



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Council trials new herbicide

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COOKTOWN

Cook Shire Council's Biosecurity Services team is trialling a new herbicide capsule which can be used year round and uses up to 75 per cent less chemical.

The dry herbicide comes in a capsule which is inserted into a hole drilled in the pest plant, reducing the need for protective equipment, ensuring there is no spray drift and only the target plant is killed. The trials are being undertaken on lantana at the Cooktown Airport and will support research conducted by the University of Queensland and BioHerbicides Australia. The results of trials at the airport will increase knowledge of the efficacy of seven different herbicides applied to lantana using this method. Other benefits of encapsulated herbicides include the ability to be applied year round and in all weather, no groundwater contamination or run off and the small weight and size of the herbicide compared to liquid herbicides.

The University and BioHerbicides Australia have also developed a prototype applicator that is able to drill holes, insert a capsule and plug the cavity in one action which, if commercially produced, will result in time saving compared to traditional spray methods. The technology has considerable future potential in the control of invasive trees and shrubs such as parkinsonia, prickly acacia and pond apple.

For more information contact Council's Biosecurity Services team via email at biosecurity@cook.qld.gov.au or phone on 4069 5444.

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