

MEDIA RELEASE

November 25, 2010

QUEENSLAND
MURRAY-
DARLING
COMMITTEE



Be on the look out for Parthenium

Landholders in the Queensland Murray- Darling Basin are encouraged to be on the look out for outbreaks of Parthenium this summer.

Late Spring and Summer are the perfect times for Parthenium to germinate, and favourable rainfall and milder conditions during recent months, coupled with the flood event in March 2010, has increased the likelihood of Parthenium outbreaks in the area.

Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) Weed Technical Officer Lavinnia Fiedler, Roma, said new infestations of Parthenium had already been reported in the Maranoa-Balonne.

“Infestations of Parthenium are moving south at a steady rate, and are capable of causing huge losses in pasture and cropping production for landholders and human contact with Parthenium can also lead to allergic reactions,” Ms Fiedler said.

The Class 2 weed costs the beef industry a total of \$16.5 million a year and the cropping industry several million dollars per year. It colonises weak pastures with sparse groundcover, reducing pasture production potential. It is often found along roadsides and in heavily stocked areas.

“It is really important that landholders report and treat any infestations they find, although ultimately, prevention is better than a cure,” Ms Fiedler said.

“A combination of techniques is recommended for Parthenium weed: good hygiene, herbicide treatment and managing your pasture to ensure good groundcover are all important in controlling and reducing the spread.”

The Queensland Murray-Darling Committee has Rapid Response funding available to support land managers with new or strategic infestations of Parthenium weed. Funding is available on a 70/30 percent, land manager/QMDC ratio, and guidelines apply.

For further information on Parthenium weed control, herbicide use and/or QMDC’s Rapid Response funding program please call your local regional council, or QMDC’s Lavinnia Fiedler on 07 4620 4610.

The Queensland Murray-Darling Committee is a natural resource management organisation that supports communities within the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin to sustainably manage their natural resources. Visit www.qmdc.org.au for more information.

Media contact/s

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Please note: High res images of Parthenium are available upon request.