



Save the Nature of the Kimberley

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EK asks agencies to promote locally indigenous and non-invasive plants

A submission has been forwarded to the Water Corporation today that highlights the concerns that Environs Kimberley has regarding Water Corporation's Kimberley and Pilbara *Water Wise Ways Gardening Promotion*.

Environs Kimberley has been in communication with the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) regarding these and other regional WaterWiseWays booklets which promote plants of a weedy nature. Environs Kimberley wish to work together with the Water Corporation, key stakeholders from state and local government, relevant local groups and industry partners to develop Environmentally Responsible Water Wise Gardening brochures. It is envisaged that the Kimberley and Pilbara regional review be the impetus for a state-wide response.

“With the introduction of water restrictions and the push for gardeners to use hardy drought tolerant plants, the threat of new plants emerging as garden thugs is increased.” Louise Williams from Environs Kimberley said.

“Two thirds of Australian weeds were introduced for ornamental reasons and pose a significant threat to our native plants and animals. The Kimberley and Pilbara regions have an opportunity to avoid the mistakes made in other areas and prevent new weeds escaping from gardens by being smart about which plants are appropriate for our region.” Ms Williams said.

“It is desirable that agencies work together with local nurseries, Shires, Traditional Owners and indigenous plant groups to re-develop promotional plant lists so that they are compatible with the local area and are environmentally responsible *and* waterwise.” Ms Williams said.

“Ideally, we exclude species that have demonstrated weedy potential in other areas and concentrate on promoting locally indigenous plants that are able to be produced by local nurseries and have equal ornamental value. In addition, the use of local plants will enable Kimberley and Pilbara towns to retain their natural “feel” and avoid the “sterilisation” that can happen as gardens and towns become less accommodating to local wildlife.” Ms Williams said.

The Environs Kimberley and DEC's Community WEED project has extended an invitation to the Water Corporation to participate in a round table workshop to redevelop waterwise gardening promotions for each region and assist the development of additional material that promotes native plant alternatives to the common garden thug.

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