



Media Release

NT pastoralists lead the charge on Mimosa Pigra

Tuesday, September 1, 2009

Top End pastoralists on the front line in the battle against one of Australia's most wanted weeds, *Mimosa Pigra*, will share their war stories at a field day at Elizabeth Downs Station on Thursday, September 3.

Mimosa has been declared a weed of national significance and is regarded as one of the worst in Australia because of its invasiveness, potential for spread and economic, environmental and cultural impacts.

It has the potential to take vast tracts of land out of production, cut off access to our waterways and engulf popular tourist destinations if not controlled.

Indigenous communities are also affected with entry to cultural areas and food gathering sites restricted.

"Mimosa is everyone's problem," Executive Director the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association, Luke Bowen, said.

"Unchecked, it would quickly blanket the entire wetlands of northern Australia, shutting down primary production, tourism and recreational fishing as it spreads.

"Our members recognise that everyone needs to work together to combat this problem and as a body are now moving towards a more co-ordinated, strategic approach."

Mr Bowen says the field day is the culmination of the first stage in a plan to develop a whole-of-floodplain approach to eradicating mimosa.

"At this point we are concerned about information transfer – getting the industry talking about their own experiences in combating the weed, what has worked for them, what hasn't," he said.

"What we would like to see after this is a financial commitment from both the NT and Federal Government to take this work to the next level.

"While Caring for Country has agreed to fund a small control area in the Daly Basin, landowners have been very disappointed that a proposal for a larger area has not yet gained federal program support to control the menace."

The field day runs from 10am to 2pm.

Presentations will include a national overview by National Mimosa Coordinator Kay Bailey; managing mimosa from a cattleman's perspective (Tony Searle, Melaleuca Station); the good and the bad of fire management of mimosa (Sue Whatley of Bushfires NT); feral animal impacts on mimosa (Sally Heaton, DNRETA); and using un-manned aerial vehicles as a property management tool (Sky View Solutions.)

More information on *Mimosa Pigra* can be found at:

<http://www.weeds.gov.au/publications/guidelines/wons/pubs/m-pigra.pdf>

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