**PARTHENIUM WEED 40 YEARS ON**

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**SUMMARY**

Parthenium weed *(Parthenium hysterophorus)* is regulated as Prohibited Matter under the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015* because it can cause health problems in humans and livestock as well as posing other significant biosecurity risks. This species was first detected in NSW in 1982. Despite being widely established in Queensland where it affects 68 million hectares, there are currently only 48 parthenium weed infestations in NSW.

This paper will provide a brief history of parthenium weed incursion into NSW before showcasing the NSW Government and local government programs that successfully implement the NSW Parthenium Weed Strategic Plan.

Keeping NSW free from self-sustaining populations of parthenium weed has been the enduring mission of parthenium weed planning and management programs since the 1970s. It is being achieved via: coordinated governance through the Parthenium Weed Task Force; new pathway identification and interception; the quarantine and inspection program on the NSW/Qld border for grain harvesting machinery; early detection of new incursions through routine inspections of high risk sites and pathways; rapid response to new incursions; deployment of scent detector dogs to assist with delimitation; extension and awareness raising efforts, and; use of regulatory tools to formalise public and private landholder commitments to measures that will prevent any further spread.

**Keywords:** parthenium weed; inspection; rapid response; awareness raising.