



Katy Gallagher MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

MINISTER FOR HEALTH

MINISTER FOR TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

MEMBER FOR MCOLONGLO

Ms Anna See
President
Coleman Ridge ParkCare Group Inc
136 Marconi Crescent
KAMBAH ACT 2902

Dear Ms See

Thank you for your letter of 14 March 2012 about the presence of the Bathurst Burr along the new stormwater cut-off drain at Coleman Ridge in Chapman.

Your letter raised a number of questions in regard to the source of this weed infestation and measures put in place to control and eradicate it.

I understand that issues relating to the importation of topsoil into Coleman Ridge Reserve were discussed between Roads ACT and the Parks and Conservation Service (PCS) early in 2011. The importance of the need to ensure that the imported material was free of weeds was raised in February 2011 by PCS. Having been advised that no supplier in Canberra or interstate would certify that topsoil would be weed-free, it was agreed that an environmental bond be provided by Roads ACT to PCS. The bond would allow for monitoring and control of any weeds resulting from the importation of topsoil, from the end of the project maintenance period for a period of two years.

Since Bathurst Burr was identified, a number of site meetings have been held to determine and agree on a plan to control and eradicate this weed. A contractor has undertaken spraying of the project area on a number of occasions and spot spraying and physical removal of any weeds is being carried out on a fortnightly basis. This work will continue until the end of the project maintenance period in September 2012.

On completion of the project maintenance period, PCS and Roads ACT will agree on a two year weed eradication program resourced via the environmental bond funded by Roads ACT.

I appreciate your concern in regard to this problem. As mentioned above, the Territory and Municipal Services Directorate recognises the need to control and eradicate the Bathurst Burr on this site and believes that the measures put in place will, in the longer term, eradicate this weed.

Thank you for raising this matter with me. I trust that this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Katy Gallagher MLA
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services

16 APR 2012

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY