

Tuesday 31 July 2018

TIMELY REMINDER TO CHECK IMPORTED FODDER AND GRAIN FOR WEEDS

Buying in fodder or grain is an important part of livestock management in a drought. Farmers within Narrandera Shire are being reminded to take precautions when buying in stockfeed to avoid importing new weeds into the region.

With more fodder being bought in from all States within Australia to feed livestock in dry conditions, it is important to have a strategy to reduce the risk of new weeds establishing from the fodder you purchase.

In cases where fodder of unknown quality is imported from outside of our region, it may contain seeds from weed species that do not currently occur within Narrandera Shire. These new and emerging weeds can compete with pasture for water and nutrients, leading to reduced pasture productivity, reduced stocking capacities and also may be toxic to stock. Increased control and management costs are likely, arising from the need for physical, mechanical and chemical control methods.

Measures like feeding hay in paddocks that can be easily monitored can assist in early detection. Weed seed can be spread by livestock both directly, when seeds become attached to their hooves and body, and indirectly via livestock manure. Restricting the dispersal of weed seed via livestock can limit the scale of new weed incursions. Be suspicious of any unfamiliar plants that germinate in the areas where hay has been introduced.

Biosecurity is a shared responsibility. A strategy to reduce the risk of weeds during drought can help farmers avoid any additional problems. We need to manage the risks effectively to protect the economy, environment and community. Land managers should always be on the lookout for new emerging weeds and seek identification from the Narrandera Shire Weeds Officer.



Photo: Bob Trounce (Parthenium Weed. Seeds spread easily by fodder & grain)

MEDIA RELEASE

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Precis or Summary: Timely Reminder To Check Imported Fodder And Grain For Weeds			
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