



The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP

Minister for Primary Industries

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 8 December 2014

DETECTOR DOGS TO JOIN WAR ON WEEDS

Weed Eradication Detector Dogs will be deployed across the State in an effort to step up the fight against invasive plants in NSW, Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, has announced.

The trained detector dogs will share in more than \$1 million in funding that the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government has delivered for a new series of 14 innovative projects to find smarter ways to manage weeds across the State.

“We are stepping up the fight against invasive plants in NSW as they continue to cost the State \$1.8 billion in lost agricultural production and control,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“The two dogs will be trained to seek out orange hawkweed, a highly invasive weed that has been identified for eradication in NSW.

“They will be carefully assessed on their ability to find the smallest weed fragments and to operate in remote and difficult terrains.

“Detector dogs are proven to be highly effective in the detection of other invasive species and initial trials in Victoria have demonstrated that dogs can differentiate between a variety of plant species.”

“A professional dog trainer will work alongside National Parks and Wildlife Service staff and a team of volunteers as well as partners from Regional Weeds Advisory Groups, Local Land Services and the Department of Primary Industries to roll out this trial.

Ms Hodgkinson said the detector dogs are just one of a number of projects being rolled out across the State to combat weeds.

“I recently announced the allocation of \$11.3 million to the NSW Weeds Action Program for 2014-15, which is now well underway,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“The first \$10.1 million component of this funding has been delivered across the State and we’ve now allocated more than \$1 million dollars to innovative projects as part of the highly effective and popular program.

“The NSW Government is leading the way in delivering ground-breaking research and development, weed control programs and we are committed to targeting new and existing weed incursions to improve agricultural production and the environment.”

MEDIA: Belinda Roseby 0429 191 892