

Prickly Acacia: Fast Facts

- Prickly Acacia is a weed of national significance (WONS) due to its invasiveness and its ecological, economic and social impacts.
- Prickly Acacia is not a new problem – it was introduced into Queensland in the 1890s and declared a noxious weed in 1957. It now affects six million hectares in Queensland and infestations in the Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australia.
- Stock, particularly cattle, the main sources for dispersing prickly acacia seed. Cattle pass 80% of ingested seed in their faeces which also provides an environment that promotes germination and survival.
- Stock moved by road transport can disperse a large amount of viable seed over a considerable distance.
- Dense infestations reduce pasture production, increase soil erosion, increase mustering costs, impede stock movement, restrict access of stock to water, increase the cost of maintaining bore drains and damage vehicle tyres.
- Current treatments are either chemical or mechanical which are heavily dependent on timing as control activities undertaken after a run of dry years gives better long-term results.