Sub No. and Submitter	Section/[Issue]	Key Points	Departmental response
Prickly acacia case study			
		Comments about history, extent of infestations and their impacts	
1 Parker	**Spread linked to switch from sheep to cattle**	Suggests PA was introduced as a shade tree for sheep, and that sheep kept the trees under control, but those control has been lost as graziers have switched to cattle. P.1	There is evidence that prickly acacia was widely distributed in sheep production areas of central and western Queensland as a shade and fodder tree. The rapid expansion of prickly acacia coincided with the switch from sheep to beef on these properties and favourable rainfall for germination. Cattle are a more effective disperser of prickly acacia seeds than sheep.
12 Southern Gulf NRM	**Threat to rangeland pastures that are crucial to the beef industry**	The northern beef industry relies almost entirely on native rangeland pastures that are vulnerable to the spread of prickly acacia. The spread of prickly acacia threatens the viability of the beef industry which is an important contributor to the regional and state economy. P.1	BQ accepts the significant threat to native and improved pastures posed by prickly acacia. In the Southern Gulf area there are 295 cattle businesses with a total of 1.2 million cattle (10.5% of the total Queensland cattle herd Source Australia Bureau of Statistics).
12 Southern Gulf NRM	**Risk of erosion and threat to native animal habitat**	The bare ground typically found under these infestations is at risk of soil erosion, further degrading pasture productivity and heavy infestations destroy the habitat of many native animals, particularly ground dwelling species that inhabit the black soil plains. P.1	BQ accepts the significant threat of increased erosion under infestations of prickly acacia. BQ accepts the significant threat to native species caused by habitat modification by prickly acacia.
1 Parker	**Proposes govt subsidies to help farmers purchase equipment developed to eradicate PA**	Mr Parker has developed a machine attachment (called Down 2 Earth) for mounting to tractors and quadbikes to cut down and administer herbicide to the remaining stumps of prickly acacia trees. He proposes that the Government subsidise the machine to 50% of their cost (tractor att. $10,850; quadbike $5,850) p.4.	Mr Parker's "Down 2 Earth" is one of many innovative devices developed by Queenslanders to tackle invasive plants. However, there is no justification for the expenditure of public funds on this device over other control technologies.
12 Southern Gulf NRM	**Largest Qld outbreak**	The largest infestations of prickly acacia in Queensland are in the Southern Gulf and Desert Channels NRM regions. P.7	This is a reasonable estimate.
38 Ms Jan Cotham	**Benefits from, and difficulty of eliminating Acacia Arabica**	States her property at Bowen is affected by Acacia Arabica and "…in some of our poorer soil country where it was known as a dust bowl in the dry and a bog in the wet, the Acacia Arabica has enhanced the soil and grows a beautiful stand of improved pasture around its canopy, which has been positive for the environment here. It has been cost-effective, saving $40,000 in drought fodder and supplement in 2015 as well as labour costs which then allow that cost and labour to be directed onto the other weed issues here. Having said that, when we cleared an area of Acacia Arabica and Chinese apple, then planted improved pasture,	Prickly acacia is a legume and can increase nitrogen levels in the soil. There has been no systematic study of the microbes (rhizobia) in Australia associated with prickly acacia.

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		the result was a disaster with the invasion of grader grass, which itself is another issue to the environment and which councils ignore." p.1	
38 Ms Jan Cotham	**need to control other weeds as well as Acacia Arabica**	"As a property owner, I have to be conscious of costs and for me it would be totally inappropriate to put all of our efforts into eradicating Acacia Arabica while ignoring other harmful weeds…we must acknowledge the individuality of a property (in respect to weed infestations)"pp.1-2	DAF acknowledges that weeds should not be managed in isolation of other pest issues or land management or production issues. DAF recommends a holistic property management planning approach to integrate all these issues.
40 Fitzroy Basin Association	**Prickly Acacia a weed of high concern in Fitzroy Basin**	Prickly Acacia a pest of high concern to the majority of six local governments in the FBA's region.p.4 Prickly Acacia was selected in the top five pests for Rockhampton Region, Isaac Region and Banana Shire. P.4	DAF is aware of a number of priority setting processes in the Natural Resources Management arena which are occurring in parallel to DAF initiated process under the co-investment model consultation. The BQ process has a state wide focus, while the FBA process is limited to its own region. These local governments are encouraged to include these priorities into their own Biosecurity Plans and to develop regional Biosecurity Plans reflecting these regional priorities.
40 Fitzroy Basin Association	**Possible case study for committee on Fitzroy floodplains**	FBA suggests their pest management projects, working alongside Capricornia catchments and landowners on the Fitzroy floodplains, would provide a great case study for committee in regard to Prickly Acacia. P.4	Prickly acacia has been present and a problem on the Fitzroy flood plains for decades longer than it has been an issue in western Queensland.
47 Mr Rob Katter MP	**Impacts**	'Devastation caused by the existence of this plant doesn't just impact the region environmentally, it also causes huge economic problems."p.1	DAF is aware that prickly acacia impacts on the triple bottom line; however, there are few quantitative studies.
47 Mr Rob Katter MP	**Costs to landholders**	"I have come into contact with small to medium landholders who have spent upwards of $100,000 a year on control of prickly Acacia on their property. A 20% canopy cover of this invasive species can cut pasture production by 50%, it is evident its presence eats away at both the productivity and profits of our landholders and has negative flow-ion effects to our towns."p.1	DAF is aware of these and similar impact figures.
51 Douglas	**Prickly acacia leads to loss of perennial grasses**	The 'we can't live without Prickly Acacia' attitude brings an interesting point. Perennial grasses cannot compete for canopy cover bringing annual grasses which die off then stock have to fall back on Prickly Acacia. This situation is exacerbated by dry times, overstocking and kangaroos."p.2	DAF is aware of the continuing "value" placed on prickly acacia by some landholders.
51 Douglas	**Lake Eyre Basin under threat**	"The Lake Eyre Basin channel country is under increasing threat as prickly Acacia is brought down stream by water, livestock or transport."p.2 "The greatest threat to pasture and in particular to the Mitchell grass bio region and flood plains of the Lake Eyre basin is encroachment by Prickly Acacia and gidgee trees. One has to be eradicated, the other controlled."p.3	Movement of prickly acacia is towards Lake Eyre. Gidgee is a native plant its control is regulated by the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*.

