

MEDIA RELEASE

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Assistance for new parthenium outbreaks

Natural resource management group, the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC), has reminded landholders to be on the look out for new outbreaks of parthenium weed following recent rains.

QMDC is leading up a program to provide assistance to landholders to rapidly respond to new outbreaks of Parthenium weed across the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin region. The program is in partnership with local governments across the region and the Department of Primary Industries (DPI&F) Biosecurity Queensland.

Lavinnia Fiedler is a Weeds Technical Officer with QMDC, and said that QMDC would be providing a financial incentive to landholders who work with their local council, or Biosecurity Queensland, to quickly manage parthenium outbreaks.

“If you suspect you have a parthenium weed outbreak, contact your local council’s Rural Lands Officer, QMDC or Biosecurity Queensland staff immediately,” she said.

“They will inspect the site and work with you to develop a rapid response strategy to eradicate the outbreak. QMDC will cover 30% of the costs of those agreed management actions.”

“The ideal response time from identification is one week, with follow up monitoring and control within six weeks and then should be checked regularly,” said Lavinnia.

Ivan Gillies, Rural Lands Officer with the Roma Regional Council, said, “Parthenium weed seeds spread very easily by machinery, stock, grain and fodder.”

“Landholders should be regularly monitoring their property for new outbreaks, especially in the six week window after rains,” he said.

Graham Hardwick, Principal Lands Protection Officer with Biosecurity Queensland, said, “Parthenium is relatively contained to the north western parts of the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin, so we are investing a lot of effort and resources to keep the rest of the region parthenium free,” he said.

For further information, or to report a parthenium outbreak, contact QMDC on 07 4622 8446, Biosecurity Queensland on 07 4622 9905, or your local council office.

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