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MEDIA RELEASE

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CONSERVATION, FARMING, GOVERNMENT, COMMUNITY UNITE AGAINST WEEDS

The Tasmanian Conservation Trust today launched a new initiative to protect the state's environment and industries against weed invasion. The Tasmanian Conservation Trust will establish the "Tasmanian Weed Alert Network", a group of volunteers who are on the lookout for high-impact weeds which have not yet got a foothold in the state.

"Taking action early is critical to prevent the spread of new, high-impact weed varieties around Tasmania. The aim of the Tasmanian Weed Alert Network is to get people involved in land management from all sectors to be alert for new weeds and to intervene early if they find them" said Tasmanian Conservation Trust Director Peter McGlone.

He explained that weed invasion hurts nearly every Tasmanian, ranging from primary producers, through government land managers to community groups. For this reason, the Tasmanian Conservation Trust has partnered with Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, Tasmanian Herbarium and Tasmanian Weed Society to establish the Weed Alert Network.

"We are delighted that the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, the Tasmanian Herbarium and the Tasmanian Weed Society have all given their support to the Weed Alert Network. They will play a major part in helping us to establish and run the Network", Peter McGlone said.

Phil Reader from the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association Weeds Standing Committee said that it made sense for the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association to be involved in the Network.

"Weeds cost Tasmanian farmers and graziers at least $58 million every year in lost production and weed control costs. We don't want any new weeds adding to that burden", he said.

“A vegetable grower like myself stands to lose thousands of dollars every season if weeds such as “kochia” get going in Tasmania. The weed alert network will help to protect our business against these new weed threats”, Phil Reader said.

Establishment of the Weed Alert Network is being funded through the state government’s Tasmanian Community Fund. Peter McGlone said that the Weed Alert Network represented an excellent investment in protecting Tasmanian environmental and production values.

“One year’s seeding means seven years’ weeding. The Weed Alert Network can stop new weeds from that first year of seeding”, he said.

“We know that we can slash weed control costs sixteen-fold down the track by intervening early when a weed first shows up. The environmental savings from stamping out new weeds early on are very important too”, Peter McGlone said.

More information

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