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51 Douglas	**Costs**	States that the cost to the grazing industry have to be high, exacerbated by the cost of assistance for early onset drought.p.3	There is no definitive costing of economic impact of prickly acacia on the grazing industry.
55 Department of Primary Industries NSW	**Not in NSW**	Not known to be present in NSW. P.2	DAF is not aware of the locations of any prickly acacia infestations in NSW.
52 Barcoo Shire Council	**Falls in land values impacting on rates revenue for local governments**	"Prickly acacia has affected rural land values (DCQ 2016), which will continue to decline as infestations increase, hence local government rates will need to rise to meet the shortfall."p.2	Land valuations for ratings purposes are conducted by the Queensland Valuer-General. DAF is not aware of a specific devaluation factor for prickly acacia used by land valuers. DAF is aware of a number of factors that impact on land values. Decisions of appeals against land valuations in part concerning levels of prickly acacia infestation are available on the Supreme Court website. http://www.sclqld.org.au/caselaw/search/index.php?keywords=%2522prickly%2Bacacia%2522&court=all&offset=1 Barcoo Shire land values fell by -20.2% in 2014, -4.9% in 2012 and -0.8% in 2011. Map of larger (greater than 500ha) rural sales for the three years prior to 31 December 2016. https://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0014/140270/qld-rural-property-prices-map.pdf
52 Barcoo Shire Council	**Dire consequences for producers and councils**	Dire consequences for producers and local governments given that a 25% canopy cover of prickly acacia supresses pasture growth 50% (Gutteridge and Shelton 2005), 95% of the highly productive Mitchell Grass Downs will be affected by Prickly Acacia by 2030 should current spread continue.p.3	Future trends may not factor increased control, alternative land uses and alternate uses for prickly acacia.
52 Barcoo Shire Council	**Economic impacts**	States study of economics is urgently needed as 2016 figures from DCQ put annual production losses at $24 million and control costs at $9 million. PRW Agribusiness I 2017 indicate the cost of lost production could be as high as $203 million per year [based on Futurebeef's Stocktake 2014 and assumes an adult equivalent for unaffected land is 10 hectares and 50 hectares for densely affected prickly acacia. P.3	Future weed management decisions need to be based on rigorous economic modelling to justify the expenditure of both private and public funds.

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52 Barcoo Shire Council	**Causes loss of biodiversity**	States along with economic losses, it causes loss of biodiversity through loss of ground cover, erosion and increased sediment runoff and provides refuge for declared pest animals.p.3	These are known adverse impacts of prickly acacia.
		Factors contributing to the spread of prickly acacia	
52 Barcoo Shire Council	**Lack of enforcement by local government a factor in 3-fold increase in infestations over 30 years**	"The failure by local government to enforce landholder compliance with declared plant control obligations has been a contributing factor to the three-fold increase (7 to 22 million hectares) in Prickly Acacia infestations between 1996 and 2016(DSITI 2015, DCQ 2015, Pest Central 2015)."p.2	Underlying any failure by local government to undertake enforcement action is the fact that landholders in the grazing industry have been non-compliant with weed management obligations over a considerable period of time.
12 Southern Gulf NRM	**Seeds remain viable for years**	Seeds remain viable in the soil for many years. Even after mature plants have been removed, producers can expect new plants to emerge, especially if the growing season has been favourable. This requires continuing vigilance over many years to avoid re-establishment. P.1	Weed management is an integral component of property and pasture management. Seed banks as well as mature plants need to be managed over time.
12 Southern Gulf NRM	**Spread by cattle**	The most fundamental aspect of the species' ecology relevant to management is that cattle are the primary vector of long distance seed spread….seed remains viable in the gut of cattle for up to one week longer….The cattle industry therefore plays the major role in both the spread of prickly acacia and in limiting that spread through the choices they make in stock buying, quarantine and transport." P.1	Transport of infested livestock is a pathway for long distance dispersal of prickly acacia.
12 Southern Gulf NRM	**Spread by movement of livestock**	It is well known that regional scale movement of prickly acacia is very largely associated with the transport of livestock.p.3	Transport of infested livestock is a pathway for long distance dispersal of prickly acacia.
52 Barcoo Shire Council	**Spread due to switching from sheep to cattle**	Exacerbated by replacement of sheep with cattle across much of Mitchell Grass Downs – only 2% of seeds pass through sheep, compared to 81 % for cattle over up to six days. Travelling stock pose unacceptable risk.p.3	Transport of infested livestock is a pathway for long distance dispersal of prickly acacia.
15 Epple	**Cattle movements spreading prickly acacia**	States that cattle are being transported all over the country after consuming prickly acacia seed. P.1	Transport of infested livestock is a pathway for long distance dispersal of prickly acacia.
10 Hacon	**Prickly acacia seen as source of fodder**	"…I am fighting an uphill battle to motivate graziers within the region who have been subjected to years of drought, and to many of whom prickly acacia is still seen as a valuable fodder source during hard times. P.1	DAF is aware of the continuing "value" placed on prickly acacia by some landholders.
33 Agforce	**Need to better manage risks with livestock and vehicles**	"An area for improvement for everyone affected by prickly acacia is adherence to methods which minimise weed seed movement in livestock and vehicles and better management of these introduced risks on farm."p.2	Transport of infested livestock is a pathway for long distance dispersal of prickly acacia.

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52 Barcoo Shire Council	**Major vectors for spreading seed**	"Water and livestock movement are the major vectors for seed dispersal (Gutteridge and Shelton 2005) and therefore, the spread of infestations to clean country;"p.1	Transport of infested livestock is a pathway for long distance dispersal of prickly acacia. Flowing water is a pathway for short to mid distance dispersal of prickly acacia.
52 Barcoo Shire Council	**Conflicts over differing attitudes to prickly acacia**	"…conflicts of interest arise where an elected representative views Prickly Acacia as a fodder asset, and may be harbouring declared plants on their property."p.1	DAF is aware that "value" is placed on prickly acacia by some landholders. There are also proposals to use prickly acacia as feedstock for various biofuel technologies.
52 Barcoo Shire Council	**Absence of Biosecurity Queensland control of stock movements**	States that the absence of Biosecurity Control over movement of stock from infested to clean areas (given that seeds can take up to a week to pass through cattle and that 41% remain viable (Barker 19996) is a further contributor to spread. P.2	Barcoo Shire adopted the Central West Regional Biosecurity Plan in 2015, which was developed in collaboration with the seven RAPAD local governments. The Central West Regional Biosecurity Plan includes a Standard Operating Plan for prickly acacia. Incorrect attribution of the research. This study was undertaken by Mr Greg Hervey then of the Queensland Department of Lands in 1981. A more recent study has been undertaken by Dr Wayne Vogler (BQ) as part of the War on Western Weeds Initiative. See below about obligations under the Biosecurity Act 2014.
52 Barcoo Shire Council	**No protocols for moving cattle**	"There are currently no protocols in place to ensure cattle brought into the Channel Country from Prickly Acacia infested northern breeder blocks are not carrying ingested seeds;"p.1.	Under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, a person dealing with livestock who knows or ought reasonably to know that the livestock has prickly acacia seed in its gut has a general biosecurity obligation to take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise the biosecurity risk of that dealing. "Deals with" includes • Supply the livestock (the vendor has a general biosecurity obligation when they supply the livestock). • Transport the livestock (the transport company has a general biosecurity obligation transport the livestock from one place to another).

