



## Weed Management Program

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# 1. Introduction

Weeds can have an economic, environment and social impact on our community. Introduced plants can outcompete native plants and change ecosystems to a point which they become unfavourable for some native animals. Some exotic plants can change waterway hydrological functions and reduce aquatic ecosystems. Weeds can outcompete pasture grasses which reduce the carrying capacity of land for cattle and reduce productivity. The Queensland government estimate that weeds reduce the Queensland economy by over \$100 million a year. Weeds can also reduce the real estate value of land because of the cost of controlling declared or noxious weeds (DAF, 2016). Five of the main declared weeds in Queensland, parthenium weed (*Parthenium hysterophorus*), rubber vine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*), prickly acacia (*Acacia nilotica*), mesquite (*Prosopis spp.*) and parkinsonia (*Parkinsonia aculeata*) cost Queensland more than \$50 million each year in lost production and control costs (DAF, 2016).

Weeds can have social impacts. The loss of productivity means that there is less available income for families and less money to inject into the local economy. Weeds can reduce the amenity of an area and reduce its tourist potential. Some introduced plants can affect human health. Plants such as parthenium can cause respiratory problems in some people.

The Queensland State government introduced the *Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014* which came into force in July 2016. The purpose of the Biosecurity Act is to regulate and coordinate all Biosecurity issues in Queensland. The Biosecurity Act allocates the coordination of feral animals and noxious plants to local government. Local government's role is to develop weed control activities to control and reduce weed infestations on all land within its jurisdiction. Under the Biosecurity Act all local governments are required to have a Biosecurity Plan. In May 2017, the Whitsunday Regional Council adopted its new Biosecurity Plan.

The purpose of the weed management program is to provide detail on how the weeds will be managed in the region. The weed management program aims to provide operational direction for council staff for the next three years. The objectives of this report are to:

- Review legislation and policy which pertain to weed management.
- Describe the current extent of weed infestations.
- Identify weed management activities.
- Identify tasks and activities to pursue to improve weed management.

## 2. Background

### 2.1 Legislation and Policy

The main legislation which guides pest management in the Whitsunday region is the *Queensland Biosecurity Act (2014)* and the *Whitsunday Regional Council Local law 3 (Community and Environment)*. The Queensland government has introduced the *Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014* to guide the management of invasive plants and animals.

The *Biosecurity Act 2014* introduces the concept of the general biosecurity obligation (GBO), which is an overarching obligation that requires all persons who deal with biosecurity matter to take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise the risk posed by the biosecurity matter. The GBO encourages all relevant parties to take a proactive role in preventing, managing and addressing biosecurity risks that relate to them.

The *Biosecurity Act* also introduces prohibited and restricted biosecurity matter. Prohibited matter is not currently present in Queensland and is prohibited because there are reasonable grounds to believe it could have significant adverse effects if introduced to the state. Restricted matter is found in Queensland and may have an adverse effect if restrictions are not imposed. Restricted matter is assigned category numbers from 1-7 based on its characteristics and the risk it poses. Pest plants and animals can be attributed to more than one pest category.



The following is a list of the restricted categories and a brief explanation from the State government:

- **Category 1** includes red imported fire ants, electric ants, Asian honey bees, and certain animal diseases, aquatic diseases and pathogens. Biosecurity Queensland needs to be made aware of this restricted matter to take action to contain and eradicate it. You must report category 1 restricted matter to a Department of Agriculture and Fisheries inspector within 24 hours of becoming aware of its presence.
- **Category 2** restricted matter includes certain noxious fish, weeds and pest animals such as spotted gar and red-eared slider turtle.
- **Categories 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.** These categories relate to restricted matter that is in a person's possession, under their control and is also about not feeding restricted matter.
- **Category 3** includes weeds, pest animals and noxious fish (e.g. gambusia, dingoes, yellow crazy ants). You must not distribute this restricted matter. This means it must not be given as a gift, sold, traded or released into the environment unless the distribution is authorised in a regulation or under a permit. Deliberate human distribution contrary to the legislation is a key source of spread into other areas of the state.
- **Category 4** includes specific weeds, pest animals and noxious fish such as the bitou bush, feral pig or giant cichlid. You must not move this restricted matter to ensure that it does not spread into other areas of the state.
- **Category 5** includes weeds, pest animals and noxious fish such as Mexican feather grass, rabbits and carp. You must not possess or keep this restricted matter under your control. These pests have a high risk of negatively impacting on the environment. You may only keep this restricted matter under a permit of the *Biosecurity Act 2014* or another Act.
- **Category 6** includes invasive animals such as feral deer, foxes, rabbits and wild dogs and noxious fish such as carp, gambusia and tilapia. You must not feed this category of restricted matter. Feeding this restricted matter may cause their numbers to increase and negatively impact the economy or the environment. Feeding for the purpose of preparing for or undertaking a control program is exempted.
- **Category 7** includes noxious fish such as carp, weather loach, climbing perch, gambusia and tilapia. If you have these noxious fish in your possession you must kill the restricted matter and dispose of the carcass by burying the whole carcass (no parts removed) in the ground above the high tide water mark or placing it in a waste disposal receptacle (DAFF, 2016).

The *Whitsunday Regional Council Local Law 3 (Community and Environment)* enables the council to identify pest plants. Under Local Law 3, a person must not;

- introduce, propagate or breed a declared local pest; or
- provide harbour to a declared local pest.

The Local Law 3 subordinate local law contains a list of locally declared pest plants which are not identified as pest plants by the State government but are recognised locally as invasive and worthy of control and eradication. A list of locally declared pest plants can be found in Appendix.

## 2.2 Whitsunday Biosecurity Plan

The Whitsunday Regional Council has developed a Biosecurity Plan as required under the *Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014*. The purpose of the Whitsunday Regional Council Biosecurity Plan (2016-2020) is to guide pest management within the Whitsunday local government area. This Biosecurity Plan applies to all land within the jurisdiction of Whitsunday Regional Council. The Whitsunday Biosecurity Plan seeks the following outcomes:

- Describe how the extent of pest plants and animals in the region will be mapped and monitored.
- Inform the community of their pest management obligations.
- Describe how the regional pests are prioritised.
- Describe how pests will be managed across the region.
- Document the roles and responsibilities for pest management stakeholders.

The Council has developed this Biosecurity Plan in consultation with regional land management stakeholders. The Council's pest management program aims to reduce pest plant and animals across the region.

There are a number of current Natural Resource Management regional plans that guide the management of invasive plants and animals. The regional plans which have a focus on pest management or include pest management are:

- Burdekin Dry Topics NRM region – Pest Management Plan – 2014-2019 (NQDT, 2014)
- Mackay Whitsunday Isaac Natural Resource Management Plan (2014 – 2024)
- Burdekin Dry Tropics Natural Resource Management Plan -2016-2026
- Regional Pest Management Strategy – Isaac Mackay Whitsunday 2011-2014.

The Whitsunday Biosecurity Plan (2016-2020) aims to reflect the regional pest management priorities. The Biosecurity Plan will also reflect the objectives and desired outcomes of the Queensland Weed and Pest Animal Strategy 2016-2020 (DAFF, 2016).

The Whitsunday Regional Council Weed Management Program is written as a sub-ordinate plan under the Whitsunday Biosecurity Plan. The Weed Management Program will assist in delivering the weed management outcomes described within the Whitsunday Biosecurity Plan.

### **2.3 Current weed distribution**

The Whitsunday Regional Council weed management program includes weed mapping, development of property pest plans and spraying noxious weeds. The Council collects information on the spatial extent of weeds. In 2010, the spatial extent estimated and mapped:

- Chinese apple – 18,900ha
- Parthenium - 14,900ha
- Prickly Acacia – 7,120
- Parkinsonia – 4,200ha
- Rubbervine – 30,100ha
- Total area of land infested by pest plants is estimated at 150,000ha.

The Council provides a free service to landholders to develop Property Pest Plans. The Property Pest Plans are used to capture the extent of weeds. The number of properties with Property Pest Plans (2006-2016):

- Collinsville – 22
- Proserpine – 61
- Bowen – 80

### **2.4 Current weed management resources and activities**

The Whitsunday Regional Council employs four pest management staff. The Whitsunday Regional Council staff resources are:

- Whitsunday Regional Council Technical Officer – 1FTE (Proserpine) (158 days/yr) –
  - (0.8 FTE feral animals, 0.2 FTE vector control, 0 FTE for weeds)
- Whitsunday Regional Council Local law/ Land Protection Officer – 1 FTE (Collinsville) – 1 FTE
  - (0.2FTE weed management = 32 work days /yr)
- Whitsunday Regional Council Land Protection Officer – 1 FTE (Bowen) – 1 FTE (158 work days /yr)
- Whitsunday Regional Council Weed Control Officer – 1 FTE (Bowen) – 1 FTE (158 work days /yr)
- Number of work days available = 350 days/yr

The current weed management activities are listed in table 1.

**Table 1.** Current weed management activities.

Theme	Activity
Administration	Complaints management
	Licences
	Reporting
	Operational Procedures
Technical - Control	Mapping Weeds
	Program – Control on Council Land
	Program – Control on Roads
	Program – Control on Private Land
	Property Pest Plans
	Herbicide Rebate Scheme
Education and Awareness	Promotion of Information
	Field Days and Work Shops
Compliance	Control Notices
	Enter and Clear
	Reporting
Coordination	Pest Committees
	Reporting
Equipment	Spray Equipment
	Mapping Equipment

The allocation of time to weed management activities is summarised in table 2.

