

Media Release:

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National Mimosa Management Committee's Annual Meeting

The National Mimosa Management Committee will be holding its annual meeting at Berrimah Research Farm from Tuesday 23 October to Thursday 25 October 2007.

Department of Natural Resources, Environment and The Arts (NRETA) National Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) Coordinator for *Mimosa pigra*, Sandy Leighton, said the meeting will provide valuable, ongoing and strategic guidance on the implementation of the *National Mimosa Strategic Plan 2000* throughout Australia.

"The *National Mimosa Strategic Plan 2000* is about providing strategic national direction and priorities on the actions needed to eradicate isolated infestations and reduce the spread from and contain core infestations in Australia," Ms Leighton said.

"It also provides information on the potential future distribution of *Mimosa*, which means surveillance is a high priority, specifically in coastal areas from the NT border through to Broome in Western Australia, all coastal areas of Queensland and all northern coastal areas of NSW."

Ms Leighton said over the course of the three day meeting there will be presentations from various interstate and local agencies, including NRETA Weed Management Branch who will give presentations on the Aboriginal Ranger Program and Pastoralist Program.

"The Aboriginal Ranger Program, a three year program funded by the Australian Government *Defeating the Weed Menace* initiative, involves NRETA working in partnership with the Northern Land Council, Aboriginal communities and 12 Aboriginal Ranger groups in the Northern Territory to build their capacity to recognise and control *Mimosa* on their land," Ms Leighton said.

"The Pastoralist Program, also a three year program is funded by the National Landcare Program and involves NRETA working in partnership with the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association and 17 pastoralists in the Top End to effectively control *Mimosa* on their pastoral leases."

The committee will also be going on a field trip to Twin Hill Station on the Finnis River to meet with Traditional Owners and learn about the achievements of their *Mimosa* program.

For further information go to www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/mimosa or contact Sandy Leighton on 0427 186 153.

Ends

Media Note – For more information contact Sandy Leighton on 0427 186 153

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