



Southern Gulf
NRM

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

North West innovators will shine at the upcoming Weed Control Innovation Forum and Field Day in Richmond on Wednesday April 27.

The event is an initiative of Southern Gulf NRM funded through the Regional Landcare Facilitator program and supported by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries War on Western Weeds project.

Southern Gulf NRM Chief Executive Officer Andrew Maclean said in recent years there has been somewhat of a revolution in new ways to manage weeds and the control tools available to landowners.

'North west Queensland is impacted by several serious weeds including prickly acacia which is over-running our Mitchell grasslands, to rubber vine choking out our river systems and calotrope spreading across the Gulf plains,' Mr Maclean said.

Weed control in the region has long been a priority for Southern Gulf NRM and this field day will bring together, for the first time, innovations that have been developed almost wholly by North West innovators for specific Southern Gulf weed problems.

'Grazier and industry innovators have developed devices for controlling weeds more effectively and efficiently,' Mr Maclean said.

'Local innovators have looked at local weed problems and developed local solutions – the result is a new toolbox of options for land managers and graziers to draw from,'

The event also provides attendees with a unique opportunity to see control demonstrations firsthand and speak with inventors about the benefits of adopting weed management processes, said Mr Maclean.

Examples on display will range from the aerial ignition of rubber vine for improved fire management by Fox Helicopters to the 'weed sniper' developed by Cloncurry Mustering Company for prickly acacia control.

In addition, the event will feature over a dozen speakers including weed researchers, grazing industry innovators and pasture scientists.

Landowners are encouraged to attend and benefit from a wealth of knowledge on display, participants of the event will be provided the latest research on weeds as well as learn how to identify emerging threats like bellyache bush and parthenium.

Those interested in attending the field day should contact Southern Gulf NRM office on 47431888 by April 20.

ENDS

**North West Queensland Weed Control Innovation Forum and Field Day
9:00am – 4:30pm Wednesday 27th April 2016**

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