



INVASIVE: EK's Louise Williams points out the declared weed Chinese apple in Broome.

Weed worries with water-wise brochure

By FRIEDA Mc LOUGHLIN

BROOME-BASED conservation group Envisions Kimberley has raised concerns the Water Corporation in the Kimberley is promoting weeds in its WaterWiseWays booklet.

EK wants the corporation to revise and change its brochures which they hope will be the impetus for a State-wide response and have forwarded a submission to the corporation highlighting their concerns.

EK community weed project officer Louise Williams said she was adamant some plants should not be encouraged in the Kimberley.

"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," she said.

Mr Williams said two thirds of Australian weeds were introduced for ornamental reasons and posed a significant threat to the Kimberley's 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," she said.

"It is desirable that agencies work together with local nurseries, chains, traditional owners and indigenous plant groups to re-develop promotional plant lists so that they are compatible with the local area and environmentally responsible and water-wise."

Mr Williams said some plants promoted in the Water Corporation's WaterWiseWays brochure had demonstrated weed potential in other areas of WA and she warned if the Kimberley was to retain its natural feel and avoid sterilisation then it was imperative these species be excluded.

She said EK, in conjunction with the Department of Environment and Conservation, had extended an invitation to the Water Corporation to participate in a round-table workshop to redevelop the booklet.

A spokesperson for the Water Corporation said they had taken on board the submission from EK and had asked WA gardening expert John Corwell to review and if necessary revise the Kimberley WaterWiseWays brochure.