



# Redland City Council Fire Ant Management Program

Drone Technology





# Redland City Council

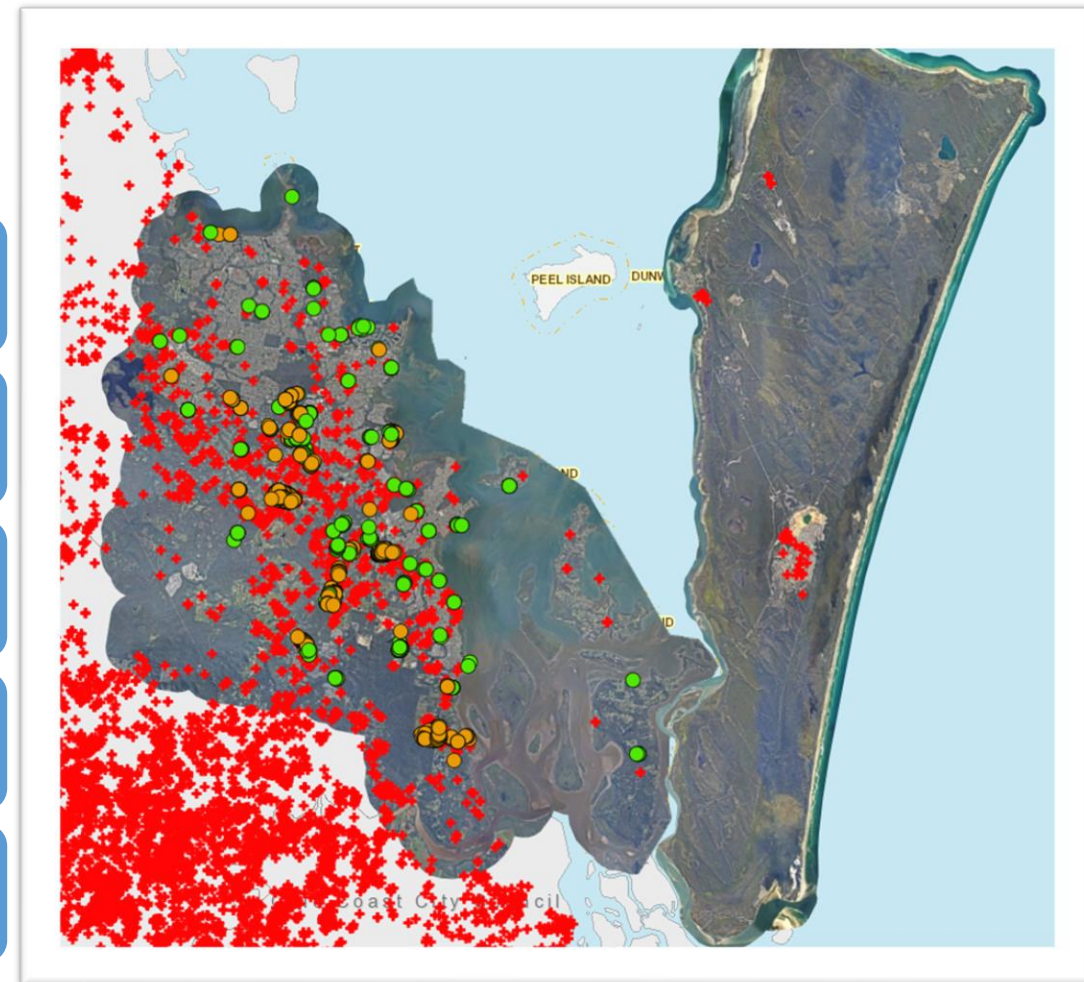
Redland City is situated between Brisbane, Logan and Gold Coast

Located in Biosecurity “Zone 2”

Form part of the “Suppression” area under the Fire Ant Response Plan

67 fire ant reports have been received since 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024

