

Table 7 - Emerging, established and potential feral animals likely to threaten WH values

(This table does not include Australian native animals which have been translocated outside of their natural range)

P	Common name	Zoological name	Class	Comments
High priority newly emerging feral animals - new outbreaks to be eradicated completely from the region				
1	Chital deer Rusa deer	<i>Axis axis</i> <i>Cervus timorensis</i>	U	Recently found in small numbers in the Innisfail and Palmerston areas. Potential to damage open woodland areas. Control limited to shooting.
1	Goat	<i>Capra hircus</i>	D2, U	Sighted in the Mt Fox region. High impact potential. May dislike wetter areas. Need close monitoring.
High priority newly emerging feral animals - spread into WT region to be controlled				
2	Red fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	EPBC, D2, U	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.
2	Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	EPBC, D2, U	Advancing into Atherton and Evelyn Tablelands and other Wet Tropics areas. High potential threat, especially in more open, drier areas. May be contained with calcivirus.
High priority potential feral animals - prevent introduction, eradicate new outbreaks				
2	Yellow crazy ant	<i>Anoplolepis gracilipes</i>	D1 (see comment)	Limited outbreak at Cairns Port eradicated in 2001. Recent outbreak in Edmonton declared Class 1 for 3 months. Huge potential threat to rainforest systems based on impacts in Christmas Island rainforests. Poison baits effective as a control mechanism.
2	Fire ant	<i>Solenopsis invicta</i>	NP	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.
2	Papaya fruit fly	<i>Bactrocera papayae</i>	Q	Widespread pest overseas. Eradicated from Wet Tropics in 1999. Potential to affect native fruiting plants by attacking green fruits. May outcompete native fruit flies.
High priority established feral animals - numbers to be controlled locally where possible				
2	Pig	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	EPBC, D2, U	Widely distributed, modifies sensitive habitat, competes with endangered fauna for food, transmits pathogens and parasites. Current controls ineffective in reducing populations. See case study below.
2	Cat	<i>Felis catus</i>	EPBC, D2, U	Widely distributed in all WT areas. No effective controls available. High current and potential impacts.
3	Cattle	<i>Bos taurus</i>	U	Widely distributed on grazing leases and beyond. Impacts on ground cover and consequent changes in fire regimes threaten sclerophyll communities.
3	Dog	<i>Canis familiaris</i>	D2, U	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.
3	Mosquito fish	<i>Gambusia holbrooki</i>	DNF, U	Currently limited numbers in degraded areas. High potential impact on native fish and frog species as dispersal expands.
3	Guppy	<i>Poecilia reticulata</i>	U	Currently limited to degraded areas. High potential impacts on native fish and frog species as dispersal expands.
3	Tilapia species	<i>Tilapia mariae</i> <i>Oreochromis mossambicus</i>	DNF, U	Dominate riverine communities and modify habitat where released. Aided by vegetation removal and increased water temperatures. Any control expensive. High potential future impacts.
3	Palm leaf beetle	<i>Brontispa longissima</i>	Q	Established in quarantined area between Cooktown and Innisfail. Has potential to affect native fan palms and feather palms.
Medium priority established feral animals - numbers to be controlled locally where possible				
4	Cane toad	<i>Bufo marinus</i>	U	Widespread. May be a threat to quolls, monitors and frogs, although some animals have now learnt how to live with toads. Controls limited.
4	Indian myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>		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.
4	Black rat	<i>Rattus rattus</i>		Found on coastal lowlands and around Atherton, associated with urbanisation. Potential threat due to high adaptability.
4	Exotic earthworm	<i>Pontoscolex corethruthrus</i>	U	Well established. Have invaded most rainforest edges and also been found in intact systems. Compete with native species, and may adversely affect nutrient recycling.

P= priority U= Listed as Undesirable under the Plan EPBC = Listed as key threatening process under the EPBC Act D2 = Declared Class 2

DNF= Declared noxious fish Q = Quarantine pest NP = Notifiable pest (Plant Protection Act)

Much of the information in this table is sourced from Harrison & Congdon (2002)