

Aquatic Weed Project - Weevil Trial

Frequently Asked Questions

Work location: Bazza Island, Ross River

Project commencement: August 2022

What is the Cabomba weevil and why use it against Cabomba?

The Cabomba weevil (*Hydrotimetes natans*) is a tiny aquatic weevil that spends its entire life on Cabomba plants, causing considerable damage to the plant by feeding on its stems and leaves. Field surveys have found the Cabomba weevil is highly specific to Cabomba. This makes it an ideal biological control option for Cabomba in Australia.

What are the risks to other, non-target species in Australia?

CSIRO has conducted extensive host-specificity studies in the native range (South America) and under quarantine conditions in Australia and found that the Cabomba weevil has a high degree of specificity towards the target weed Cabomba and will potentially be an effective biological control agent for Cabomba.

Where will the Cabomba weevils be released?

Cabomba weevils will be released around Bazza Island in Mundingburra, Townsville. This release will be conducted as a trial and done through CSIRO and Townsville City Council. CSIRO will monitor the survival, establishment and effect of the weevils on Cabomba.

How many and when the weevils will be released?

Approximately 100 weevils will be released around Bazza Island, just upstream of Aplins Weir. The weevils will be released in August 2022.