Reports are predominately on roadside/footpath areas



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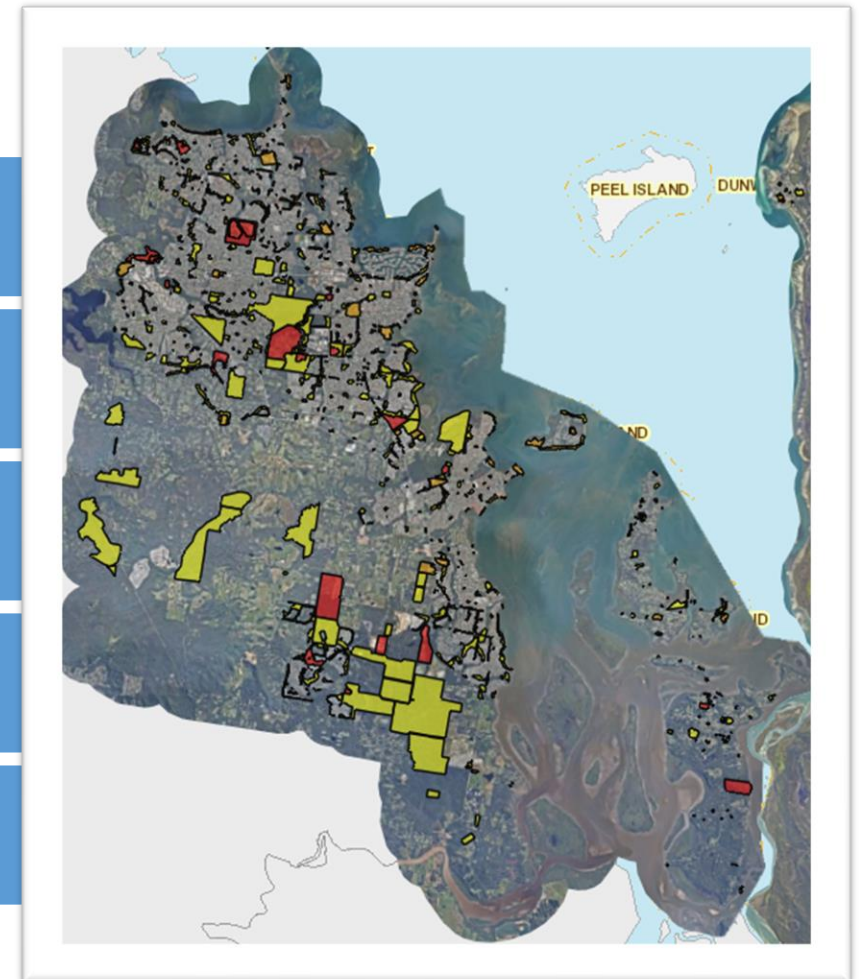
In support of the NFAEP

Commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 undertaking surveillance, suppression and treatment on Council owned and/or managed land.

Adopted a risk based approach to prioritise land (P1, P2, P3)

2 FTE dedicated Pest Management Officers

Dedicated resources for the program





# Drone Technology



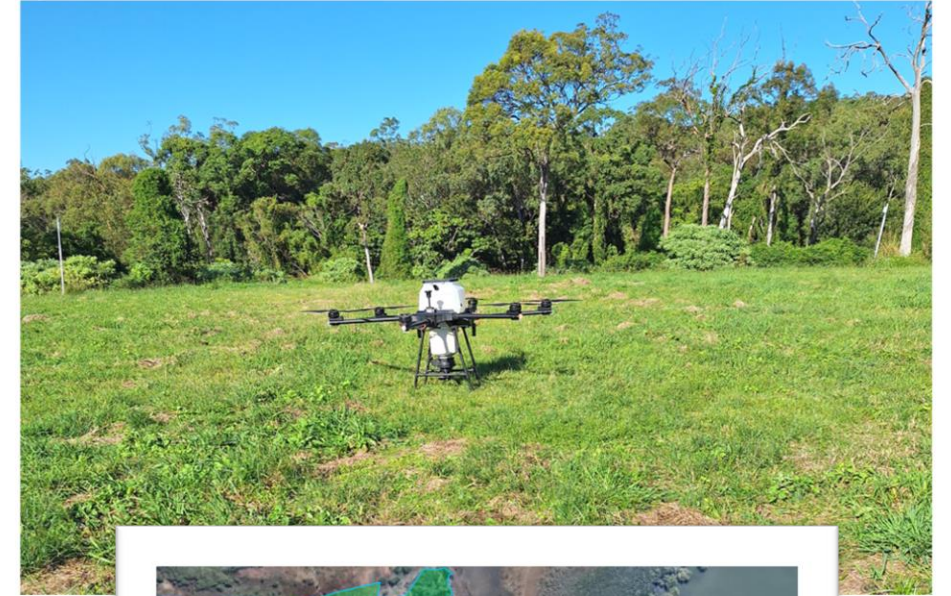
Drones form a permanent part of the RCC Mosquito Management Program so were able to be expanded to include fire ant treatments.



Trials were undertaken across Council high risk sites including wastewater treatment facilities, waste transfer stations, future development sites and parkland.



Trials included calibration and mapping that showed drone technology was suitable (and often preferred) for many Council sites across Redland City.



# Drone Technology

- On average the drone treats 15 hectares per hour (site dependent)
- 3 hectares per load of product with 12m swaths
- Application ground speeds 26km
- Treatment height 30m to 40m dependent on site obstacles - can use "Terrain Following"
- Calibrations can be adjusted on the fly if required
- GPS map sharing compatible, can share shape files of sites, buildings and waterbodies with mapping on drone to enable spray on and off for no fly and/or treatment zones





# Drone Benefits



- Improved officer safety – reduces heat stress/ fatigue and other WHS risks such as manual handling, slips/trips/falls, environmental hazards.
- Drone is able to treat in areas where terrain is unsafe for ATV operations
- Cost effective - Able to treat larger parcels of land compared to ground treatments
- Increases efficiency
- Reduces environmental impacts – vegetation disturbance/damage,
- Uniformed treatments achieving more accurate/measured chemical application rates.
- Improved data capture & reporting using ArcGIS

# Questions?

