

**REVIEW OF PROGRESS TOWARDS
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
PARTHENIUM WEED STRATEGIC PLAN**

(2006 – 2007)



Prepared by:

*Peter Austin
National Coordinator
Parthenium weed and Rubber vine*

CONTENTS

Executive Summary	2
Introduction	3
Goals and achievements in 2006-07	4
National Management Actions – Map	4
1. Prevent the Spread	5
Performance Indicators and Work in Progress	6
2. Awareness and Commitment	7
Performance Indicators and Work in Progress	8
3. Reduce the Impact	9
Performance Indicators and Work in Progress	10
4. Coordinate Management	11
Performance Indicators	12
Concluding Comments	12
Strategic Parthenium Weed Investment	13
Summary - Defeating the Weeds Menace Project Contributors	13
2006/06 Financial Report (Table)	14
References	15
Appendices	16
Appendix 1 – Parthenium Weed Key Achievements 2006/07	16-17
Appendix 2 – National Parthenium Weed Management Group Structure	18
Appendix 3 – Parthenium Weed Expenditure Analysis	19
Stakeholder Contributions supporting parthenium weed management in 2006/07	19
Parthenium Weed National Coordinator Expenditure 2006/07	19
Appendix 4 - Acronyms list	20

PARTHENIUM WEED STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS 2006 – 2007

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The key focus of the National Parthenium Weed Management Group (PWMG) is to work with Natural Resource Management Stakeholders to affect parthenium weed planning and management by targeting nationally strategic parthenium weed areas. Nationally coordinated action is successfully containing parthenium in Queensland and preventing the spread to Northern Territory and in New South Wales where outbreaks continue to be detected and eradicated. New South Wales currently does not have any known infestations.

A small 'outlier' parthenium weed infestation occurring on Christmas has been contained and control work is being jointly undertaken by Parks Australia and the Shire of Christmas Island in consultation with Department of Transport and Regional Services. The control program aims for long term eradication through integrated control activities incorporating soil removal, herbicide treatments, regular monitoring and implementing hygiene practices to prevent risk of further spread.

2006/07 has seen the progression of a number of programs to support the containment and prevention of spread of parthenium weed nationally. Significant input from regional natural resource management organisations and local governments in Queensland have supported on-ground projects with additional leveraging of project funds totalling \$380,000.

Nine new washdown facilities will be constructed at strategically selected locations and eleven washdown / cleandown facilities will be upgraded across Queensland at a cost of \$2 Million that will have a national benefit by assisting in reduction of the parthenium weed seed spread by vehicles and machinery.

Several portable 'rust' nurseries have been established in central Queensland to more effectively coordinate breeding and support the distribution and establishment of the parthenium summer rust within core infestation areas.

A pilot project is being conducted in the Queensland Murray Darling Basin area involving seven local governments that will provide stakeholders with a 'rapid response' capability for the detection, reporting and control of new and highly strategic parthenium weed outbreaks in the area.

The National Parthenium Weed Education and Awareness Project has commenced involving a collaborative partnership with State and Territory agencies and three regional NRM organisations. Collaboration has led to production of awareness material and promotional products including the development of a television 'parthenium weed infomercial' highlighting identification, control and reporting mechanisms. The advert will appear during 'prime time viewing' across television networks' in NSW, NT and parts of Qld and Vic from early 2008.

The National Parthenium Weed Management Group would like to acknowledge the funding support provided by the Australian Government for this program. This has been the catalyst for increased support (including leveraging of additional resources) from the New South Wales and Queensland Governments, Queensland Regional NRM Organisations and Local Governments aimed at providing a coordinated, cooperative approach towards the management of parthenium weed at National, State and Regional levels.

PARTHENIUM WEED STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS 2006 - 2007

INTRODUCTION

The intention of this report is to outline the progress made during the 2006/07 period towards the Implementation of the WoNS Parthenium Weed Strategic Plan.

Parthenium Weed (*Parthenium hysterophorus*) is an annual herb that aggressively colonises disturbed areas and has a serious impact on the grazing and cropping industries with substantial costs to the community through reduced production and increased management costs. Large infestations of parthenium weed occur over central Queensland with serious outbreaks known in the south east and southern parts of the State. Parthenium weed has huge social implications as the plant can produce serious allergic reactions in humans.

National coordination with the aid of the Australian and State Government funding has enabled wide community engagement particularly across Natural Resource Management (NRM) regions, local governments and community groups such as Landcare. National coordinated action is preventing the spread to Northern Territory and in New South Wales where outbreaks continue to be detected and eradicated.

New South Wales currently does not have any known infestations.

Landholders are better equipped to affect control and management of isolated and core infestation areas through increased knowledge of best practice techniques and practical assistance provided by a number of biological control agents. Nine insect species and two rusts have been introduced and many of these agents have spread to targeted parthenium weed areas. However, their effectiveness varies and numbers are affected by the prolonged dry periods and drought currently being experienced in many areas of Australia.

The National Parthenium Weed Strategy is comprised of FOUR goals, the achievements against these goals are detailed in the report and the involvement of key stakeholders is also highlighted.

The strategies goals are:

1. Prevent the spread;
2. Awareness and Commitment;
3. Reduce the impact; &
4. Co-ordinate management

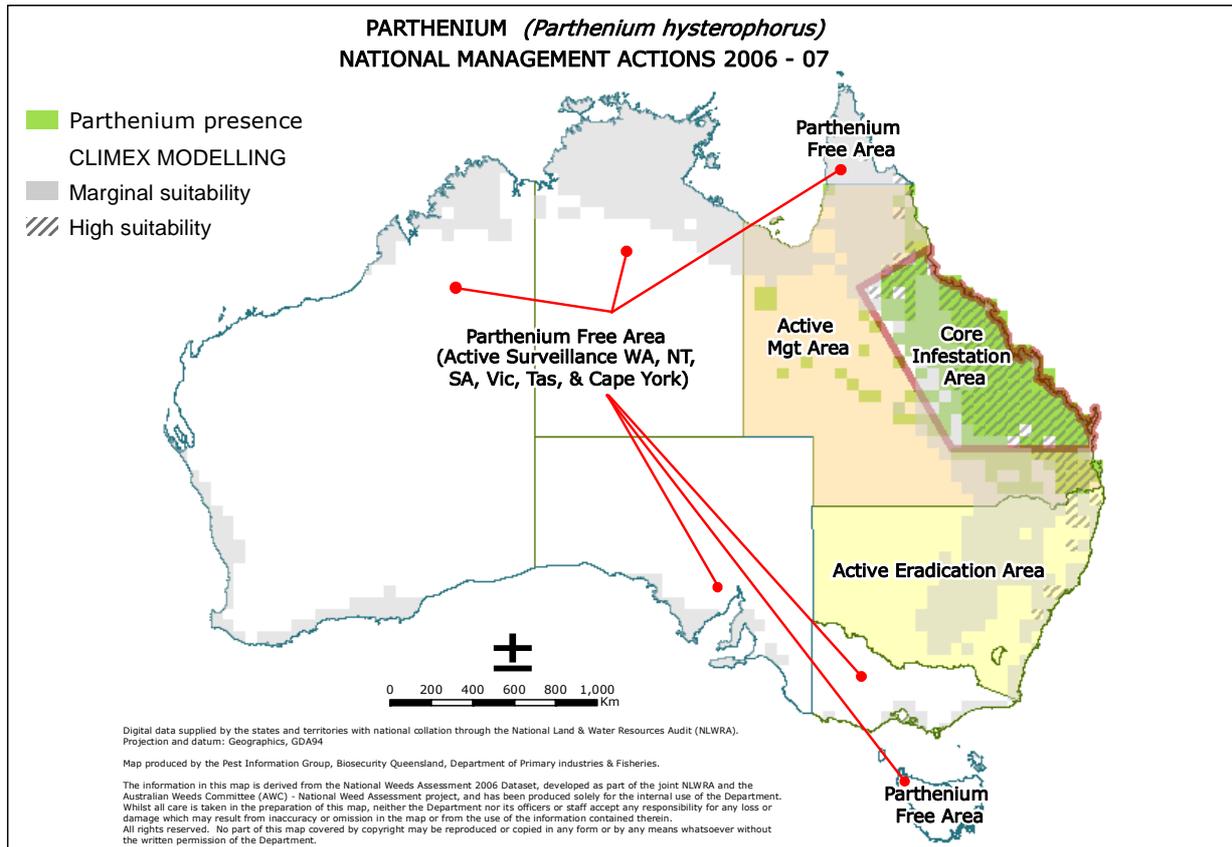
The WoNS Parthenium Weed Strategy has been under active implementation since 2001 and has resulted in the following major achievements:

GOALS and ACHIEVEMENTS

GOAL 1 PREVENT THE SPREAD

Desired Outcome: Parthenium weed is prevented from spreading to and impacting on new areas.

There are a number of active management actions being undertaken to prevent the spread of this weed to the majority of Australia and these are summarised in Map 1.



Description of Map Zones/Areas

- Parthenium weed FREE Area – this is comprised of areas that are ‘clean’ or not currently infested with parthenium weed;
- Active Eradication Area – this comprises the whole of New South Wales. Emphasis is on early detection and control of outbreaks as they occur. These areas are at constant risk of invasion due to movement of stock, machinery, fodder and vehicles coming from Queensland;
- Active Management Area – this is comprised of areas where infestations do occur and landholders are actively managing infestations where considered feasible and using best management practices to contain and control infestations to prevent further spread;
- Core Infestation Area – this comprises areas where large ‘self regenerating’ infestations occur from Central Queensland (CQ) area. Infestation extends north from CQ into the Charters Towers region and east to the coast and south from CQ into the Roma region and east into the Burnett. Emphasis is on integrated management incorporating strategic fencing, stock and pasture management and hygiene practices to prevent further spread.

Parthenium weed is widespread in identified areas of Queensland and there remains a very high risk of further spread to clean areas at both the intra and interstate level through the movement of vehicles, machinery, livestock and contaminated stock feed. Parthenium weed can also spread unintentionally through flooding and native animal dispersal with new infestations having the ability to invade areas very quickly. Once established the economic and management costs are very high. (WoNS Parthenium weed Strategic Plan, 2000)

Parthenium weed has been banned from sale and trade in all jurisdictions in Australia.

At present, the only known parthenium weed infestation outside of Queensland is a small 'outlier' infestation occurring on Christmas Island which is part of the Indian Ocean Territories. The current infestation of approximately 0.5 - 1 hectares is contained and control work is jointly undertaken by Parks Australia and the Shire of Christmas Island in consultation with Department of Transport and Regional Services. The control program aims for long term eradication through integrated control activities incorporating soil removal, herbicide treatments, regular monitoring and implementing hygiene practices to prevent risk of further spread. Initial survey of the Island has identified isolated plants at 6 other sites. All known parthenium weed at these sites has been successfully controlled, sites continue to be monitored. The National Parthenium Weed Management Group (PWMG) is working with key stakeholders on the island to increase parthenium weed awareness through distribution of identification material, highlighting the need for early reporting and the need to be aware of potential health hazards associated with the plant.

National coordinated action continues to prevent the further spread of parthenium weed to Northern Territory and into New South Wales where there is a constant risk of invasion. At present New South Wales does not have any known infestations confirming the need to continue with grain harvester inspections at various Qld/NSW border locations. The inspections are carried out by NSW DPI to compliment their \$200,000 commitment to maintaining an eradication objective for parthenium weed for the State.

2006/07 has seen the progression of a number of programs to support the containment and prevention of spread of parthenium weed nationally. Significant input from regional natural resource management organisations and local governments in Queensland have supported on-ground projects with additional leveraging of project funds totalling \$380,000. There is an estimated 10% increase in the awareness and usage of weed hygiene declarations across Queensland. This increase confirms there is greater community awareness of hygiene practices to assist in reducing the potential risk of parthenium weed seed contamination via stock or fodder movement.

The Queensland State Government has allocated additional funding for the prevention of spread of parthenium weed through its Reclaim the Bush – a Pest Offensive program under Blueprint for the Bush.

Nine new washdown facilities will be constructed at strategically selected locations and eleven washdown / cleandown facilities will be upgraded across Queensland at a cost of \$2 Million that will have a national benefit by assisting in reduction of the parthenium weed seed spread by vehicles and machinery.

The National Parthenium Weed Management Group (PWMG) continues to work with State agencies and several Qld NRM regional organisations to ensure strategic priority sites are maintained with relevance to supporting eradication in NT, NSW and Victoria.

Work continues within Maranoa/Balonne catchment (Queensland Murray Darling Committee region), Gatton & Kilcoy districts (South East Queensland Catchments) and the Monto district (Burnett Mary region), evidence of the continued support and significant contributions made by these organisations.

Performance Indicator – Prevent Spread

- 75% of Australia remains free of parthenium weed with all known outlier infestations under eradication;
- Monitoring for new outbreaks within the 'parthenium free area' is maintained including the provision of plant identification material and continued support of reporting networks through key government agencies;
- No new infestations of parthenium weed in New South Wales and Victoria within the active eradication areas;
- Containment of parthenium weed within Queensland through continued support and resourcing by Key NRM Stakeholders;
- Increased use of weed hygiene declarations in Queensland;
- Construction/upgrade of 20 washdown/cleandown facilities at strategic locations throughout Queensland to reduce the risk of further spread of parthenium; and
- Increased awareness of the problem and associated responsibilities for the management of parthenium weed;

Work in Progress

The changing face of Natural Resource Management including the development and implementation of Regional NRM organisations has seen an increase in the number of stakeholders involved in the planning and delivery of pest management programs across Queensland. This has caused some confusion within the community in relation to the roles and responsibilities for pest management. The PWMG has been working with QDPI&F to progress a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Queensland Government, the Local Government Association of Queensland & Queensland NRM Regional Bodies (represented by the Regional Groups Collective) to outline the key roles and responsibilities of each organisation in pest management in Queensland. Aspects covered under the MOU include extension, implementation, compliance and enforcement;

PWMG continues to work with QDPI&F to progress the implementation of 'Part B' Vehicle Inspection Course via National Training Council. Delivery is anticipated via TAFE &/or Agriculture Training Colleges;

GOAL 2

AWARENESS AND COMMITMENT

Desired Outcome: **The community is aware of parthenium weed and provided with quality information and skills to assist in its detection and reduction.**

The National Parthenium Weed Management Group (PWMG) has maintained a strong collaborative approach to increased parthenium weed awareness by working with key NRM stakeholders to ensure parthenium weed education and awareness information is delivered in a consistent and coordinated manner.

During 2006-07 PWMG has progressed implementation of 'Defeating the Weeds Menace' (DWM) funded projects that compliment past and present parthenium weed initiatives. The national parthenium weed education and awareness project will produce awareness material and promotional products including the development of a 'parthenium weed infomercial' highlighting identification, control and reporting mechanisms. This project is a collaborative effort involving State and Territory agencies and several Regional NRM Organisations. Initial funding of \$50,000 provided by Australian Government has leveraged an additional \$26,000 in stakeholder contributions to date. The increased funding will allow for the production of additional promotional products and a subsequent increase in the purchase of 'prime time television slots' across NSW, NT, Qld and parts of Vic that is timed for public release in 2007/08 period.

Parthenium weed awareness products such as best practice manuals, stickers and management guides continue to be made available to the broader community through national distribution. To date over 4,000 parthenium weed ID cards and 10,000 copies of the parthenium 'best practice' management manual have been distributed primarily across Northern Australia by a variety of organisations since its launch in 2004.

An analysis of the parthenium weed survey undertaken in Queensland in 2006 has indicated a positive response towards awareness products with 74% of the community surveyed indicating they could now identify parthenium weed whilst 62% indicated that fact sheets and other brochures are the most useful awareness tool.

Awareness activities and the distribution of best practise management information continue to be supported by the National Parthenium Weed Coordinator through attendance at various regional meetings, participation at the Australian Weeds Conference and the Queensland Weeds Symposium.

Performance Indicators – Awareness and Commitment

- Increased coordination, commitment and contribution to parthenium weed management by key NRM stakeholders across Queensland to support and implement on-ground projects at the regional and local level;
- Increased community awareness of parthenium weed with continued national distribution of promotional products;
- Over 4,000 parthenium ID cards and 10,000 copies of the parthenium weed 'best practice' management manual distributed primarily across Northern Australia by a variety of organisations; and
- 74% of community surveyed believed they could now identify parthenium weed whilst 62% believed fact sheets and other brochures are the most useful awareness tool.

Work in Progress

PWVG continues to work with State and Territory governments and key regional NRM organisations to implement a national parthenium weed education and awareness project. Parthenium weed 'infomercial' will be developed, with screening expected to begin in early 2008 across NSW, NT and parts of Qld and Vic;

GOAL 3 REDUCE THE IMPACT

Desired Outcome: All isolated and scattered infestations are eradicated.

In Australia, parthenium weed presents the greatest potential impact to land used for grazing. It also has the potential to become a major weed of cropping areas. The challenge for Australia continues to be the prevention of further spread of this weed from the identified core infestation areas.

Over 2006/07 the containment of parthenium weed in most areas of Queensland has been maintained. However, it must also be recognised that the prolonged dry periods associated with on-going drought have assisted with containment and the true measure of reduction and prevention of spread can only be evaluated after substantial rainfall events occur throughout much of eastern Australia.

There is a need to ensure that all available resources are utilised in a coordinated effort targeting strategic locations to maximise the potential impact of management programs for parthenium weed. The National Parthenium Weed Management Group (PWMG) is working with Key NRM Stakeholders (State and Territory Agencies, NRM Regional Organisations and Local Governments) to affect parthenium weed planning and management to target highly strategic parthenium weed areas. Successful on-ground projects are progressing that demonstrate national coordination and management of parthenium weed.

Within Queensland all roadways are inspected for parthenium weed and treated as required. Where practical, local governments in central Queensland are now managing main roads to ensure consistency of inspection and control.

A pilot project currently being undertaken in the Queensland Murray Darling Basin area involves several Queensland local governments in developing and establishing a 'rapid response' capability for detection, reporting and control of new parthenium weed outbreaks outside of the identified core infestation area. Initial Australian Government funding of \$60,000 has leveraged additional matching contributions from stakeholder organisations to ensure identified areas within the Darling Downs and Maranoa/Balonne areas of southern Queensland remain free of parthenium weed.

2006/07 has seen the establishment of portable 'rust' nurseries in strategic locations in central Queensland. Initial Australian Government funding of \$57,000 has seen an additional \$86,000 in contributions leveraged from local governments to enable nurseries to be built at Calliope, St Lawrence, Springsure, Emerald (Agricultural College), Nebo and Charters Towers these facilities will also be used to breed and support the establishment of parthenium summer rust within core infestation area.

The Parthenium Research Group is in the final stage of negotiations with key regional NRM organisations in Qld to develop a joint parthenium research trial/project. The project partners include Queensland Murray Darling Committee (QMDC), Burnett Mary NRM Group (BMRG) and the Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA).

The project aims to study the ability of various beneficial plants (including Australian native and non-native fodder legume and pasture grasses) as a competitive displacement to parthenium weed.

Performance Indicators – Reduce the Impact

- Increased National coordination of parthenium weed planning and management through linkage with key NRM Stakeholders (State and Territory Agencies, NRM Regional Organisations and Local Governments);
- Investment from the Australian Government provides seed funding in key strategic areas to encourage and promote the commitment and cooperation of stakeholders – On average there was a 75% increase in available funds and other resources leveraged from key stakeholder organisations;
 - Increased breeding and distribution of parthenium summer rust as result of completion of portable rust nurseries in strategic locations within the core infested areas of central Queensland; and
 - Progress made with rapid response project underway across Queensland Murray Darling Basin area with further project sites expected to come on line in early 2008 in the Kilcoy and Gatton shires in south east Queensland.

Work in Progress

The Qld Dept of Primary Industries and Fisheries (QDPI&F) through Alan Fletcher Research Station continues to assess the spread and an impact of the parthenium weed pathogen rusts (*Puccinia abrupta* and *Puccinia melampodii*) throughout Queensland. This assessment program is intermittent and dependant on personnel workload. The prolonged dry periods from 2001 onwards has hindered rust establishment and breeding. The completion of several portable 'rust nurseries' throughout central Queensland will assist to boost rust breeding and distribution into core areas.

PWVG continues to recognise the importance of supporting further investigation into the associated health and social impacts on people working and living in parthenium weed infested areas. What are the implications to human health and the environment if parthenium weed is allowed to spread?

Issues relating to the prevalence of parthenium weed sensitivity within the community and associated implications for occupational health processes and practices will be the focus of education and awareness programs aimed at reducing occupational health risks for those working in parthenium weed affected areas.

GOAL 4 COORDINATE MANAGEMENT

Desired Outcome: Parthenium weed management is coordinated at a national level

The National Weeds Strategy has provided a framework for Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) to be effectively managed through the collaboration and cooperation of all stakeholders including governments at all levels.

The WoNS Parthenium Weed Strategic Plan developed in 2000 outlined a series of strategic actions and opportunities for greater collaboration and cooperation across States and Territories to deliver four desired outcomes:

- Parthenium weed is prevented from spreading to and impacting on new areas;
- The community is aware of parthenium weed and provided with quality information and skills to assist in its detection and reduction;
- The impacts of established parthenium weed infestations are reduced; &
- Parthenium weed management is coordinated at a national level.

The establishment of the National Parthenium Weed Management Group (PWMG) in 2001 brought together representatives from various state and territory agencies, regional NRM organisations, Industry, Local Governments and community groups. The role of PWMG is to oversee the implementation of the national parthenium weed strategy and its current membership continues to be reviewed to ensure its relevance to meet the needs of current WoNS initiative.

The PWMG annually reviews the progress of implementation of the national strategic plan. A national review of the parthenium program will be undertaken in 2007/08. Progress of implementation is communicated through a rolling annual report that details progress against specific strategic goals. The purpose of the reporting is to maintain records, to highlight successes and deficiencies and to provide a basis for review of the program.

The PWMG continues to prioritise and drive the implementation of 'Defeating the Weeds Menace' (DWM) projects that aim to further compliment parthenium weed education and awareness and increase the detection and rapid response capability of stakeholders;

PWMG has also undertaken small scale on-ground audits of projects to assess post funding treatment and monitoring of project areas. Initial assessments indicate lack of coordination at a local level in relation to follow-up and monitoring responsibilities. Emphasis now is on working with regional NRM organisations to ensure parthenium weed strategies are developed and projects are included in regional funding bids including linkage to local governments as a process of achieving on-going monitoring, follow-up and compliance where necessary.

Performance Indicators - Harness National Management

- PWMG conducts annual review and progresses implementation of the WoNS Parthenium Weed Strategy;
- PWMG continues to prioritise and drive the implementation of 'Defeating the Weeds Menace' (DWM) projects to support parthenium weed education and awareness initiatives; and
- Increased capability of stakeholders to deal with early detection of and rapid response to parthenium weed invasion;

Concluding Comments

Active management continues within strategic areas of Queensland with significant support by Regional NRM Organisations and several local governments. On-ground work is complimenting national priority actions and is also facilitating the establishment of a base line capability for long term monitoring arrangements.

2006/07 has seen on-going support for the maintenance of parthenium weed containment in Queensland with particular emphasis on continued on-ground work to support prevention of spread of parthenium weed to the Northern Territory and New South Wales. The challenge for all stakeholders at all levels is to maintain an active approach to spread prevention and continue to detect and eradicate new infestations in 'clean' areas as soon as practical.

Cooperation and coordination across stakeholder jurisdictions continues to be the critical component for effective management of parthenium weed in Australia. A true measure of the reduction and prevention of further spread of parthenium weed can only be evaluated after substantial rainfall events occur throughout much of eastern Australia.

Strategic Parthenium Weed Investment

The national coordinator funding budget is split across two Weeds of National Significance species – parthenium weed and rubber vine.

The financial table (refer to page 14) reflects actual expenditure incurred over 2006/07 period and includes contributions, both cash and in-kind of key NRM stakeholders to progress the implementation of key parthenium weed on-ground projects supported by initial funding from the Australian Government. Projects are at various stages of completion having run over 05/06 and 06/07 financial years. Reference to:

Defeating the Weeds Menace Project

- **ID 52965 – \$60K (Develop rapid response capability to eradication new outbreaks outside core infestation areas)**

Other Contributors:

- Qld Murray Darling Committee = \$10,000
- Qld Local Governments (Balonne, Dalby, Millmerran, Waggamba & Inglewood) = \$50,000

TOTAL (other contributions) \$60,000*

*** Further contributors will be in place for 07/08**

- **ID 57599 - \$31.6K (National Parthenium Education and Awareness)**

Other Contributors:

- NT NRETA = \$1,000
- NSW DPI = \$6,500
- Qld Murray Darling Committee = \$5,000
- Qld DPI&F = \$3,000
- South West NRM Group Ltd = \$2,000

TOTAL (other contributions) \$17,000*

*** Further contributors will be in place for 07/08**

Queensland State Government Supporting Parthenium Weed Management in 06/07

- Environment Protection Authority – parthenium weed projects = **\$50,000**
 - 'Blueprint for the Bush' funding initiative - regional NRM organisations and Local Governments across Queensland -weed seed spread prevention with \$2.07 Million allocated in 06/07:
 - DCQ Containment, Eradication & Prevention Project = \$410,000
 - Managing Weed Seed Spread in the Wet Tropics = \$178,000
 - Strategic Weed Seed Spread Prevention, Qld Murray Darling Basin = \$350,000
 - Upgrade 2 washdown bays in North Burnett = \$50,000
 - Weed Seed Spread offensive – Julia Creek = \$100,000
 - Upgrade existing facility – Emerald Shire Council = \$90,000
 - Reducing Weed Seed Spread – Burdekin Dry Tropics = \$275,000
 - Stamp Out the Spread – Kolan Shire = \$82,000
 - South Burnett Weed Seed Spread Prevention – Nanango Shire = \$191,000
 - Ilfracombe Farmers & Graziers Weed Seed Stop Program = \$129,000
 - Torres Community Capacity in Pest Management = \$225,000
- Approximate TOTAL Contributions expended in 06/07 \$100,000**

New South Wales State Government Supporting Parthenium Weed Management in 06/07

- Grants allocated to NSW Local Governments – parthenium weed projects = \$60,500
 - Matched by NSW Local Government = \$60,500
 - Border Inspection Costs – Grain Harvester inspections - Qld/NSW Border = \$85,961
- TOTAL Contributions expended in 06/07 \$206,961**

2006/07 Financial Table – Parthenium Weed

2006-07		Planned budget		Actual Expenditure	
Employees & Positions Held <i>(parthenium weed only)</i>		Recipient's Contributions (without GST)	Funds paid by the Commonwealth (without GST)	Recipient's Contributions Expended (without GST)	Commonwealth Funds Expended (without GST)
Co-ordinator salary and on-costs)			*47,500		*57,401
Management, admin support, research officers (QDPI&F)		8,663			
NRM groups, state /territory community support inputs & (DWM Projects)		33,805		#701,576	196,100
A	Total Employment Costs	\$42,468	\$47,500	\$701,576	\$253,501
	Operating Cost Items	Recipient's Contributions (without GST)	Funds paid by the Commonwealth (without GST)	Recipient's Contributions Expended (without GST)	Commonwealth Funds Expended (without GST)
	PWMG Management Group travel & meeting expenses	17,500	12,000	N/A	9,495
	General operating costs				
B	Total Operating costs	\$17,500	\$12,000	N/A	\$9,495
C	Total Cost (without GST) (A+B)	59,968	\$59,500	\$626,865	\$262,996
D	GST (10%)	\$5,996.80	\$5,950	\$62,686	\$26,299
E	Total Cost (including GST)	\$65,964.80	\$65,450	\$689,551	\$289,295

*This represents half the coordinator costs – split across parthenium weed and rubber vine;

refer to Expenditure Analysis (page 19) Stakeholder contributions towards parthenium management 2006/07

References

Anon (2000) *Weeds of National Significance – Parthenium Weed Strategic Plan*, Commonwealth of Australia and the National Weeds Strategy Executive Committee

Anon (2003) *Weeds of National Significance – Weed Management Guide for Parthenium Weed*, the CRC for Australian Weed Management and the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage

Vitelli S (2003) *Interim report – Approval of funding under “Blueprint for the Bush” Initiative*, the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries

Saw D (2007) *Final report for NHT Project (52144) – Establish Portable Nurseries for control of Parthenium Rusts*, Calliope Shire Council

Sands J (2007) *Final report for NHT Project (52144) – Establish Portable Nurseries for control of Parthenium Rusts*, Australian Agricultural College – Emerald Campus

Finchat P (2007) *Final report for NHT Project (52144) – Establish Portable Nurseries for control of Parthenium Rusts*, Nebo Shire Council

Langburne M (2007) *Final report for NHT Project (52144) – Establish Portable Nurseries for control of Parthenium Rusts*, Charters Towers City Council

Wehmeier G (2007) *Final report for NHT Project (52144) – Establish Portable Nurseries for control of Parthenium Rusts*, Broadsound Shire Council

Shaw A (2007) *Final report for NHT Project (52144) – Establish Portable Nurseries for control of Parthenium Rusts*, Bauhinia Shire Council

Marshall D (2007) *Progress report for DWM Project (52965) – Build a Rapid Response Capability to eradicate new outbreaks outside core infestation areas*, Queensland Murray Darling Committee

Appendices

APPENDIX 1 – PARTHENIUM WEED KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2006/07

Key Achievements 2006/07

Prevent Spread

- No known parthenium outbreaks in NSW
- 20 washdown/cleandown facilities have been approved for construction/upgrading throughout Queensland with funding support from Qld Govt at a total cost of \$2.07M. Facilities will be at:
 - Desert Channels Area – 4 facilities (\$400K) & new facility at Ilfracombe (\$130K);
 - Wet Tropics Area – 3 portable facilities (\$178K);
 - QMDC area – upgrades to 3 facilities (\$350K)
 - SE Qld – 2 upgrades in north Burnett (\$50K) & 1 new facility at Nanango (\$191K);
 - BMRG – New facility at Kolan (\$82K);
 - Southern Gulf – new facility at Julia Crk (\$100K);
 - Fitzroy Basin – upgrade at Emerald (\$90K);
 - Burdekin Dry Tropics – 2 new facilities (\$275K);
 - Cape York – new facility at Torres Strait Island (\$225K)
- Estimated 10-15% increased awareness and usage of weed hygiene declarations across Qld;
- NSW DPI continues to maintain, support inspection staff with implementation of grain harvester inspections at various Qld/NSW border locations
- PWMG continue to progress rapid response project (ID 52965) with agreement in place with QMDC & several Southern Qld Local Govts via DWM funded project; Agreement outlines:
 - Roles & responsibilities regarding reporting, implementation & follow-up procedures for dealing with new parthenium outbreaks in QMDC region;
- All roadways continued to be inspected and treated where practical with Local Govts in CQ also treating Main Roads to ensure consistency of inspection & treatment;

