

## Surveys then and now

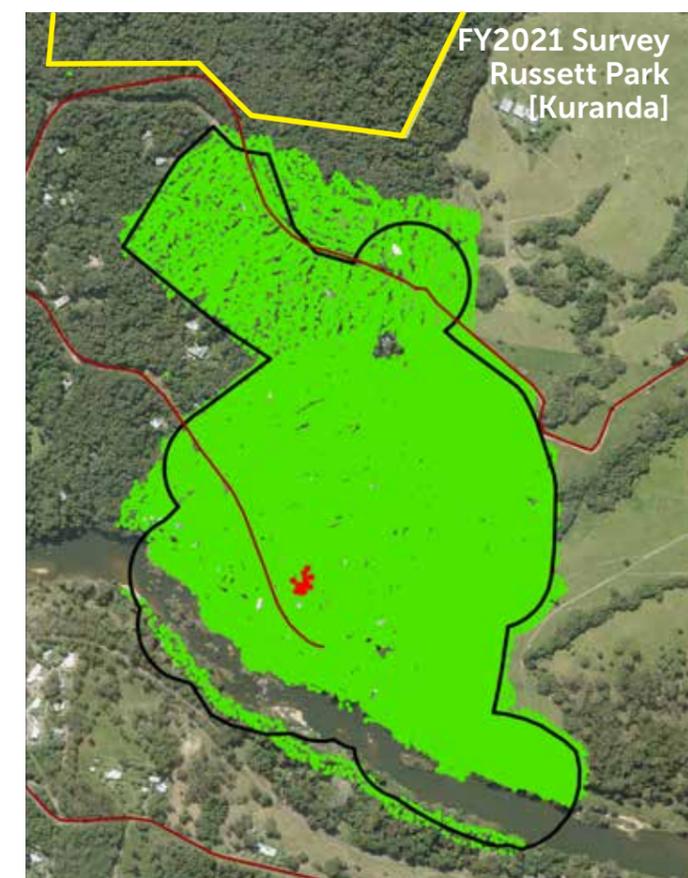
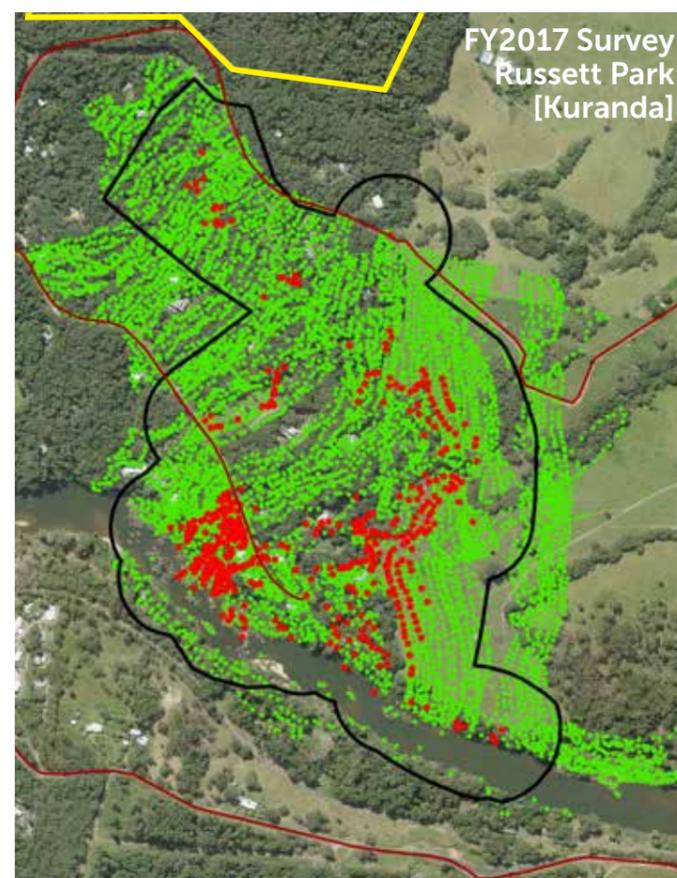
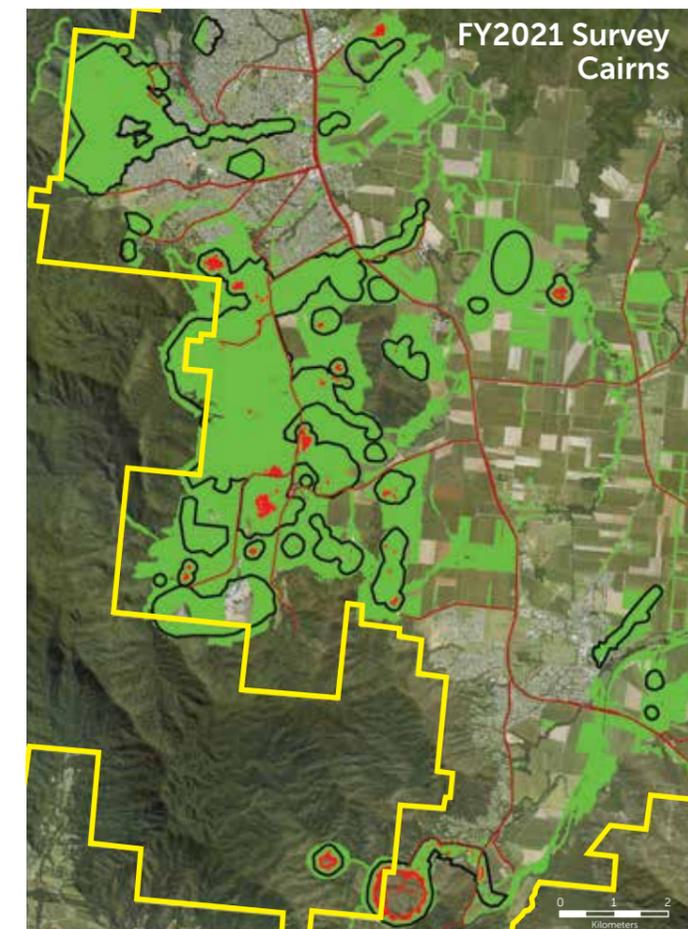
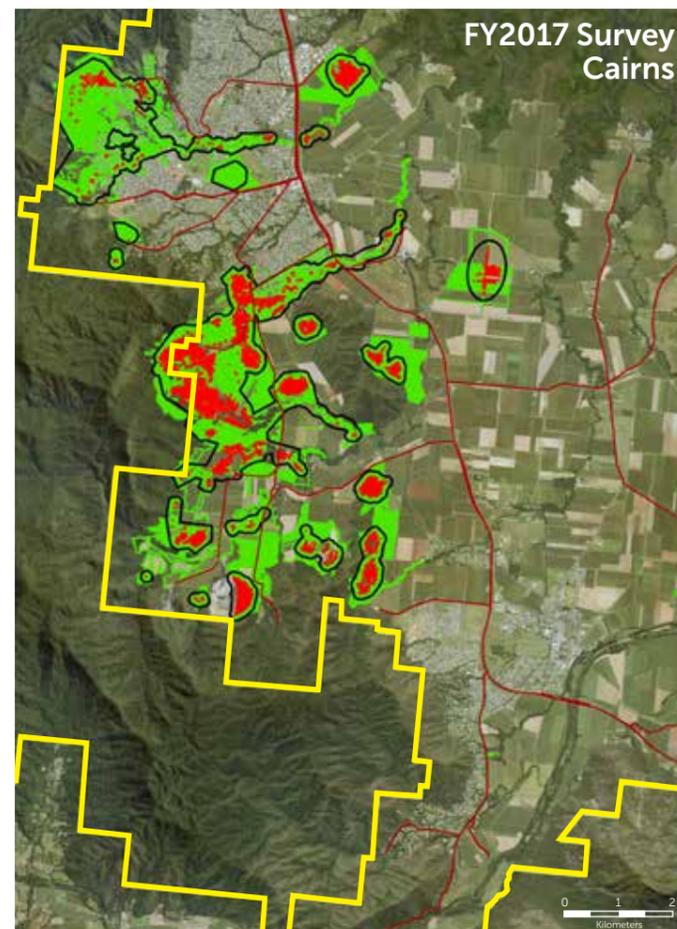


