QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 788

asked on Wednesday, 25 May 2005

MR MULHERIN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES (MR ROBERTSON)—

QUESTION:

What is the Department of Natural Resources and Mines doing to address the problem of hymenachne in wetlands and waterways in northern Queensland?

ANSWER:

Hymenachne is one of 20 Weeds of National Significance in Australia. In Queensland, it is classified as a Class 2 pest under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*. Only Class 1 pests are eligible for State government funding to assist eradication.

It is the responsibility of landholders to manage and control weeds on their property. If a property has a water frontage, then the boundary is the middle of the waterway and it is therefore the landholder's responsibility to maintain this area.

The enforcement of Class 2 pests under State legislation is the responsibility of local government in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding with the Local Government Association of Queensland Incorporated. It is the local government's responsibility to issue notices to landholders for control of Hymenachne.

If Hymenachne is on land managed by a State government agency, it is the agency's responsibility to undertake control.

My Department would be pleased to assist local governments in the development of a co-ordinated action plan for the management of Hymenachne that is consistent with their Local Government Area Pest Management Plan and the National Hymenachne Strategic Plan.

My Department is also committed to continuing its support of local government in its management of pests including assisting with reduction of Hymenachne infestations to a locally manageable level and therefore significantly reduce the overall impact of Hymenachne on the community and environment.

My Department will continue to assist local governments and community groups in preparing funding applications in order to expedite control activities, and will also continue to coordinate the development of extension and awareness material on Hymenachne.

Research by my Department is also on going. Various research projects are aimed at understanding Hymenachne's ecology, with particular emphasis on identifying the longevity of seed banks and the rate at which young plants reach reproductive maturity. Such information helps land managers understand the frequency and length of time they may need to undertake control activities.

Past research has identified effective herbicides to control Hymenachne. This is now being complemented by further research to ensure that a recommended herbicide can be effectively used near or in water without the risk of off target damage.