

Mr Leon & Mrs Gaye Blank


11 January 2017

Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000
aec@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Members,

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

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to this inquiry – my wife and I are among a number of landholders involved in a Weedy Sporobolus Disease research project and I hope my insights can be of assistance to the Committee.

Our property is located on the Queensland/New South Wales border and research trials conducted by David Officer (Research Agronomist, NSW DPI) commenced in 2012 with financial support from Beaudesert Landcare Group. The trials compared the effects of managements practice, burning and cutting (mulching or slashing) on the rate of spread and efficacy of the biological control *Nigrospora oryzae* (Crown rot). To date the use of Crown rot against Paramatta grass has proved effective, unfortunately it has not been effective on Giant Rats Tail grass. I hope that the State Government will give consideration to providing more funding for research and implementation of *Nigrospora oryzae*. I would also like to get more support from Scenic Rim Regional Council on weed and dingo control.

We invite the Committee to come and meet on site with David Officer and us to observe the work which is being carried out on the property.

Regards


Leon & Gaye Blank