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			• Distribute livestock (purchaser has a general biosecurity obligation when they receive the livestock and put them out into clean paddocks). A person on whom a general biosecurity obligation is imposed must discharge the obligation. Maximum penalty 750 penalty units or 6 months imprisonment. If an aggravated offence 3000 penalty units or 3 years imprisonment. An authorised person may also give the person who fails to discharge a general biosecurity obligation, a biosecurity order to take actions to mitigate the biosecurity risk. Prickly acacia is category 3 restricted matter it is an offence to supply or distribute or release into the environment a carrier of prickly acacia seed (the livestock). Maximum penalty 500 penalty units. Local government is responsible for ensuring the management of prickly acacia in its area.
52 Barcoo Shire Council	**Importance of Barcoo Shire as cattle grazing area, and gateway to RAMSAR**	Barcoo Shire is home to the Channel Country, arguably the finest natural cattle fattening country in the world and the generator of much of Queensland's grazing wealth."p.1 "the lower Channel Country of the Barcoo Shire is the gateway to the RAMSAR listed Coongie Lakes of north-eastern South Australia;"p.1	Barcoo Shire is responsible for ensuring the management of prickly acacia in its area. Barcoo Shire may include in its local government biosecurity plan strategies and actions for its ratepayers to take to protect environmental assets such as the Coongie Lakes RAMSAR area. Barcoo Shire has adopted the Central West Regional Biosecurity Plan. The management of the Coongie Lakes themselves is a matter for the South Australian Government. A Declared Plant Policy under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* (SA) prickly acacia (*Acacia nilotica* subsp. *indica*) was approved by the South Australian Government in 2014. http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds_and_pest_animals/weeds_in_sa/plant_policies/pest_weed_policies/declared_plants_2/prickly_acacia_policy.pdf

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52 Barcoo Shire Council	**Similar risks for Diamantina and Bulloo Shires**	"…Diamantina and Bulloo Shires face similar risks to Barcoo Shire, while the unincorporated areas of north-eastern South Australia where the Coongie Lakes are situated, has no local government representation."p.1	Land management of the Coongie Lakes is a matter for the South Australian Government. Declared Plant Policy under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* (SA) prickly acacia (*Acacia nilotica* subsp. *indica*) was approved by the South Australian Government in 2014. http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds_and_pest_animals/weeds_in_sa/plant_policies/pest_weed_policies/declared_plants_2/prickly_acacia_policy.pdf
51 Douglas	**Quarantine of stock and washing down vehicles**	"Quarantine stock for at least a week before movement would go a long way towards cutting transported seed volume as does washing motor transport – even if only the wheels are washed out makes a difference."p.3is	Spelling cattle off prickly acacia before transport is better practice than transporting contaminated cattle and then holding them in yards after delivery and cleaning the transport vehicles.
31 Whitsunday AG Services	**Wild pigs live among and help to spread prickly acacia**	Notes that prickly acacia and a number of other weed species are a favourite place for wild pigs to call home and avoid dingoes, pig hunters and human control via helicopter. "Pigs eat the seeds from vegetation and when they go out to feed, they plant the next crop plant and fertilize it at the same time. Land owners that try to keep their land clean find it an impossible task when they have uncontrolled land on their boundary with a pig infestation." P.1	Biosecurity Queensland does not have data on prickly acacia seed gut passage times through feral pigs or viability of prickly acacia seed after passage through the gut of feral pigs.
12 Southern Gulf NRM	**Spread by water**	Water is another significant vector for seed spread, but research shows this is most significant at the local and district level. There is merit in giving priority to control of seed-bearing trees close to waterways as part of wider control strategies.p.1	Flowing water is a pathway for short to mid distance dispersal of prickly acacia. The Flinders Good Neighbour Program includes maintaining a weed free buffer zone 10 m either side of the bank for 250 meters upstream within defined water courses from a property boundary.
52 Barcoo Shire Council	**Affected by seeds from Mitchell Grass Downs upstream**	States Barcoo Shire is located downstream od the high infestation areas of the Mitchell Grass Downs.p.1	Correct.
		Issues about the control and eradication of prickly acacia	
		Strategy	
52 Barcoo Shire Council	**Change of approach needed**	Questions relevance of control strategies supporting the 'containment line' given the area under infestation grow from 6 million to 22 million hectares.p.4 need to look at applying desert Channels' control method on a broad scale.p.4	DCQ definition of eradication is 'reduction to a level where any regrowth can be easily and cheaply treated by the landowner prior to seeding, thereby breaking the reproductive cycle'

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			http://dcq.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Prickly-Acacia_11.jpg (Accessed 29 May 2017)
12 Southern Gulf NRM	**Controls align with strategic plan**	"The strategic approach SGNRM takes is consistent with the WONS Prickly Acacia Strategic Plan 2012-2017." P.2	The WONS Prickly Acacia Strategic Plan 2012-2017 is due for renewal.
12 Southern Gulf NRM	**Relatively easy to prevent, but eradication very high costly**	"The feasibility of *preventing* infestation of previously clean country is relatively high and the cost of required management practices is comparatively low. On the other hand, even at the paddock scale, the cost of *eradication* is very high."p.2	Measures that may be used to prevent infestation include • Establishing control and buffer strips along fence boundaries, • Establishing control buffers upstream along watercourses that traverse the area. • Only clean stock ○ source stock from known clean properties or ○ stock hygiene practices (holding cattle 6 days prior to release).
12 Southern Gulf NRM	**Eradication from Queensland unlikely**	"It is most unlikely that prickly acacia can now be eradicated from the Queensland landscape with currently available technologies." P.2	Eradication of prickly acacia (total removal of all trees and all seeds) from the Queensland landscape is not technically feasible with current technologies.
12 Southern Gulf NRM	**Recommendation – QNRM**	"The Queensland Government should establish a successor program for the current QNRM program to support the work of regional NRM organisations. This program should: • Provide support for the full spectrum of natural resource management activities delivered by NRM bodies • Be allocated to projects that are determined by regional NRM bodies, consistent with regional NRM plans – subject to review and approval by the State • Support long-term (4 year) work programs to allow for certainty in regional communities • Be allocated equitably (rather than competitively) between NRM regions • Amount to at least $80M over four years." P.8	The Queensland government has allocated $80 million to the regional natural resource management investment program over 5 years from 2013 to 2018, including $30 million to protect the Great Barrier Reef. The Queensland Natural Resource Management Investment Program is administered by the Department of Natural Resource and Mines. Information about the program is available at https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/agriculture/sustainable-farming/nrm-investment-program/
33 Agforce	**Use local suppliers**	Agforce members recognise the importance of using localised outlets and regional suppliers for herbicides and equipment, weed contractors etc p.3	Local knowledge and expertise is important for long term management of many weeds.

