

Control of tropical soda apple: five years on

Reece Luxton¹, Rod Ensbey² and Elissa van Oosterhout²

¹ Clarence Valley Council, Grafton, New South Wales 2460, Australia

² NSW DPI, Grafton, New South Wales 2460, Australia
(reece.luxton@clarence.nsw.gov.au)

Summary Tropical soda apple (*Solanum viarum* Dunal), first identified in Australia in the NSW Northern Rivers Region during 2010, has been the subject of a control program for the past five years. Through a concerted effort led by NSW DPI and Local Control Authorities (local government), the weed has been contained to a number of sites. This paper seeks to highlight the successes achieved, and reflect on the lessons learnt from the review of progress to date.

To oversee the coordinated management of the control program, a tropical soda apple taskforce was established in 2011 and continues to this day. The taskforce is made up of members from the NSW

Farmers Association, Local Government, the Local Land Services and NSW Department of Primary Industries, and seeks to identify funding opportunities and recommend improvements in the control program.

The paper will identify the development of a strategic plan, on-ground control efforts, education and awareness programs, and monitoring and evaluation. It will briefly discuss the use of the National Livestock Identification Scheme for identification of new incursions, as well as current approaches utilised for tackling the weed including use of community based social marketing (CBSM).

Keywords Tropical soda apple, strategy, taskforce, NSW DPI, Local Government.