BREMER CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION INC.

around the bremer

July 2020

Special points of interest:

Next BCA Meeting

20th

August

Inside this issue:

President's Corner	1
Farm Dams and the Take of Overland Flow Water	2
New aerial bio-control weapon released to help fight notorious tropical Siam weed;	3
Gardening with James Hilyard	4
Make sure your pigs eat the right thing.	5
$30,000 in fines after ticky cattle move	6
Landcare Week August 3 – 9	7

President's Corner by Bill Steentsma

This Newsletter covers topics of informative nature. Over time, various issues, some of semi-legal, have been amended. I have been pleased with positive comments received from BCA members and "Friends of BCA". The latter are individual agricultural professionals, relevant businesses and Local Governments.

There are many Catchment Management Strategy Reports prepared about the Bremer Catchment. These have been for several reasons. Including to serve as a means of illustrating to the community of the Bremer Catchment the direction in which BCA and Local Governments are moving with the management of the catchment.

Both new Councils are enthusiastic to support volunteers who spent their time improving public parks for the benefit of the citizens.

Landcare and production groups adopt sustainable farm practices on private land. Bushcare groups have appeared to work towards improving local and adjoining land as well as wetlands.

Agriculture, horticulture, grazing, industry and eco-6tourism within the Bremer Catchment provide great opportunities.

Progressive and on-going reviews of design aspects of the many studies/strategies are appropriate. Most importantly, community involvement (Landcare), publicity and education are suggested.

Landcare Week August 3 – 9

Farm Dams and the Take of Overland Flow Water: By Tom Crothers

There are an increasing number of small rural properties in South East Qld who do not have access to reticulated water supplies. Many of these properties rely on rainwater tanks or catching overland flow water in small farm dams for their household supplies or to provide water to their livestock.

Overland flow water is water that runs across land after a significant rainfall event, before it enters a natural drainage feature or a watercourse.

Overland flow water does not include:

water that has naturally soaked into the soil through normal farming operations, or irrigation tail-water, or
water collected from roofs in rainwater tanks.

Overland flow water is water that runs across land after a significant rainfall event, before it enters a natural drainage feature or a watercourse.

Many landholders hold the mistaken view that they can construct a farm dam or storage to capture as much overland flow water as they can. You may be able to collect overland flow water for any purpose – provided there isn't a constraint on the volume of overland flow water collected by a Moratorium Notice or a Water Plan that can place a limit on the collection of overland flow water.

However, a Water Plan and the Water Regulation 2016 may place restrictions on the building of new works that collect (take) overland flow water.

The Water Plan (Moreton) 2007 places controls on the allocation and management of surface and groundwater resources in the catchments of Bremer and others.

The Water Plan (Moreton) 2007:

- places a prohibition on the granting of new Water Licences to take overland flow water.
- places rules and regulations on existing works that take overland flow water. and
- contains rules that aim to protect works associated with existing entitlements (water licences or authorisations) for the take of overland flow water or providing for environmental water needs.

A person MUST not take overland flow water unless the water is taken:

a) for Stock & Domestic purposes.
b) under an existing Water Licence.
c) for another purpose using works with a maximum capacity of 5 mega litres.
d) to satisfy an Environmental Authority under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* .o r
e) through an authorisation for existing works that take overland flow water.

Existing works that take overland flow water are regulated in the Moreton Water Plan. The Plan authorises the owners of land which had existing overland flow works at the time the Plan was approved to continue to use these works to take overland flow water.

In Conclusion:

If a land owner wishes to alter existing authorised overland flow works – they MUST provide prior advice to the Chief Executive of the Department of Natural Resources, Mines & Energy of their proposed reconfiguration works.

New aerial bio-control weapon released to help fight notorious tropical Siam weed; Qld Country Hour By Tom Major

Scientists, environmental groups and landholders are working to spread a new bio-control weapon they hope will protect an Australian World Heritage area.

More than 10,000 stem-galling flies have been released onto Siam weed, or *Chromolaena odorata*, infestations at 54 sites from rainforest south of Cairns to Townsville's drier foothills.

Science technician with Queensland's Tropical Weeds Research Centre, Kelli Pukallus, has been breeding the stem-galling fly at the centre's Charters Towers base.

She said the flies laid eggs inside the plant's stem, which severely stunted the weed's growth.

"We work with six local government areas we want to target, we're working with sugarcane and dairy farmers and national parks to release the bio-control," Ms Pukallus said.

"The gall-fly will assist by stunting the growth, reducing flowering and seeding.

"Insects are definitely one of my passions, anything that is useful and we can use to help reduce invasive species spread I'm all on board for."

