

National Red Witchweed Eradication Program 2018-19 to 2024-25 Eradication Program

PART 1: PRELIMINARIES

1. The purpose of this Schedule is to outline the delivery of agreed activities for the National Red Witchweed Eradication Program from 2018-19 to 2024-25 and to facilitate the Commonwealth's cost-shared contributions to Queensland, the combatant state for this eradication program.
2. The National Red Witchweed Eradication Program is being conducted as a deed-like response agreed by the National Management Group (NMG) in 2015.
3. The *Red Witchweed (Striga asiatica) Response Plan 2019-2025 v1.0* (the Response Plan) was approved by the NMG on 31 January 2020.
4. The financial commitments are approved by the NMG with delegation from the Agricultural Ministers' Forum, granted in January 2020. The 2019-20 to 2024-25 budget and retrospective cost sharing of the 2018-19 budget were approved by the NMG on 5 June 2020.
5. If required, this Schedule will be reviewed in conjunction with reviews of the National Red Witchweed Eradication Program.

PART 2: FORMALITIES

6. The Parties to this Schedule are the Commonwealth of Australia and Queensland.
7. This Schedule will commence as soon as it is agreed between the Commonwealth and Queensland ministers with portfolio responsibility for agriculture, and will expire on 30 June 2026, or upon completion or termination of the National Red Witchweed Eradication Program (NRWEP) as determined by the NMG, including endorsement of the final project report and processing of final payments against milestones, unless terminated earlier or extended as agreed in writing by the Parties.

PART 3: PROJECT ELEMENTS, MILESTONES AND PAYMENT SUMMARY

8. The project elements of the NRWEP are described in the Response Plan. Queensland is responsible for delivering the following elements in accordance with the Response Plan:
 - (a) *Surveillance*:
 - i. Surveillance undertaken every five to 14 days in Zones A and B
 - ii. Zone C surveyed periodically

- iii. Zone R surveyed periodically during peak emergence periods (December to April)
- iv. Surveillance conducted on neighbouring 'At Risk' properties annually.

(b) *Treatment*

- i. Soil fumigation (dazomet or similar) to destroy seeds and deplete the soil seedbank of red witchweed
- ii. Soil fumigation (ethylene or similar) to stimulate suicidal seed germination and deplete the soil seedbank of red witchweed
- iii. Planting of false and true host crops to stimulate seed germination and subsequent destruction of red witchweed either through failure to attach/grow on false crops, and manual destruction through surveillance on true crops
- iv. Herbicide treatments to prevent establishment of weed and grass hosts where fumigants cannot be applied and/or false and true crops cannot be maintained.

(c) *Community engagement:*

- i. Updates on detections, treatment and surveillance activities routinely provided to Infected Property owners
- ii. Fact sheets distributed to interested parties providing details on identification, reporting and regulatory procedures
- iii. Stakeholder groups updated on the progress of the program via social media, newspaper and newsletter articles, radio interviews and the dissemination of fact sheets.

(d) *Science:*

- i. Research evaluating if seed viability rundown can be accelerated via ethylene injection.

9. To qualify for the associated payment, Queensland must meet the following milestones:

Table 1: Milestones

Milestones	Due date	Payment
National Management Group agreement of the 2019-25 Response Plan and associated budget, and retrospective funding of 2018-19 response activities	August 2020	Up to \$552,309
Annual progress report (2020-21) endorsed by the Red Witchweed Consultative Committee (RWWCC) demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above project elements of the Response Plan	August 2021	Up to \$485,942
Annual progress report (2021-22) endorsed by the RWWCC demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above project elements of the Response Plan	August 2022	Up to \$220,173
Annual progress report (2022-23) endorsed by the RWWCC demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above project elements of the Response Plan	August 2023	Up to \$162,440
Annual progress report (2023-24) endorsed by the RWWCC demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above project elements of the Response Plan	August 2024	Up to \$156,242
Annual progress report (2024-25) endorsed by the RWWCC demonstrating satisfactory progress towards the above project elements of the Response Plan	August 2025	Up to \$139,045

PART 4: REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

10. Queensland will report against the agreed milestones as outlined in Table 1.
11. Additional reporting may be sought should further information on the activities in Part 3 be required.

PART 5: FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

12. The agreed financial contribution to be provided by the Commonwealth to the Queensland Government for the Red Witchweed Eradication Program is outlined in Table 2 and payable in accordance with the milestones set out in Table 1. All payments are provided directly to Queensland and are exclusive of GST.
13. The national response for the eradication of red witchweed is outside of the national arrangements for the eradication of exotic plant pest and animal diseases. The Response Plan is not under any formal arrangement. Accordingly, the Commonwealth is not required to meet any industry party's cost sharing obligations.

Table 2: Estimated financial contributions by year of activity

Commonwealth contribution	2018-19 (\$)	2019-20 (\$)	2020-21 (\$)	2021-22 (\$)	2022-23 (\$)	2023-24 (\$)	2024-25 (\$)	Total Budget
	100,130	452,179	485,942	220,173	162,440	156,242	139,045	1,716,151

*note that this differs to financial year of payment

PART 6: SIGN OFF

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this Schedule as follows:

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by



Date 26.6.20

Signature

**The Honourable David Littleproud MP
Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management**

Signed for and on behalf of the State of Queensland by



24 August 2020

Signature

Date

**The Honourable Mark Furner MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries**