

**Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries  
Queensland Government**

**Media Release**

**20 August 2008**

**Search and destroy survey targets Badhara bush**

A survey to locate and eradicate the very tough and thorny declared Class 1 weed pest known as Badhara bush will be conducted along Palm Creek from Cawarral township to Tungamull from August 20 to 27.

Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries land protection officer Melissa Wall, is leading the Badhara bush eradication project, an on-going challenge to rid Central Queensland of Australia's only known infestations.

"Originally used in India as a thorny barrier to protect homes and livestock from tigers, Badhara bush was introduced from India to Central Queensland's Stanage Bay area in the 1800s as a hedge around the Stanage Bay homestead," Ms Wall said.

"War was declared on Badhara bush by landholders and government agencies some 20 years ago."

Ms Wall said the current focus on Badhara bush coincided with the national Weedbuster Week from September 1-7.

"The theme for this year's Weedbuster Week is **Grow me Instead** which emphasises the benefits of planting local species and non-weed garden plants," she said.

"Weedbuster Week aims to bring community attention to the damaging environmental and economic impacts of weeds, which cost the Australian economy \$4 billion annually in lost agricultural production.

"Badhara bush is a clear case of a non-native species that is impacting on our environment and agricultural systems. It's drought resistance, vigorous wet season growth and extensive lateral root system result in 10 metre high impenetrable thickets."

Badhara bush has spread from the now abandoned Stanage Bay homestead site to four adjoining grazing holdings in the Stanage Bay area. There are also multiple outbreaks centring on Cawarral between the Rockhampton-Yeppoon road and Rockhampton-Emu Park road and on one isolated property at Gracemere.

During Weedbuster Week, the community can help eradicate weeds such as Badhara bush by participating in a Weedbuster event or registering their own event.

Weedbuster activities such as weeding and planting local species, weed displays with local alternatives, guest speakers and competitions have all been popular events in previous years.

“Fortunately, our battle to eradicate Badhara bush, a native of South-East Asia and India, is being won slowly but surely thanks to cooperative efforts and the development of Property Pest Management Plans.”

There has been tremendous hands-on effort from landholders working together with officers from DPI&F Biosecurity Queensland, Natural Resources and Water, Rockhampton Regional Council, Capricorn Pest Management Group and the Fitzroy Basin Association, through the Badhara bush taskforce.

Landholders are asked to know how to identify Badhara bush, report any sightings and participate in monitoring and eradicating this pest.

For more information about how Biosecurity Queensland is tackling the serious issue of invasive weeds, visit [www.dpi.qld.gov.au](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au)

For further details on Weedbuster activities throughout Queensland visit [www.weedbusters.info](http://www.weedbusters.info)

**Photographs available**

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