

K'gari Biosecurity Strategy: Annual Implementation Plan 2026-2027

Establishment Year



Developed by Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC
with the support of the K'gari Biosecurity Advisory Group

Purpose

The 2026–27 Financial Year represents the **establishment phase** of the K’gari Biosecurity Strategy¹. In the absence of dedicated funding, implementation will prioritise **high-priority, low-cost actions** delivered through existing agency programs, collaborative partnerships, and operational realignment.

The primary objectives for this year are to:

- Refine and establish the **collaborative governance framework**.
- Improve **coordination between agencies and stakeholders**.
- Support the **risk-based prioritisation** of activities.
- Implement **collaborative activities** (low-risk, low-cost, high priority) where aligned to existing funding or activities.
- Strengthen **early detection and prevention practices**.
- Prepare the strategy for **future-funded implementation**.

Operational delivery will largely rely on collaboration between key organisations including the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and partners identified as the K’gari Biosecurity Strategy’s Land Manager Group (see figure 1 below) including the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), the Queensland Department of Primary Industries (DPI and Biosecurity Queensland), Fraser Coast Regional Council (FCRC), the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (BAC) and Butchulla Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (BNTAC) supported by key research and community partners.

Implementation Priorities for 2026–27

Priority 1: Establish Collaborative Governance

Objective

To create a coordinated governance structure (see figure 1) to guide implementation, decision-making, and cross-agency collaboration.

Key Actions

1.1 Establish K’gari Biosecurity Strategy Land Manager (KBLMG) and Advisory Groups (KBAG)

Land Manager Group (LMG) - form an interagency working group comprising representatives from:

- Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
- Office of the Great Barrier Reef and World Heritage, Department of Environment, Tourism, Science, and Innovation, (OGBRWH-DETSI)
- Queensland Department of Primary Industries (Biosecurity Queensland)

¹ It is noted that the K’gari Biosecurity Strategy and associated documents are the outputs of a collaborative stakeholder advisory group and not Queensland or Australian Government-endorsed policy documents.

- Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development
- Fraser Coast Regional Council
- Butchulla Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC

Delivery Approach

- Quarterly meetings
- Secretariat support shared between agencies
- Use of existing meeting structures where possible

K'gari Biosecurity Advisory Group (KBAG) or equivalent committee – form a collaborative partner advisory group (based on the previous KBAG established for the Strategy's development). The name of this group will be decided by its members at its first meeting.

Membership

- Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation (BAC)
- Environmental Biosecurity Office, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (EBO-DAFF)
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS)
- Office of the Great Barrier Reef and World Heritage, Queensland Department of Environment, Tourism, Science, and Innovation, (OGBRWH-DETSI)
- Biosecurity Queensland, Queensland Department of Primary Industries (BQ-QDPI)
- Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development (QDNRMRRD)
- Fraser Coast Regional Council (FCRC)
- Gympie Regional Council (GRC)
- Butchulla Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (BNTAC)
- Research institutions: University of the Sunshine Coast (UniSC-K'gari Research Station) and the Queensland University of Technology (QUT)
- Tourism industry representatives: Sealink Kingfisher Bay
- Local government stakeholders: FINIA – the Natural Integrity Alliance for K'gari, FIDO, and Community Association representatives (2).

Delivery Approach

- Minimum **two meetings per year**

Roles and Responsibilities

The **Land Manager Group** will:

- Provide strategic direction for the strategy.
- Coordinate cross-agency biosecurity activities.
- Identify emerging biosecurity threats.
- Facilitate data sharing and reporting.
- Support funding and partnership opportunities.

The **K'gari Biosecurity Advisory Group** (or equivalent committee) will:

- Provide strategic, technical, and local advice to support delivery of the strategy.
- Support the risk-based prioritisation of activities.
- Support data sharing, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting.
- Support communication between strategy partners.
- Support funding and partnership opportunities.

Decision-Making

- Where possible, members will apply consensus-based decision-making.
- Where required, escalation pathways to relevant agencies may be applied.

1.2 Develop Governance Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference (ToR) will be developed to support the collaborative governance model, providing strategic oversight, coordination, and guidance for implementation of the K'gari Biosecurity Strategy.

