

**REVIEW OF PROGRESS AGAINST THE
LANTANA STRATEGIC PLAN**

(2001 – 2002)

Prepared by:

*Dept of Natural Resources and Mines
GPO Box 2454
BRISBANE QLD 4001*

LANTANA STRATEGIC PLAN 2001 –2002

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduced to Australia in the 1840s, Lantana has since spread to infest 4 million hectares. It is considered by many to have reached its potential for further spread, however, Lantana may continue spread into other areas in Queensland, New South Wales, Northern Territory and Western Australia under the right conditions. While the problem is vastly ignored in many quarters, it needs to be emphasised that control through best practice is still a viable option for reducing the impacts on environment, primary production and community health.

Key achievements include:

- Project commenced in January 2003 with appointment of National Project Coordinator (Andrew Clark) and Lantana Extension Office (Helen Haapakoski).
- A National Management Committee has been appointed with the first meeting scheduled for 6-7 March 2003.
- Extension and Promotion includes the development of an extension plan, progress towards development of a Lantana web site which is to be reflected in the national weeds program web site search engine and planned displays at key events involving public audiences.
- Strategic biological control undertakings include releases in the southern Wet Tropics of a sap sucking bug *Falconia intermedia* and the rust *Prospodium tuberculatum* in December 2002 and the mass rearing of new agents at Charters Towers (TWRC) and Sherwood (AFRS) for strategic site release in Queensland and New South Wales in the near future.
- Key Local Governments in Queensland are targeting Lantana as a priority weed.
- Lantana has been identified as the no 1 environmental weed is SEQ by the Queensland Herbarium.
- Work has begun on the Best Practice Guidelines for Lantana Management. An initial stakeholder survey is 90% complete. The survey will be used as the basis for in-depth interviews with selected landholders, workshops and potential focus groups to help establish best practice. A Best Practice Pilot Program will be based on the results of the survey.

Eurobadella Shire Council is awaiting funds transfer from Department of Land Water and Conservation (DLWC), they will commence their project when funds are available. The management Group will be seeking an extension of all projects beyond June 2003 due to the late start of the project and impacts of drought.