**Senna obtusifolia (Sicklepod)**

**Description:** A vigorously growing, very competitive woody shrub to 1.5-2m tall and 1m wide. Normally an annual life, though plants that have been slashed or survive chemical application often re-shoot and survive another year. Seed can be viable for up to 10 years. Sicklepod generally grows as an annual. It forms dense and stands in areas where seed was deposited in previous years.

**Distribution:** Common and widespread within the Hinchinbrook Shire.

**Impacts:** Sicklepod can invade and completely dominate pastures. It becomes a major of crops within two or three seasons. Sicklepod will invade natural areas especially following disturbance. Areas subject to broad scale disturbance from events like floods and fire can result in dense stands of sicklepod establishing.

**Key projects:** The ongoing control on Council and main road reserves will continue as resources allow.

Although Sicklepod is widespread within most catchments of the lower Herbert there are still localities and areas where it does not occur. Machinery, vehicle and stock hygiene practices will help stop the spread to new areas. Sicklepod does best in areas which are disturbed so careful land management practices which maintain vegetation or grass cover can assist to reduce the vigour of infestations. Fire management practices should also take the distribution of Sicklepod into account.

Spelling stock in holding paddocks for at least seven days will ensure any ingested seed is passed prior to moving to new areas or clean paddocks. Cleaning down cane planting and harvest machinery will assist in reducing the likelihood of spread within and beyond your property.

Maintaining buffers around large infestations and managing isolated or new infestations in agricultural production and environmentally significant areas can reduce impacts. Sicklepod does well in disturbed areas and can quickly take over fallowed land and roadsides. A suitable cover crop or maintaining other desirable vegetation cover can help reduce germination and growth.
What is my biosecurity obligation?

Ensure best practice weed hygiene measures are in place to reduce risk of spread to new locations. Maintain weed free areas. Identify high value assets and protect them from impacts where possible.

Managing impacts on neighbouring properties or publically accessible areas such as road sides should be considered a priority.

Targeting the seasonal management of sicklepod within your own property to reduce the impact on your key assets.

For more information on management aims in each zone refer to Using the Biosecurity Plan templates.