Strategic pest management: controlling and managing weeds and pests in the Mackay Whitsunday region (giant rat’s tail grass control demonstration)

Project summary

Proponent: Reef Catchments (Mackay Whitsunday Isaac) Ltd

Value: $162,209

Project duration: 1 October 2013 – 30 June 2016

Project description

This project will restore productive grazing land from the declared class two pest species giant rat’s tail grass (GRT). The project will demonstrate best management practice control options to graziers in the region.

GRT is a particularly difficult grazing pest species to manage. This project will use a combination of successful regional methods to control 30 hectares of the weed and provide an important resource for graziers wanting to manage GRT.

The project will be completed in an area of Blue Mountain—an area known for GRT incursions and for its highly productive grazing land.

This project will include a number of stakeholders and project partners to ensure the best possible outcomes are achieved. The project plan was created with the assistance of the Mackay Regional Pest Management Group’s Grazing Land Use Team. This group is made up of grazing industry representatives and local and state government pest officers. This group will provide support and expertise throughout the project.

The project will undertake the following activities.

- Finalise project design and best management practice control methods with the Grazing Land Use Team.
- Undertake on ground treatment of 30 hectares of GRT.
- Undertake field trips with graziers to show results and management techniques.
- Train landholders and provide them with resources on best management control techniques for GRT.
**Project outcomes**

**Long-term outcomes (5-10 years)**
- Priority landscapes have improved resilience to weed and pest impacts.
- The condition, physical stability and resilience of the natural resource base for agriculture is protected and improved to secure and increase resource availability and productivity.
- The condition, physical stability and resilience of waterways, wetlands and the Great Barrier Reef lagoon is protected and maintained.

**Intermediate outcomes (3-5 years)**
- The detrimental economic, social and environmental impacts from weeds and pests are reduced.
- Surveillance to identify and map GRT infestations in priority landscapes over 30 hectares.
- Containing and reducing the further spread of established GRT over 10 hectares.
- Displays three completed areas to showcase best management practice control methods for GRT.

**Further information**

For further information on the ‘Strategic pest management: controlling and managing weeds and pests in the Mackay Whitsunday region (giant rat’s tail grass control demonstration)’ project, please contact [Reef Catchments (Mackay Whitsunday Isaac) Ltd](#).