

## Main Roads Dept. - Brisbane Metropolitan North

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### Year: Six months to 30/06/1995

Giant Rats tail grass (GRT) – a declared noxious weed - had infested a 2 km section of the Bruce Highway north of the Pine River Bridge, and the Department of Main Roads had received instructions to remove this noxious weed. The Department of Natural Resources instructed that the GRT was not to be sprayed with chemicals, and Weedbug® was called to deal with this problem.

The Weedbug Agronomist was called to investigate, and determined that two treatments were required to get the problem under control but that ongoing maintenance was required to deal with re-growth (due to the large seed bank in the area).

Two (2) treatments were undertaken over approximately 10 km of road between January and June 1995 with the GRT now under control. The road received the following activities during the full 12 months:

<b>Role of Weedbug:</b>	Sub Contractor
<b>Activities on Road:</b>	2 x Weedbug treatments
	6 x Mows
	2 x Chemical sprays to guide posts
	2 x Drain clearance
<b>Motivation:</b>	Noxious weed Control
<b>Area under treatment:</b>	40 hectares

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### Year: 01/07/1995 to 30/06/1996

As a consequence of the treatment results achieved in 1996, the area was beginning to show signs of conversion to lower growing grasses. The Department of Main Roads again requested Weedbug to place the area under a Management Program for the maintenance of GRT in the area.

A program of three (3) Weedbug treatments and three (3) mows was put in place.

The management of the area remained with RTCS with Weedbug Services acting as Subcontractor. The activities on the road were at the direction of RTCS.

As a result of the excellent results over the year, RTCS contracted Weedbug to extend its treatment in the year to also cover one treatment on a fence-to-fence basis over the 10 km of the Bruce highway.

**Role of Weedbug:** Sub Contractor  
**Activities on Road:** 3 x Weedbug treatments  
3 x Mows  
1 x Chemical sprays to guide posts  
2 x Drain clearance  
**Motivation:** Noxious weed Control  
**Area under treatment:** 40 hectares, plus additional 30 HA receiving one treatment

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**Year: 01/07/1996 to 30/06/1997**

Results from the previous year show impressive conversion of roadside from tall species to lower growing couch grasses. The Department of Main Roads requested a quotation for all of the roads controlled by Main Roads Dept. in the Metropolitan North district. The quotation covered three treatments to an area of 250 hectares.

Treatments are undertaken and include treatments to batters along roadsides and slopes over several major fly-overs.

**Role of Weedbug:** Sub Contractor  
**Activities on Network:** 3 x Weedbug treatments  
2 x Mows  
1 x Chemical sprays to guide posts  
1 x Drain clearance  
**Activities on Bruce Hwy:** 2 x Weedbug treatments  
2 x Mows  
1 x Chemical sprays to guide posts  
**Motivation:** Cost and Activity Reductions to Roadside Vegetation  
**Area under treatment:** 250 hectares

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**Year: 01/07/1997 to 30/06/1998**

The program last year was again effective and completed on schedule. Some difficulties experienced in coordinating activities with RTCS, with some activities undertaken by RTCS contrary to the program. The Department of Main Roads decided to give Weedbug the opportunity to manage the contract, and sought a quotation for the network north of the Brisbane River as Principal contractor, and with RTCS as subcontractor dealing with mowing and non-Weedbug activities. The control of the contract and the Management Program is transferred to Weedbug.

**Role of Weedbug:** Principal Contractor  
**Activities on Network:** 2-3 x Weedbug treatments  
2 x Mows  
**Activities on Bruce Hwy:** 2 x Weedbug treatments  
**Motivation:** \* Management of road asset  
\* Reductions in activities on off road asset  
\* Reduction in chemical use (no spraying activities)  
**Area under treatment:** 250 hectares

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**Year: 01/07/1998 to 30/06/1999**

The contract is again extended to include the southern Brisbane roads totaling a further 106 hectares of roadside. The total area under control now exceeds 355 hectares and spreads over the total area of roadside controlled by the Department of Main Roads, Brisbane Metropolitan district. The weather conditions this year changed with increased rainfall signaling a return to a more traditional wet season. All roads programs came in under budget in spite of increased rainfall.

