

Question on Notice

No. 400

Asked on 28 March 2019

MR L MILLAR ASKED MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES (HON M FURNER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to flooding in north-west Queensland providing ideal conditions for the spread of prickly acacia weed infestations into pristine areas of the Lake Eyre Basin—

Will the Minister advise what actions are being taken by Biosecurity Queensland to proactively manage any spread?

ANSWER:

Since 2015, the Palaszczuk Government has supported the control of prickly acacia through the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative. Over \$2.7 million has been provided for prickly acacia management projects delivered locally by natural resource management groups and local government. Most recently, \$533,000 was allocated from Round 3 of the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative to Southern Gulf Natural Resource Management (NRM) for the Flinders River Catchment prickly acacia eradication program.

A \$1.7 million research project will continue until 2020 to identify, import and test potential biological control agents for prickly acacia. This research focusses on four potential agents that have been identified from India and Ethiopia and is showing great promise in identifying insects which may be able to assist in controlling prickly acacia.

The recent announcement of the Prickly Acacia Weed Management Program will continue on-ground action across Queensland over the next five years.

An additional \$3 million over two years will be available under Category D of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements to local governments and natural resource management groups. Under this program, funding will be available to help eradicate or manage weeds and pests that have developed as a direct result of the floods and subsequent actions to save livestock. This program will cover a range of initiatives, including:

- activities to control and minimise post flood proliferation of weeds and feral pests from affected land and pasture
- monitoring programs to assess the spread of flood related weed infestations
- information programs that provide advice to producers about how to eradicate proliferating weeds.