Figure 2: Actions identified in the National Invasive Ant Biosecurity Plan mapped against the biosecurity continuum as shown on the generalised invasion curve.

National Invasive Ant Biosecurity Plan

Action Area 1: Prevention

- 1.1 Conduct risk analysis for high priority exotic species.
- 1.2 Support PaDIL or another system to host resources for the identification of native and exotic ant species.
- 1.3 Establish a National Reference Collection for ants.
- 1.4 Support an International shipping container standard.
- 1.5 Engage with trading partners on incidental contamination.

Action Area 2: Detection

- 2.1 Utilise the taxonomic key for the identification of invasive ants.
- 2.2 Develop a diagnostic handbook for invasive ants and training of diagnosticians.
- 2.3 Develop and validate diagnostic protocols to support surveillance.
- 2.4 Monitor and inspect port areas.
- 2.5 Undertake mandatory trapping and monitoring at facilities operating under Approved Arrangements.
- 2.6 Develop a strategy for surveillance beyond ports.
- 2.7 Develop national training programs for government and industry.
- 2.8 Increase national industry awareness.
- 2.9 Develop a strategy for prophylactic baiting at high priority locations.

AREA OCCUPIED

PREVENTION

ERADICATION

CONTAINMENT

ASSET BASED PROTECTION

TIME

Action Area 3: Response

- 3.1 Develop standardised response procedures for invasive ants.
- 3.2 Test and validate chemicals and products found to be effective overseas.
- 3.3 Select the best eradication tools based on national and international experience.
- 3.4 Examine biological control and genetic tool options.
- 3.5 Develop and validate cost-effective field based diagnostic surveillance tools.
- 3.6 Analyse lessons learnt from eradication programs, and transfer knowledge and expertise to other invasive ant programs.
- 3.7 Ensure harmonised compliance arrangements for interstate trade have a scientific basis.

Action Area 4: Containment

- 4.1 Profile pathways, vectors and goods for the movement of established invasive ants between regions and states/territories in Australia.
- 4.2 Map the potential distributions for the established invasive ants for containment or control.
- 4.3 Develop contingency plans for invasive ant incursions at high priority sites.
- 4.4 Improve the detection of invasive ants when they establish new populations.

Action Area 5: Asset-based protection/ ongoing management

- 5.1 Ensure key physical and ecological attributes are known for the established priority invasive ants.
- 5.2 Develop strategies for long term suppression of invasive ants and thresholds for control in localised areas.
- 5.3 Undertake ongoing control programs for invasive ant species in localised areas where such management woudl provide significant biodiversity, agricultural or human benefits.
- 5.4 Eradicate invasive ants from smaller islands.
- 5.5 Ensure there are monitoring protocols to assess invasive ant species impacts on biodiversity and to understand the effectiveness of the control program.
- 5.6 Include Indigneous knowledge about ant to invasive ant management.

Action Area 6: Cross-cutting issues

Retain core skills

- 6.1 Maintain, and ideally increase, Australian expertise in invasive ants, including diagnostics.
- 6.2 Support international collaboration and exchange of information related to invasive ants.
- 6.3 Deliver training on the control of specific invasive ants.

Governance

- 6.4 Establish an invasive ant reference group.
- 6.5 Establish a permanent national body to coordinate national actions on invasive ants.
- 6.6 Develop future funding alternatives.

Research

- 6.7 Improve the modelling tools for spread, habitat and disturbance modelling of invasive ants.
- 6.8 Continue research into other control and monitoring technologies and enhancing available technology.
- 6.9 Continue research into new attractants for monitoring and more effective bait delivery for invasive ants.

Communication and community engagement

- 6.10 Develop and implement a communication and engagement strategy.
- 6.11 Build awareness and develop relationships with industries in the high-risk transport and goods import sectors.