, starting in the west — Lockyer Valley, Scenic Rim and parts of the Ipswich local government area — and progressively moving to the east.

### The focus

The ten year plan incorporates the recommendations made in the 2015–16 independent review.

The key strategies of the plan include:

- a significant boost in all eradication activities
- a progressive rolling strategy
- a risk-based eradication planning approach through scientific analysis and modelling of infestation spread

- quality assurance to closely monitor the implementation of eradication activities
- collaboration to promote shared responsibility between the program, industry and the wider community to achieve eradication
- self-management options initially for builders and industry, eventually rolling out to the public.

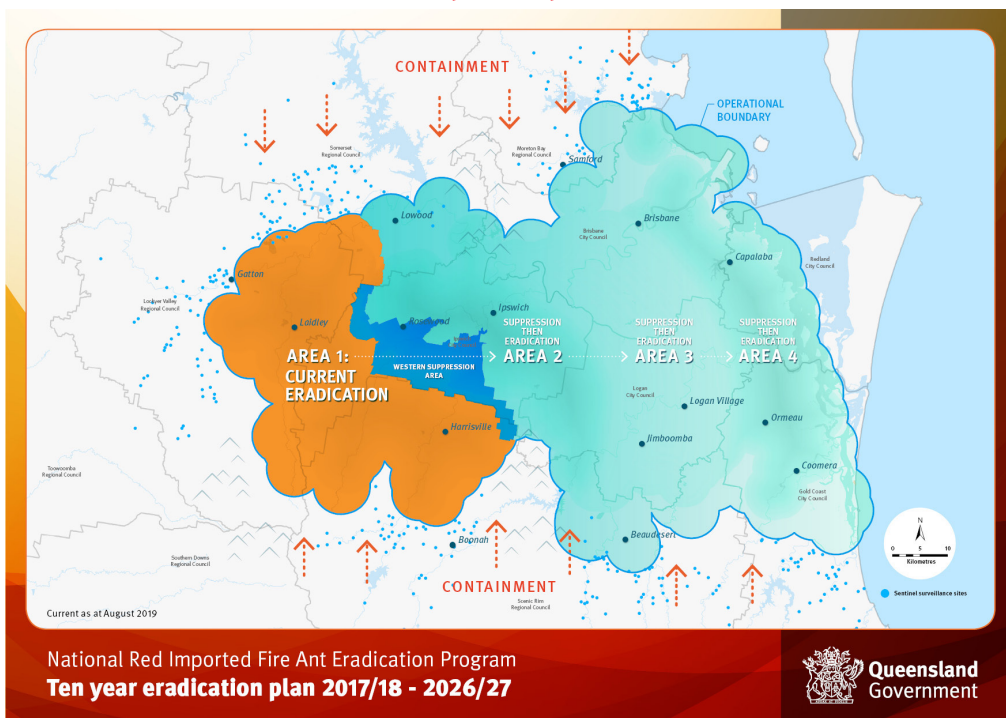
In 2017, the program began an intensive eradication strategy and treatment in Area 1 (see Map 1).

Planned surveillance, suppression and responsive treatment will continue in Areas 2, 3 and 4 until those areas undergo eradication treatment.

### Are we winning?

Just two years in to the strategy and our eyes on the ground are telling us that our efforts to eradicate fire ants west of Brisbane look promising. Residents are saying “there used to be fire ants, now there are none.”

Map 1: Ten Year Eradication Plan 2017–2027



The treatment is also weakening the genetic diversity of the ants, suppressing the spread and improving the chance of eradication.

Australia is the closest any country has come to eradicating fire ants. The program has been successful at keeping the infestation to a relatively small area in South East Queensland.

Since the program began, Australia has eradicated five separate incursions of fire ants, including a population spread over 8,000 hectares at the Port of Brisbane — the world's largest eradication of any ant species.

Without the efforts of the program, fire ants would be north to Mackay, south to Sydney and west to Charleville (see Map 2).

Fire ants are currently contained in an area of about 500,000 hectares — this is the area targeted under the Ten Year Eradication Plan.

**For further information about the eradication plan, please call Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or visit [daf.qld.gov.au/fireants](http://daf.qld.gov.au/fireants)**

## Map 2: Potential area of spread without containment