**Table 2.** Showing a summary of weed management activities and time allocated.

Weed Management Task	Description	Staff Days Allocated – Target 360 Days	% of Total Time
Weed control on council land	Spraying of declared weeds on Council land and road reserves.	70	20
Weed control on State roads (RMPC)	Spraying of declared weeds on State Roads (RMPC)	50	15
Property pest management plans	The development of PPMP for landholders. Landholders demonstrate their GBO through implementation of the Plans. Includes compliance.	95	30
Pest management incentive program	Agreed incentive programs/projects to encourage landholders to control declared weeds and animals	35	10
Education and awareness	Promotion – e.g. weed buster week	20	5
Data acquisition and management	Mapping weeds	52	15
Weed planning, strategic management and meetings	Attending meetings and writing plans	18	5
Total		350 days	100

## 3. Program

### 3.1 Goals and objectives

The Whitsunday Regional Council weed management activities have been grouped into six work themes;

- Administration
- Technical
- Coordination
- Education and awareness
- Legislation and policy
- Equipment

**Table 3.** The goals and objectives of the weed management program.

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Objective</b>
Administration	G1. To develop a good record keeping system for weed activities and actions	O.1 Develop a register for Biosecurity orders
		O2. Develop a register for Property Pest Plans
		O3. Develop a register for procedure
		O4. Review what information is collected for monthly reports - ensure processes are in place to collect the necessary data.
Technical	G2 To determine the extent of weed infestations	O5. Investigate the use of satellite data and drones to map weeds.
		O6. Investigate methods of collecting weeds data in the field.
		O7. Develop a roadside weed map
	G3. To spray weeds on Council land	O8. Develop a standard data collection platform and software for weed data collection
		O9. Develop a reporting template for the Council and RMPC spray program Develop a register to record when council land is sprayed
		O10. Review how Property pest plans are developed and how data is transferred into the Council computer system.
		O11. Investigate the best designs for washdown facilities and their location in the Shire.
G4. To encourage landholders to spray weeds on their property	O12. Investigate and implement weed surveillance systems to reduce the introduction of new weeds.	
G5. To develop activities to reduce weed spread		
G6. To develop activities to reduce weed introduction		
Coordination	G7. Ensure relevant stakeholders are informed	O13. Develop at least one Whitsunday Pest Management Committee.
		O14. Develop an annual report for the weed program for stakeholders
Education and Awareness	G8. Conduct activities to inform landholders on weed management	O15. Develop an education and awareness program for weed management. Include a schedule of events for the year
		O16. Develop an education program for Council internal staff
		O17. Develop a press release schedule for pest management
Legislation and Policy	G9. Develop a system to demonstrate the implementation of the Biosecurity Act	O18. Develop a compliance strategy
		O19. Develop containment lines for declared weeds
		O20. Review compliance letters and ensure Council has a suite of suitable letters.
		O21. Review what information is collected for monthly reports -ensure processes are in place to collect the necessary data
Equipment	G10. Ensure Council has suitable equipment to spray and manage declared weeds	O22. Develop a chemical register data including usage in monthly reports
		O23. Develop a service which includes the loan/rent of a weed spray rig.

### 3.2 Activities and application

The main weed management activities are listed in table 4.

**Table 4.** The main weed management activities for 2017-18.

No.	Theme	Task	Timing	Who
1	Administration	Develop a register for Biosecurity orders	March 2017	Admin
2		Develop a register for Property Pest Plans	March 2017	Admin
3		Develop a register for procedures	March 2017	Admin
4	Technical	Investigate the use of satellite data and drones to map weeds	March 2017	Manager NRM
5		Investigate methods of collecting weeds data in the field.	March 2017	Manager NRM/LPO
6		Develop a reporting template for the Council and RMPC spray program	April 2017	Manager NRM/LPO
7		Develop a register to record when council land is sprayed	April 2017	Admin
8		More use of pest survey activity to gather weed information	May 2018	Manager NRM
9		Develop a procedure for the Herbicide rebate scheme	March 2017	Manager NRM/LPO
10		Review how property pest plans are developed and how data is transferred into the Council computer system	April 2018	Manager NRM/LPO
11		Develop a register for Property Pest Plans with call up dates for re-inspections.	April 2017	Admin
12		Develop a project to determine the economic and environmental impact of weeds	May 2017	Manager NRM
13		Develop a roadside weed map	April 2017	LPO
14		Develop a standard data collection platform and software for weed data collection.	April 2018	Manager NRM
15		Implement weed mapping methods	April 2017	Manager NRM
16		Implement weed spraying programs - RMPC	On-going	Manager NRM/LPO
17		Implement weed spraying program – Council land	On-going	Manager NRM/LPO
18	Coordination	Need to at least form one Whitsunday Pest Management Committee.	March 2018	Manager NRM
19		Need to develop an annual report for the weed program for stakeholders	June 2018	Manager NRM
20	Education and Awareness	Develop an education and awareness program for weed management. Include a schedule of events for the year	March 2017	Manager NRM
21		Press release schedule for pest management	March 2017	Manager NRM
22		Develop an education program for Council internal staff	March 2017	Manager NRM
23	Legislation and Compliance	Develop a compliance strategy	June 2018	Manager NRM
24		Need to develop containment lines for declared weeds	May 2018	Manager NRM/LPO
25		Review compliance letters and ensure Council has a suite of suitable letters.	March 2017	Manager NRM
26		Review what information is collected for monthly reports -ensure processes are in place to collect the necessary data.	March 2017	Manager NRM
27	Equipment	Include chemical register data including usage in monthly reports	March 2017	Manager NRM
28		Develop a service which includes the loan/rent of a weed spray rig.	March 2018	Manager NRM



