



The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP

Minister for Primary Industries

Minister for Small Business

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 15 November 2011

MINISTER LAUNCHES WEEDS 'BIBLE'

Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson launched the latest edition of the *Noxious and Environmental Weed Control Handbook* as part of her visit to Grafton today.

"This free handbook published by NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) is the most instructive source of information on control of noxious weeds in NSW and is a useful tool for tackling the State's weeds issue," Katrina Hodgkinson said.

"Since DPI published the first edition in 2001, the handbook has been referred to as the 'bible' on noxious weed control for farmers, councils and government agencies, Landcare groups and training organisations right across NSW.

"The 88-page book not only lists all 150 noxious and environmental weeds we need to target but outlines the best control methods, the registered herbicides and the safest and most effective practices."

Katrina Hodgkinson said 15,000 copies of the handbook have been printed for NSW.

"The handbook has been compiled at Grafton DPI as a guide for noxious and environmental weed control in non-crop, aquatic and bushland situations across the State," Ms Hodgkinson said.

"The DPI Weeds Unit at the Grafton Primary Industries Institute is leading the country in development of biological control for a number of key weeds such as salvinia, lantana, Giant Parramatta Grass, madeira vine and cat's claw creeper.

"Insects, weevils and fungus that act as biocontrol agents attacking these weeds are bred at Grafton and sent out around the State to combat these invasive weeds.

"The NSW Weed Awareness program is also based at the Grafton Primary Industries Institute and it is increasing the awareness of weeds in the community," Ms Hodgkinson said.

The handbook outlines the range of weed control methods as well as herbicide application techniques, pesticide and worker safety, reduction in herbicide spray drift and listed noxious weeds in NSW.

"The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is tackling weeds at the regional level through partnerships between local weed control authorities and other stakeholder groups," Ms Hodgkinson said.

"We're committed to targeting weeds as a group, identifying and stopping new weeds early and increasing community involvement and awareness in weed management."

The handbook is free-of-charge and available from the NSW DPI Bookshop on 1800 028 374 or online at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds