Strategic pest management: controlling and managing weeds and pests in the Mackay Whitsunday region (rubber vine 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 complete on-ground management of the declared Class 2 weed rubber vine (Cryptostegia grandiflora). The project will complete 15 hectares of control, to prevent the establishment of outlier infestations spreading beyond the identified National Rubber Vine Containment Line.

This project will reduce the economic impact of rubber vine on graziers in the Gregory River Catchment and remove the further spread of rubber vine into surrounding areas of productive agricultural land. This project will also protect and enhance high value native riparian vegetation in this catchment that is currently stabilising and maintaining sediment loss through stream bank stabilisation and providing critical habitat and connectivity in the landscape.

This project will include a number of stakeholders and project partners to ensure the best possible outcomes are achieved. The development of this project has been in conjunction with the Mackay Regional Pest Management Group. The project will be delivered with ongoing technical advice from the Mackay Regional Pest Management Group to ensure the project’s success.

Project partners will include Whitsunday Catchment Landcare, Whitsunday Regional Council and impacted landholders in the Gregory River Catchment.

The project will undertake the following activities.

- Survey up to 200 hectares outside the National Rubber Vine Containment Line to identify the presence outlier infestations.
- Undertake on-ground control of 15 hectares of rubber vine.
- Train six landholders in best management control of rubber vine.
- Monitor treated outlier infestations to ensure effectiveness of control measures.
- Follow up treatments of outlier infestations as required.
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.
- Six landholders trained in best management practice for rubber vine control completed.
- The further spread of established rubber vine infestations is contained and reduced across 15 hectares.
- Demonstration sites, technical workshops and field days are completed to increase community capacity to undertake natural resource management.

Further information

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