Strategic pest management: controlling and managing weeds and pests in the Mackay Whitsunday region (itch grass management)

Project summary

Proponent: Reef Catchments (Mackay Whitsunday Isaac) Ltd
Value: $81,105
Project duration: 1 October 2013 – 30 June 2016

Project description

This project will control impacts of the invasive weed, itch grass, on high quality agricultural land within the Mackay Whitsunday region. Itch grass is a significant threat to the region’s sugar cane production industry and is recognised as one of the highest priority pests under the Mackay Regional Pest Management Plan and state government legislation.

This project will reduce the serious economic impact of itch grass on sugar cane producers in the Whitsunday Region and reduce the further spread into surrounding productive agricultural land by providing 30 hectares of on-ground control.

This project will include a number of stakeholders and will be delivered through on-ground activities in conjunction with Whitsunday Catchment Landcare Inc. and Whitsunday Regional Council.

This project will be delivered with input and advice from the Mackay Regional Pest Management Group’s Cane Land Use Team that contains regional industry experts in sugar cane.

The project will undertake the following activities.

- Survey and map 100 hectares of sugar cane land for the presence of outlier infestations.
- Undertake best management practice control for 30 hectares of itch grass.
- Train landholders in best management control techniques.
- Monitor treated outlier infestations to ensure effectiveness of control measures.

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 for itch grass over 40 hectares of Lake Proserpine and the Proserpine River.

Further information

For further information on the ‘Strategic pest management: controlling and managing weeds and pests in the Mackay Whitsunday region (itch grass management)’ project, please contact Reef Catchments (Mackay Whitsunday Isaac) Ltd.
Reef Catchments (Mackay Whitsunday Isaac) Ltd: Strategic pest management - controlling and managing itch grass in the Mackay Whitsunday Region

Legend
- Towns
- Waterways
- Pest Management: Itch Grass
- Reef Catchments

DISCLAIMER: While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this data, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines makes no representations or warranties about its accuracy, reliability, completeness or suitability for any particular purpose and disclaims all responsibility and all liability (including without limitation liability in negligence) for all injuries, expenses, losses, damages (including indirect or consequential damage) and costs which might be incurred as a result of the data being inaccurate or incomplete in any way for any reason.

DISCLAIMER: Based on or contains data provided by Reef Catchments (Mackay) Whitsunday Isaac) Ltd and the State of Queensland 2013.

Coordinate System: GCS GDA 1994
Datum: GDA 1994
Units: Degree

© The State of Queensland (Department of Natural Resources and Mines) 2014