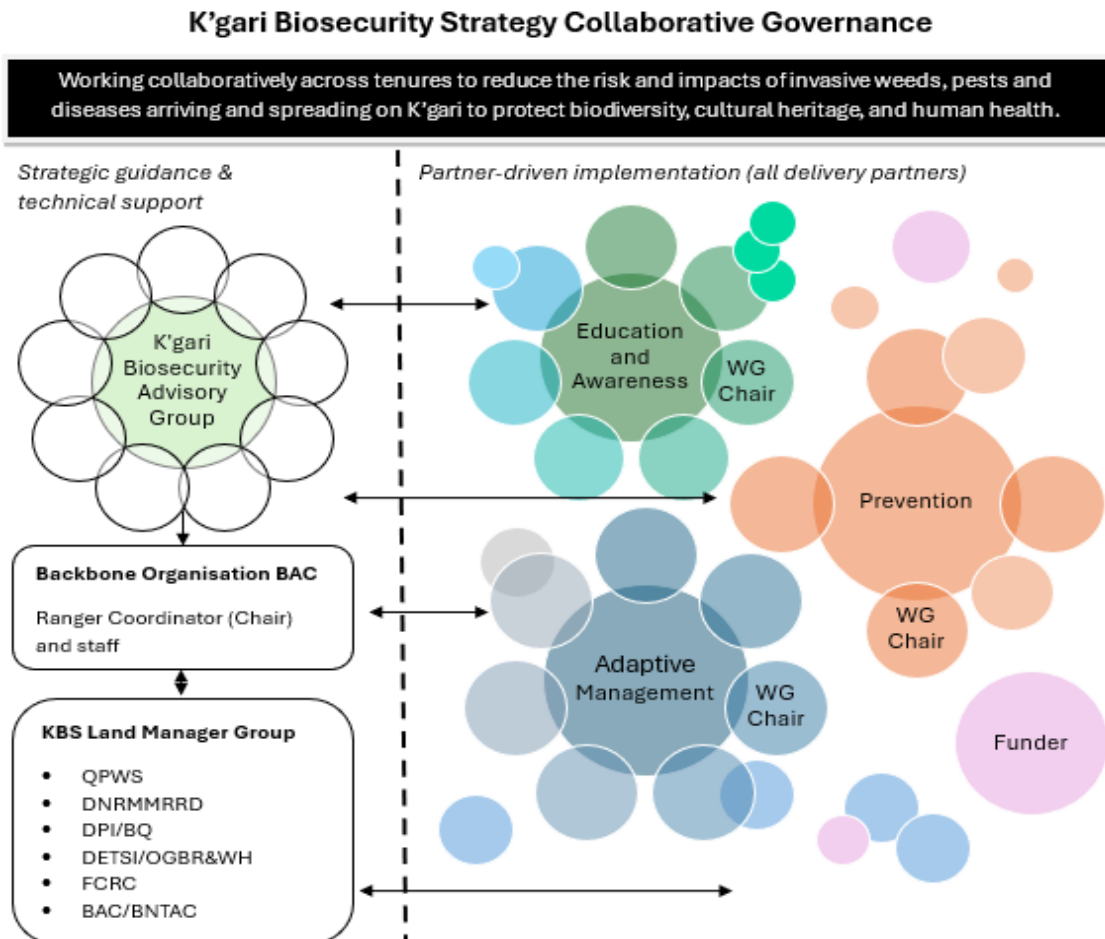


Figure 1: K'gari Biosecurity Strategy: Collaborative Governance Model

Priority 2: Education and Awareness

Objective

To establish mechanisms to improve biosecurity education and awareness among K’gari staff (including researchers, contractors and volunteers), visitors, and stakeholders to reduce introduction risks and establish targeted campaigns for known high-risk activities.

Key Actions

- 2.1 Pre-entry education for tourists and visitors via permit applications.
- 2.2 Locals/residents – increase biosecurity education via council rates notices, council visits, community talks, newsletter articles, and support for community champions (key community members).
- 2.3 Establish biosecurity training programs for rangers – train the trainer programs including developing experts to deliver Green Card training to contractors, tour guides, resort managers etc.
- 2.4 Pre-entry education for contractors (which could potentially develop into a *Green Card* program).
- 2.5 Pre-entry education for students, researchers, and educators.
- 2.6 Pre-entry education for significant demographic groups e.g., Tourism Operators, or 4WD Queensland in conjunction with the K’gari 4WD Clean-Up.
 - Encourage tourism operators to adopt voluntary biosecurity practices.
- 2.7 Media awareness – raise awareness of biosecurity threats and impacts on K’gari’s biodiversity and status as a World Heritage property.

