



### **Mimosa threatens Kakadu and wetlands of Top End**

*Mimosa pigra* – a weed so invasive it has been classified a Weed of National Significance, has already infested more than 800,000 hectares of Northern Territory floodplain.

Mimosa has the potential to dominate wetlands in north Australian coastal area. It displaces wildlife, causes structural changes to plant communities and adds a significant cost to the pastoral industry.

*Mimosa pigra* forms dense infestations; it can withstand severe drought and flooding, and can only be controlled by integrated management options such as chemical, physical, ecological, and biological methods.

“Mimosa is a threat to any wetland - it invades and alters the ecology, severely impacting on the social, cultural and environmental value of the land.” Mr Forwood said.

Fortunately, a joint effort between the pastoral industry, private landholders and various government agencies has seen 30,000 hectares of mimosa infestation being controlled.

During Weedbuster Week, 1 – 7 September, Chairperson of the National Management Committee for *Mimosa pigra*, Jim Forwood AM is asking landholders to be on the lookout for this invasive weed.

A native of Central and Southern America, Mimosa was introduced into Australia at the Northern Territory Darwin Botanic Gardens in the late 1800s.

It has since spread to some of the main river systems in the Top End including the Finniss, Reynolds, Adelaide, Mary, Daly, East and South Alligator.

The only other outbreak of mimosa was discovered near Proserpine's Peter Faust Dam in northern Queensland in February 2001.

"Weedbuster week is an opportunity for the community to become involved in managing weeds such as Mimosa by assisting with community based programs or simply learning to recognise a new weed in their local area.

"If you want to be involved with a local Weedbuster activity, go to [www.weedbuster.info](http://www.weedbuster.info)." Mr Forwood said.

For more information on *Mimosa pigra* visit the Weeds of National Significance website <http://www.weeds.org.au/> or contact the Chairperson of the National Management Committee for *Mimosa pigra* centre on (07) 38804370

### **Media contacts**

Jim Forwood 07 3880 4370