

Estimates Committee 2009 Questions Taken On Notice

(16/6/2009 to 19/6/2009)

Date: 18/06/2009 Output: 1.0 - Parks and Reserves
Sub Output: 1.3 - Parks and Reserves Conservation Management Programs

Subject: Gregory National Park - weed eradication

From: Mr Gerry Wood to Hon Alison Anderson
Parks and Wildlife

Question: 8-7
Minister, you say in your annual report that you successfully implemented control programs for devil's claw and Ngurra Burr in the Gregory National Park. Does this mean you have eradicated the weed?

Answer:
Answered On: 18/06/2009
Answer: The devil's claw program has been running now for over a decade with a considerable number of volunteers participating over this period.

The initial infestation of devils claw has been controlled, however as seed has a viability period in excess of 10 years, hand-pulling will continue for a considerable number of years as germination continues.

Areas controlled so far include: the East Baines River Bullita to Drovers Rest, an areas of approximately 50km, with no plants found in 2009; Humbert River Von Mueller camp ground to Humbert boundary, an area of approximately 8km, with 400 plants hand-pulled in 2009; and Gibbie Creek, an area of approximately 2km, with 450 plants pulled. There is still more weed removal work required in this area.

The main infestations are along waterways and it is necessary to control from upstream down along the water channels. This program is set to continue or a considerable number of years with an ever-decreasing weed infestation and seed bank.

The numbers of plants pulled here does not reflect the effort required for continued control. These stream banks are walked both sides by teams of rangers and volunteers. Any weed missed is a potential future seed source.

Ngurra Burr is at very low levels in Gregory National Park and is being removed at the same time as devil's claw eradication.