

MEDIA RELEASE

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Subsidies still available for weed control

Land managers along Bungil and Bungeworgorai Creeks could still be eligible for financial assistance from Roma Town and Bungil Shire Councils to control green cestrum and African boxthorn.

The problem weeds have infested much of the creeks, and the two councils, in conjunction with the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee Inc. (QMDC), have provided subsidies in order to clean up stretches of the creek adjoining council lands.

QMDC Technical Officer, Kathleen Macdonald, said "Roma Town and Bungil Shire councils have chosen a subsidy option that rewards landholders who are actively controlling Boxthorn and Cestrum and provides the impetus for those with other priorities to also become involved."

Those who voluntarily undertake control activities before August this year will be eligible for the subsidy. Landholders who do not voluntarily undertake control activities by this date will be issued with a notice from council to comply.

Kathleen said that this combined approach will achieve real results for the area.

Bungil Council's Rural Services Officer, Ivan Gilles, said "we prefer to take a soft approach to a hard one, so we've made this subsidy is available to assist residents along the creeks to clean up declared pests invading their land."

Landholders along the Bungil Creek are urged to contact their local council to find out if they are eligible before time runs out.

Council have identified more than 80 landholders eligible for the subsidy, whose land is in the pathway for infestation by these weeds. More than 20 of these attended a field day to launch the scheme in October last year, receiving further details about the process as well as demonstrations of various chemical and mechanical control options for both weeds.

Kathleen Macdonald said that there are now financial incentives available for councils throughout the Maranoa-Balonne and Border Rivers catchments to undertake such control actions through QMDC's Local Government Incentive Scheme.

"This scheme is a step toward private and public landholders working in tandem to control weeds," she said.

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Media contact/s

Released by:

Amelia Radford, Communications Officer, QMDC, (07) 4637 6234

More information:

Kathleen Macdonald, Weeds & Pest Technical Officer, QMDC, (07) 4622 3397

Ivan Gilles, Rural Service Officer, Bungil Shire council, (07) 4622 1144

Caption: Graham Hardwick (principal Land Protection Officer, DNRM&W), Kevin Melmeth (DowAgro) and Trevor martin inspect some of the infested country along the banks of Bungil Creek.



Photo courtesy of Kathleen Macdonald, QMDC

Caption: Examples of the problem weeds – African Boxthorn (left) and Green Cestrum (right)



Photo courtesy of QMDC



Photo courtesy of Weeds Australia