



# Media Release

19<sup>th</sup> June 2012

## Winter weed workshop to increase profitability

Welcome winter rains can also bring unwelcome winter weeds for land owners which reduce profitability through weed contamination of crops and wool. An increase in weeds also means an increase in costs for the landholder for chemicals, labour time and contracting services.

The South East Natural Resources Board (SENRM Board) recognizes this and has set up a winter weed best practice management workshop on July 6<sup>th</sup> which will cover topics such as control methods, latest spray rates and recommendations, weed identification, roadside weed control and will address specific declared weed management such as Bathurst Burr and Variegated Thistle.

SE NRM Boards Acting Operations Coordinator Michael Williams said the workshop is about assisting landholders with early identification and early weed intervention. 'To increase your profits and cut down costs such as chemicals it is so important that weeds are identified early and management strategies put in place to reduce the spread of the weed.'

The workshop will provide information to give a holistic approach to weed control as Mr. Williams said there are other methods to controlling weeds other than just spraying when the weeds become abundant. 'The SENRM Board can assist with on ground works such as spraying but we also have expertise in other control methods, management strategies and preventative measures.'

One of the focuses of the workshop is the need for a collaborative approach amongst farming communities. Authorized Officer Saxon Ellis said the best results occur in weed management when neighboring farmers work together and share resources and knowledge. 'This could be dedicating days solely to collective spraying or cleaning machinery to reduce the risk of seed contamination.'

SENRM Board's Presiding Member Mark Braes hopes landholders will take the opportunity to attend the workshop as it will not only be beneficial with the material presented but a chance for the landholders to network and share their success stories or challenges with weed management. 'What is important for the Board is that landholders are able to share knowledge and best practice and access the SE NRM Boards resources to improve their profitability.'

The workshop is being held on July 6<sup>th</sup> at 11am with lunch provided at the Derrymore shearing shed, Manga Road. To register and receive directions to the location contact Authorized Officer Saxon Ellis on 873511777, 0428 854 611 or [saxon.ellis@sa.gov.au](mailto:saxon.ellis@sa.gov.au).



*SE NRM Board's Authorised Officer Saxon Ellis in front of a thistle patch*

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