

**Queensland Media Release
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Who you gonna call? WEEDBUSTERS!

The time for kicking those weeds out of town is fast approaching, with the annual Weedbuster Week taking place throughout Australia September 1 – 7.

National Weed Awareness Coordinator Petra Skoien said anyone can get involved and become a weedbuster.

“Weeds cause lots of damage to our native plants and animals, primary industries and human and animal health and cost the Australian economy \$4 billion every year in lost agricultural production,” Dr Skoien said.

“If you care about your environment and want to help tackle this serious problem, sign up for one of the activities happening over Weedbuster Week or register your own event.

“Activities such as weeding and planting at local creeks, bushland, parks or wetlands, weed displays with local native alternatives, BBQs with guest speakers and tree planting have all been fantastic events in previous years,” she said.

The theme of this year's Weedbuster Week is **Grow me Instead** which focuses on the benefits of planting natives and non-weed garden plants.

“Weeds are invasive plants which spread from where they belong and grow where they are not wanted,” Dr Skoien said.

“Planting local species has many benefits including drought-proofing your garden, protecting biodiversity and providing habitat for wildlife.

“Plant nurseries, Greening Australia and your local council can all provide good advice about what plants to grow and particularly, what not to grow,” she said.

Weedbusters is an awareness program that works with the community to improve management of weeds and prevent spread through increased public involvement in weed management, education and awareness projects. This is a critical part of achieving sustainable land and water management, as well as the benefits to industries and biodiversity. Even our recreational activities such as bushwalking and swimming benefit from weed control.

For further details on Weedbuster activities happening throughout Queensland visit www.weedbusters.info

For more information about how Biosecurity Queensland is tackling the serious issue of invasive weeds, visit www.dpi.qld.gov.au

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