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37 Invasive Species Council	**Notes importance of prevention, and science-based risk assessment to all plants proposed for introduction**	"…prevention of weed invasions is the most effective approach." the more widespread and established a weed becomes, the harder it becomes to eradicate, contain or control."p.2 "One of the most effective ways to prevent new weeds and to make decisions about management of weeds is to consistently apply science-based risk assessment to all plants proposed for introduction and to all potentially invasive plants."p.2	A science-based risk assessment of prickly acacia was not undertaken before its introduction to Queensland. That process was unknown at that time. Economic development of Queensland by introduction of improved pastures and trees was the driving force at that time.
47 Mr Rob Katter MP	**Need to prevent spread**	"…it is imperative this committee seeks to find solutions for better management of this pest. At the very least, the spread of the Prickly Acacia needs to be stopped before it moved further into the Lake Eyre catchment."p.1	The *Biosecurity Act 2014* provides a number of regulatory tools including the establishment of biosecurity zones.
47 Mr Rob Katter MP	**Control rather than eradication**	Acknowledges that a small number of producers see value in the prickly acacia, and urges the committee to look at control measures, rather than eradication. P.2 Mr Katter also notes potential for job creation opportunities for the control of prickly acacia and flow on economic activity. P.2	DAF is aware that "value" is still placed on prickly acacia by some landholders. There are also proposals to use prickly acacia as feedstock for various biofuel technologies. Total eradication of prickly acacia from the Queensland landscape is not technically feasible with current technologies.
48 CSIRO	**Need to fully understand triple bottom line impacts**	"In the case of the three weeds highlighted for this inquiry we do not believe there is sufficient quantitative information on triple bottom line impacts to effectively guide investments. This information is vital to guide decisions on the value or otherwise of different management approaches." CSIRO Recommendation: Collect relevant information (quantitative, wherever possible) in triple bottom line impacts of weeds that are the targets of management.p.1	There are no quantitative studies on the impacts of prickly acacia on the triple bottom line (economy; environment; social amenity and public health). Studies to date have been qualitative.
48 CSIRO	**Place RD&E within integrated management framework**	CSIRO recommends: Place RD&E within an appropriate integrated management framework, with clear and realistic management goals and expectations and enable appropriate future evaluation of efficacy of management."p.4	Preparation of a Monitoring and Evaluation plan is a milestone of the Feral Pest Initiative funding of the DCQ prickly acacia projects.
49 Campbell	**Partnerships with properly funded NRM groups the key**	"The solution lies in partnership with the landowner and the regional NRM group. Good evidence of this success can be seen in action with Southern Gulf NRM and Desert Channels. To make this partnership viable, though, the State must adequately fund the NRM groups and provide some of the funding in the control and eradication program, bearing in mind the Department of Agriculture and fisheries introduced and encouraged the use of Prickly acacia for fodder and shade."."p.1	Bearing in mind that the sheep graziers were not forced to use prickly acacia and they received a return on the increased wool clip as a result of its use as fodder and shade. The Department of Agriculture and Stock in 1926 warned that prickly acacia and beef production was not a good fit.

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49 Campbell	**Need for targeted and widespread efforts**	"Ultimately, unless the effort is targeted and wide spread, the best efforts will still be undone by the areas not controlled."p.1	Coordinated strategic control is needed to ensure that effort is not wasted.
51 Douglas	**Traditional control not working**	Traditional approach [to control] has not worked. Area of infestation has roughly quadrupled to 23 million ha infested, some say 31 million."p.2	This analysis does not consider what the level of prickly acacia in Queensland would have been if no controls what-so-ever had been in place since its introduction.
51 Douglas	**Make Qld Treasury funding available to for primary producers**	"Why not have funding through local government from Queensland Treasury to primary producers similar to that promoted by Longreach Council for exclusion fencing."p.2	The Longreach Council received a loan from the Queensland Treasury to build cluster fences. The Council levies a rate on the individual landholder that benefits from the fence until the cost of the fence (plus interest) is recouped by the Longreach Council. The Longreach Council effectively owns the fence until repaid. There is no equivalent infrastructure for the Longreach Council to own in a prickly acacia control scenario.
52 Barcoo Shire Council	**Change needed to Lake Eyre Basin Intergovernmental Agreement**	Given serious threat posed by prickly acacia, it should be a more prominent focus of the Lake Eyre Basin Intergovernmental Agreement.p.4	The Lake Eyre Basin Intergovernmental Agreement is predominately about water and related natural resources http://www.lakeeyrebasin.gov.au/sitecollectionimages/71d27602-9826-4d4f-9004-fbc30cde225b/files/leb-intergovernmental-agreement.pdf. The Queensland Minister for Natural Resources and Mines is a member of the Lake Eyre Basin Ministerial Forum. The Lake Eyre Basin Intergovernmental Agreement is due for review in 2017. Further information available on the website http://www.lakeeyrebasin.gov.au/collaborative-management/intergovernmental-agreement The occurrence of Weeds of National Importance and exotic fish species are indicators of invasive species pressure in the Lake Eyre Basin River Assessment.
		Eradication and control programs	
51 Douglas	**Importance of healthy pasture**	"Healthy pasture is to the grazing industry what the Reef is to tourism and fishing. Prickly acacia can be beaten."p.3	Healthy pasture can also help suppress prickly acacia seedling germination.
53 Desert Channels Queensland	**Need for stock movement and truck hygiene protocols**	"Without stock movement and truck hygiene protocols in place, continued spread of prickly Acacia will occur, potentially far from the original seed source (Gutteridge and Shelton 2005)….Gutteridge and Shelton (2005) state: 'Cattle are the most effective agents for seed dispersal.' Despite this, there has been no strategy developed to specifically address the issue – new infestations of Prickly Acacia were found recently at Augathella and Thargomindah; given neither	Incorrectly attributed, the article was written by J.O. Carter in 1994. It appears again as Chapter 7.2 Acacia nilotica: a Tree Legume out of Control *In* Forage Tree Legumes in Tropical Agriculture 2005 (editors Guttridge and Shelton).

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		location has watercourse connectivity to Prickly Acacia infestations, water could not have been the vector." P.1 "Reluctance to address the major seed spread vector (cattle) through stock movement protocols can no longer be considered a viable, reasonable or acceptable strategy by any of the stakeholders; be they Government, local government, NRM groups or producers."p.2	http://www.fao.org/ag/agp/agpc/doc/publicat/gutt-shel/x5556e00.htm While stock movement is highly likely as the source of these infestations and others, such as at Beaudesert; given the long history in Queensland, legacy infestations should not be discounted in every new detection. Recent amendments to the *Biosecurity Act 2014* Chapter 15 Part 5 allow for the establishment of biosecurity accreditation schemes. A person or organisation can apply to operate an approved biosecurity accreditation scheme to accredit persons to issue biosecurity certificates under the scheme. A biosecurity certificate is a certificate about whether stated biosecurity matter or another stated thing, including, for example, a carrier of restricted matter— (a) is free of the stated restricted matter; or (d) is in a stated condition; or (e) is from a stated area; or (f) has been the subject of a stated treatment; or (g) meets stated requirements, including, for example, that it complies with requirements for certification as stated in an accreditation.
52 Barcoo Shire Council	**Critical role of Desert Channels Qld**	Notes that Desert Channels Queensland has been at the forefront of developing new and very effective control techniques and has long been a collaborator with local government, the Shire Rural Lands Officers Group and Central West Regional Pest Management Group.p.4	A number of individuals, land holders and graziers, local government officers and the Central West Regional Pest Management Group and community groups have individually and collaboratively been instrumental in developing new control methods and strategies.
53 Desert Channels Queensland	**Achievements of DCQ's research and development**	"Through its own research and development, DCQ has delivered, over the last three years, a level of innovation and success (DCQ 2016) never before seen in the control of Prickly Acacia …this has given heart to landholders despairing at their ability to stem the tide of Prickly Acacia spread. (DCQ2016)."p.3	DAF has no comment to provide.
53 Desert Channels Queensland	**Lack of government support for DCQ's achievements**	"Despite the significant, verifiable results achieved by DCQ's Prickly Acacia eradication program (groundwater up from 10% to 40%; grass biomass up from 100kg/ha to 1,500 kg/ha; grass species up from 1 to 6; 92% reduction in costs; 99.96% kill rate), support from Government has been disappointingly slow to translate into funding or recognition of achievements."p.4	These results are for the limited areas within the project area that were monitored, may not reflect the overall situation.

