

# Media Release

24 September 2024

## Members of the community invited to attend a free weed spotting workshop

Gladstone Regional Council invites member of the community to a free educational workshop to help improve weed identification skills and assist with early weed detection.

The workshop will be held at the function room next to Calliope Library and Transaction Centre at 11am to 1.30pm, Thursday 17 October.

Presented by Phoebe French, Weed Spotters Network Coordinator at Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Biosecurity Queensland, the workshop will cover the following topics:

- Weed ecology
- Surveillance and early detection
- Priority weed identification
- Specimen collection and reporting
- Biosecurity Act 2014
- Control methods.

Gladstone Region Councillor Michelle Wagner said it is important to know how to spot weeds early to prevent their spread before the weeds can establish in new areas.

“Once a weed becomes established, eradication efforts become more challenging and expensive, and success rates drop significantly,” Councillor Wagner said.

“Early intervention prevents extensive damage, protecting the long-term health of the land and avoiding costly recovery efforts.

“Refreshments will be available, so if you want to learn more about spotting weeds, make sure you RSVP by Thursday 10 October.”

### **Workshop details**

**WHAT:** Weed Spotters Workshop

**WHEN:** 11am-1.30pm, Thursday 17 October

**WHERE:** Function room next to Calliope Library and Transaction Centre

**COST:** Free – Lunch provided

**RSVP:** Thursday 10 October via Council’s website ([gladstone.qld.gov.au/biosecurity-workshop](https://gladstone.qld.gov.au/biosecurity-workshop))

**ENDS**