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Combating *Hymenachne* a collective effort

It's one of the region's worst weeds, but a group of landholders along Hedlow Creek have shown that working together can help keep *Hymenachne* under control.

Field Officer with Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchments (FRCC) Murray Bullock said a group of landholders along the Creek had been managing the weed since 2005.

"FRCC, together with the Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA), helped a group of neighbouring property owners bordering Hedlow Creek to get funding," Mr Bullock said.

"This enabled herbicide to be purchased and Rockhampton City Council offered great support through the availability of their Quickspray Unit, meaning landholders could spray the weed in a coordinated and targeted way to achieve maximum impact.

"It's really given landholders in the area an opportunity to get on top of the *Hymenachne* weed problem."

Mr Bullock said the project had reduced the initial severe outbreak to isolated patches of weed within the creek.

"Landholders such as Billy Dennis, Robert Beak and the Barrett family have been particularly proactive both during the initial spraying and with ongoing control measures."

Annika Barrett, who helps run the 5 500 acre *Henderson Park* with father David, said they were dealing with a 4km stretch of creek affected by *Hymenachne*.

"Hedlow Creek is a major source of domestic and stock water and it's important to keep the waterway healthy to ensure we have a good quality water supply," she said.

"By tackling the bulk of the *Hymenachne* through this project, it will be easier to control in the future and we can just focus on small areas at a time."

Ms Barrett said weed control was an ongoing issue for all landholders and an everyday aspect of property management.

"It's just something that needs to be done, on both a property scale and a basin scale.

"The main stumbling block is getting people involved and getting the funding to make an impact. That's why the work that FRCC and FBA do in raising awareness and on-ground support by field officers is fantastic.

"Field officers are invaluable in breaking down barriers between government and the landholder and making it easier for people to get money allocated to their project."

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