### On track to eradicate

The Authority's Eradication Program remains on track. It has demonstrated significant on-ground achievements, effective management and innovative research and monitoring, on budget and on target.

### Major achievements

- **Eradication** of yellow crazy ants from four sites
- **100% of known infestation areas treated**
- **85% reduction in broadscale treatment** across the total area that has now transitioned to long term monitoring
- ! • **2020–2022 Queensland Pest Animal Team award** from the Weed Society of Queensland. Recognising projects achieving exceptional results in on-ground pest animal management delivering outstanding contribution to pest animal management in Queensland
- **Strong partnerships** with community, industry, Traditional Owners and government
- **Built trust within the community** and a skilled team with the expertise and capacity to eradicate
- **On-country engagement and employment** of Gimuy Walubara Yidinji and Djabugay and Dulabed & Malanbarra Yidinji **traditional owners**
- **Employment** of a diverse workforce in the local area for around 70 people.
- **Deployment of odour detection dogs** to detect yellow crazy ants in low numbers
- Extensive surveys outside of known infestation areas include 646km along the boundary of, and within, the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area
- **Significant advancements in targeted surveillance** and tracing using data analysis in partnership with the sugar industry and the Mulgrave Central Mill
- Surveillance of 214 farms, 195 cane rail sidings and effective partnerships and direct one on one consultation with 115 farmers
- **Innovative use of new technology** and advancements in mobile technology for data capture, online interactive mapping and centralised cloud based record keeping, with practical applications for other government departments and management programs
- **Leading best practice**, knowledge and methodology for yellow crazy ant eradication that can be modelled for other ant eradication programs and more broadly to other pest eradication programs



— YCA Boundary — Wet Tropics Boundary ● Absence ● Presence

# Funding Ask

The Wet Tropics Management Authority is seeking

# \$6 million annually

from July 2022 for six years

50/50 Shared Investment from the Australian and Queensland governments

to continue its successful **Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program** in and adjacent to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

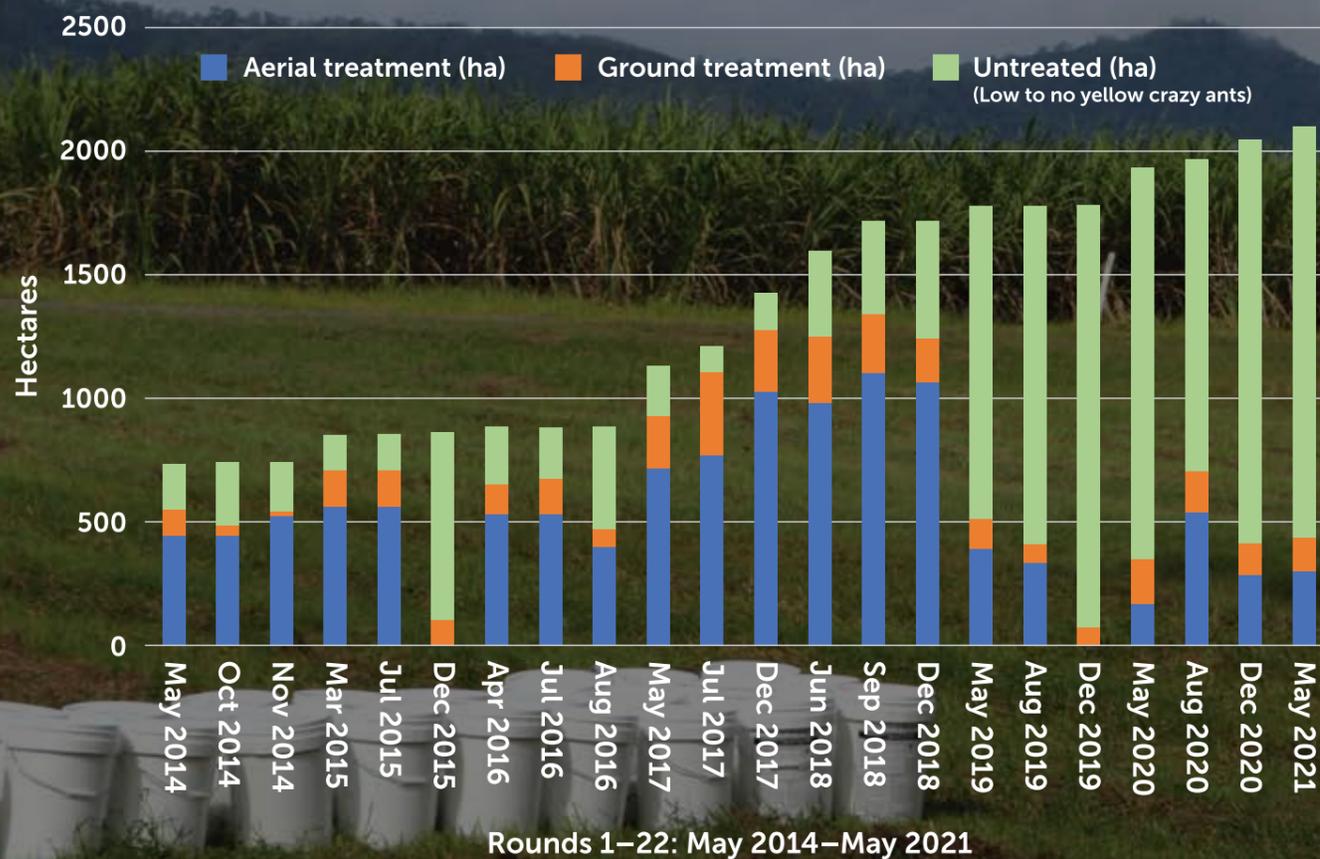
## The benefits of eradication

The cost of eradication is relatively small when compared to the benefits to the Wet Tropics region. **Benefits of eradication outweigh the costs by 178:1.** The total benefit of eradication is calculated as \$6.1 billion over 30 years. Excluding environmental benefits, the socioeconomic impacts to agriculture, tourism and households is valued at \$513 million over 30 years if the ants are uncontrolled

