




Speech By
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ADJOURNMENT

Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program

 **Mr JAMES** (Mulgrave—LNP) (9.35 pm): I am honoured to present the achievements of the 2025 Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program in Mulgrave. The Wet Tropics Management Authority's Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program in Cairns is a joint initiative between the Australian and the Queensland governments aimed at eradicating the invasive species from within and adjacent to the Wet Tropics World Heritage area. The eradication program is crucial to protecting the Wet Tropics World Heritage area, maintaining biodiversity and preventing economic and social impacts.

Yellow crazy ants are among the world's 100 most invasive species, threatening our environment, wildlife, agriculture, industry and lifestyles. Yellow crazy ants kill their prey by spraying formic acid, a powerful acid, into their eyes, blinding them before they attack. Tracy Black, a resident within the Mulgrave community, first identified this pressing issue. Tracy took the lead after spotting infestations in her backyard. She noticed that these ants were attacking native wildlife and turning her garden into a war zone.

Tracy raised the alarm, rallied local residents, held meetings, disseminated information and established a community Facebook page. She collaborated with all three levels of government and partnered with the Wet Tropics Management Authority who then took over the management of the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program supported by the Queensland and Australian governments. Unfortunately, this program was about to lose its funding. Thanks to the Crisafulli government, an additional \$6 million funding package for two more years has been committed, a critical step in the right direction.

The Invasive Species Council stated—

Queensland's biosecurity system has long been slow to respond to environmental threats, with frontline agencies understaffed and overstretched. That's why these new commitments are so significant.

This program has become a global model in invasive ant management, blending strong leadership with community partnerships and science driven solutions. It eradicated these ants from 728 hectares, including some within the World Heritage area, and over 1,500 residential properties within Mulgrave. The Wet Tropics Management Authority aims to expand activity by 1,000 hectares over the next three years. They are collaborating with Goldsborough residents, stakeholders, landholders, businesses, industry and government agencies to assess—

(Time expired)