



10 September 2018

The Hon David Littleproud MP  
Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

By email: [David.Littleproud.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:David.Littleproud.MP@aph.gov.au)

Dear Minister

Pest and Weed Management Funding

I am sure all local Governments in Western Queensland were pleased to hear your 11 July 2018 announcement that the Australian Government will commit a further \$9M to help manage pest animals and weeds as part of the federal government's response to the ongoing drought.

As you know, prickly acacia is a major threat to the productivity of the Mitchell Grass downs in the drought affected shires of North West Queensland. Regional producers with support from local governments, Southern Gulf NRM and Biosecurity Queensland have made real gains in tackling this insidious weed by working in collaboration. Our region needs continued funding support to consolidate these gains, so your announcement is very welcome.

We understand that further announcements will be made about the application process. At this point, we take the opportunity to urge you to ensure sufficient funding is directed to prickly acacia projects. We suggest at least \$1M of the \$9M overall allocation would be a reasonable proportion.

We also urge you to ensure that the funding guidelines support a collaborative approach involving regional local governments with support from Southern Gulf NRM and other partners. We believe this is the best way of ensuring available funding is well-targeted and on-ground works can be delivered with best effect.

Yours sincerely

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