

Inquiry into the impacts of invasive plants (weeds) and their control in Queensland

Submission No. 002

From: [Wendy and Brian](#)
To: [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)
Subject: submissioninvasive plants
Date: Thursday, 8 December 2016 11:26:59 PM

Inquiry into the impact of invasive plants

I am not exactly sure what type of submission the committee are looking for but choosing for a lifestyle change in 2012 moving to a 680 acre bush property at Tamrookum Creek in the SE QLD area I would like to inform the committee of a few issues we are experiencing with dealing with weed invasions and control.

This was the original homestead for this valley and was a dairy and piggery farm. The last 45 years it had no land management and was used for adventurous outdoor activities.

The property has three ecological systems with listed endangered flora and fauna steep hills and valleys most of which is not suited for grazing stock or pastures. We want to protect what we have and in the future open up possible study groups on the wildlife

2014 we changed the zoning to operate our outdoor recreation business Scenic Rim Adventure Park a back to basic bush camping and 4WD Park.

It has been a huge financial struggle to secure the property so the main work is still carried out by me as my husband who is disabled. We do get help from friends and family to do the more difficult and heavy tasks but the business does not generate enough to employ regular staff at the moment.

We spent the past three years clearing dense lantana to reopen old fire and logging trails which we use for our 4x4 wheel driving part of our business. The high country has been easier to keep the lantana under controlled with spot spraying than the lower sections.

On what was part of the 100 year old black soil pastures we removed level section of lantana. Then struggled with secondary weed control, wild tobacco, cotton, thistles and stinging nettles to establish our grassed camping

Three years ago we found a few cats claw vines on the lower eastern side of the property where we cut and sprayed those vines. I've been concentrating on the dense lantana elsewhere on the property and hadn't realised how much the cats claw had spread till I noticed the yellow flowers this spring. I will now need some help to cut and poison as it has spread up a steep hillside a mixture of light rainforest and lantana. Fortunately it still appears to be around the same area of the property

2014 we had no fireweed, 2015 just a few flowers which I pulled out when I noticed them. This year the lower paddocks along the creeks had a number of plants and I have also noticed the occasional plant further up the scrub country.

There is an elderly farmer at the beginning of our road 6 k"s away whose property was almost totally covered with fire weed and thistles this year. He doesn't use chemical sprays and I think his age has prevented him from managing these weeds over the past few years.

I started using roundup because there was nothing alive under the lantana but as we have the areas we want to use semi under control since 2014 I have been

**Inquiry into the impacts of invasive plants (weeds)
and their control in Queensland**

Submission No. 002

using Scrubber as this does not kill the grass. It costs around \$400 a 20 litre drum and that will give me one spray along the sides of most of our track system. I should be re-spraying three to four times a year to keep control of the secondary weeds but just do not have the funds to purchase the spray.

We have a large section we call lantana valley. The lantana has killed all the tall trees but the banks are too steep to clear even by hand. We will need to look at some kind of Bio beetle but again do not have the finances to purchase this type of weed control.

I have met a lot of local property owners over the past four years and the majority want to look after their land and keep the weed infestations under control. Most of them seem to have two main reasons for not keeping up with weed control on their farms. It seems age or physical ability to do the required work, financial outlays to purchase chemical control methods or employ people to do the work on their farms are major issues.

If Government bodies are serious about getting these growing infestations of weeds under some sort of control to protect our native bushland private property owners need to have some kind of financial or physical assistance in carrying out this work especially if their properties are over 50 acres.

I've look at trying to get access to grants to help with weed control but I do not back onto a national park, we are not a not for profit operation, we are not indigenes we just do not fit into the boxes required to be eligible for assistance like a lot of small landowners in this region.

I would be happy to talk with a committee member

Kind regards

Wendy and Brian Harris

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]