### 3.3 Schedule of tasks

The timing of the weed management tasks are listed in table 5.

**Table 5.** The timing of the weed management tasks.

Task	2017 – 18								2018 – 19	2019 – 20
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun		
1										
2										
3										
4										
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### 3.4 Budget

The budget required to implement the weed management program is listed in table 6.

**Table 6.** Budget for the feral animal control program – annual salary (not including on-costs).

Weed Management Sub-Program	Task	% of Staff Time	Approx. Number of Days/ Year	Approximate expenditure of Council funds – Salary (no oncosts) (\$)	Approximate expenditure of Council funds – Operating (\$)	External funds (\$)
Weed Spraying	Council land	20	90	\$70,000		
	RPMC	15	60			\$40,000
	Council – Chemical				\$10,000	
Weed management - coordination	Property Pest Plans	20	75	\$30,000		
	Stakeholder engagement	5	5	\$3,500		
	Incentives – herbicide/incentive rebate scheme	5	10	\$3,500	\$80,000	
	Administration	5	5	\$3,500		
	Workshops/field days	5	10	\$3,500	\$1,000	

Weed Projects	Reduction of spread	5	10	\$3,500	\$5,000	
	Weed Mapping	15	52	\$20,000	\$2,000	
	Compliance	5	20	\$7,000		
Other	State Government Precept	0	0		\$55,000	
Total		100	350	\$154,000	\$153,000	\$40,000

Note: 1 Officer salary based on \$70,000/yr (no on-costs).

• Note total salary allocated is 2.2FTE = \$154,000/yr (no on-costs or transport)

• Note: State government precept – allocation to State Land Protection Fund.

### 3.5 Review and evaluation

The Weed Management Program should be reviewed every three years by Council staff in consultation with the relevant pest management groups.

## 4. Conclusion

The Whitsunday Regional Council has a role in the coordination of declared weed management and coordination across the Shire. The Council has an obligation under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* to control and reduce weeds on land under its management. The Council has developed this weed management program as a sub-ordinate program under the Whitsunday Biosecurity Plan to further guide weed management activities. The weed management program has been divided up into six themes:

- Administration
- Technical
- Coordination
- Legislation and compliance
- Education and Awareness
- Equipment

Goals, objectives and activities have been developed for each of the weed management theme areas to guide weed management operations. The weed management program lists over 25 tasks that if implemented would lead to improvements in weed management and would assist in reducing weeds in the region.

## 5. References

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. 2016. Draft Queensland Weed and Pest Animal Strategy. Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Brisbane.

# 6. Appendix

## 6.1 Locally declared weeds

The following is the list of locally declared pest plants listed under the Whitsunday Regional Council subordinate local law 3 (Community and Environment).

