



The Hon. David Littleproud MP
Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources

Ken O'Dowd MP
Member for Flynn

J O I N T M E D I A R E L E A S E

Friday, 1 February 2018

Councils urged to apply for pest and weed funding

- **\$9 million in grants now available to help manage the impact of wild dogs, pest animals and weeds in Queensland.**
- **27 Councils are eligible to apply for the funding under the Communities Combating Pests and Weed Impacts during Drought Program.**
- **Applications close 5pm on 15 February 2019.**

Councils across Queensland are being called on to apply for a share in \$9 million in grants to manage the impact of wild dogs, pest animals and weeds in drought affected areas.

This includes \$7 million specifically for wild dog fencing.

LNP Member for Flynn Ken O'Dowd said eligible councils still had 15 days to apply for a share of the funding.

"The drought is really hurting farmers and communities," Mr O'Dowd said.

"I'm calling on all eligible councils to get their bids in for a share of the funding to help farmers and communities deal with pests, weeds and wild dogs.

"Councils can apply individually or as a consortia to deliver a shared priority across a larger area."

Minister for Agriculture David Littleproud said 27 councils were eligible across Queensland.

"More money for dog fencing means less wild dogs to prey on livestock, more jobs for towns in drought and more money flowing to our small businesses," Minister Littleproud said.

"Funding to control weeds like prickly acacia reduces competition of weeds with fodder and native plants and mitigates the build-up of weed seedbanks.

"This is part of a \$15 million program nationally, with 202 eligible councils invited to apply.

"This program builds on the \$14 million investment for pest and weeds under the Ag White Paper to support drought affected regions of Queensland. The funding is helping over 300 landholders with more than 4,500km of cluster fencing."

Eligibility is based on data from Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) which determined drought-affected councils with a reliance on agriculture as a primary driver of the local economy.

Eligible councils are invited to submit a grant application on the Community Grants Hub website: <https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/grants/communities-combating-pests-and-weed-impacts-during-drought-prog>

For more information contact the Community Grants Hub on 1800 020 283 or support@communitygrants.gov.au. Applications close 5pm on 15 February 2019.

Eligible Councils in electorate of Flynn:

- **Central Highlands regional Council**
- **Gladstone Regional Council**
- **Rockhampton Regional Council**
- **South Burnett Regional Council**