Priority 3: Prevention

Objective

To use existing legislation to declare new authorities as relevant, establish ‘check-points’ (and potentially washdown locations), establish risk-assessment and reporting portals, and explore other prevention mechanisms as appropriate. These could include the introduction of pathogen detector dogs, requiring clearance or inspection of building or roads materials before being brought onto to the island, and the installation of boot wash stations.

Key Actions

- 3.1 Enabling legislation and regulations (*Biosecurity Act 2014*) to support the delivery of the strategy.
- 3.2 Identify risk creators by stakeholder group (prioritise high-risk groups coming onto the island and focus on them first).
- 3.3 Deliver communication activities using the risk profiles.
- 3.4 General surveillance program (off-island) utilising spot checks, health check monitoring, and detection dogs (subject to funding support).

Priority 4: Adaptive Management

Objective

To establish an active management and on-island surveillance program (including monitoring plots, remote sensing, and citizen science) and sentinel programs, review existing data and explore ways to better

share relevant information, ensure relevant preparedness plans, powers, and resources are in place, and identify and progress research priorities.

Key Actions

- 4.1 Emergency Response Plan - create a planned and coordinated response to a potential invasive weed, pest, or pathogen introduction to K’gari (Biosecurity Queensland has a response team with templates to assist with this)
- 4.2 Surveillance and early detection – targeting high-risk areas and using structured and passive surveillance activities including citizen science to help monitor species incursions. The involvement of QPWS and Butchulla Rangers will play a significant role in establishing and coordinating surveillance and reporting activities.
 - Establish partnerships with technical experts to assist in development of surveillance and detection methods
 - Provide structures to enable field staff, rangers and research scientists/students to report suspect sightings.
 - Investigate and promote the use of existing reporting tools and adapt for broader application where possible including citizen science programs
 - Identify potential citizen science opportunities and identify appropriate reporting pathways.
- 4.3 General preparedness and response program for general incursions and priority invasive species that are present in other parts of Queensland.
- 4.4 Implement agreed priorities and processes for ‘search and destroy’ and develop longer-term monitoring and management plans for established invasive weeds, pests, and pathogens.

Priority 5: Prepare for Future Funded Implementation

Objective

Position the strategy for long-term implementation once funding becomes available. These activities will support the transition to the proposed \$2.3 million per year (operational costs) in addition to any capital infrastructure required for long-term implementation (e.g., inspection stations and/or washdowns).

Key Actions

- 5.1 Develop a **detailed implementation roadmap**.
- 5.2 **Refine priority action list** and cost estimates.
- 5.3 **Refine potential funding** sources.
- 5.4 Prepare a **funding proposal for government consideration**.

Priority 6: Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning

Objective

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of the Strategy are part of an adaptive management and continuous improvement cycle.

Key Actions

- 6.1 Establishment of initial monitoring indicators and measurable variables to assess strategy progress and performance.
- 6.2 Post-implementation review following each activity/milestone.
- 6.3 Reflection workshops (“What’s working? What’s not? Why?”).
- 6.4 Learnings inform program and activity review.
- 6.5 Report strategy progress through the K’gari Biosecurity Advisory Group.

Implementation Timeline (2026–27)

Implementation of the K’gari Biosecurity Strategy’s annual operational plan will occur through existing channels managed by the Land Manager Group with support from partner organisations.

Quarter	Key Activities
Q1	Establish collaborative governance via Land Manager and K’gari Biosecurity Advisory Groups and commence development of Terms of Reference.
Q2	Finalise governance Terms of Reference and initiate information-sharing network. Commence priority education and awareness and surveillance and management activities.
Q3	Conduct biosecurity risk review and develop emergency response plan (and mechanisms for a coordinated response)
Q4	Prepare implementation roadmap and funding proposal

Expected Outcomes for 2026–27

By the end of the 2026-27 FY, the following outcomes are expected:

- Collaborative governance framework established.
- Terms of Reference completed.
- Increased biosecurity education and awareness of key user groups.
- Improved coordination between land managers and associated partners.
- Biosecurity risk reviewed and Emergency Response Plan developed.
- Annual monitoring, evaluation, and reporting undertaken and communicated to partners, with learnings incorporated into the program’s future delivery.
- Foundations established for future, funded implementation.