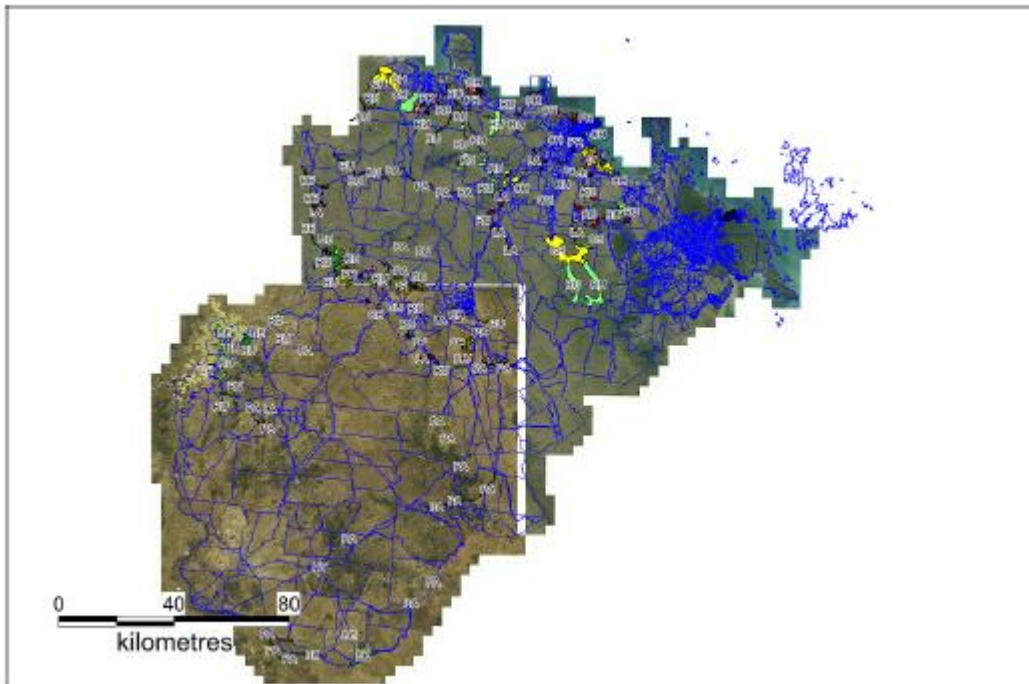
- Milkweed (*Euphorbia heterophylla*)
- Castor Oil Plant (*Ricinus communis*)
- Japanese Sunflower (*Tithonia diversifolia*)
- Caltrop (*Tribulus cistoides*, *T. terrestris*)
- Coral Vine (*Antigonon leptopus*)
- Khaki Weed (*Alternanthera pungens*)
- Noogoora Burr (*Xanthium strumarium*)
- Blackeyed Susan (*Thunbergia alata*, *T. species*)
- Neem Tree (*Azadirachta indica*)
- Leucaena (*Leucaena leucocephala*)
- Itch Grass (*Rottboellia cochinchinensis*)
- Candle Bush (*Senna alata*)

## 6.2 Top 30 rated declared weeds in the Shire

Common Name	Scientific Name	Land Protection Act Status	Biosecurity Act Status	Present in Whitsunday Region	Relative Infestation Size	Total Impact Rating Score	Priority
Mimosa Pigra	<i>Mimosa Pigra</i>	Class 1	2,3,4,5	Yes	Isolated	11.85	1
Siam Weed	<i>Chromolaena Odorata</i>	Class 1	3	No	Not Present	11.45	2
Leucaena	<i>Leucaena Leucocephala</i>	Locally Declared	N/A	Yes	Low	10.3	3
Lantana	<i>Lantana Camara</i>	Class 3 WoNS	3	Yes	Medium	9.5	4
Navua Sedge	<i>Cyperus Aromaticus</i>	Environmental Weed	N/A	No	Not Present	9	5
Rubber Vine	<i>Cryptostegia Grandiflora</i>	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Medium	8.95	6
Itch Grass	<i>Rottboellia Cochinchinensis</i>	Locally Declared BSC LGA	N/A	Yes	Isolated	8.9	7
Prickly Acacia	<i>Acacia Nilotica (Vachellia Nilotica)</i>	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Medium	8.85	8
Sicklepods	<i>Senna Obtusifolia, Senna Hirsuta and Senna Tora</i>	Class 2	3	Yes	Low	8.75	9
Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia Monacantha, O. Stricta, O. Tomentosa</i>	Class 2	3	Yes	Isolated	8.7	10
Harrissia Cactus	<i>H. Martinii, H. Toruosa and H. Pomanesis Syn</i>	Class 2	3	Yes	Isolated	8.6	11
Chinee Apple	<i>Ziziphus Mauritiana</i>	Class 2	3	Yes	Medium – High	8.6	12
Pond Apple	<i>Annona Glabra</i>	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Isolated	8.6	13
Hymenachne	<i>Hymenachne Amplexicaulis</i>	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Low	8.55	14
Miconia	<i>Miconia Sp</i>	Class 1	2,3,4,5	No	Not Present	8.35	15
Giant Sensitive Plant	<i>Mimosa Diplotricha Var. Diplotricha</i>	Class 2	3	Yes	Isolated	8.25	16
Johnson Grass	<i>Sorghum Halepense</i>	Not Declared	N/A	Yes	Isolated	8.05	17
Giant Paramatta Grass	<i>Sporobolus Fertilis</i>	Class 2	3	Yes	Low	7.85	18
American Rat's Tail Grass	<i>Sporobolus Jacquemontii</i>	Class 2	3	Yes	Low	7.8	19
Salvinia	<i>Salvinia Molesta</i>	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Isolated	7.6	20
Parkinsonia	<i>Parkinsonia Aculeata</i>	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Low – Medium	7.55	21
Water Lettuce	<i>Pistia Stratiotes</i>	Class 2	3	Yes	Isolated	7.35	22
Water Hyacinth	<i>Eichhornia Crassipes</i>	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Isolated	7.35	23
Mesquites	<i>Prosopis Glandulosa, P. Pallida and P. Velutina</i>	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Low	7.35	24
Singapore Daisy	<i>Sphagneticola Trilobata Syn. Wdelia Triobate</i>	Class 3	3	Yes	Low	7.15	25
Chinese Lantern	<i>Dichrostachys Cinerea</i>	Not Declared	N/A	Yes	Low	7.15	26
Parthenium Weed	<i>Parthenium Hysterophorus</i>	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Medium – High	7.15	27
Cat's Claw Creeper	<i>Macfadyena Unguis-cati</i>	Class 3 WoNS	N/A	Yes	Isolated	6.95	28
Mother-Of-Million's	<i>Bryophyllum Delagoense (Syn. B. Tubiflorum)</i>	Class 2	3	Yes	Low	6.85	29
Bellyache Bush	<i>Jatropha Gossypifolia</i>	Class 2 WoNS	3	Yes	Low	6.85	30



