

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**  
**No. 1659**  
**Asked on Tuesday, 11 November 2008**

**MR FOLEY** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (MR MULHERIN)-

**QUESTION:**

With reference to the *Aconophora Compressa* bug, which was introduced by the government in 1995—

- (1) Why is there no financial assistance available to constituents who are forced to remove fiddlewood trees from their private residential properties, after they have been attacked by the *Aconophora Compressa* bug?
- (2) Why should private residents bear the cost when it was the government who introduced the bug which has destroyed their trees?

**ANSWER:**

- (1) Property owners have never been forced to remove fiddlewood trees which may have been affected by *Aconophora compressa*.

From all field investigations and laboratory trials there has been no evidence that *Aconophora compressa* has killed trees. Investigations have also shown that previously affected plants, including fiddlewood trees, produce normal regrowth.

- (2) The removal, lopping or treatment of any trees and garden shrubs which may have been affected by *Aconophora compressa* has been at the discretion of residents.

The lantana weed problem costs Queensland over \$100m annually and has major environmental impacts.

*Aconophora compressa* is presently doing considerable damage to lantana plants around Brisbane and elsewhere in south-eastern Queensland. The benefits to the community therefore far outweigh any negative effects of this important biological control agent.