The graph below shows a general trend of reduced areas under treatment since the Eradication Program was established due to large areas of the infestation area moving from broadscale treatment to intensive surveys and spot treatments. These areas are referred to as 'untreated'.

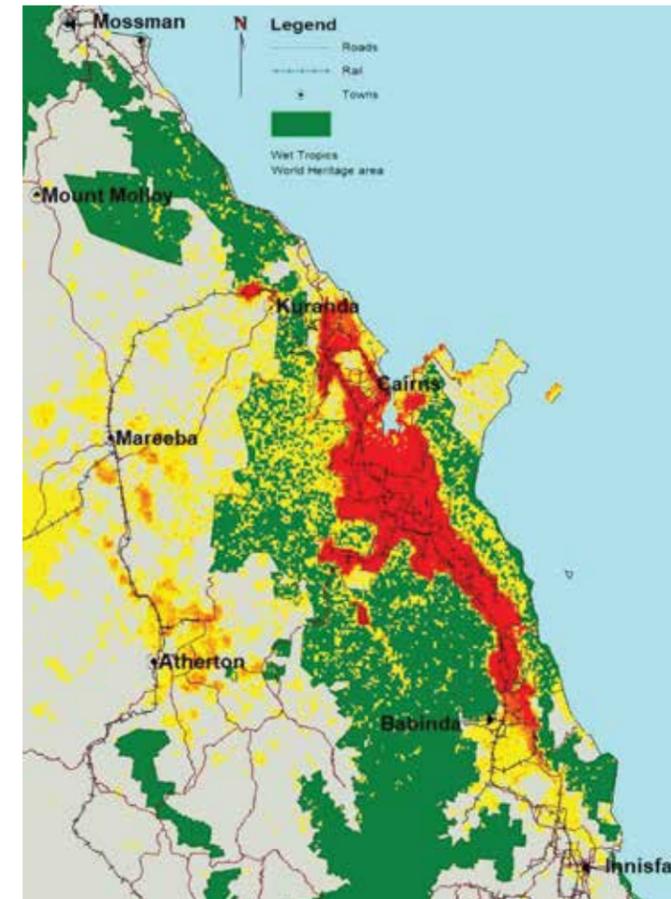


Area treated by round: 2014–June 2021



Rounds 1–22: May 2014–May 2021

## Risks of spread without continued funding



Map of spread modelling for yellow crazy ants over 30 years without a co-ordinated eradication program.

Red sites have the largest probability, orange sites have intermediate probability and yellow sites have the lowest probability.

### The Authority provides expert advice and advice to nearby yellow crazy ant infestations

at Townsville and Shute Harbour, as well as Brisbane and the Gold Coast, to help them develop management strategies for yellow crazy ant infestations and to minimise the risk of further spread.

The Authority offers expertise, advice and training in diverse aspects of yellow crazy ant management including communications products, permit use and applications, GIS and data management, treatment and survey techniques, and use of the odour detection dogs.

## Why eradicate?

Yellow crazy ants (*Anoplolepis gracilipes*) are one of the world's 100 worst invasive species. Once established, they swarm aggressively and destroy entire ecosystems, killing most other invertebrates and small animals.

Uncontrolled spread of the ants pose a **significant threat to the oldest continuously surviving tropical rainforests on Earth**, and would result in **major economic impacts** on tourism and agricultural industries, property development, and local residents' quality of life.

## Benefits to other government departments and NRM programs

- Technology developed by the Program has applications to other management programs and government departments
- Project knowledge and learnings are shared with other yellow crazy ant management programs through local and state government, national and international networks, to share information on effective, an ineffective, management tools and techniques.
- The Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program is an exemplar integrated pest eradication program that can inform and improve other pest management programs.

## Continued funding is vital

Continued funding ensures that:

- The Wet Tropics World Heritage Area's biodiversity and universal values are protected
- **This effective program continues to deliver results to achieve eradication**
- Industries and local businesses remain viable and residents' quality of life protected
- Broader public awareness mitigates future incursions that may have otherwise gone unreported
- Far North Queensland retains the skills and the capacity to effectively respond to any further ant incursions.