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

I lodge this submission because of the obvious need to implement the regulations already in place in Queensland but not observed by, in particular, government departments. Whilst this is an inquiry regarding the impacts of invasive plants it should be noted that the impact is enormous presently because there is no will on the part of Government, at all levels, to honour the rules already in place on their own controlled lands.

The area in which I live is surrounded by huge areas of National Parks, State Forests, Dams, road verges etc which are breeding grounds for all sorts of pests animals and weeds. There is no realistic effort by all levels of Government to eradicate these areas of any pests.

Whilst Lantana and Green cestrum may not seem a big problem to those people not living in the country these two plants will kill livestock, horses and cattle – a very cruel death – yet not considered to be pest plants presently. Giant Rat's Tail is a massive problem in this area. It may not be toxic if cattle eat it but in a drought situation when there is nothing else to eat cattle will graze on it. It is a tough grass and from the constant pulling on teeth causes the teeth to loosen and ultimately fall out. There is no commitment by the State Government to eradicate this pest weed, even on their own land which is leased to graziers.

I ride over the Wyaralong Dam land and it appears to me to be absolutely no effort to keep this large holding clear of any sort of weed or pest animal. This is a major concern for neighbouring landholders who need to keep their properties free of such pests.

It is not fair to expect graziers/farmers to keep their land "clean" and spend extraordinary amounts of money spraying, not only their own land, but the road verges and boundaries of government land adjoining their properties. Infestations of such weeds as Green Cestrum, Groundsel, Lantana (including the deadly creeping lantana), Nogoora Burr, Cats Claw, Asparagus fern, Chinese Celtis are rampant and very little (almost nothing) is done by Governments to eradicate these pest plants from their own lands.

Fireweed is impossible to control and, this season, farmers in the south east corner of the State have spent many thousands of dollars in an endeavor to control it but to no avail. Having sprayed great tracts of land they have been heart-broken to see fireweed to continue to thrive where they have sprayed.

I could extend this letter to talk about the control of, or lack of, wild pigs and dogs. With regards to wild dogs, some farmers have made a concerted effort to keep these under control. However, it is nearly impossible if the Government again does not control them in their National Parks and other controlled land. For those on the committee of this enquiry, to see a cow trying to calf with wild dogs at her backside, would be an education in itself.

Carp is a major problem in our rivers, creeks and dams. Some years ago the annual Carpbusters organisation ran a massive weekend in the Beaudesert Shire which may have assisted to keep numbers of carp depleted slightly but since that time there has been very little if any attempt to eradicate this pest. Carp cause dangerous erosion into the under-banks of waterways, creeks and dams and destabilizes banks.

Therefore, my comment is – fix what we have to deal with now. It seems to me that we have enough problems without adding to the list, particularly if no concerted effort is going to be made to implement the rules presently in place.

Yours faithfully



S Venz