



# Media Release

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## River weeds reminder of risk

Water Hyacinth choking the Fitzroy River in the city centre this week is a graphic reminder of the risk posed by weeds, Fitzroy Basin Association's Gavin Peck said.

Mr Peck, Technical Manager for the FBA, said the outbreak showed the damage weeds could do and highlighted the need for strategic weed control.

"Water Hyacinth can wreak havoc on our waterways and this infestation is a reminder that weed control is a significant environmental issue for our region," Mr Peck said.

Mr Peck said Water Hyacinth grew in fresh water in the barrage and, because it floats, had been transported downstream when water flowed over the barrage during recent rainfall events.

"This infestation will die off soon because of the salt water, but the weed may still cause damage to the aquatic habitat by reducing oxygen levels as it breaks down in the meantime.

"Water Hyacinth takes the oxygen out of the water which harms the native habitat and can result in fish deaths."

Mr Peck said the FBA was working collaboratively with the Capricorn Pest Management Group, local councils and politicians to develop a more integrated approach to dealing with aquatic weeds in the region.

"Problem aquatic weeds in the Fitzroy River include Hymenachne grass, Aleman grass, Salvinia and Water Hyacinth.

"Targeting these weeds will help to improve the aquatic habitat for fish and other fauna, enhance the recreational value of our waterways and reduce the number of mosquitoes.

"Weed control can be a long, drawn out process and it requires a collective approach to truly make an impact," he said.

**For further information or interviews** contact: Jody McDonald, Media and Communications Co-ordinator, 4999 2816, [jody.mcdonald@fba.org.au](mailto:jody.mcdonald@fba.org.au).

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