Awareness & Commitment

- High level of co-operation/coordination between states & territories regarding rubber vine
- Promotional materials readily available – stickers, posters, fact sheets;
- 10,000 copies of best practical management manual distributed;
- QMDC, DCQ & South West NRM (Regional NRM Organisations) have joined together to develop a 'Parthenium Infomercial' aimed at identification & reporting messages. Infomercial is intended to be across southern & western Qld during spring/summer period of 07/08;
- NSW DPI will also produce a similar 'key message' parthenium infomercial to link with Qld and likely to be aired across northern and southern inland NSW in April 2008. Vic DPI will support this initiative;
- Analysis of the parthenium weed questionnaire that was widely distributed across Qld indicates:
 - 53% of community claimed they have seen information on parthenium from newspaper;
 - 48% of community claimed they have seen information from Television
 - 74% of community surveyed believed they can identify parthenium;
 - 62% of community believed best way to identify is via fact sheet

Key Achievements 2006/07

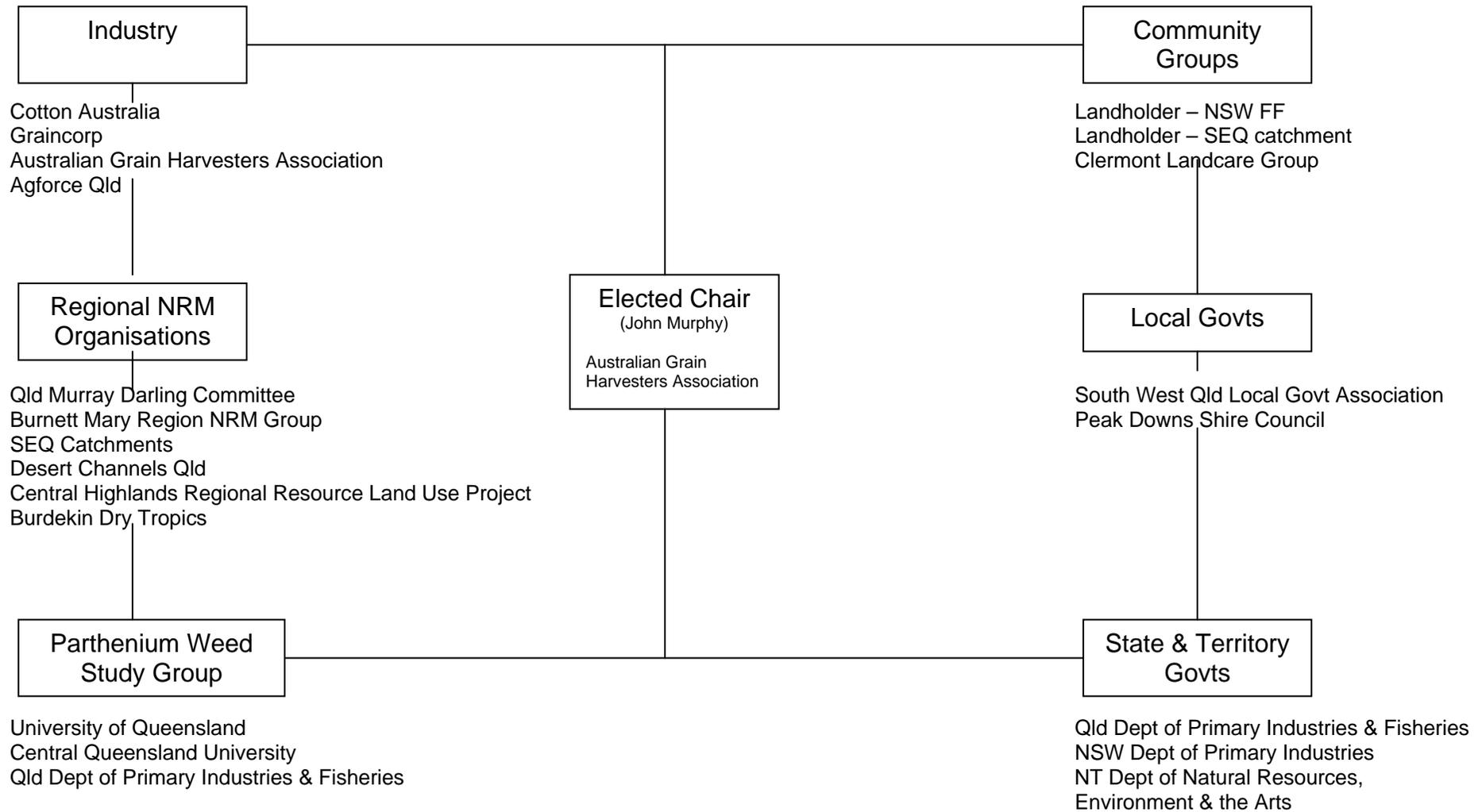
Reduce the Impact

- Parthenium BMP continues to be incorporated at property and local levels via distribution through a number of Key NRM Stakeholders - Qld Local Govts, Qld Regional NRM Organisations and State Agencies in Qld, NSW & NT;
 - Approx 10,000 copies of parthenium best practice manual has been distributed nationally;
- Successful establishment of portable 'rust' nurseries – facilities used to breed & distribute parthenium summer rust affected plants. Facilities now established at:
 - Calliope (Local Govt depot);
 - St Lawrence (Broadsound shire Depot);
 - Springsure (supporting 5 central highlands local Govts – Bauhinia, Emerald, Jericho, Peak Downs & Belyando);
 - Emerald Agricultural College – Emerald & districts;
 - Nebo & Glenden (Nebo shire depots);
 - Charters Towers (Dalrymple shire)
- Analysis of the parthenium weed questionnaire that was widely distributed across Qld indicates:
 - 17% of community surveyed claimed they have seen information directly via use of the best practice management manual;
- Development of National WoNS maps (NLWRA) and agreement for survey attributes will further enhance our ability to map and predict where parthenium weed could occur

