



Rapid Response to Parthenium

Weed species cause significant economic, environmental and social problems across the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee region. Parthenium is a Weed of National Significance and regarded as a priority for control due to its invasiveness, potential to spread, costs to cropping and grazing production, and serious health implications to stock and humans.

Landholders need to control new outbreaks of parthenium weed in a timely and responsive manner to reduce the threats to the wider community and concerns for further spread. Successful management of problem plants can be difficult given the time, expertise and resources required. The Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC), with the Department of Primary Industries (DPI&F) Biosecurity Queensland and Local Governments across the region, recognised the need to establish a process that would ensure landholders in the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin would be able to rapidly respond to new outbreaks of parthenium.

Rapid Response to Parthenium

The purpose of the Rapid Response Program is to coordinate the resources and responses to new outbreaks of parthenium weed across the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin in order to prevent the weed infesting neighbouring shires or regions in a timely manner. This program is aimed at ensuring that landholders meet their obligations for weed control in the medium to long term, whilst providing assistance with the initial control costs of new outbreaks of parthenium.

QMDC has been provided with funding through the NHT 2 'Defeating the Weeds Menace' program to maintain a rapid response capability across the region that will ensure that parthenium infestations that occur outside of core infestation areas (see the following map) are eradicated. Assistance is available to landholders on private land of up to 30% of the cost of on-ground activities to control and eradicate new outbreaks of parthenium. This service is provided as a 'once off' with the understanding that the ongoing monitoring and management of the outbreak is the responsibility of the landholder.

On the look-out for Parthenium

Parthenium weed seeds spread very easily by machinery, stock, grain and fodder. Landholders are encouraged to be on the look-out for new parthenium outbreaks, especially after rain. Areas on farms where fodder, dozers, vehicles or stock have been transported from other regions, or already infested areas, should be under regular surveillance for new weed outbreaks. High risk areas for surveillance include saleyards, washdown facilities, grain and transport depots, oil and gas lines, stock routes, roads and especially farm drought fodder feeding areas.



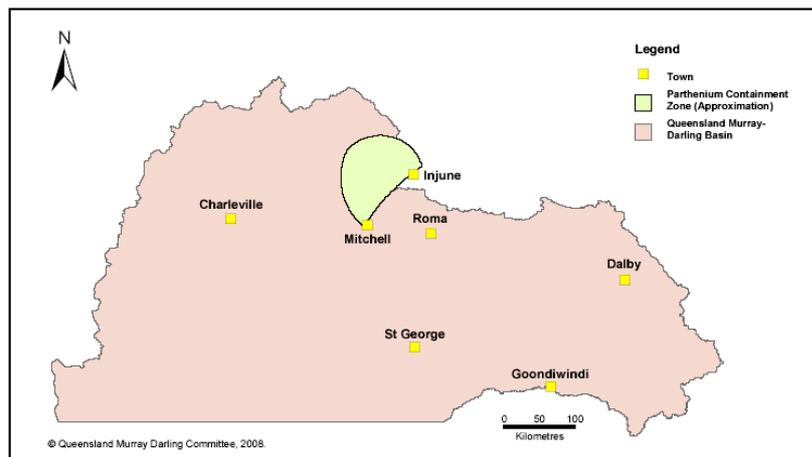
Above: a whole paddock of parthenium, new Injune—the Rapid Response program is intended to help landholders manage new outbreaks of parthenium and prevent this from happening in other areas of the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin.

Rapid Response to Parthenium

When does Rapid Response apply?

The Rapid Response program applies to the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin region. Any new infestations of parthenium weed identified within the pink area shown on the map will be controlled with the goal of eradication.

Areas of exclusion include the regionally agreed containment zone existing around a core infestation, approximately north of Mitchell and west of Injune, shown on the map in green, and encompasses infestations within and continually sourced from this area.



Other areas of established and widespread parthenium weed infestations, or areas currently receiving financial and other assistance, are also excluded.

Rapid Response Steps

When a new outbreak of parthenium has been identified by a landholder, they can report it to any of the following organisations: QMDC, their Local Government, or Biosecurity Queensland. Technical staff from these organisations are responsible for providing assistance to landholders by undertaking a site assessment, providing technical advice, and signing off on agreed activities. The landholder is then ultimately responsible to carry out the on-ground control and follow-up management of the site.

Site Assessment	Technical staff conduct a site inspection to identify, map and assess the outbreak for rapid response.
Rapid Response Strategy	The control methods, resources and timing are identified and agreed by the landholder and technical staff.
Preparation	The resources, equipment, chemical, labour or contractors are sourced and neighbours or other stakeholders are notified as appropriate. Clean down procedures are established for the site. The Landholder enters into an Agreement with QMDC to undertake the works to receive the 30% incentive.
Implementation	The landholder is responsible for completing the on-ground works and controlling scattered outbreaks outside of the core infestation.
Property Pest Management Plan	A Property Pest Management Plan is prepared to prevent further infestations, follow up control of existing infestations and establish an ongoing monitoring program.
Monitoring and Review	A follow up inspection is conducted by technical staff within 4-6 weeks for works to be certified for payment by QMDC. An ongoing monitoring program is developed for the site and property.



Funded by:



Australian Government



Queensland Government

Partnering with the Regional Councils of the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin

For further information, please contact QMDC:

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Roma Office
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Goondiwindi Office
07 4671 7900

Or contact your **Local Council** or **Biosecurity Queensland** office.

For further information, contact QMDC on (07) 4637 6200 or visit www.qmdc.org.au.

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