

MEDIA RELEASE



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"Working together – healthy landscapes, viable communities"

Landholders needed to tackle thorny weed problem

Landholders west of Goondiwindi may have a surprise visitor on their doorsteps next week as work continues on tackling a thorny problem for the area – *Harrisia Cactus*.

The doorknockers are seeking participants for the Waggamba Shire *Harrisia* Project being undertaken by the Goondiwindi Regional Council, Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC), Department of Main Roads and the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F).

QMDC Weeds and Pest Animal Technical Officer Nathan Stephenson said the focus was currently on land adjacent to the Goodar, Kondar and South Toobeah roads as well as along the Barwon Highway between Goondiwindi and Toobeah.

"We are focusing on this area because the infestations of *Harrisia* are more scattered and light, so they should be easier to control at this initial stage," Mr Stephenson said.

"Our main aim is to control the spread and 'chase' it back into the main infestation around Goondiwindi."

Mr Stephenson said with Blueprint for the Bush funding secured for the project, landholders would have access to some incentives and weed control services to help further control the spread of the cactus.

He said the doorknockers would be QMDC and Goondiwindi Regional Council staff.

Harrisia Cactus (*Eriocereus* spp.) is native to South America and was introduced to Queensland as a pot plant in the 1890s. It can form dense infestations and its sharp spines make it difficult for stock to access pasture and the plants can also interfere with mustering and stock movement.

Landholders in the area who want more details, should call QMDC Goondiwindi on 07 4671 7900.

Media contacts

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PLEASE NOTE:

High resolution images of *Harrisia Cactus* are available upon request.