

**ESTIMATES COMMITTEE**  
**Question Taken on Notice**

**Date:** 16 June 2016 **Output:** Rangelands  
**Subject:** Management of Rangelands **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NT**  
**From:** Minister Land Resource Management **TABLED DOCUMENTS**  
**To:** Member for Barkly Committee: *Estimates*  
**Agency:** Department of Land Resource Management Paper No: *5-15* Date: *16 / 6 / 16*  
Signed: *[Signature]*

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**Number:** 5.9

**Question:** How have recent Wet season conditions in the Top End and rainfall in Central Australia affected weed growth and weed management programs

**Answer:**

In the Top End, the poor Wet season of 2015-16 has provided landholders excellent opportunities for gamba grass control. Reduced rain and fewer monsoons meant that more time was available for chemical control, with less likelihood of rain reducing herbicide efficacy. Increased participation in the Gamba Grass Assistance Program reflected this situation.

In the Top End, annual Wet season flushing of river systems can dramatically reduce occurrences of aquatic weeds. Conversely populations of aquatic weeds, such as cabomba and salvinia, can thrive in seasons with less rain. Aquatic weeds are currently being strategically managed using a range of control methods including amended herbicide application programs for cabomba and intensified rearing and release of the salvinia weevil.

Floods in the Flora River (upper Daly River catchment) resulted in substantial destruction of native riparian vegetation in areas known to be affected by bellyache bush. This disturbance will be addressed through the collaborative bellyache bush management project being administered in the Upper Daly with Australian Government Grant funding.

**Central Australia**

The recent rains in Central Australia have contributed to the accumulation of some standing water in the lower Finke River system which is already affected by the weed athel pine. This core infestation area has clear management objectives for containment that are being addressed through current management approaches.