



MEDIA RELEASE

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Steam weeder to reduce herbicide use

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COOKTOWN

Cook Shire Council will be reducing the use of herbicides around towns, with the addition of a new steam weeder to the parks and gardens arsenal.

The new unit, which uses steam to kill weeds, would also increase the team's operational abilities, Cook Shire Council Parks and Waste Operations Manager Jim Doidge said. "It enables us to tackle weeds around town in a much wider range of weather conditions, including the famous Cooktown wind, when we can't use herbicides," Mr Doidge said.

The steam weeder is designed for operation in high use public areas, particularly along street edges, gutters and channels, and will reduce reliance on herbicides. "It isn't suited to all areas, and can only be used on low weed growth, so it won't be replacing herbicide weed control in the Shire," Mr Doidge said. "The weeder also only kills on contact, unlike herbicides which will penetrate to the root system of a plant, so there can be regrowth. That being said, the steam can sterilise seeds, which helps reduce re-germination of pest plants."

For more information contact Council's parks and gardens team via email at mail@cook.qld.gov.au or phone on 4069 5444.

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