

MEDIA RELEASE



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"Working together – healthy landscapes, viable communities"

Parthenium control ramping up

Fifteen landholders across the Maranoa-Balonne and Borders Rivers areas will soon be ramping up their fight against a weed that costs farmers and graziers across the state \$22 million annually, with some help from the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC).

QMDC Weed and Pest Animal Technical Officer Lavinnia Fiedler said the organisation had allocated \$40,000 to encourage landholders to set up wash-down facilities as part of its work to control, and prevent, the spread of Parthenium.

"This funding, received through the National Landcare Program, helps us tackle Parthenium that is a weed of national, state, regional and local significance," Ms Fiedler said.

"In the latest funding round, we have had 15 successful applicants spread from the Injune and Mitchell areas south to St George and south-east to Goondiwindi.

"Each successful applicant, who had to submit an extensive application demonstrating their designs were in accordance with the Queensland Guidelines for Vehicle and Machinery Wash Down, received up to \$3000 each toward the cost of setting up their private facility."

However, Ms Fiedler said the National Landcare Program funding had also allowed QMDC to purchase \$12,000 worth of equipment for the on-ground control of Parthenium that was now available to Landcare and Sub Catchment Planning group members in the Maranoa-Balonne and Border Rivers catchments.

"Parthenium is an aggressive annual herb; it is a prolific seed producer and those seeds remain viable for up to 12 years so it's important that the entire community works together to control and prevent its spread," she said.

"In Queensland, the annual cost of the Parthenium weed to grazing and cropping industries in production losses and on-farm control costs has been estimated at \$16 million and \$6 million respectively.

"Prevention through property hygiene and a rapid response to new infestations are the best mechanisms to slow/contain the spread of the weed."

Media contacts

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PLEASE NOTE:

High resolution images of Parthenium are available upon request.