**WRANGLING HUDSON PEAR AT QUANDA**

**Controlling a prickly outlier with multiple landholders and pathways**

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**SUMMARY**

Hudson pear (*Cylindropuntia pallida*), an extremely prickly segmented cactus, has been present at a small, isolated block of Crown land located at Quanda five-ways, between Coonabarabran and Coonamble, for more than 50 years. Until recently this was the only known incursion of this species in the Central Division of NSW, with all other incursions being in the Western Division and associated with opal fields.

Control at this site has been ad-hoc over many years but in more recent times Hudson pear has been establishing on neighbouring properties to the alarm of landholders and has been spread along roadways for more than 5km. Landholders were becoming concerned by the increasing rate of spread of this species and the apparent lack of interest in a coordinated control effort. To add to the degree of difficulty, Coonamble Shire Council, who are not the local control authority, have a licenced gravel pit at Quanda and Inland Rail proposes to build their Brisbane to Melbourne railway directly through the infested area.

The paper will discuss how a facilitated approach has brought all stakeholders together to finally achieve a coordinated approach to control for a Regional Priority species of very high concern in an area that had previously failed to attract much interest.