



Santa's arriving weed free thanks to a FNQ Australian 1st

Far North Queensland councils have been the first in Australia to receive a unique water recycling portable clean down facility.

According to FNQ Regional Organisation of Councils chair Jim Chapman, "the portable self contained unit has been designed by local council pest management staff in cooperation with a Western Australian engineering company".

It has initially been designed for on site clean down of local government equipment used for road maintenance, thus decreasing the likelihood of weed spread.

The facilities will also be available for emergency use during cyclone clean up operations to prevent machinery spreading weed material in and out of the region.

The portable self contained unit can be towed by a vehicle and can clean down equipment from small slashers to cane harvesters.

The portable self contained unit consists of two 13 hsp Honda gurneys, air compressor and industrial water vacuum, portable soft bunding and water recycling system that separates oils and weed material.

"Weeds cost the far north rate payers millions of dollars each year, from lost agricultural dollars to the money spent by councils, community organisations and government departments in their removal," Mr Chapman said.

"The portable facility will decrease further incursion and spread of weed species and the subsequent cost of follow-up control work". He said

Queensland State funding obtained from the Blue Print for the Bush program has funded the Weed Spread Prevention project.

The shires of Atherton, Cairns, Cardwell, Cook, Douglas, Eacham, Herberton, Hinchinbrook, Johnstone, Mareeba, and Yarrabah form the membership of FNQROC.

ENDS

For further information contact Kirby Doak FNQROC Project Officer 4044 3518 or 0427 147 939

Photo op – photos or a photo opportunity can be arranged showcasing use of portable clean down facility with the Douglas Shire Council.