## 6.3 Current Weed Map



## 6.4 Activity plan: herbicide rebate scheme

### Whitsunday Regional Council weed management incentive scheme

#### 1. Purpose

The purpose of the weed management incentive scheme is to assist landholders to control selected declared weeds in the Shire. The weed management incentive scheme is a financial incentive provided by the Whitsunday Regional Council to control priority weeds.

#### 2. Desired outcomes

The desired outcomes of the Whitsunday weed management incentive scheme are:

- Provide a financial incentive to landholders to control priority declared weeds.
- To encourage the development of Property Pest Plans for the strategic control of property noxious weeds.
- To provide education and awareness to landholders on the correct chemicals to use to control and reduce selected declared weeds.
- To encourage landholders to use mechanical methods to reduce large stands of tree weeds where appropriate.

#### 3. Who can apply

The following landholders can apply for the Whitsunday weed management incentive scheme funds:

- Landholders in the Whitsunday Regional Council area.
- Landholders who own more than 20 hectares.
- Landholders with weed infestations of more than 1 ha.

- Landholders who have developed a Property Pest Plan which has been approved by the Whitsunday Regional Council.

#### 4. Project budget

- The Whitsunday Regional Council will allocate \$80,000 towards the weed management incentive scheme (subject to budget approval).
  - Landholders can apply for a 50% rebate on the cost of selected herbicides.
  - The maximum amount a landholder can apply for in a financial year is \$1500.00.
  - If Council purchases \$80,000 worth of chemical, landholders will collectively pay the Council \$40,000 towards the cost of chemical. The net cost to council will be \$40,000 if the herbicide rebate scheme is fully expended.
  - The Council will partition a proportion of the weed management incentive scheme for approved mechanical removal methods. The suggested proportion of funds to partition for mechanical removal is up to 30% of the total funds. Land holders can apply for a 50% rebate on the cost of mechanical removal costs. The maximum amount a landholder can apply for in a financial year is \$1500.00

#### 5. Funded activities

The Whitsunday Regional Council weed management incentive scheme is primarily designed to provide a financial incentive to landholders to control and reduce weed infestations. The priority pest plants are listed in table 1. The chemical which can be applied for under the herbicide rebate scheme are:

- Access
- Grazon, conqueror
- Taskforce
- Brush-off

Landholders can apply for the assistance to remove weeds using approved mechanical methods. The approved mechanical methods that can utilise the herbicide rebate fund are:

- Marshall saw
- Ellrot plough
- Dozer

The Marshall saw and Ellrot plough are designed to target tree weeds and cut the trunks off at ground level. The Marshall saw is mounted on a bobcat and has minimal off-target damage to vegetation. The Ellrot plough is mounted on the front of a small dozer and is useful in thick infestations of tree weeds.

**Table 1.** The weeds that will be targeted by the weed management incentive scheme.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Land Protection Act Status	Biosecurity Act Status	Preferred Chemical	Common Brand	Priority
Mimosa Pigra	<i>Mimosa Pigra</i>	Class 1	2,3,4,5	240 g/L Triclopyr and 120 g/L Picloram	<b>Access</b>	<b>1</b>
Siam Weed	<i>Chromolaena Odorata</i>	Class 1	3			<b>2</b>
Leucaena	<i>Leucaena Leucocephala</i>	Locally Declared	N/A	240 g/L Triclopyr and 120 g/L Picloram	<b>Access</b>	<b>3</b>
Lantana	<i>Lantana Camara</i>	Class 3 WoNS	3	Triclopyr and Picloram	<b>Grazon</b>	<b>4</b>
Navua Sedge	<i>Cyperus Aromaticus</i>	Environmental Weed	N/A	750 g/kg HALOSULFURONMETHYL	<b>Sempra</b>	<b>5</b>