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			DCQ has previously received $2 million from the Queensland Natural Resource Management Investment Program administered by the Department of Natural Resource and Mines. DCQ has received $1 million from the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative Round 1. DCQ may receive an addition $1 million from Queensland Feral Pest Initiative Round 2 pending final project approval from the Oversight Group.
53 Desert Channels Queensland	**Two regional NRM groups are playing vital lead role in the control and eradication of prickly acacia**	More than 90% of the prickly Acacia in Queensland are in the DCQ and Southern Gulf regions, and these two regional NRM groups (Desert Channels Queensland and Southern Gulf NRM) undertake the vast majority of control activity and have, arguably been more successful than any other entity to date in developing the techniques and strategies to prevail against the pest plant. Therefore, DCQ finds it staggering that there is no mention of the vital role that regional bodies play in weed control. This is an oversight that must be addressed if the investments made to date by all levels of government are to be built on, rather than written off, or worse, followed by more good money to continue the same thing and hope for a different result (eg the 20 year tripling of Prickly Acacia infestations under the current strategy)."p.4	NRM groups in Queensland are not statutory bodies; they do not have a formal role in weed control. The vast majority of the control of prickly acacia undertaken by or funded through NRM groups is the responsibility of individual landowners. DAF is not aware of where the omission to which DCQ refers has occurred. DCQ has a formidable record of self-promotion, for example, the recent ABC landline program featuring DCQ prickly acacia approach.
51 Douglas	**Success by NRM groups**	"Two NRM groups – Southern Gulf and Desert Channels have had some success using Federal and State funding."p.2 "Desert Channels succeeded in gaining permission for off label usage of Tibuthiron in water courses under strict guidelines enabling dense core areas to be treated by drone application."p.2	See DCQ funding from State sources above. The APVMA permit PER14478 is for a maximum of 400 ha per annum by aerial application. This permit is not sufficient to control the 23,000,000 ha claimed by DCQ to be infested by prickly acacia. The permit is not available for other persons to use tebuthiuron in this manner. All other persons must use tebuthiuron as per the label instructions.
12 Southern Gulf NRM	**SGNRM control projects**	SGNRM with support under the QNRM program, during 2015/16 …managed prickly acacia control projects over 150,000 hectares in partnerships, involving more than 20 pastoral properties. P.2	There are 295 cattle businesses in the SGNRM area (Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)
12 Southern Gulf NRM	**Flinders Shire Council Good Neighbour Program**	The Flinders Shire Council stands out in its leadership of a Good neighbour Program to manage prickly acacia. P.3	The Finders Shire Good Neighbour Program has been supported by DAF through the War on Western Weeds Initiative.

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			http://www.flinders.qld.gov.au/good-neighbor-program-gnp- http://www.flinders.qld.gov.au/documents/12582/42802109/Flinders%20Shire%20GNP%20case%20study%20publication.pdf
10 Hacon	**Herbicides**	Chemicals such as tebuthiuron and highly effective, long lasting and economical, therefore funding for new chemical programs should be redirected into eradication programs such as running courses in every shire to demonstrate.. "Infested properties along watercourses should be encouraged to run their eradication programs sequentially (beginning at the top of the watershed) in order to clean-up entire creek or river systems, and in order to stop the transportation of seed downstream reinfesting country that has already been treated." p.2	The APVMA permit PER14478 for use of tebuthiuron in ephemeral waterways is for a maximum of 400 ha per annum by aerial application. The permit is not available for persons other than DCQ to use tebuthiuron in this manner. All other persons must use tebuthiuron as per the label instructions. Good practice weed control recommends starting at the top of catchments and working downstream while maintaining a control zone below the infestation to prevent downstream spread.
46 Burnett Mary Regional Group for Natural Resource Management	**Control with herbicide Access mixed with diesel**	"Experience has shown that the herbicide Access combined with diesel, applied using the basal bark technique, is an effective control method. However, it has limitations as it is not suitable for use where plants are growing near waterways, due to the risk of the chemical entering the waterway. It can also be difficult to access the trunk of the tree to apply the chemical due to low growing branches."p.4	While basal bark technique is difficult in heavily vegetated riparian areas, the Access herbicide product label does not include any restriction on its use near waterways. https://das.my.salesforce.com/sfc/p/#30000001J5oK/a/0M000000EtAg/BKfM7VM7PRryDpCJqU7kszwHgjxkMoymz3TUKmPPW9o **PROTECTION OF LIVESTOCK, WILDLIFE, FISH, CRUSTACEANS AND ENVIRONMENT** DO NOT contaminate streams, rivers or waterways with the chemical or used containers. Alongside waterways treat only noxious weeds and poisonous plants.
12 Southern Gulf NRM	**Everyone's Environment program**	Grants under the EEP program provided some welcome support for prickly acacia control projects in the region during 2013/14. P.6	The Everyone's Environment program administered by EHP provided two grants in 2013/14 for prickly acacia management. $100,000 to the Upper Gilliat Weed Management Group for Strategic control of prickly acacia, weed of national significance - Upper Gilliat channels

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			https://environment.ehp.qld.gov.au/everyones-environment/?project=120062 $100,000 to the Nelia Pest Management Group for Strategic control of prickly acacia, weed of national significance- Julia Creek https://environment.ehp.qld.gov.au/everyones-environment/?project=120059
33 Agforce	**Good Neighbour programs**	"Most local government areas affected by prickly acacia are meeting their regulatory obligations by implementing Good Neighbour programs to control weeds across property boundaries."p.2 eg Flinders Shire Good neighbour Policy to stop weeds spread by managing all weeds within 50m, of boundary fences, 250m upstream of watercourses traversing a boundary, 25m either side of gazetted roads, access tracks and powerlines and weeds on all stock routes.p.2	The Finders Shire Good Neighbour Program has been supported by DAF through the War on Western Weeds Initiative. http://www.flinders.qld.gov.au/good-neighbor-program-gnp- http://www.flinders.qld.gov.au/documents/12582/42802109/Flinders%20Shire%20GNP%20case%20study%20publication.pdf DAF is unaware that "most" local governments are implementing this or a similar good neighbour program.
33 Agforce	**New cost-effective techniques**	"Scatter guns and helidrops for herbicide granules, misters for regrowth, mulcher/grinders and mechanical pluckers are all new cost-effective techniques with an ongoing role in prickly acacia management.".p.2	DAF has supported trials for some of these innovations in the management of prickly acacia and for other weeds.
33 Agforce	**Slow progress to develop a national voluntary weed hygiene declaration**	Progress to develop a national voluntary weed hygiene declaration by the Farm Biosecurity project http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au has been slow. The previous weed hygiene declaration was superseded as a result of the new *Biosecurity Act 2014*, and has not been reissued by the Queensland Government. P.2	The superseded weed hygiene declaration under section 45 of the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* allowed the supply of cattle infested with prickly acacia seed so long as written notice was given by the vendor to the purchaser prior to the supply of the infested cattle stating that the cattle may contain prickly acacia seed. It was buyer beware system. Recent amendments to the *Biosecurity Act 2014* Chapter 15 Part 5 allow for the establishment of biosecurity accreditation schemes. A person or organisation such as Agforce can apply to operate an approved biosecurity accreditation scheme to accredit persons to issue biosecurity certificates under the scheme. A biosecurity certificate under an approved scheme is a certificate about whether stated biosecurity matter or another

