



**Northern Territory Government**

Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **The Fight Against Weeds Continues**

The NT Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts recently declared an additional eight species of weeds under the NT Weeds Management Act.

These species include Bitou bush, Blackberry, Bridal Creeper, Chilean Needle grass, Gorse, Hymenachne, Serrated Tussock and Willow.

In addition to this, the existing declaration of lantana in the NT has been expanded to include ornamental varieties of lantana.

Nationally, 20 weed species are recognised as Weeds of National Significance (WONS) as they represent current and/or potentially serious threats to the national environment and economy.

The WONS program currently supports coordinated on-ground control of a number of weed species in the NT although an additional objective of the program is the prevention of the interstate trade of these weed species.

Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts Senior Director of Natural Resource Management Brent Williams said the declarations were based on the Northern Territory's obligation as a signatory of the National Weeds Strategy.

Mr Williams said this was to ensure that all 20 WONS species were declared to prohibit the sale and trade of WONS species.

"The key issue with weeds management is that prevention is far better than a cure after a weed has invaded a particular area," Mr Williams said.

"The particular weeds that have recently been declared in the Northern Territory could have detrimental impacts on the environment if we don't act now so that is why their sale, trade and distribution must be stopped."

Declaration of a weed under NT weed management legislation means that any importation of the plant into the NT, or sale of the plant within the NT, is prohibited.

Currently 12 of the 20 species listed as WONS, including mimosa, parkinsonia, cabomba and prickly acacia, are found in the Northern Territory.

DNRETA is involved in coordinating the management of these species in conjunction with various groups including the pastoral industry, Landcare groups and Aboriginal landholders.

**Media Note \_ For more information Contact Brent Williams on 8999 4568.**

Ends

Issued: 1.30pm Tuesday, 22 November 2005