Rubber Vine	<i>Cryptostegia Grandiflora</i>	Class 2 WoNS	3	Triclopyr and Picloram Metsulphuronmethyl	<b>Grazon</b> <b>Conqueror</b> <b>Brush-off</b>	<b>6</b>
Itch Grass	<i>Rottboellia Cochinchinensis</i>	Locally Declared BSC LGA	N/A	<b>Paraquat</b> dichloride	<b>Paraquat</b>	<b>7</b>
Prickly Acacia	<i>Acacia Nilotica (Vachellia Nilotica)</i>	Class 2 WoNS	3	240 g/L Triclopyr and 120 g/L Picloram	<b>Starane</b> <b>Access</b>	<b>8</b>
Sicklepods	<i>Senna Obtusifolia, Senna Hirsuta and Senna Tora</i>	Class 2	3	Triclopyr and Picloram	<b>Grazon</b> <b>Conqueror</b>	<b>9</b>
Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia Monacantha, O. Stricta, O. Tomentosa</i>	Class 2	3	240 g/L Triclopyr and 120 g/L Picloram	<b>Access</b>	<b>10</b>
Harrissia Cactus	<i>H. Martinii, H. Toruosa and H. Pomanesis Syn</i>	Class 2	3	240 g/L Triclopyr and 120 g/L Picloram	<b>Access</b>	<b>11</b>
Chinee Apple	<i>Ziziphus Mauritiania</i>	Class 2	3	240 g/L Triclopyr and 120 g/L Picloram	<b>Access</b>	<b>12</b>
Pond Apple	<i>Annona Glabra</i>	Class 2 WoNS	3	Triclopyr and Picloram	<b>Grazon</b> <b>Conqueror</b>	<b>13</b>
Hymenachne	<i>Hymenachne Amplexicaulis</i>	Class 2 WoNS	3	Glysohate		<b>14</b>
Miconia	<i>Miconia Sp</i>	Class 1	2,3,4,5			<b>15</b>
Giant Sensitive Plant	<i>Mimosa Diplotricha Var. Diplotricha</i>	Class 2	3	Dicamba700 g/kg 0.4 kg/ha (e.g. Cadence WG)	<b>Cadence</b>	<b>16</b>
Johnson Grass	<i>Sorghum Halepense</i>	Not Declared	N/A	Flupropanate (as sodium salt)	<b>Taskforce</b>	<b>17</b>
Giant Paramatta Grass	<i>Sporobolus Fertilis</i>	Class 2	3	Flupropanate (as sodium salt)	<b>Taskforce</b>	<b>18</b>
American Rat's Tail Grass	<i>Sporobolus Jacquemontii</i>	Class 2	3	Flupropanate (as sodium salt)	<b>Taskforce</b>	<b>19</b>
Salvinia	<i>Salvinia Molesta</i>	Class 2 WoNS	3			<b>20</b>
Parkinsonia	<i>Parkinsonia Aculeata</i>	Class 2 WoNS	3	240 g/L Triclopyr and 120 g/L Picloram	<b>Access</b>	<b>21</b>
Water Lettuce	<i>Pistia Stratiotes</i>	Class 2	3		-	<b>22</b>
Water Hyacinth	<i>Eichhornia Crassipes</i>	Class 2 WoNS	3		-	<b>23</b>
Mesquites	<i>Prosopis Glandulosa, P. Pallida and P. Velutina</i>	Class 2 WoNS	3	240 g/L Triclopyr and 120 g/L Picloram	<b>Access</b>	<b>24</b>
Singapore Daisy	<i>Sphagneticola Trilobata Syn. Wdelia Triobate</i>	Class 3	3	Triclopyr and Picloram	<b>Grazon</b> <b>Conqueror</b>	<b>25</b>
Chinese Lantern	<i>Dichrostachys Cinerea</i>	Not Declared	N/A	Triclopyr and Picloram	<b>Grazon</b> <b>Conqueror</b>	<b>26</b>
Parthenium Weed	<i>Parthenium Hysterophorus</i>	Class 2 WoNS	3	Metsulphuronmethy	<b>Brush-Off</b>	<b>27</b>
Cat's Claw Creeper	<i>Macfadyena Unguis-cati</i>	Class 3 WoNS	N/A			<b>28</b>
Mother-Of-Million's	<i>Bryophyllum Delagoense (Syn. B. Tubiflorum)</i>	Class 2	3	240 g/L Triclopyr and 120 g/L Picloram	<b>Access</b>	<b>29</b>
Bellyache Bush	<i>Jatropha Gossypifolia</i>	Class 2 WoNS	3	Triclopyr and Picloram	<b>Grazon</b> <b>Conqueror</b>	<b>30</b>

## 6. Payment system

### For chemical method:

1. Landholders with property pest plans are eligible only
2. Council purchases bulk selected chemical – e.g. from Elders
3. Elders will store the chemical product
4. Landholders pay for the chemical at the council – at 50% of the cost of the chemical.
5. Landholders take the receipt to Elders to pick up the chemical.

