

# Pest and weed management

The Department of Main Roads has established SAFELink Alliance to deliver the Ipswich Motorway Upgrade from Wacol to Darra. Construction is underway and is due for completion in December 2010.

Weeds and pests have significant economic, environmental and social effects on Queenslanders. Main Roads is committed to the responsible management of pests and weeds along this stretch of the motorway.

## Identifying weeds

Weed identification surveys were conducted in 2007, and found numerous weed species in the project area. Some of these include *Salvinia*, Prickly Pear and Lantana.

Weeds require different management depending on the potential harm they can cause to the local environment.

## Declared species

Declared species are plants targeted for control under state legislation and could have serious economic, environmental or social impacts. At least ten of the weed species identified in the project area are declared species.

Weeds such as *Salvinia* can rapidly form mats that completely cover waterways, affecting water quality, water flow and local wildlife. It can survive for long periods out of water when deposited on moist banks.



*Salvinia* is regarded as one of the worst weeds in Australia because of its invasiveness, potential for spread, and economic and environmental impacts.



Commonwealth legislation to control Prickly Pear was first introduced in 1886.

We will remove identified weeds away from the water's edge and transport weeds to an Environmental Protection Agency approved landfill site.

## Pests

Wacol, Darra and the surrounding suburbs have been identified as fire ant restricted areas. Fire ants can inflict painful stings to humans and animals, and pose a risk to construction workers and the local community.

We are taking a proactive approach to minimise this risk by ensuring site staff are trained in the identification and management of fire ants, and by conducting regular inspections during construction.

For more information about fire ants, call the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries on 13 25 23 or visit [www.dpi.qld.gov.au/fireants](http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/fireants).



The fire ant, *Solenopsis invicta*, can inflict painful stings.

Images of the Red Imported Fire Ant, Prickly Pear and *Salvinia* are courtesy of the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries.

W2D-036

# Ipswich Motorway Upgrade Wacol to Darra

## Managing pests and weeds

Inspections are conducted on all plant equipment and materials that are brought to, or carried away from the site. These inspections reduce the potential to add to the existing pest and weed issues and ensure that pests and weeds are not spread beyond the project area.

In addition, we will improve the flow of local waterways at Sandy and Bullockhead Creeks, limiting cane toad populations that thrive in stagnant ponds.

Eradicating pests and weeds are essential components of road and railway corridor maintenance, especially to conserve the local ecosystem and protect the safety of workers and the community.



The management of weeds will improve the flow of local waterways.



According to the Department of Natural Resources and Water, weeds cost Queensland an estimated \$600 million every year and affect our health, primary industries and natural ecosystems.

## Contact us

Community Engagement Team

### Phone

1800 605 410\*

\*Higher rates apply from mobile phones and pay phones.  
If calling from outside of Queensland, STD rates will apply.

### E-mail

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### Post

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### Website

[www.mainroads.qld.gov.au/wacol2darra](http://www.mainroads.qld.gov.au/wacol2darra)

### SMS updates\*

[www.wacol2darra.com.au](http://www.wacol2darra.com.au)

\*Visit the website to receive free project updates  
direct to your mobile phone.

For other Western Corridor transport  
projects Phone 1800 013 189

**Please remember that safety around roadworks is a two-way street.  
We ask that you drive carefully and responsibly during these construction works.**



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Queensland Government  
Department of Main Roads