Coordinate Management

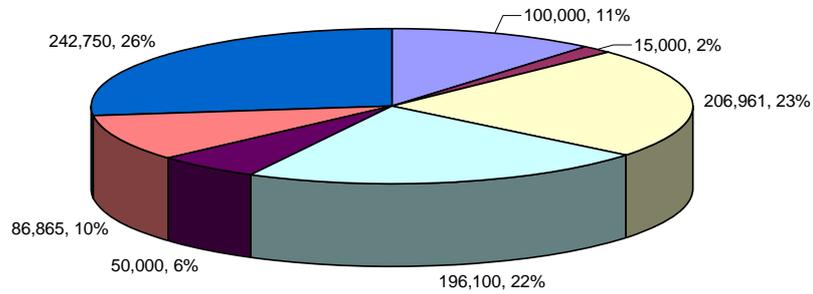
- National Parthenium Weed Management Group has been established over 5 years and continues to review its membership to ensure it remain relevant to meet NRM & WoNS current agenda.
- PWMG is progressing the implementation of the following DWM projects:
 - National Education & Awareness (\$50K);
 - Build Rapid Response Capability (\$60K);
- PWMG and coordinator continue to work with NRM organisations to ensure parthenium strategies are developed and included into regional funding arrangements including linkage of local governments as a process of achieving on-going monitoring, follow-up and compliance where necessary

APPENDIX 2 – National Parthenium Weed Management Group Structure



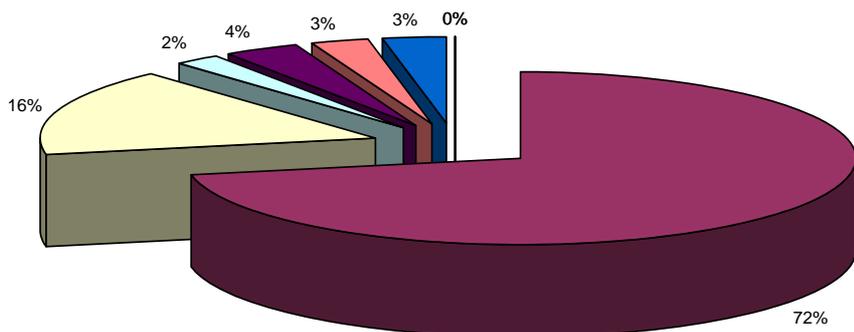
APPENDIX 3 – 2006/07 PARTHENIUM WEED EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS

Stakeholder Contributions towards Parthenium Mgt 2006/07



- Qld State Govt - QDPI&F ('blueprint for the bush') - washdown/cleandown facilities (\$100K)
- Qld EPA - control on Nat Parks (\$15K)
- NSW DPI - 'supporting Parthenium Eradication in NSW' (\$206K)
- Australian Govt Funds for Parthenium - Projects 43736 (\$47.5K), 52965 (\$60K), 52144 (\$57K) & 57599 (\$31.6K)
- QMDC & Local Govt support to Project 52965 (\$50K)
- Local Govts supporting Parthenium Mgt including biocontrol breeding (\$86.8K)
- Regional NRM Organisations supporting Parthenium Mgt - QMDC, (\$172.5K) - DCQ (\$2K), South West NRM Group (\$2K), CHNRMG (\$22.5K), SEQ Catchments (\$25K) & Gatton SC (\$30K)

Coordinator Expenditure - Parthenium Weed 2006/07



- Australian Govt Funds provided for Coordinator Posn (Parthenium Weed Only) - \$47,500
- Salaries & Employee related Expenses - \$41,308
- Travel - \$9,346
- Hire Car/Petrol - \$1,385
- Network & Computer - \$2,014
- Consumables & Training & Telephones - \$1,517
- Other Expenses - Printing, Frieght, Catering & other service costs - \$1,829
- Overspend - \$9,900

APPENDIX 4 – ACRONYMS USED

NRM	Natural Resource Management
CQ	Central Queensland
PWMG	Parthenium Weed Management Group
NSW DPI	New South Wales Department Primary Industries
QMDC	Queensland Murray Darling Committee
QLD	Queensland
SEQ Catchments	South East Queensland Catchments
QDPI&F	Queensland Department Primary Industries & Fisheries
MOU	Memorandum for Understanding
LGAQ	Local Government Association Queensland
DWM	Defeating the Weeds Menace
NT	Northern Territory
BMRG	Burnett Mary Regional Group
FBA	Fitzroy Basin Association
WoNS	Weeds of National Significance
NT NRETA	Northern Territory Natural Resource, Environment & the Arts
VIC DPI	Victoria Department Primary Industries
DCQ	Desert Channels Queensland
SW NRM	South West Natural Resource Management