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			stated thing, including, for example, a carrier of restricted matter— (a) is free of the stated restricted matter; or (d) is in a stated condition; or (e) is from a stated area; or (f) has been the subject of a stated treatment; or (g) meets stated requirements, including, for example, that it complies with requirements for certification as stated in an accreditation. Agforce may apply to establish such a scheme.
46 Burnett Mary Regional Group for Natural Resource Management	**Monitoring of waterway infestations**	"BMRG has partnered with landholders and QPWS staff in the North Burnett and with landholders in the Miriam Vale area for control of prickly acacia. Local government monitors incursions of this pest plant, as it will infest waterways and competes with grass growth."p.4	Another model for partnership of an NRM group with land managers and the local government's monitoring and compliance enforcement role.
47 Mr Rob Katter MP	**Successful eradication of plants by NRM group with assistance from others**	Notes the reporting by one NRM group of the eradication of 50 million Prickly Acacia plants in two and a half years on a budget of just $365,000 per financial year from the Queensland Government. "This success story was only achieved with other substantial contributors to the Group." p.1	The NRM group claims do not align with the size of the grants given to DCQ.
48 CSIRO	**Need to evaluate the sustainability of large scale application of herbicide on Prickly acacia**	"Significant amounts of generic systemic herbicides (e.g. Graslan/Tebuthiuron) being applied in granular form across vast areas to try and bring prickly acacia under control, with some even promoting the possibility of eradicating this weed using this tactic. While this may reflect the desperation being felt by landholders in terms of combatting the impacts of this weed, the long-term sustainability of using such a tactic, for a weed that has a 10+ year seed survivability in the seedbank, needs careful consideration especially along watercourses. The non-target and persistent impacts of this tactic may need careful evaluation within a risk-cost-benefit framework that also appropriately takes into account the social, environment and economic outcome."p.4	DAF acknowledges CSIRO concern in DAF's role as the regulator of the Queensland *Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988* and *Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966*.
51 Douglas	**Benefits of re-establishing perennial grasses**	"Reestablishment of perennial grasses has a beneficial effect as the land goes into dry times later and responds better when rain comes."P.3 "Pasture growth and canopy cover and directly related [to] more canopy-less grass"p.3	DAF recognises the inverse relationship between pasture cover and prickly acacia canopy cover.
51 Douglas	**Outside contractors**	"Outside contractors are usually the most efficient way to get results unless the problem is small and enthusiasm is high."p.3	DAF recognises the use of experienced contractors for specialised control.

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		Biocontrol and other research	
11 Southern Downs Regional Council	**Support for increased research and control efforts**	SDRC recognise the serious impacts of PA to other parts of the State and supports increased research and control efforts by the State. p.3	The recent co-investment model regional local government meetings have been prioritising weeds for future research.
37 Invasive Species Council	**Difficult to target with biocontrol**	"All three weeds chosen as case studies for this current inquiry are difficult targets for biocontrol because they are all closely related to native species. Once again, this underlines the importance of prevention and early intervention as cost-effective means of addressing invasive plants."p.7	Prickly acacia is the least difficult of the three case studies and a six biological control agents have been approved for release in Australia and establish. • kenyan geometrid moth, leaf-feeding looper caterpillar (*Chiasmia inconspicua*) • prickly acacia geometrid moth (*Chiasmia assimilis*) • prickly acacia leaf-feeding beetle (*Homichloda barkeri*) • prickly acacia leaf-feeding caterpillar (*Cometaster pyrula*) • prickly acacia seed-feeding beetle (*Bruchidius sahlbergi*) • prickly acacia tip-boring moth (*Cuphodes profluens*)
33 Agforce	**Biocontrol research**	"Biocontrol research was also funded through the WoWW initiative; however, there are no host-specific agents from India. Testing is continuing on gall midges from Ethiopia."p.2	Field trials of the babul scale (*Anomalococcus indicus*) is ongoing in India, though choice trials do show that some Australian plants as susceptible. Host specificity testing of the gall thrips (*Acaciothrips ebneri*) has been initiated.
38 Ms Jan Cotham	**Research to eliminate prickles**	"Is it possible for scientists to breed off the prickles off the prickly acacia? For years they have been researching biological control at a cost and then there has been a further cost for on ground measures. If the plant had no prickles, then there would be no problem."p.2	The prickles are not the main issue. The main issue is that the prickly acacia trees displace native grasses and improved pastures in what should be open grasslands.
40 Fitzroy Basin Association	**Biocontrol for prickly acacia being used in central Qld**	In the Three Rivers areas of Central Queensland, FBA and Capricornia Catchments are undertaking biocontrol with the UU moth and chemical control to control prickly acacia and Parkinsonia. P.5	The UU moth (*Eueupithecia cisplatensia*) is a biological control agent for parkinsonia.
40 Fitzroy Basin Association	**Support for further biocontrol trials and research**	FBA would welcome further investment to support [biocontrol] trials or further research.p.5	The recent co-investment model regional local government meetings have been prioritising weeds for future research.

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			The FBA is an NRM group that has not been party to the DAF local government co-investment meetings.
48 CSIRO	**Biocontrol for prickly acacia**	"Biosecurity Queensland has been pursuing biocontrol solutions for prickly acacia for many years, but with variable returns."p.3	It is unlikely that CSIRO entomologists would have had any different outcomes had they undertaken the research.
		Encouraging landowners to take action	
53 Desert Channels Queensland	**Prickly acacia not a viable drought fodder plant**	"There remain some individuals within Councils and in communities that actually believe that Prickly Acacia trees provide great fodder (seed pods) in times of drought. His is not based on science or economics. Not only do the trees shut down in drought times and not produce seeds, the pasture lost to Prickly Acacia infestations far outweigh any gain from prickly acacia."p.2	Managing a grazing system with a browse component requires the active management of the trees so that the trees do not negatively impact on the grass component. See for example the leucaena grazing system in other parts of the state's beef industry.
53 Desert Channels Queensland	**Changing attitudes to social responsibilities of weed control.**	"We are currently on the cusp of social change for the benefit of the landscape. Now, more than ever before, we are seeing more landholders take their social responsibilities more seriously. Prickly acacia infested properties are being discounted and are more difficult to sell, and this is translating into a decrease in land values; stock off these areas is also being discounted (DCQ 2016).	Market driven forces occur when pests are well established and the negative impacts well known.
10 Hacon	**Need for carrot and stick approach**	These graziers must be educated as to the long-term negative impacts of not treating prickly acacia infestations. They must be incentivised to treat the infestations, and they must be reprimanded for not doing so. In short they need a carrot and stick.p.1	DAF recognises that any compliance strategy needs not to be one size fits all.
12 Southern Gulf NRM	**Recommendation to study feasibility of rental discount for weed control**	"The State should, in consultation with the pastoral industry, NRM sector and other stakeholders, undertake a feasibility study for the introduction of a rental discount incentive for lessees that demonstrate progress in prickly acacia control (and other aspects of sustainable land management relevant to their lease conditions)." P.5	Leasehold rents are the responsibility of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines. It is a mandatory condition of all term leases that noxious plants are controlled see section200 Lands Act 1994 **200 Noxious plants condition** (1) All leases, licences and permits are subject to the condition that the lessee, licensee or permittee must keep noxious plants on the land under control. (2) If a person does not comply with subsection (1), the Minister may bring the noxious plants under control. (3) The Minister's cost of bringing the noxious plants under control is a debt owing to the State and may be recovered from the person in a court of competent jurisdiction.

