



SOUTHCOAST
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INC.

Media Release

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Pretty flowers hide one ugly customer

A group of Esperance businesses and residents have joined forces with Esperance Regional Forum (ERF) and South Coast NRM to tackle the weedy menace - Lantana.

Lantana is a weed of national significance, meaning that it is a major problem across Australia and by law must be controlled. It threatens native flora by releasing a chemical into the surrounding soil to prevent germination of other plant species, before the weed eventually takes over native bushland.

Businesses participating in the 'weed blitz' include Landmark, Auto One, Swan Vets, Esperance Milk Supply, Esperance Pet Shop, Esperance Residential College, Port Authority, Avis, All Seasons Esplanade Apartments and Windich House. Local residents Mary Wennegal and the Edwards family have also been keen participants.

ERF education officer Lisa Julian said all varieties of Lantana from orange and white to red and pink were considered weeds.

Lantana's beautiful flowers hide its nastier side, with the plant responsible for 2,000 cattle deaths each year.

"Even if you look after your plant, you can't guarantee that it won't spread to other areas as the main method of spread is by seed. These seeds are ingested by birds and other animals which spread them through their droppings over a large distance very quickly," Ms Julian said.

"We would like to thank all of the businesses and individuals who are helping us to eradicate this weedy menace. It's a big job and couldn't be done without their support and commitment."

If you have Lantana growing or know where Lantana is growing and would like it removed, contact the Esperance NRM Office on Dempster Street on (08) 9076 2200. South Coast NRM can supply a selection of native plant species to replace what is removed.

ENDS

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