

WTL - BC 4: Taking Control of Weeds in the Upper Barron Catchment

In collaboration with partners, implement effective management of emerging weeds, particularly Fireweed and Crofton Weed, to reduce their impact on grazing and equestrian industries.

This strategy delivers on these Regional Themes	Biodiversity	Biosecurity	Coastal Systems	Sustainable Industries	Water
	✓	✓		✓	✓
This strategy delivers on these Strategic Outcomes	Supportive, policies, plans and regulations	Collaborative, adaptive planning and action	Traditional Owner Benefits	Sustained and diverse resourcing	Community stewardship, values and action
	✓		✓		
Outcome	Managing and controlling these significant emerging weeds will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Restrict their spread to new areas. ▪ Reduce the potential impact on grazing and equestrian enterprises. ▪ Work towards the goal of eradication of these invasive species. ▪ Reduce the amount of pesticides used in area. 				
Justification	There are locations in the upper reaches of the Barron River which are impacted by some major weed infestations. The two main weeds of concern, Fireweed and Crofton Weed, can both kill cattle and horses. Crofton Weed results in serious respiratory damage, followed by death, while Fireweed affects the liver of stock, with animals slowly losing condition before dying. The toxins may also taint the meat and milk, making them unsellable. The current area of infestation starts in State Forest and comes into grazing pastures, and control work is occurring in the locations we are aware of. This project would focus on surveying larger adjacent areas to determine infestation size, then control strategies to reduce the impact area, with the goal of eradication.				
Key steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Educate and engage community and landholders to fully understand impacts of these weeds. 2) Survey areas to accurately record where it is in the landscape. 3) Develop management plans. 4) Develop and coordinate operation plans for treatment of weeds, in collaboration with Biosecurity Queensland, Tablelands Regional Council and QPWS. 				
Feasibility considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Fireweed has a management plan, with active stakeholders. ✓ Infestations are in small areas, where management or control is achievable. ✓ Most areas of current infestations are accessible. ✗ Engaging landholders to be responsible for effective treatment of weeds has been difficult in the past. ✗ Expensive chemicals required to eradicate the weed. ✗ Comprehensive treatment required frequently (every 2 weeks) to maintain control of the areas. ✗ Crofton Weed is in the riparian area of the Barron, therefore limited approved chemicals, difficult terrain and seeds may have already moved downstream. ✗ Funding is often intermittent, when it needs to be long term [15 years]. 				