Feral Animal List

Black rat *Rattus rattus* Found on coastal lowlands and around Atherton, associated with urbanisation. Potential threat due to high adaptability.

Cane toad *Bufo marinus* Widespread. May be a threat to quolls, lace monitors and frogs, although some animals have now learnt how to live with toads. Controls limited.

Cat *Felis catus* Widely distributed in all areas. No effective controls available. High current and potential impacts.

Cattle *Bos taurus* Widely distributed on grazing leases and beyond. Impacts on ground cover and consequent changes in fire regimes threaten sclerophyll communities.

Chital deer *Axis axis* and **Rusa deer** *Cervus timorensis:* Recently found in small numbers in the Innisfail and Palmerston areas. Potential to damage open woodland areas. Control limited to shooting.

Dog *Canis familiaris* Mainly outside rainforest. Can prey on native threatened species such as cassowaries and tree kangaroos, as well as other feral species and farm animals. No effective controls.

Exotic earthworm *Pontoscolex corethruthrus* Well established. Have invaded most rainforest edges and also been found in intact systems. Compete with native species, and may adversely affect nutrient recycling.

Fire ant *Solenopsis invicta* Already established in south-east Queensland. Potential to arrive in FNQ through road transport. Capacity for huge ecological damage and to affect humans' lifestyles through their terrible stings.

Goat *Capra hircus* Sighted in the Mt Fox region. High impact potential. May dislike wetter areas. Need close monitoring.

Guppy *Poecilia reticulata* Currently limited to degraded areas. High potential impacts on native fish and frog species as dispersal expands.

These fact sheets are based on the Tropical Topics newsletters edited by Stella Martin
and produced by the Wet Tropics Management Authority and the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency.

Indian myna *Acridotheres tristis* Mainly associated with urban expansion. Can compete with birds and small mammals in open woodlands. Traps now being trialled in urban and rural areas which use gas to kill mynas.

Mosquito fish *Gambusia holbrooki* Currently limited numbers in degraded areas. High potential impacts on native fish and frog species as dispersal expands.

Palm leaf beetle *Brontispa longissima* Established in quarantined area between Cooktown and Innisfail. Has potential to affect native fan palms and feather palms.

Papaya fruit fly *Bactrocera papayae* Widespread pest overseas. Eradicated from Wet Tropics in 1999. Potential to affect native fruiting plants by attacking green fruits. May out-compete native fruit flies.

Pig *Sus scrofa* Widely distributed, modifies sensitive habitat, competes with endangered animals for food, transmits pathogens and parasites. Current controls ineffective in reducing populations.

Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus* Advancing into Tablelands and other Wet Tropics areas. High potential threat, especially in more open, drier areas. May be contained with calcivirus.

Red fox *Vulpes vulpes* Limited distribution in Atherton and south western edges of WHA. Threat to endangered northern bettong and other small mammals. Also prey on other pests such as rabbits. High potential impacts if distribution increases.

Tilapia *Tilapia mariae, T. oreochromis, T. mossambicus* Dominate riverine communities and modify habitat where released. Aided by vegetation removal and increased water temperatures. Any control expensive. High potential future impacts.

Yellow crazy ant *Anoplolepis gracilipes* Outbreaks in Cairns port and Edmonton. Huge potential threat to rainforest systems based on impacts in Christmas Island rainforests. Poison baits effective as a control mechanism.

These fact sheets are based on the Tropical Topics newsletters edited by Stella Martin
and produced by the Wet Tropics Management Authority and the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency.