



Landcare recognises work to save world heritage-listed Lake Eyre from invasive weed

Media Release

September 23, 2009

A group of Barkly pastoralists who banded together in a co-ordinated, catchment-wide approach to eradicate a weed that threatened world heritage-listed Lake Eyre have been honoured for their work in the NT Landcare Awards.

The Barkly Landcare and Conservation Association won the group award for their project and will go on to represent the Northern Territory at the National Landcare Awards in Sydney next year.

The association was recognised for its strategic management of *Parkinsonia Aculeata*, a declared 'Weed of National Significance' known for forming dense thickets and choking out waterways.

If left unmanaged, it has the potential to take over large areas of the Georgina catchment, reducing the quality of pasture and production values, while threatening key native vegetation communities and Lake Eyre.

Working with project partners in 2008, the association and pastoralists surveyed and treated the 2500km of watercourse in the Georgina catchment in a single season.

As a result the parkinsonia population has changed significantly with a reduction in its productivity estimated to be in the tens of millions of seeds this 2009 season alone.

"This is a great example of how working together in a strategic, co-ordinated approach is the most effective way to stop these invasive weeds in their tracks," Executive Director of the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association Luke Bowen said.

"I congratulate the Barkly group for their effort and look forward to following the progress of their project as their long-term management strategy unfolds."

The Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association is planning a similar co-ordinated strategy to fight *Mimosa Pigra* – also a Weed of National Significance and known for choking out waterways and pasture – after an in-principle agreement was reached at a field day on Elizabeth Downs Station in the Douglas Daly recently.

The mimosa project will involve pastoralists, land councils, government and environment groups.

Enquiries:

Luke Bowen, Executive Director of the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association. (08) 8981 5976, 0427 815 990.
Dale Webster, Michels Warren Munday – (08) 8981 6445; 0448 656 668.