

# **INFORMATION SHEET:**

## ***Whitsunday Regional Council weed management incentive scheme***

### **What is it?**

The weed management incentive scheme is designed to provide eligible landholders with discounted herbicide to control and reduce declared (restricted) weeds. The incentive scheme has recently been extended to mechanical assistance. Landholders can now access discounted mechanical machinery such as dozers, excavators, mulchers at a discounted rate.

### **How much is the discounted rate?**

At the moment the council is offering a 50% rebate on selected herbicide and mechanical assistance to eligible landholders. There is a cap of \$1500 per landholders over 20 ha per year.

### **Who is eligible for the rebates?**

Landholders with an approved Property Pest Plan can apply for the rebate.

### **What are the benefits to me as the landholder?**

The main benefits are:

- 1) Landholders with a Property Pest Plan can demonstrate their compliance with the new *Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014* and their General Biosecurity Obligations. All landholders need to demonstrate that they are reducing the spread of restricted plants and animals.
- 2) Access to discounted herbicide and mechanical

### **Limited funds available**

There is a cap on the allocation of funds to the Councils weed management incentive scheme. Once the funds are exhausted for a financial year, landholders will need to wait and re-apply the following year.

### **How does the scheme work?**

The steps in the process for herbicide are:

- 1) Contact the Councils Pest Management Officer to arrange an inspection.
- 2) A Property Pest Plan is developed WITH the landholder and agreed outcomes are written into the Plan. The Council officer will determine how much chemical is required for the work in the Plan.
- 3) The Council purchases the herbicide en-bulk from the supplier.
- 4) The landholder pays the Council the 50%. The landholder then takes the receipt to the supplier and collected the herbicide.

The steps in the process for mechanical are:

- 1) Contact the Councils Pest Management Officer to arrange an inspection.
- 2) A Property Pest Plan is developed WITH the landholder and agreed outcomes are written into the Plan. The Council officer will determine how much chemical is required for the work in the Plan and how much mechanical assistance.
- 3) The landholder will arrange for the contractor with the desired machinery to do the work.
- 4) The contractor completes the work and the landholder pays the contractor. The contractor issues the landholder with a receipt for services.

- 5) The landholder arranges the Council Pest Management Officer to inspect the mechanical clearing work. If the work matches the outcomes listed in the Property Pest Plan and the work on the receipt, the landholder can then issue an invoice to the Council for payment of 50% of the work cost.

To find out more information or to organise an inspection contact the Councils Land Protection Officer on 47613674



*Rubbervine and Chinee apple cleared using machinery*

