



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Plan Your Attack This Weed Season

Katherine rural block owners are being urged to plan their attack on weeds this Wet Season.

Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts District Weeds Officer Gary Hillen said planned weed control was the best way to combat this environmental threat.

“Weeds impact on the whole community and I urge Katherine rural block owners to plan your attack now by ensuring you know what weeds you have, your spray equipment is in working order and purchasing your chemical through agribusiness outlets,” Mr Hillen said.

“One tip is to get in early before the heavy rains begin to fall and start at the top of your property and work your way down.

“It is important to start early as young growing plants use less chemical and this will keep the cost down. Depending on the area, you may need to revegetate with grass as this will cover bare ground and reduce the opportunity for weeds to grow.”

Mr Hillen said groups along Florina Road and Napier Road have already commenced early weed control and can already see the benefits.

“There are many noxious weeds that are present in the Katherine district with the main weeds of concern being devils claw, chinee apple, rubber bush, sida, hyptis, bellyache bush, barleria, sicklepod and ornamental rubber vine,” Mr Hillen said.

Weed management officers will be monitoring weed control in the Katherine district during the wet season to ensure people meet their obligations under the Northern Territory *Weed Management Act 2001*.

“Most landowners do the right thing but get upset about their neighbours who don’t control their weeds,” Mr Hillen said.

“We usually receive a number of enquiries over the wet season by people who ‘dob’ in their neighbours but what often happens is the neighbours just need some help to get started with weed identification, control techniques or the best way to go about it.

“At other times it may be due to an absentee landholder so we then follow up by contacting them to remind them about their obligations.”

The Katherine Weed Management Officers have a number of control, planning and weed identification publications that are available at no cost.

People with queries regarding control methods are asked to contact Gary Hillen on 89738123 or to call into the Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts office in the Randazzo Arcade.

**Media Note \_ For more information contact Gary Hillen on 8973 8123**

Issued: 4pm Tuesday, 6 December 2005