



MEDIA RELEASE

Prickly Acacia Found In The Top End

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts is urging Territorians to be on the lookout for prickly acacia after new incursions have been recently found in the Gulf region and along the Stuart Highway.

Katherine District Weeds Officer Gary Hillen said prickly acacia is a Weed of National Significance and its spread could threaten native ecosystems and pastoral production.

Mr Hillen said correctly identifying prickly acacia is critical to its control.

“Early detection and control is required to prevent new infestations from establishing,” Mr Hillen said.

The recent discovery of a new Prickly acacia infestation in the Gulf region was detected by Mr Hillen during a property inspection.

“Property inspections and surveying for weeds is a core part of Weed Management Branch business, and by doing so any new incursions of priority weeds are identified and flagged for further monitoring” Mr Hillen said.

“The sighting along the Stuart Highway, just north of Daly Waters, was reported to us by a pastoralist and we would encourage others to do the same thing by calling 8973 8123.”

Prickly acacia (*Acacia nilotica*) is a small to medium tree generally ranging from five to seven metres in height that can form dense, impenetrable thickets.

“We are alerting the public that the weed has been found and asking people to be vigilant and notify us if they see it,” Mr Hillen said.

“Prickly acacia threatens native grasslands and other ecosystems across Australia including the Barkly Tableland in the Northern Territory.

“Most infestations are small scale but the Katherine and Barkly regions are highly susceptible to invasion.”

He said that while the Katherine Weed Management Branch continued to search and inspect potential prickly acacia infestations, it also needs the community to remain watchful of this weed along roadsides.

Possible sightings of the weed should be reported to the Katherine Weed Management Branch so they can be treated.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Katherine District Weeds Officer Gary Hillen on 89738 123 or Katherine Regional Weeds Officer Claire Brown on 8973 8107.

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