

Media Release

Friday 9 September 2011

WA leads in gorse eradication

Western Australia is leading the nation in its efforts to eradicate one of Australia's most serious weeds, Gorse.

On Monday 12 September in Albany, WA will become the first state to be a direct signatory to a 25 year gorse eradication commitment, when a Memorandum of Understanding is signed at an evening ceremony by the State Government and South Coast NRM.

Gorse covers over 23 million hectares of land in southern Australia, making large areas of land unusable by reducing the carrying capacity of pasture.

The weed harbours feral animals, degrades and competes with native vegetation, and is a serious fire hazard. It also carries significant control costs and is known to reduce land values.

South Coast NRM chief executive Rob Edkins said it had worked with the National Gorse Taskforce to initiate the eradication of gorse in WA over the past three years and the results had been excellent.

"Gorse eradication is well underway with 95% of infestations in WA having been managed. Our ongoing challenge is following up on these achievements because gorse seed can remain viable in the ground for decades," he said.

The 25 year gorse eradication memorandum of understanding is an initiative of the National Gorse Taskforce.

Tasmania-based National Gorse Taskforce chair Ian Sauer said South Coast NRM had made a strong contribution to the national program funded by the Australian Government, and he was pleased that this effort would continue with the support from the WA Government.

"It is great news that the State Government is supporting the initiative," Mr Sauer said.

"I applaud WA for being the first state to become a direct signatory to a gorse eradication commitment. It is just the beginning though as we need all states to get on board and support this important program."

ENDS

Members of the media are invited to the ceremony at the Albany Entertainment Centre's Kalyenup Studio from 4.45pm on Monday 12 September. RSVP to Jenelle Bowles.

Jenelle Bowles
Communications and Public Relations Coordinator
South Coast NRM
Direct (08) 9845 8521
Mobile 0428 928 536
Email jenelleb@southcoastnrm.com.au

Ian Sauer
Chair, National Gorse Taskforce
Mobile 0407 046 346
Email sauer@activ8.net.au