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10 Hacon	**Subsidies for initial eradication work**	"Government needs to collaborate at all levels to maximise funding opportunities, and to heavily subsidise the initial eradication works required to bring infestations under control. Funding for graziers could operate on a sliding scale depending on the level of infestation (from 80 percent subsidies for dense infestations, to 50 percent for more lightly infested areas), and should be maintained for a period of at least five years in order to treat the majority of viable seed retained in the soil, as well as any emerging plants. After the initial eradication, and to treat any remaining infestation, as well as anything that emerges. P.1	This proposal effectively rewards poor land managers that have allowed the prickly acacia to flourish contrary to their legal obligations and their own long term best interest.
47 Mr Rob Katter MP	**Need to provide incentives to control prickly acacia**	Proposes that the committee explores programs which provide producers with an incentive to control the weed, such as reduced land rents for pastoral lease holders or reduced rates for freehold land owners.P.2	Leasehold rents are the responsibility of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines. It is a mandatory condition of all term leases that noxious plants are controlled see section200 Lands Act 1994 **200 Noxious plants condition** (1) All leases, licences and permits are subject to the condition that the lessee, licensee or permittee must keep noxious plants on the land under control. (2) If a person does not comply with subsection (1), the Minister may bring the noxious plants under control. (3) The Minister's cost of bringing the noxious plants under control is a debt owing to the State and may be recovered from the person in a court of competent jurisdiction. Rates and levies are determined by each individual local government under the *Local Government Act 2008*.
49 Campbell	**No interest loans to fund initial control**	"A no interest loan facility to pay for initial control may be an acceptable option for the State to discharge some of its obligations."p.1	False premise that the state has an obligation for weed control on private land. Since the first weed legislation was introduced in Queensland, it has been a landowners and leaseholders obligation to control weeds on their freehold or leasehold land. Local government's weed obligation is for roads, stock routes and reserves. The state does not need to discharge any obligation other than to state-controlled land.

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		Actions by government	
53 Desert Channels Queensland	**Control of prickly acacia on Crown land can be problematic**	Control of prickly acacia can be problematic. In some western shires the work is carried out by local shires – competes for funding with other usually higher priority priorities of councils – smaller councils can be challenged by the costs. The control work is straightforward where there is no conflict of interest or connection with the landholder. If there is conflict, neither the council nor landholder adequately address the problem.p.3	
53 Desert Channels Queensland	**BQ control advice is in conflict with DNRM views**	"…Biosecurity Queensland promotes mechanical control as an effective treatment for Prickly Acacia while from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines perspective, the soil should not be disturbed."p.4	DAF does not believe that the recommendations about mechanical control of prickly acacia are in conflict with the obligations under the *Vegetation Management Act*. When undertaking weed control a person must comply with all relevant legislation. For example, the Managing Weeds – a self-assessable vegetation clearing code (2013) includes a section on mechanical weed control. Mechanical weed control must: • retain all habitat and retained trees • retain at least 50% of the trees with a diameter of 15-19 centimetres (measured at chest height) where the estimated percentage weed cover of the area is less than 50% • not result in opening the tree canopy of dense regional ecosystems, unless the weed species dominates the tree canopy. In a wetland or watercourse protection area: • mechanical weed control must not occur in a no machinery zone • mechanical weed control must not cause accelerated erosion in an erosion management zone • access tracks running parallel to the wetland or watercourse must not be located within 10 metres of the defining bank.

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			In a no machinery zone, weeds may be removed by hand, felling, stem injection, cut stump, basal bark spraying, splatter gun or directed foliar spray.
12 Southern Gulf NRM	**Need for action**	"There is an urgent need for the State and local governments, industry and the community to collaborate in the effective management of this major threat to productivity and the environment."p.1	DAF supports all stakeholders to find common ground for an effective management strategies for prickly acacia.
10 Hacon	**Reintroduce stock inspectors**	Proposes that reintroducing stock inspectors or rangers to every shire is crucial to ensuring appropriate level of control is applied, and for enforcing penalties – with at least one ranger continually roving the district recording and monitoring any new weed outbreaks, overseeing the introduction and maintenance of certified 'weed-free' properties or regions, as well as authorising the movement or quarantine of stock from areas with weed infestations. Proposed fines ($50,000 first offence, $100,000 for subsequent offences , as cattle are main vector for spreading prickly acacia seed. pp1-2	See comments about • Biosecurity Act the general biosecurity obligation • biosecurity accreditation schemes above Maximum penalties for prickly acacia are set in the Biosecurity Act – GBO offence $750,000 or 6 months imprisonment. Category 3 restricted matter (supply or release of prickly acacia) $500,000. It is within the prerogative of the courts to determine the level of the penalty for repeat offences.
		Compliance issues	
53 Desert Channels Queensland	**Enforcing requirements of eases, licences and permits is impossible task for local governments**	States that the enforcement of the requirements for leases, licensees and permittees to keep noxious plants on the land under control is an impossible task for local governments. P.3	DCQ seems to not understand the relevant legislation. The DNRM administers the *Lands Act 1994* which imposes mandatory conditions including control of noxious weeds (including prickly acacia) on leases, licensees and permittees granted under the Lands Act. Local government does not enforce lease conditions. DAF administers the *Biosecurity Act 2014* which imposes a general biosecurity obligation on persons dealing with prickly acacia to take all reasonable and practical measures to prevent or minimise the biosecurity risk of the dealing with prickly acacia. Local government has the function to enforce that obligation in respect to prickly acacia.
53 Desert Channels Queensland	**Compliance with the Act and stock movement protocols vital for addressing prickly acacia**	"Compliance with the [Biosecurity] Act, and a workable stock movement protocol, is essential for success, regardless of the control methods and strategies used."p.2	See comments about biosecurity accreditation schemes above.

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49 Campbell	**Spread reflects a lack of third party review of landholders /leaseholders meeting their obligation to control it**	"the primary obligation for control should lie firmly with the landholder or leaseholder. In which case, a condition of lease is to control weeds. Very little third party review or influence has occurred, hence the exponential spread of thee weed."p.1	See comments above enforcement of mandatory lease conditions under the Lands Act.
12 Southern Gulf NRM	**Enormous challenges for small councils in Southern Gulf Region compared to larger councils**	Notwithstanding their best efforts, while sharing the same responsibilities under the Biosecurity Act 2014 as local governments throughout Queensland, local governments in the Southern Gulf region are generally large in area but very small in population and have very limited capability to discharge these responsibilities (eg Burke Shire $8.5M council total revenue, regional population 550, land area 40,127 km ^{2} compared to Sunshine Coast Region revenue $396M, population 287,000, land area only 3,124 km ^{2}) p.3.	Many of the far western and northern shires also suffer from large areas and small rate payer bases.
12 Southern Gulf NRM	**Compliance difficulties for smaller councils**	"…the capacity of Southern Gulf local governments, combined with the social and economic context of the small local governments of the region means that insufficient attention is given to compliance action, including prosecution when appropriate……an argument can be made that compliance activities of this type would be better led by Biosecurity Queensland than by local government" P.3	The sections 50 and 51 of the Biosecurity Act create a mechanism for DAF to perform local government's functions. These includes • a local government compliance notice given by the Minister directing the local government to perform an obligation or function • then if the local government continues to fail to perform the obligation or function, gazettal of the intention of DAF to perform the function or obligation • then DAF performing the function and • recouping DAF's costs from the local government as a debt payable to the State.
12 Southern Gulf NRM	**Recommendation – better support for western Qld LGAs**	"The State should invest in projects that better support western Queensland local governments to discharge all aspects of their weed management responsibilities under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, including provision of expert support for compliance activities to mitigate the spread of prickly acacia." P.3	DAF has undertaken pilot compliance projects with western local governments. The most recent with Murweh about wild dog compliance.

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		Fact sheets	
33 Agforce	**Recommendation about review of DAF Prickly Acacia Pest Fact**	"Agforce recommends the Prickly Acacia Pest Fact is updated with emerging best practice information and additional herbicide options, arising from the WoWW research project." P.2	The Prickly acacia pestfact will be updated with best practice information. It is unlawful for the DAF to make claims about chemical usage in any publication that is not stated on a registered chemical product label or in an APVMA permit. Additional herbicide options will only be included in the prickly acacia pestfact once APVMA permits have been granted or registered herbicide product label are changed.
33 Agforce	**Need to update Biosecurity Queensland fact sheet**	"The outdated Biosecurity Queensland Prickly Acacia Pest-Fact needs to be updated with the outcomes from the WoWW and WoNIW adaptive management research: https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/73753/IPA-Prickly-Acacia-PP9.pdf For example seed longevity, misting minor use permit with fluroxypr, cost-effective scatter gun and helidrop application of tebuthiuron pellets, new mechanical methods and ephemeral watercourse minor use permit for tebuthiuron application by Desert Channels Queensland. p. 2	The Prickly acacia pestfact will be updated with best practice information after it is finalised. It is unlawful for any person or to make claims about chemical usage that is not stated on a registered chemical product label or in an APVMA permit other than for the purposes of scientific research. The factsheet is not a venue for disseminating scientific research it is publication to assist people meet their obligations under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* and as such can only contain options that are lawful to use. The DCQ PER14478 is only for contractors, employees or persons working under the direction of DCQ. The usage situation is for ephemeral systems under a DCQ approved weed control plan. The treatment area is also limited to 400 ha annually and there are critical treatment area calculations based on prior treatments that can only be met if calculated and recorded by DCQ as the permit holder. Permit PER14478 is not for the general public use and is unsuitable for inclusion in the prickly acacia factsheet.
33 Agforce	**Need to distribute fact sheets to affected land managers**	"The several WoWW factsheets on prickly acacia management need wider circulation to affected land managers: http://www.southerngulf.com.au/resources/fact-sheets" p.2	These co-branded factsheets currently available on the Southern Gulf NRM website. BQ will include links from the DAF web site to this information.

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		Funding issues	
33 Agforce	**Funding by Australian and Queensland Governments**	"The $1.88m War on Western Weeds (WOWW) initiative funded by Queensland Government and the $306,500 War on Northern Invasive Weeds (WONIW) project funded by the Australian Government have provided adaptive research trials and costings for several innovative techniques for controlling prickly acacia."p.2	The War on Northern Invasive Weeds (WONIW) project was a grant from the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources to DAF for six activities • Refinement of three new chemical delivery systems that improve labour and control efficiencies. The three tools are misting, Epple Skatter gun and weed Sniper. • Conduct two rangeland weed management innovation field days to showcase new technologies, facilitate adoption of best practice and encourage farmer innovation of control tools from concept design and development. • Support at least one further community based innovation • Complete a "Good Neighbour Program' case study • Use community based social marketing methods to improve the uptake of technology • Undertake technology transfer activities to exchange information and new approaches to weeds specialists and farmers
12 Southern Gulf NRM	**Funding for prickly acacia**	SGNRM's contribution to prickly acacia management funded almost entirely under the Queensland NRM Program administered by DNRM. The 2016/17 QNRM funding allocation of around $8million state-wide amounted to a 25% reduction in investment in previous years and the program comes to an end at the end of 2016-17. As of January 2017, the Queensland Government's intentions regarding funding for successor program, and how and whether it will be available to NRM bodies has not been communicated. SGNRM propose that expenditure on the QNRM program could and should be at least doubled. p.8	The Queensland Natural Resource Management Investment Program is administered by DNRM. Questions about the future of that program should be directed to DNRM.
33 Agforce	**National drought recovery grants used to fund weed control**	"National drought recovery grants have enabled shires such as Longreach Regional Council to employ local producers and land managers to control woody weeds along reserves, stock routes and the Town Commons."p.2	Conditions and eligibility criteria for National funding programs are determined by the Australian Government.

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33 Agforce	**Funding for lake Eyre Basin Indigenous rangers**	"Funding for strategic control of prickly acacia by the lake Eyre Basin Indigenous rangers needs to be sustained to ensure control of outlying infestations."p.3	The Lake Eyre Basin Indigenous Rangers program is administered by DEHP. https://environment.ehp.qld.gov.au/land-sea-rangers/?ranger=lake-eyre-basin
47 Mr Rob Katter MP	**Lack of consistent funding and coordination**	States there is a lack of funding and coordination between councils. "Councils should be encouraged to cooperate and be provided with adequate funding to implement joint solutions. A lack of consistent funding for these programs has been an ongoing issue. P.1	The seven local governments in the RAPAD area (Blackall-Tambo Regional, Barcaldine Regional, Boulia Shire, Longreach Regional, Barcoo Shire, Diamantina Shire and Shire of Winton) form the Central West Regional Pest Management Group which developed the Central West Regional Biosecurity Plan. The Biosecurity Plan has been adopted by each of the seven local governments. This indicates the high level of cooperation and coordination between these seven Councils. The State does not provide funding to local governments to undertake weed control that the councils do on behalf of their local residents. Local governments have mechanisms under the *Local Government Act 2008* to charge for services, charge general rates or special rates and levies.
39 Tablelands Regional Council	**Suggestions**	Additional suggestions provided by Mr P and Mrs R Michna, landholders in Topaz: • Education programmes on pest recognition and management methods • Comprehensive lists of persons who help eradicate pigs for instance • Subsidised herbicide, fertilizer ground improvement supplements, fencing materials through existing local suppliers • Local citizens "adopt a right if way" or stretch of road to relieve the burden on council employees in return for Tablelands regional Council supplied herbicide • That the work of individual landholders be supported as well as community groups(attachment)	• Education programmes on pest recognition is provided through the Weed Spotter Network and web-based by DAF. • The Sporting Shooters Association members can assist in shooting feral pigs. • Subsidised herbicide through existing local suppliers is administratively expensive. • This proposal should be put to the Tablelands Regional Council. • Public funds are expended for public benefit not individual private benefit.