Question 1

The revised strategy sets out the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders in pest animal management and prevention. Are these clear?

They are but the priorities change when the funds reach the NRM groups due to the funding being watered down with the 80% Admin - 20% to the ground. The funds are not getting to the ground and the Farmers/Graziers are not getting any help.

The report matrix also need to be changed to Animal tally not area of land worked, its a false indication and does not give and real information whatsoever.

Question 2

Are the goals and priorities of the strategy focused in the necessary areas? Why / why not?
The funding again does not get through due to being manipulated by NRM Groups doing strategy's and reports will not give any effect or outcome work on the ground is needed. Contractors need to be able to apply for Grants minus the NRM middle men.

**Question 3**

The strategy is intended to describe how pest animal management fits into Australia's biosecurity system. Is the link between Australia's biosecurity system and pest animal management made clear in the strategy? why / why not?

It has minimal or no effect due to funding not getting through. Local Councils only work on complaints and the majority of the work does not get carried out.

**Comments / Feedback**

Any other comments or feedback?

To get results for the Bio-security of this Country we need Contractors working to eradicate pests, we have seen so much money and funding wasted by highly educated NRM Groups who facilitate meetings and reports about useless information that never gets looked at, if the Govt is serious we need to get things underway and also we as Contractors need to be able to apply for Govt money direct to get the job done, a report Matrix for direct Contractor Labor needs to be made so we can download and share information online to get a proper pest co-ordination with Govt and Landholders so that we can learn and understand pest movement whilst the job is being done to give growers and Graziers instant relief from Invasive pests.

**Attach a document**

File formats allowable are .doc, .docx or .pdf with a maximum file size of 5 MB.

You can upload a document by:
Dragging and dropping onto the upload attachment box
or
by selecting the upload attachment button and browsing to the file on your computer

File: Letter of support - CQFeral.docx

**Submission**

**Privacy Notice**

'Personal information' means information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable. The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (the department) collects your personal information in relation to this form for the purpose of enabling the department to contact you in relation to your feedback and related purposes.

If you fail to provide some or all of the personal information requested in this form, the department may be unable to
process your submission. The department may disclose your personal information to other Australian government agencies, persons or organisations where necessary for the above purposes, provided the disclosure is consistent with relevant laws, in particular the Privacy Act 1988 (Privacy Act).

Your personal information will be used and stored in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles.

Where you provide personal information about an individual other than yourself, you must ensure that you notify the individual that you have provided their personal information to the panel and the department, make that person aware of this privacy notice and draw their attention to the department’s privacy policy.

See our Privacy Policy (opens in new window, http://www.agriculture.gov.au/about/privacy) web page to learn more about accessing or correcting personal information or making a complaint. Alternatively, telephone the department on +61 2 6272 3933.

I consent to my personal information being used and disclosed for the purposes described.

(checked)

Publication of Submissions

Submissions will be published to this page unless you request otherwise, or the content is not web accessible. Please indicate clearly on the online submission form if you wish for it to be treated as confidential, either in full or part. The Australian Government reserves the right to refuse to publish submissions, or parts of submissions, which contain offensive language, potentially defamatory material or copyright infringing material. A request may be made under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 for a submission marked confidential to be made available. Such requests will be determined in accordance with provisions under that Act.

Is this submission confidential? (required)  
- Yes  
- No

Can this submission be published on this website? (required)  
- Yes  
- No

Do you consent for the department to contact you about your submission, if required? (required)  
- Yes  
- No
6 October 2016

To whom it may concern

Re: Letter of Support for CQ Feral’s submission

CANEGROWERS Mackay is pleased to be able to offer this letter of support for CQ Feral and the quality of CQ Feral’s result-driven program.

Within the Mackay and surrounding region, feral pigs (Sus scrofa) pose a substantial threat to both the sugar industry and the natural environment.

In the 2014 season at least 16,500 tonnes of cane were destroyed by feral pigs in the Mackay Sugar district. This equates to about a $1M loss to the local industry. In 2015 we believe this figure has increased to well over a $1M loss with a lot more pig activity being observed by growers and their Mackay Area Productivity Services (MAPS) advisors, along with Steve Andrews of CQ Feral.

The feral pigs cause this high intensity damage through the consumption, digging and trampling of sugarcane crops which impacts both the standing crop and later ratoons.

In the natural environment they cause damage to wetlands by destroying plant communities and reducing water quality. They disturb soil along sensitive riparian areas which in turn promotes erosion and enables invasive weed species to take hold. In our local rainforests, state forests and national parks they promote the spread of weeds and disease, disturb the natural recruitment of species and feed on vegetation particularly in vine forests.

The difficulty in managing this pest is due largely to the terrain in which they roam, their high reproductive potential, their cunning wariness of humans and the varying success of hunting, baiting and trapping activities.

As it stands, individual farms attempting control have had minimal impact on the whole population and typically will only succeed in scattering or moving the feral pigs from one farm to another. In conjunction with CQ Feral, a pilot project commenced in November 2015 centred on a group of landholders in the Brightly area.
Working with 10 farmers from both the cattle and sugarcane community, the aim was to employ a single contractor to apply an integrated control approach to the whole area using techniques such as ground baiting and trapping.

This work was also supported by releasing pigs fitted with GPS satellite collars in order to help with monitoring their movements to determine strategic locations for trapping and baiting. This community project encouraged involvement and ownership by all its members and its success has pivoted around good communication between the landholders and the contractor to collect local bait (mangoes), identify pig activity, highlight potential hazards and identify target areas. Using surveillance technology such as motion sensor cameras and the latest remote activated trapping systems were also very helpful in this project.

The approach taken has benefited the landholders in numerous ways but a couple of advantages of using one contractor are:

- All growers knew their role and the contractor’s role and they stuck to a set of guidelines so that a unified strategy was used
- The pigs were managed without each grower having to invest much time in the job, meaning they were able to concentrate on farm work like spraying and irrigating.

The landholders involved were very pleased with the project’s outcome so far and are keen to continue ongoing work as needed to consistently manage the numbers that enter the area.

MAPS would like to assist more landholders currently suffering from high pig damage to form their own local feral pig management groups.

CANEGROWERS Mackay is appreciative of the program management by CQ Feral contractor Steve Andrews and offers support to the CQ Feral submission.

Kerry Latter
Chief Executive Officer