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**WBBROC Media Release**

**Regional Funding Success – Tackling Weeds and Feral Animals**

A coordinated approach to tacking invasive weeds and pest feral animals in the Wide Bay Burnett region has just received a huge boost.

The Wide Bay Burnett Regional Organisation of Councils (WBBROC), in partnership with the Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG), has been successful in gaining $375,000 of funding from the Department of Agriculture.

This NRM-LG Partnership Funding will greatly assist the region to implement its Regional Biosecurity Strategy. It will help all Councils, and other organisations responsible for public land, to control weeds in a coordinated way.

The 2-year funding will provide for the employment of a regional biosecurity coordinator, public awareness education, and project money.

Cr Mick Curran, Chair of WBBROC and Sheila Charlesworth, CEO of the BMRG, both commented that this was wonderful news.

“This will really help our Land Protection Officers work in a coordinated way across Council boundaries,” said Cr Curran. “If a certain pest animal or weed is being controlled in one area, by working together we ensure that they don’t simple escape across the Council boundary.”

(Local input about need for addressing this issue in your area) ……………, Mayor

Once a regional coordinator is recruited, work will begin on developing plans for tackling weeds and pest animals across the Wide Bay Burnett region.

Invasive plants and animals can be a real threat to agricultural industries and the environment. WBBROC, BMRG and local Councils want to work with the industry to keep a vigilant eye on any new threats and put in place strategies for dealing with such threats.

This funding will go a long way to helping to address these types of concerns.

**End**

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