Weed cannot be eradicated

Regional pest management officer at NQ Dry Tropics Rachel Payne said in the past herbicides had mostly been used to control Siam weed.

But she said the weed had been deemed ineradicable.

"The bio-control is new, it won't be the only solution, but it's hoped it'll help landholders in tackling the species," Ms Payne said.

Releases were made in late 2019 in the Wet Tropics near Tully and the Atherton Tableland, while releases in the drier Hervey Range district near Townsville began during the summer.

"We need significant infestations of Siam weed to release the flies, it's not going to be as effective in scattered infestations," Ms Payne said.

In overseas releases, the stem-galling fly has been successful in limiting the growth of the sprawling weed to just 30 centimetres high.

The insect has the potential to cripple the Siam weed's ability to flower and spread seeds aerially from many metres above ground level.

Key points:

- It's the first time a bio-control agent has been tried on Siam weed
- The declared pest species was first detected in far north Queensland
- Researchers and landholders are hopeful it will cripple the weed's spread

The stem-galling flies lay eggs inside the Siam weed, which swell as the larvae hatch, hampering the plant's growth.

Gardening with James Hilyard: Lawn care on a large scale

James Hilyard is Ipswich City Council's Infrastructure and Environment Department, City Maintenance manager. James is a horticulturalist, arborist and holds a master's degree in sustainability.

After three months on the sidelines, Ipswich's sporting community has been given the green light to return to pre-season training.

While sport fields around Ipswich have been closed due to the coronavirus, Ipswich City Council has spent that time renovating and preparing the city's fields.

While many of our parks and open spaces have been more heavily used during the stay-at-home period, our sports fields have had some extra maintenance and renovation work.

Which means our fields are more ready than ever for teams to return to play.

The fundamentals of working with the grass on a large scale are basically the same as lawn care at home.

The home gardener's guide to lawn renovation

1. Mow the grass as low as you can with your mower. Put it on the lowest setting and use a catcher. You might kick up a bit of dirt or mud so make sure you were the appropriate safety clothing. Collect all the clippings and compost them. This will remove all of the old thatch in the lawn and let air, water and fertiliser penetrate to the soil below.

2 Apply a complete granule fertiliser and water in well. Leave it for two or three days and let the grass recover.

3. Use a selective herbicide to kill your unwanted weed species. Ask your local supplier what is best for your lawn and the weed species that you have present. Be Careful. The chemical to kill nut grass for example will also kill Kikuyu which is a desirable grass species. The easiest option for a couch grass lawn is to use weed and feed. Again, always wear appropriate clothing.

4. Top-dress, using a suitable sandy loam type soil, not compost, potting mix or sand. Fill in all of the holes, divots, cracks and ruts in your soil. Level the soil out using a large piece of wood or rake. I like to use a three metre long piece of wood and get one person on each end and level the soil out like I was preparing a surface for paving. Try to avoid applying soil too thick or the grass will struggle to push through. A maximum of 2.5cm should be used as a rule of thumb. Make sure you don't use straight sand, which is a common mistake. You need a loamy soil that will hold a bit of moisture and provide some nutrients.

Then stand back, water and let nature do her thing. You should get a lovely, flat, healthy green lawn you can be proud of.

Make sure your pigs eat the right thing.

Do not feed pigs food or food waste containing meat; meat products; eggs; milk or milk products not of Australian origin; or anything that has been in contact with these items. This food is prohibited feed for pigs, commonly known as swill.

Swill feeding is illegal in all states and territories of Australia. Swill may contain serious viruses that could be passed on to pigs through feeding – this includes foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). The FMD virus may remain in food even after chilling, freezing, or inadequate cooking. It is considered the virus is most likely to be introduced to Australia through the illegal importation of meat or dairy products.

Food that must not be fed to pigs

Household, commercial or industrial food waste including restaurant food; butcher shop waste; and bakery waste that contains meat; meat products; eggs; some dairy products; or anything that has been in contact with these items.

Examples include table scraps; meat pies; sausage rolls; bacon and cheese rolls; Caesar salad with bacon pieces; deli meats; eggs; milk or milk products not of Australian origin or illegally imported into Australia; and untreated used cooking oils and fats.

Anything that has been in contact with swill via collection, storage or transport in contaminated containers such as meat trays and takeaway food containers.

These restrictions apply to ALL pigs, including pet pigs and pigs kept by hobbyists.

What food can be fed to pigs? You can feed pigs:

Milk or milk products either of Australian origin or legally imported into Australia for stockfeed use.
Bakery scraps or vegetable scraps that do not contain and have had no contact with meat or meat products.
Fruit, vegetables and cereals.
Meals made from meat, blood or bone and purchased from a reputable produce store or feed merchant. When purchasing pig feed, look for feed produced by an accredited feed supplier under a quality assurance program such as FeedSafe® visit:
www.sfmca.com.au
Rendered animal fat and treated cooking oils. **If in doubt, you should not feed any food other than commercially available pig feed to your pigs**.

Dispose of food waste responsibly

Businesses that prepare and sell food have a responsibility to dispose of food waste appropriately. Food waste that would be considered swill should be placed in an appropriate waste bin for collection and disposal.

Report swill feeding

If you suspect that swill is being supplied to pig owners or pigs are being fed swill, contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23. Your report will be treated as confidential. Penalties for swill feeding, supplying swill or collecting swill with the intent to provide to pig owners are significant and can include fines or imprisonment.

Want to know more?

Call **13 25 23**

Visit **www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au/FMD**

Information for pig farmers, hobby farmers and those who own pigs as pets

Swill feeding is illegal in all states and territories of Australia.

Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries Mark Furner said this should serve as a reminder that anybody moving cattle needs to have appropria te biosecurity risk manage-ment strategies in place.

Cattle transport

Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries
The Honourable Mark Furner

$30,000 in fines after ticky cattle move

A Queensland transport company has been fined $25,000 and a truck driver $5,000 for failing to comply with their general biosecurity obligation.

This is the first prosecution under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* for a failure to comply with the general biosecurity obligation.

The prosecution arose after the company moved cattle from the cattle tick infested zone through the cattle tick free zone, without undertaking reasonable actions to prevent a cattle tick infestation in the free zone.

In handing down her sentence, the Magistrate considered that the company had taken action to remedy the situation with the affected landholders,including the payment of $16,000 towards the eradication costs. Magistrate Mossop said it was really self-evident that the cattle should not have been moved from the infested zone into the free zone.

“Alternatively, the cattle should have been treated and been the subject of a clean inspection before such a journey. Regardless of who was obligated to attend to such treatment, protocols and procedures should have been in place for dealing with tick-infested stock,” the Magistrate said.

Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries Mark Furner said this should serve as a reminder that anybody moving cattle needs to have appropriate biosecurity risk management strategies in place.

“In this case, the cattle were visibly infested with cattle ticks and were not treated before being moved through the cattle tick free zone,” Mr Furner said. “During an unscheduled stop in the cattle tick free zone to check on the cattle, several escaped from the truck.

“This led to a cattle tick infestation on two nearby properties inside the cattle tick free zone. As a result two properties were placed under movement restrictions and had to under-take a cattle tickeradication program.”The Minister said the truck driver involved was also was fined $5,000 for failing to comply with their general biosecurity obligation.

“Everybody must take reasonable and practical actions to manage biosecurity risks that are under their control and that they know about, or should reasonably be expected to know about,” he said.

“If livestock are moved from the cattle tick infested zone through the cattle tick free zone and back into the infested zone, producers and transport operators must comply with the general biosecurity obligation and also any specific regulations that apply.

“In this case, transporting obviously infested cattle on this particular route without treatment meant that when they escaped there was no way of reducing the risk they posed. “Some of the actions that could have been implemented include travelling a different route, or treating the cattle before leaving and waiting until they were tick free.

“It’s a perfect demonstration of what can go wrong when somebody does not make a reasonable effort to manage an obvious biosecurity risk.”

Landcare Week August 3 – 9

Landcare Week August 3 – 9
Get connected with the environment in your local community

The annual Landcare Week campaign celebrates and acknowledges the thousands of Landcare networks and groups, facilitators, and other environmental care community groups and volunteers across Australia working on conservation and sustainable land management activities in their local area. Connecting with nature improves your mental health and connection to place. With Australians having experienced drought, bushfires, and a global pandemic, people need social connections and to get outdoors.

Landcare is about the partnerships created by local communities to restore and protect their local environment on behalf of the community. You can support your local group activities and meet other people who have a shared vision for conservation and sustainable land management. No matter where you live there is a group near you managing a local environmental issue.

Kick start your Landcare Week by supporting Planet Ark's National Tree Day on Sunday 2 August, and get your hands dirty. With the impacts of a changing climate, drought and biodiversity loss, Australia needs Landcare now more than ever. Speak to your local group about their events and if there are any restrictions due to COVID-19. You can volunteer in a community event or get more involved to support the group with your skills or in kind support, or a donation

Editor's Contact details:

Email: msteent@ngvemail.com

Mobile: 0414 381 664

Disclaimer

While we hope that you will find this publication informative , BCA does not guaranty that the information herein is without flaw, or is wholly appropriate for your particular purpose. We therefore disclaim all liability for any error, loss or other consequence , which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication