

plans for the management of weeds (and pest animals) on extensive land areas and quite different from the Queensland Weeds Strategy. The work of the SLPAC in developing the core requirements of a plan and a model layout improved the quality of the draft strategies.

The next steps are the endorsement of the plans by the SLPAC, their implementation and performance reporting. To support this, the SLPAC will develop criteria for assessment of the adequacy of the plans and standards for performance reporting.

An issue for the effectiveness of the SLPAC is the level of the officers who are the members. The committee has functioned with senior policy officers as the members. They have been 'hands on' in developing the State strategies and other activities not reported here (for example the pilot trials). However, a committee with executive level members may be more appropriate for decision-making. This option for membership is being investigated.

This new approach based on planning, coordination and collaboration across agencies, and partnerships with others such as local government should improve weed management. Open and transparent planning and partnership processes highlights to the

community that government is committed to reducing the impacts of weeds in Queensland. In addition, the community as a whole needs to be committed to resolving the issue in partnership with all levels of government.

There are still significant challenges ahead to ensure effective weed (and pest animal) management on State land improves in Queensland. However, it is argued that the policy and planning framework put in place is an essential base for future successful weed management.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The authors acknowledge the Queensland Treasury funds for this project as part of a New Initiative for pest management.

REFERENCES

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Problem + Research ≠ Weed Management Solution

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Summary Research is well recognised as an important component of weed management, as it establishes the tools and information framework to be used for control programs. However, research answers are generally only one component of solving a management problem. Because of the emotive issues surrounding aspects of weed control, and because governments—both local and state—are most often the key drivers of control programs, social, financial and political issues must be factored into plans for such programs. Ultimately people, and more particularly politicians, make decisions on the control actions to be taken.

These actions may be quite contrary to those that science tells us are best. Melding the science and people is the art of making good weed management policy. A more realistic equation than to describe the derivation of an acceptable management solution is:

Problem + Research + Politics + Resourcing +
Public Opinion + Legislation ≈ Acceptable Weed
Management Solution

Keywords Policy, research, risk management, public perception.