

Factsheet

PA and PACTs (DCQ facts)



Prickly Acacia

- declared Class 2 pest plant in Queensland
- Weed of National Significance
- one of the worst weeds in Australia
- landholders sometimes welcome it in low densities
- provides shade and some livestock nutrition
- immature seedpods very palatable and high in protein
- under good conditions, 170,000+ seeds per tree per year
- approximately 40% still viable after passing through cattle
- chokes out more grass than the feed value it provides
- eventually replaces all grass cover
- mass germinations with early rain and no competing grass
- average wet season sees most seedlings survive
- exploded in good seasons bracketing 2010
- requires increasing investment by landholders
- control needs significant and strategic action
- unchecked, could dominate 95% of Mitchell Grass Downs by 2030
- primary spread agent now is cattle
- rated by landholders as the number one issue

The Cost of Doing Nothing

Independent case study analysis undertaken by Bush Agribusiness showed treatment costs of \$100,000 when Prickly Acacia is at low density but, when left untreated for six years, costs increase to \$420,000.

What DCQ is doing

- sponsoring new regulatory tools
- harnessing science and technology
- identifying priority areas through satellite image analysis
- developing, trialling and introducing new techniques
- improving efficiency
- reducing costs
- meeting production and environmental expectations
- targeting weed outliers to stop spread
- eradicating core infestations
- informing stock owners of the need for weed hygiene
- developed the DCQ PACT: a group approach to control
- developed the supporting DCQ Weed Plan

What is a PACT?

- Prickly Acacia Control Team
- collaborative approach to Prickly Acacia control
- approaches control at a landscape level
- DCQ Weed Plan at its core
- the key aims are to:
 - clean watercourses, bore drains and dams
 - clean paddocks
 - keep their properties clean
 - recover grass
 - sustainable and economically viable stocking rates
 - stop weeds to and from neighbours
 - sets out respective obligations
- DCQ support dependent on landholders meeting their obligations

How does it work?

- satellite imagery used to identify priority areas
- prioritisation based on rate of spread and strategic location
- landholders in priority areas encouraged to form PACT groups
- group agrees on priority actions and techniques to be used
- planning is simple and accurate with satellite imagery
- DCQ provides support to PACT group for 5 years max
 - subsidised chemicals in years 1 and 3
 - labour as required in years 1 and 3
 - technical support as required

- DCQ support dependent on landholders meeting their obligations

Spray or pellets? (pros and cons)

Spraying by hand	Applying pellets by hand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● most common technique ● basal bark with diesel and chemical ● very effective - results within 2 weeks ● slow and dirty ● health and safety issues ● 1 litre per tree ● \$2.20 per litre of mix (2014) ● re-treat for seedlings every year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● not widely used previously ● heavily used by DCQ for 2 years ● slow results – rain activated ● 50% faster than spraying ● quick, easy and safe to handle ● 7 grams per metre of tree height ● average tree height 2 metres ● average \$0.18 per tree ● up to 3 years of seedling control

