

Fire ant update

Planned fire ant treatment underway

With Winter behind us, we have now started the 2022–23 fire ant treatment season.

This year's focus will once again be on containing fire ant infestation and destroying any nests remaining in the west—this is important to stop the spread and continue our staged eradication.

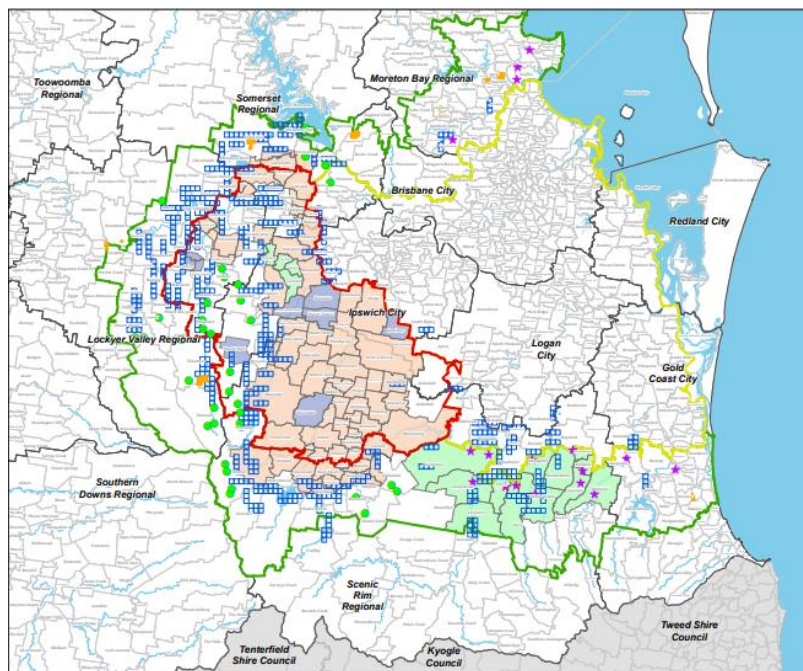
Just one missed nest will jeopardise our eradication efforts. This is why it is so important for you and your members to let our fire ant teams in so we can protect your community and the Australian way of life we all know and love.

During 2022–23, our treatment plan will scale up significantly from approximately 350,000ha to 600,000ha. We aim to conduct 1–3 rounds of treatment in our containment and eradication areas with treatment plans amended to account for emerging risks prior to each round.

What do I need to know?

Our field teams and helicopter crews will be working in [targeted areas](#) between now and June of next year.

For treatment to work, it is vital that we treat **every property** in these areas, and we will do so multiple times over the next 10 months. This may be done using helicopters, utility terrain vehicles or on foot.



The [fire ant bait we use is safe](#) for humans and animals, including pets. It is approved by the [Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority \(APVMA\)](#) and contains the same active ingredients used in household pest control products.

It is important your members provide our teams with access so we can complete our important work. Our officers are authorised under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* to access all properties.

If we are unable to access a property, we will leave a notice indicating our return in **5–7 days** to complete our work. We will work with your members to find a suitable time, if necessary.

Treating all properties in the same area at a similar time is key to fire ant eradication. Missing properties or treating them in a non-systematic way increases the risk of missing nests.

Failure to provide access will not stop us from conducting treatment and refusal could result in penalties for the property owner.

We are engaging directly with residents and business operators in our target treatment area to let them know we are coming. This will be in the form of letterbox drops, advertising, phone calls and text messages. Your members will also be encouraged to complete a [property information form](#) or contact us should they have any concerns.

How can I help?

We need you to work with us by encouraging your members, family and friends to **let our fire ant teams in** should they need access at any time between now and June of next year.

This support could be in the form of a social media post, newsletter item or mention of the important work we're doing when you're engaging with your members or the local community.

A [suite of marketing materials](#) is available for you to share as needed. For specific communication requests, including media and advertising, please email fireants@daf.qld.gov.au.

If we don't work together and stop them, fire ants could destroy our outdoor lifestyle, damage crops and machinery, and render land unusable. They could also infest all of Australia—costing billions of dollars each year.

Find out more about:

- [Our planned program activities for 2022–23](#)
- [Eradication treatment](#)
- [Fire ant bait and bait safety](#)
- [How to spot and report fire ants](#)
- [How you can stop the spread of fire ants](#)

If you have any questions or would like to schedule a briefing with us, please email fireants@daf.qld.gov.au or call 13 23 25.

We appreciate your continued support.

Kind regards

Graeme Dudgeon
General Manager
National Fire Ant Eradication Program



To report fire ants, call **13 25 23** or visit **fireants.org.au**



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