



NORTH EAST
CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY

MEDIA RELEASE

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CMA calls for new noxious weed nominations

Residents of Victoria's North East are being invited to nominate weeds they believe pose a threat to the Catchment for inclusion on a noxious weeds hit-list.

The North East Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is taking part in the first significant Statewide review of a noxious weeds list since the introduction of the Catchment and Land Protection Act in 1994 and needs help to complete the task.

CMA Chief Executive, Mr John Riddiford, encouraged people to get involved as weeds are a serious environmental issue.

" Unlike the recent Oscars, there's no award for nominations to this list – just the prospect of control and eradication. ", said Mr Riddiford.

An infestation of *Salvinia* – a noxious weed on the State prohibited list - was successfully eradicated from Wodonga in 2001.

" In order to be considered for declaration as a noxious weed, a plant must undergo a Weed Risk Assessment process. This call for nominations is about getting more weeds assessed, " said Mr Riddiford.

The review of the noxious weed list involves a three-step process, with the first two phases almost complete. In the first two phases, the CMA focussed on weed species that were already declared or identified as priorities in Regional Weed Action Plans.

Phase 3 of the review covers the need to proclaim additional species that pose significant economic, environmental or social risk and warrant declaration as noxious weeds. This includes a number of species currently in trade that are seen to pose an unacceptable risk.

" Nurseries in the Catchment may be unwittingly selling plants that are actually weeds and we need to identify these as part as the nomination process. For example, Lantana is a species that being assessed for declaration as a noxious weed, " said Mr Riddiford.

Under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act*, CMA's have the responsibility to recommend plant species for declaration as noxious weeds.

The North East CMA is encouraging people to complete a form to provide information about suspected weed species, their distribution and the damage being caused.

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CMA calls for new noxious weed nominations (continued)

"We will use the information to evaluate the nominated species and will then declare noxious weeds where appropriate, " concluded Mr Riddiford.

The Noxious Weed Review is being conducted simultaneously across Victoria. It will involve staff from the Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs), Department of Primary Industries (DPI), and Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE).

Nominations close on 5pm Friday 19th May 2006.

For further information or to request a copy of the nomination form contact the North East CMA at Wodonga. Tel: (02) 6043 7600 or visit the website: www.necma.vic.gov.au

▲ Photo opportunities and story ideas :

File images of noxious weeds are available for press/websites. Weeds are listed in various categories:

1. State prohibited weeds - examples include Black Knapweed in the Ovens and Kiewa; and Hawkweeds at Falls Creek
2. Regionally prohibited weeds – an example is Serrated Tussock, Rutherglen
3. Regionally controlled - examples include Blackberry and Paterson's Curse

For further details or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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