Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage Karl Hampton today announced the approval of the Weed Management Plan for Gamba Grass and the release for public comment of the management plan for Mimosa.

“Invasive weeds pose significant problems for our pastoral community, reducing production values and increasing land management costs,” said Mr Hampton.

“The Northern Territory Government is committed to fighting the impacts of weeds in the Territory, allocating $1.09m in budget 2009 for a Strategic Weed Management Program.

“Our Environment Grants program also provides regular funding for community groups such as land owners and indigenous ranger groups to undertake practical programs on weeds.

“I am pleased today to announce the release for public comment of the draft plan for Mimosa. This declared weed replaces native plants, especially on floodplains, and can damage ecosystems while restricting access to country.

The plan is focused on eradicating Mimosa within the eradication zone, reducing its density in the management zone and preventing its spread into new areas.

“The plan will be on public exhibition until 10 September 2010 and I encourage all Territorians impacted by the pest to have their say.

Mr Hampton also announced the approval of a draft management plan for Gamba Grass.

“Gamba Grass is a highly invasive weed which grows year round in the face of drought, fire and low-nutrient soils.

“The Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan has been approved subject to an extensive consultation process taking place with the public and the NT Weed Advisory Committee since April 2009.

Like Mimosa, the plan focuses on prevention, eradication and management of the weed depending on the area.

It also outlines the management requirements that must be undertaken by land managers, describes best management practice control options and directs readers to other relevant resources.

“Gamba Grass is a huge issue for land managers and the NT Government provided $200,000 in 09/10 towards supporting community efforts targeting the weed.

“This funding will continue in 10/11, assisting land managers purchase equipment, herbicide and labour to undertake strategic control.
“This is in addition to the significant resources we spend eradicating Gamba on Crown Land and our Parks and Reserves.”

“Weed management is vital for the future of our agricultural and pastoral sector, and NRETAS will continue to work with local, Territory and Commonwealth Government land managers to minimise their impact on our environment and economy.”

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