



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture
and Water Resources**

National Coordinator for the development of the National Carp Control Plan

Terms of Reference

Background

The National Coordinator of the National Carp Control Plan (the plan) leads the development of a plan to support the potential release of a biological control agent (*Cyprinid herpesvirus-3* or carp virus) for the control of common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*). Common carp are the worst freshwater aquatic pest in south-eastern Australia, and make up more than 80 per cent of fish biomass in many Australian waterways.

Drawing on specialised technical, policy, communication and facilitation skills, the National Coordinator is responsible for the overall development of the plan and for coordinating the related program of work to support its possible implementation at the end of 2018.

The National Coordinator facilitates research programs and leads consultation and engagement activities with interested stakeholders across governments, industry, environmental organisations, research organisations and the broader community and works collaboratively with these groups to ensure that the plan responds to the nature and geographic characteristics of the carp problem in Australia.

Sitting within the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC), the National Coordinator is required to meet appropriate governance and reporting arrangements to ensure that the development of the plan takes into consideration all relevant research and the views of all relevant stakeholders and is supported in the best possible way. This includes regular reporting through the following national committees:

- Invasive Plants and Animals Committee
- National Biosecurity Committee
- Agriculture Senior Officials Committee
- Agriculture Ministers Forum

The National Coordinator is supported by a project team that includes contributions from appropriately qualified members engaged by the FRDC as well as Australian Government

representatives from the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science and the Department of the Environment and Energy.

Roles/responsibilities

- Advise senior state, territory and federal government officials, including national committees, about the development of the National Carp Control Plan.
- Manage the overall progress of the development of the National Carp Control Plan to meet agreed to milestones.
- Develop integrated strategies for the potential release of the carp virus in Australia including strategies to manage post-release follow-up activities.
- Consider and address factors including required legislative approvals, technological readiness, community expectations and concerns, opportunities for commercialisation and job creation and the management of ecological impacts following the potential release of the carp virus.
- Work with stakeholders to develop a comprehensive understanding of the potential benefits and risks of implementing a national plan to control carp in Australia.
- Facilitate research activities to ensure that any knowledge gaps are addressed and the impacts of the potential release of the carp virus are well understood.
- Develop a National Carp Control Plan that is underpinned by scientific research, risk assessments and a sound understanding of stakeholder views.

Outcomes

- A National Carp Control Plan is developed for consideration by the Australian Government, including:
 - A proposal for the potential release of the carp virus in Australia that details the potential benefits and risks
 - Strategies for potential post-release follow-up activities
 - Risk assessments and relevant mitigation activities
 - Research and development findings
- Improved stakeholder and community understanding about the carp problem in Australia and the opportunities that exist for control.
- State, territory and federal legislative and other regulatory approvals required for the potential release of the carp virus in Australia are identified and, as far as possible, obtained.
- Progress reports on the development of the National Carp Control Plan are submitted to relevant federal government officials, including national committees, in a timely manner.