

Using Pest Central for monitoring control of Hudson pear in Central Queensland

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Summary Hudson pear (*Cylindropuntia rosea* (DC.) Backeb. and *C. tunicata* (Lehm.) F.M.Knuth) is a class 1 declared pest plant in Queensland. Biosecurity Queensland became aware of Hudson pear infestations at Cracow in Central Queensland in 2011. From the outset, a spatial system called Pest Central was used to collect data on survey and treatment effort in order to assess whether eradication is feasible; and consequently to monitor progress towards eradication. It was used to delineate infested and non-infested areas during initial survey work, in conjunction with extensive consultation with the local community. Consequently, survey and treatment effort is now concentrated within known infested zones; further delimitation work is

undertaken occasionally to confirm non-infested areas. The data has enabled us to plot the difference between survey effort and treatment effort over time, which we are using to monitor progress. We expect survey effort to remain consistent while treatment effort decreases, as fewer plants are found. So far, we are finding the opposite: treatment effort is still high whilst survey effort is not. This indicates that the number of plants within known infested areas will take some time to decrease. Pest Central has been very useful for monitoring the progress of the campaign and is also useful for delineating management zones and for conveying mapping information to interested stakeholders, particularly the local community and the mining operations at Cracow.