

Aquatic Weed Project - Herbicide Trial

Frequently Asked Questions

Work location: Gleasons Weir, Ross River

Project commencement: August 2022

What is flumioxazin and why use it against Cabomba?

Flumioxazin is a contact herbicide that has been used in the USA for more than ten years to successfully control Cabomba and other invasive aquatic weeds. It has also been used in Australia but only on terrestrial weeds so far. Cabomba is particularly sensitive to flumioxazin, therefore this herbicide provides excellent control at considerably lower doses than other herbicides. Flumioxazin breaks down rapidly when applied to the water and does not accumulate. Therefore, it poses no long-term environmental or health risks.

Why we are looking at it.

Attributes that make Flumioxazin desirable to trial are;

- Controls a range of weeds (Sagittaria, Salvinia, Water lettuce and Cabomba);
- Controls Cabomba at much lower concentrations than other herbicides (economical and less environmental impacts as smaller amounts are required);
- Has low toxicity to aquatic organisms at applied rates; and
- It breaks down rapidly when applied to water (field trials have shown that it will be below detection limits within 48h after application in a freshwater body with lots of Cabomba).

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

DAF has conducted experimental work on the sensitivity of target and non-target species to flumioxazin. If dosed appropriately, flumioxazin will not cause long-term damage to most native aquatic plants. At the correct application rate, the product is not toxic to aquatic fauna such as fish, birds, and invertebrates and there are no risks to the public due to the low toxicity of the product

Where will flumioxazin be applied?

The herbicide will be applied to a small area in the Ross River away from areas that are used by the public for recreation to ensure safety and that the trial is not interfered with. DAF will monitor the Cabomba response to flumioxazin to measure control efficacy and measure water quality over a period of 6 to 8 weeks.

Where and how will the herbicide be applied?

The treatment will be a small-scale trial covering under 500 m². The herbicide trial will occur simultaneously with the biocontrol trial in August 2022.