### For mechanical methods:

1. Landholders with property pest plans are eligible only.
2. Landholders book and engage the mechanical operator for up to a maximum amount of time (Council contribution \$1500 and landholder contribution \$1500 = \$3,000).
3. Council will pay for 50% of the cost of the mechanical operation up to \$1500.00 per year.
4. The work must be listed in the property pest plan as priority work, for example the establishment of property boundary buffers.
5. Landholder pays the mechanical operator.
6. Landholders present the receipt to Council from the mechanical operator to apply for the 50% cost (up to \$1500). The application form is accompanied by an invoice from the landholder. The landholder attaches photographs of the mechanical work. A Council Pest Management Officer may inspect the completed work.
7. The Council pays the landholder.



## 6.5 Activity plan: Weed extension – education and awareness

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of the Whitsunday Regional Council educational and awareness program is to increase the community's knowledge of pest plant and animals.

### 2. Desired Outcomes

The desired outcomes from the education and awareness program are:

- Develop targeted activities for target audience to increase pest plant and animal knowledge.
- To increase pest plant identification in the community.
- To increase feral animal awareness and response in the community.
- To provide education to the community to reduce pest infestations in the region.

### 3. Activities and target audience

The proposed activities and target audience are listed in table 1. The existing pest extension programs are:

- Weed buster week – October

It is proposed that the weed extension workshops and field days are held in the wet season to coincide with peak weed growing season. The field days and displays can be rolled out under the banner of the "Weed Stampede". The Weed Stampede field day/workshop program would deliver the following:

- Field days / workshop
  - Aiming for 1-2 hours per workshop
  - Provide information on weed identification and herbicide use. Possibly provide discounted herbicide.
  - Take the information to the farmers/landholders.
  - Target
    - Graziers
      - 1 field day – Bowen area
      - 1 field day – Proserpine area
    - Sugarcane
      - 1 field day – Proserpine area
    - Peri-urban /urban
      - 1 field day – Collinsville area
      - 1 field day – Cannonvale/ Cannonvalley
- Static Displays
  - Shopping centres
    - 1 at Bowen shopping centre
    - 1 at Cannonvale centro
    - 1 at Proserpine shopping centre
    - 1 at Collinsville shopping centre

**Table 1.** Proposed extension activities and target audience.

Target Audience	Extension Activity	Extension Action	Target Number/Year	When	Where	Comments	Budget
Graziers	Property Plans	1 on 1	50	Throughout the year	On Properties		
	Field Days	1 to many	2	Feb – March	1 north ad 1 south each year		\$500
	Show Displays	1 to many	1	Proserpine Show Bowen Show			\$500
	Letters	1 on 1	100	Throughout the year		Reminder of obligations and fact sheets	
Sugarcane Farmers	Weed Workshop	1 to many	1	Feb – March	Proserpine		\$500
	Letters	1 on 1	100	Throughout the year		Reminder of obligations and fact sheets	
Horticultural Farmers	Weed Workshop	1 to many	1	Feb – March	Proserpine		\$500
	Letters	1 on 1	100	Throughout the year		Reminder of obligations and factsheets	
School Children – Primary	Class Talk	1 to many	2	Spring	1 north and 1 south each year		
School Children – High School	Class Talk	1 to many	2	Spring	1 north and 1 south each year		
Peri-Urban – Small block owners (Rural Residential Land Use)	Static Display – Shopping Centres	1 to many	2	Autumn and Spring	Shopping Centres		\$500
Peri-Urban – Small block owners (Rural Residential Land Use)	Weed Workshop	1 to many	1	Feb - March	Cannonvalley		
Urban	Static Display – Shopping Centres	1 to many	2	Autumn and Spring	Shopping Centres		
Total							\$2500

#### 4. Annual program

The activities are:

- 1) Field days – north
- 2) Field days – south
- 3) Show stall – Proserpine
- 4) Show stall – Bowen
- 5) Weed buster week – shopping centre display – north
- 6) Weed buster week – shopping centre display – south
- 7) Weed workshop – sugarcane
- 8) Weed workshop – horticulture (north)
- 9) School talks – north
- 10) School talks – south
- 11) Press release
- 12) Letters to landholders – responsibilities and fact sheets
- 13) Pest survey
- 14) Property Pest Plans

Task	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1												
2												
3												
4												
5												
6												
7												
8												
9												
10												
11												
12												
13												
14												