



Stamping out alligator weed

After exhausting herbicide control options to eradicate alligator weed, a landholder in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area has decommissioned an infested channel, and built a new channel around the site.

These measures show just how seriously the alligator weed problem is taken.

The project involves the isolation of an infested channel on Murray and Jenny Robertson's property *Garrong*, in the Wah Wah Irrigation District. It has been undertaken with the support of Weeds of National Significance, Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited, Carrathool Shire Council, Hay Shire Council, Griffith City Council and landholders.

Alligator weed had been growing in the Robertson's channel, as well as other places in the Wah Wah district, for at least 10 years. It is believed the weed reached the site by escapes from Barren Box Swamp.

Previous attempts to control the alligator weed by spraying proved unsuccessful. While herbicides were immediately effective, the persistence of alligator weed meant there were many re-strikes. Another constraint to control options was the restricted range of herbicides that could be used in an on-farm irrigation channel (as opposed to system supply channels). It was decided that isolation of the site and the building of a new diversion channel was the best way to manage the infestation and prevent further spread.

The project started in 2005 with the clearing of fences, stops, trees and other obstacles. A new channel was built around the infested site.

Ongoing inspections by the landholder and council inspectors will be essential over the foreseeable future, as the old channel still has alligator weed emerging at different points. There may be a need to fence off the old channel site to restrict access by vehicles and livestock, to further reduce the risk of spreading the weed to other areas.

Projects of this magnitude indicate how difficult the eradication of alligator weed is, and the extent to which regional organisations are prepared to assist landholders in removing this exceptionally noxious weed. [🌐](#)

Further information

Anthony Berry
Noxious Weeds Inspector
Griffith City Council
T: 02 6962 3933
E: Anthony.Berry@griffith.nsw.gov.au



Figure 1: Alligator weed along the edge of a channel bank



Figure 2: Working to eradicate alligator weed, from left, Anthony Berry, Noxious Weeds Inspector with Griffith City Council, John Garner of Clark Bros, Hay, and landholder, Murray Robertson, Garrong



Figure 3: The new diversion channel built to prevent further spread of alligator weed