

QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 1407
Asked on 7 October 2009

MRS MILLER asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Rural and Regional Queensland (MR MULHERIN)–

QUESTION:

What techniques and partnerships has Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries developed to combat invasive weeds across the state?

ANSWER:

Partnerships are critical for establishing support and action to combat weeds across Queensland.

At a national level Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries through Biosecurity Queensland continues to participate in, and in many cases lead, the implementation of initiatives of national importance. This includes the recognition of twenty Weeds of National Significance as part of the National Weeds Strategy.

Research is critical to successful weed management. Biosecurity Queensland's science efforts continue to improve through innovative partnerships with a variety of organisations that include CSIRO and the University of Queensland. Biosecurity Queensland is also leading the development of a Queensland Biosecurity Science Action Plan and will review its weed and pest animal research strategic directions in partnership with a variety of key partners.

Biosecurity Queensland has also worked with the Local Government Association of Queensland and the Regional Groups Collective in the development of a draft Memorandum of Understanding that outlines relevant roles and responsibilities. The Memorandum of Understanding addresses the full range of weed and pest animal management activities undertaken by Biosecurity Queensland, local government and natural resource management groups. The document has been deliberately formulated to ensure that each party contributes complementary services to help provide consistency and improved services to the community.

Biosecurity Queensland has also continued to support local governments in the development, implementation and review of local government area pest management plans that help to set the local strategic weed management directions that are consistent with National and State priorities.

Recognising the importance of early detection of new and emerging weeds to reduce economic, environmental and social impacts, Biosecurity Queensland in partnership with the Department of Environment and Resource Management is maintaining statewide coordination support for a Weed Spotter network of trained volunteers. Weed Spotters Queensland now has over 120 trained volunteers across the State.

Building land owner capacity to tackle high priority weeds and pest animals is critical. In support of this approach, the government has implemented the Pest Offensive

Funding Program in partnership with a variety of government and non government agencies as part of the Blueprint for the Bush initiative.

Biosecurity Queensland has also continued to work with the Regional Groups Collective and other parties in the development of projects seeking funding through the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country funding initiative that will complement State Government investment in the future.

Education and awareness is an essential tool in the mix of policy and market incentives to encourage voluntary behaviour change. Biosecurity Queensland has a range of educational programs and resources for primary and secondary schools and works in partnership with other agencies and non-government organisations such as regional natural resource management groups to educate the up-coming generation.

A new weed management education resource has been recently developed in partnership with South East Queensland Catchments for school trials in early 2010. As part of Education Queensland's Sustainable Schools Initiative, Biosecurity Queensland is also working to develop a weeds management planning tool for schools, for inclusion in school environmental management plans.

Biosecurity Queensland also coordinates the Weedbusters campaign and assists local government, Landcare and other community groups to organise events locally. These programs and events help raise awareness in the wider community about weeds and their management.

Biosecurity Queensland also supports the State Land Pest Management Committee to help improve the effective use of pest management resources at both the state and local levels. This Committee focuses on the implementation of State Agency Pest Management Plans, which are often delivered in partnership with other agencies and community groups.