



MEDIA RELEASE

NATIONAL GORSE TASK FORCE

Kangaroo Island SA To Eradicate Gorse

For immediate release: Wednesday 30th May 2007

Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Management (NRM) Board and Private Landowners have committed to the permanent eradication of gorse from the island.

The project is a partnership between the Kangaroo Island NRM Board, Private Landowners and the National Gorse Task Force.

This project is a first in Australia, where all partners involved have formally committed to eradicating Gorse and the seed bank which can stay viable in the soil for up to 25 years.

Many weed eradication projects fail as treatments are carried out sporadically and don't manage the longevity of seed in the soil.

All gorse infestations will be destroyed this spring and an annual monitoring and control program established to ensure this Weed of National Significance (WoNS) is permanently eradicated from the island.

The Chair of the National Gorse Task Force, Ian Sauer and the Presiding Member of the Kangaroo Island NRM Board, Janice Kelly met during an Australian Landcare Council meeting on Kangaroo Island, on Tuesday night, to jointly sign a twenty five year Memorandum of Understanding, to secure the outcome of gorse eradication on Kangaroo Island.

The control program will continue for a period of twenty-five years to ensure that any seedlings or re growth is destroyed.

As part of the project landowners across this island will be contacted to ensure that there are no other gorse infestation present and an education and awareness campaign conducted.

Key to the success of the program will be to ensure that seed from the infestation sites remains at the sites and no further gorse seed is brought onto the island.

The National Gorse Task Force has secured this agreement as part of its focus on the Eradication of Outlying Gorse Infestations Nation Wide.

With good planning, adequate resources and commitment, this green cancer that is invading the landscape can be permanently eradicated. ” Chairman of the NGT Ian Sauer said.

Around Australia gorse infests 23 million hectares of land and has the potential if not managed to invade 87 million hectares of land. Western Australia and the ACT approach gorse management with eradication as the primary goal.

The Executive Officer for the NGT is the National Gorse Coordinator who is funded by the Australian Government and hosted by the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries and Water.

The National Gorse Strategic Plan is available at (<http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/gorse/>)

The National Priority Eradication Areas can be viewed at (http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/gorse/docs/NGT_Priority_eradication_areas.pdf)

Key messages –

- 25 year MOU
- Gorse will be Permanently Eradicated from Kangaroo Island
- Key to success a long term partnership approach
- Gorse is a Weed of National Significance that costs the country millions of dollars
- The National Gorse Task Force’s focus during 2007 is Eradication of Nationally Strategic Outlying Gorse Infestations
- Simply not controlling gorse is not an option; farmers will lose land with such an approach, which amounts to agricultural vandalism.

ENDS:

For further details, please contact:

Ian Sauer, Chairman of the National Gorse Task Force
Dean Vincent, National Gorse Coordinator

0407 046 346
0429 960 738