



9 September 2011

Stanwell targets weeds near Ravenshoe and Tully

Queensland's biggest electricity generator, Stanwell Corporation, and its contractor, Biotropica Australia, are conducting hazard reduction burns and weed control on land Stanwell owns near Ravenshoe and Tully.

Stanwell has appointed Malanda-based Biotropica Australia to commence hazard-reduction burns in the Millstream area, near Ravenshoe, along the Millstream and Vine creeks.

Biotropica also is eradicating pockets of one of the world's most invasive weeds, Siam weed, on Stanwell's King Ranch property west of Tully.

In Far North Queensland, Stanwell operates Queensland's cleanest and greenest power stations - hydro power stations at Kareeya and Koombooloomba Dam power stations near Tully and Barron Gorge Power Station near Cairns.

"Stanwell is ensuring it is a good neighbour in Far North Queensland by protecting local infrastructure and the local ecosystem from fire and noxious weeds," Site Manager of the Kareeya Power Station, Kevin Ramm, said today.

"This week is national Weedbuster Week and it is appropriate that Stanwell is helping to protect its neighbours and our region from Siam weed (*Chromolaena odorata*), a Class 1 declared pest plant in Queensland," Kevin said.

Michael Goddard, Field Services Manager for Biotropica Australia, said: "We are doing controlled burns due to dry weather and heavy fuel loads that have built up in the Millstream area.

"The burns now will become an ongoing annual program in cooperation with the North and South Millstream Rural Fire Brigades and adjoining property owners," Mike said.

"It is better to do hazard reduction now than to wait until the fuel load is too big to handle," he said.

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"Biotropica Australia has received great assistance from neighbouring landholders, who have been supportive of the need to stop uncontrolled hot fires from damaging infrastructure and ecosystems."

Ravenshoe district burns will continue for several months to reduce fuel loads in the Mt Ronald and Millstream areas.

Any neighbouring landholders requiring information on this year's program should contact Biotropica Australia during office hours on 07 4095 1116.

Ends

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