Form 1
QUEENSLAND

Oaths Act 1867

STATUTORY DECLARATION

I, Trevor Andrew Hold, of 477 Gatton Esk Road, Adare, Qld 4343, do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

1. I have completed the online fire ant identification training provided by the Fire Ant Eradication Program and can produce the certification in evidence.
2. I have monitored my property and where practical the surrounding areas and easements for evidence of fire ants.
3. I have found no such evidence of fire ants present or evidence of fire ant activity.
4. I have sort expert opinion and believe Dr Joshua King, University of Central Florida, with one of the most active, continuously (US) federally funded research programs in the world, with the specific aims of understanding the biology and ecology of fire ants and how fire ants interact with species in the ecosystems they invade, has the most expertise to make recommendations on Fire Ant management.
5. In Dr Joshua King's Open letter of concern (dated 04 October 2024), he states 'Of particular concern is that the widespread and prophylactic use of toxic broadcast baits may impact non-target ants (both pyriproxyfen and (S)-methoprene are insect growth regulators) as none of the bait products in use are "fire ant specific." Reduction of native ant communities has repeatedly been shown to be a factor in hastening, not slowing, the invasion of fire ants as any potential biotic resistance is removed, and fire ants are especially good at dispersing into ant free successional habitats. Additionally, the potential for other non-target impacts on aquatic and terrestrial arthropods and wildlife is not trivial. In sum, there seems to be little justification for a prophylactic baiting program that has great potential for non-target impacts and that may, in fact, hasten the establishment of fire ants over time. The projected costs of fire ant establishment (largely extrapolated) will be more quickly realized if a widespread prophylactic baiting strategy is conducted without any regard to the known ecology of the invader. This seems incredibly short-sighted and ultimately runs counter to the goals of the entire program'.
6. In addition, my susceptible Galloway Cattle have experienced adverse effects, resulting in the death of two calves, from previous prophylactic chemical treatment. So to avoid any further harm, loss of stock or damage to my commercial business, I will not accept chemical treatment on my property.
7. I therefore wish to obstruct the designated officer, or another person or a detection animal helping a designated officer entering my private property, as in my right as detailed in the Biosecurity Act 2014 (Queensland), Section 336 Obstructing a designated officer, under a reasonable excuse, to prophylactically, chemical treat my property.
8. I am willing to provide access, by appointment, to my property for a designated officer or another person or a detection animal helping a designated officer to inspect my property to verify my statement.
9. If fire ants are discovered by officers, I am happy to direct treat nests using a non-chemical approach, in particular, Dr Joshua King's patented Hot Water Method. I have the capacity, endorsement, experience and licence to conduct this activity myself.

and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the *Oaths Act 1867*.

I declare that the contents of this statutory declaration are true and correct. Where the contents of this declaration are based on information and belief, the contents are true to the best of my knowledge and I have stated the source of that information and grounds for the belief.

I understand that it is a criminal offence to provide a false matter in a declaration, for example, the offence of perjury under section 123 of the Criminal Code.

I state that:

A. ~~This declaration was made in the form of an electronic document.*1~~

B. ~~This declaration was electronically signed.*2~~

C. ~~This declaration was made, signed and witnessed under part 6A of the *Oaths Act 1867*.*3~~

*(*delete whichever statements are not applicable)*

DECLARED by

TREVOR ANDREW HOLD
[insert full name of declarant]

[signature of declarant / substitute signatory*]

at I.P.S.M.C.C.
[insert place where declarant is located]

04/12/2024
[date]

~~**Signed for and at the direction of the declarant by***~~

~~[insert full name of substitute signatory]*~~

*delete if not applicable

In the presence of:

Terence Leslie Herse
[insert full name of witness]

[signature of witness]

04/12/2024
[date]

J.P. (QUAL)
[insert type of witness][4]

[insert name of law practice / witness's place of employment]*[5]

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*delete if not applicable

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE (QUALIFIED) QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT Reg.No.: 108291 DEPT. OF JUSTICE & ATTORNEY-GENERAL