**Role of Weedbug:** Principal Contractor  
**Activities on Network:** Three separate Management program schedules now being undertaken  
**Activities on Bruce Hwy:** 2 x Weedbug treatments  
**Motivation:** \* Management of road asset  
\* Reductions in activities on off road asset  
\* Reduction in chemical use (no spraying activities)  
**Area under treatment:** 355 hectares

**Year: Commencing 01/07/1999**

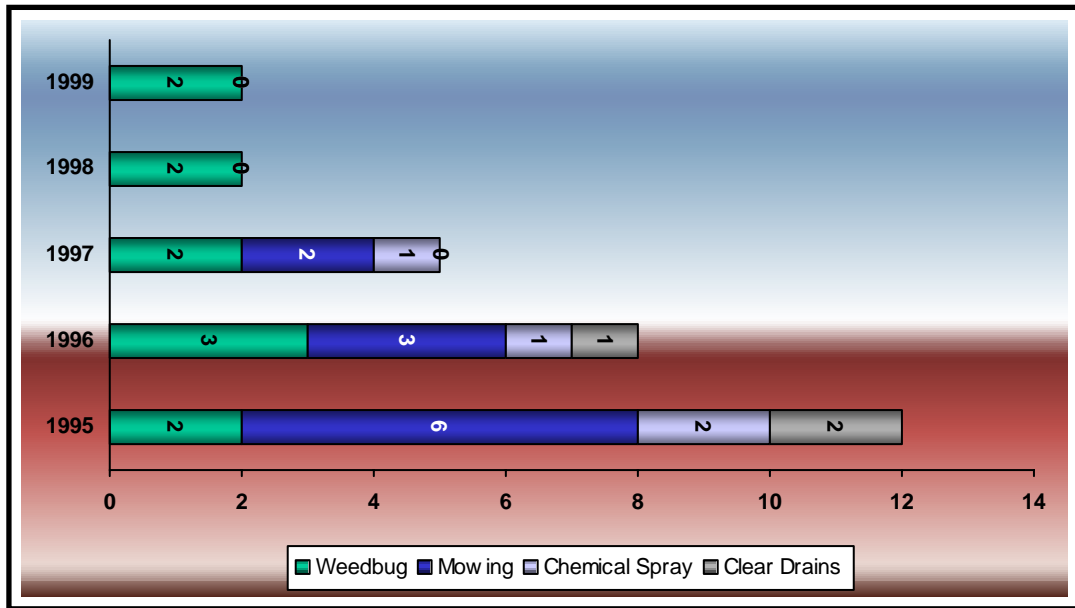
Again this year saw an increase in the size of the contract, with approval given by Brisbane Metropolitan district to the inclusion of Weedbug programs within the contract held by Fulton Hogan Pty Ltd who control three (3) major highways (totaling 131 hectares) in the Ipswich area.

<b>Role of Weedbug:</b>	Principal Contractor and Sub Contractor
<b>Activities on Network:</b>	Four separate Management program schedules now being undertaken
<b>Activities on Bruce Hwy:</b>	2 x Weedbug treatments
<b>Motivation:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Management of road asset</li><li>* Reductions in activities on off road asset</li><li>* Reduction in chemical use (no spraying activities)</li></ul>
<b>Area under treatment:</b>	486 hectares

**Summary:**

In five years working within the Main Roads district of Brisbane Metropolitan, Weedbug has moved from being the supplier of a one-off noxious weed treatment to the Principal Contractor for Vegetation Maintenance and Management programs. This has been achieved through a history of delivering results for our client and the development of our skills base and expertise. Our client has benefited with a reduction in green matter production (grass clippings), Greenhouse gas emissions, and activities on the asset.

Our initial work on the Bruce highway is graphed to show the reduction in activities that were performed on the highway in the five (5) year history of our involvement.



At the end of 1999, a review of the intervention heights and classification of roads was undertaken and at that time the Bruce Highway section being reported on in this case study was reclassified to receive a higher priority of activities.