The Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries Peter Toyne today launched a national strategic plan to manage one of the nation’s and the Northern Territory’s worst weeds.

Dr Toyne said the Mimosa Strategic Plan provided a weed management framework for the Territory, Western Australia and Queensland, including the wise use of available resources and most effective forms of control.

"All relevant state, territory and federal ministers agreed on a list of Weeds of National Significance (WONS) in mid 1999," he said.

"Of the 20 WONS identified, the Territory has taken the lead agency role in management of two, including Mimosa pigra, and had an involvement in another nine.

"Weeds are one of the greatest threats to biodiversity worldwide.

"They cost Australia at least $3.3 billion a year in lost production and control costs, not to mention the additional losses to the environment.

"Loss to the Territory's pastoral industry accounts for around $13 million."

Dr Toyne said implementation of a national strategic plan for Mimosa would help contain the weed and prevent further detrimental impacts.

"The Northern Territory took the lead role in developing this strategy because of the negative impacts that Mimosa has on our environment and primary industries," he said.

"Even a small reduction in Mimosa can save many millions of dollars.

"Our role in bringing together a diverse range of stakeholders from industry, government and the community to develop a strategy demonstrates our commitment to showing environmental leadership nationally.

"I urge Territorians to get behind the strategy to control Mimosa and to contribute to the development of further weed strategies."

Copies of the Mimosa Strategic Plan are available from the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries – phone 8999 2375.

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