

Miconia in Tweed Shire



Miconia calvenscens – Miconia

Miconia spp.

- Native to Central and South America
- Tahiti – ‘*green cancer*’
- Hawaii – ‘*purple plague*’
- Townsville – *Since 1963*
- A botanical curiosity – collectors plant - popular through the '80s and '90s



Is it a threat to Australia?

The Tahiti experience

- Importation of all miconia species into Australia is prohibited under Australian quarantine regulations.



In NSW

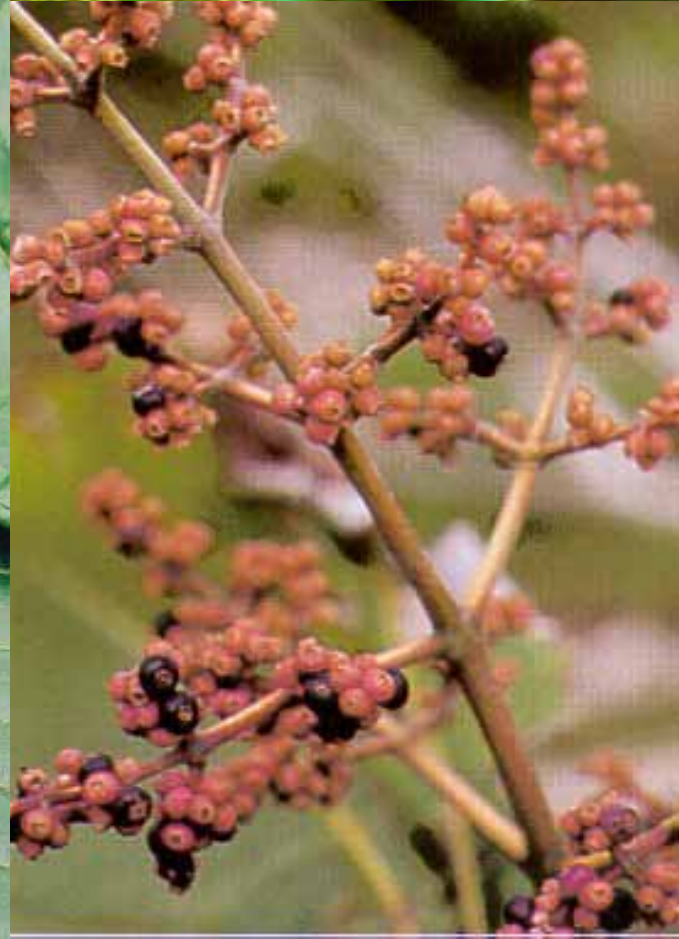
- 16 plants seized in 2003
- Another in 2004
- Since then – no other known infestations in NSW



The problem

- Miconia is an unusually aggressive invader of moist rainforest habitats.
- Under favourable conditions, miconia will form dense thickets in rainforest understoreys and can completely replace native vegetation.
- It has the potential to cause irreversible damage to rainforests.

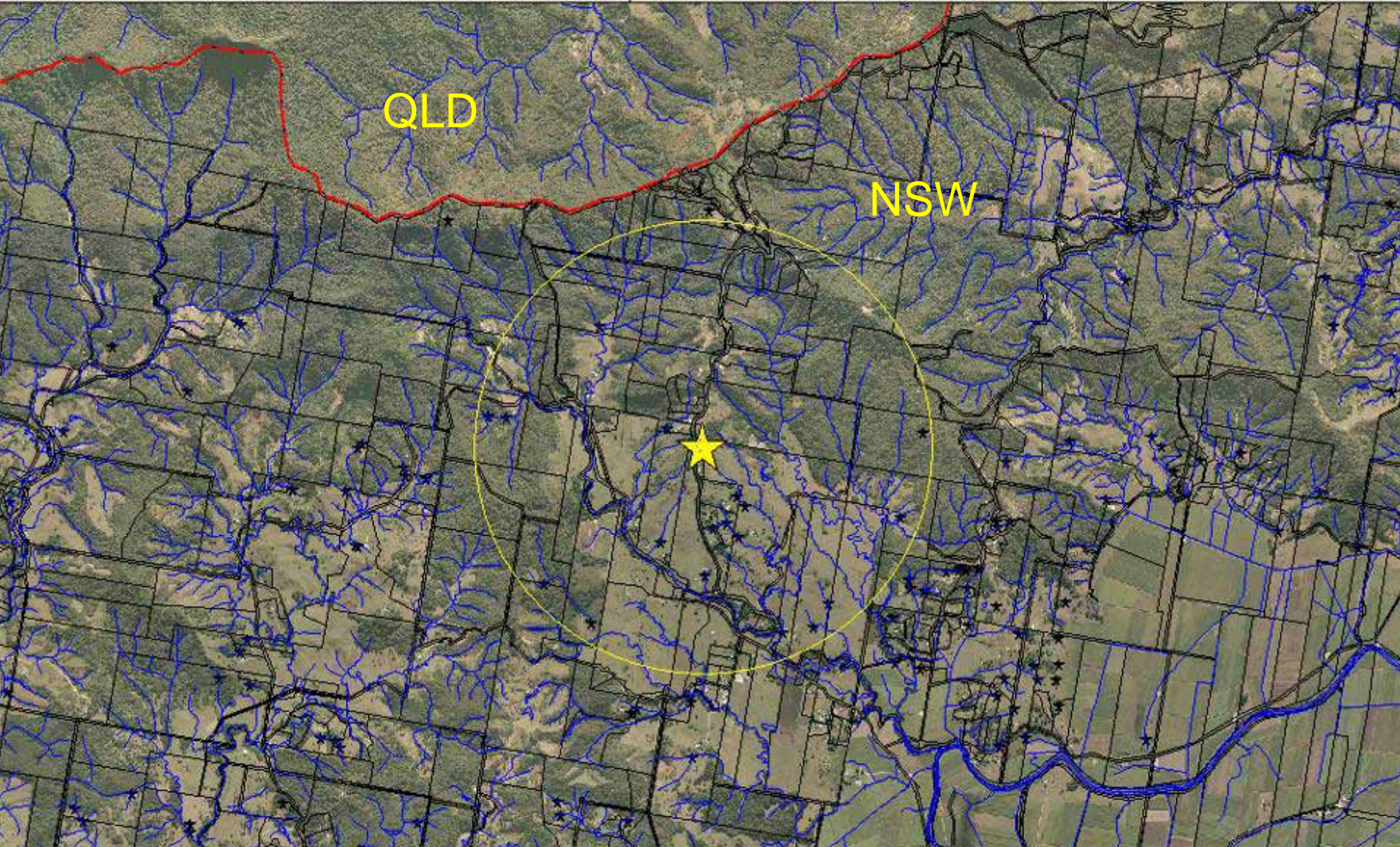




Miconia spp. W1

- All *Miconia* must be continuously suppressed and destroyed.
- A new occurrence
- Rapid detection of source
- Unwitting landowners – for 15 years
- Very willing to assist
- Big question is – *Where else has it gone?*





QLD

NSW

Project governance

- Invite key organisations to participate in surveillance project task force
 - FNCW, NSW DPI, QDPI, NSW NPWS, Q EPA, Tweed Council, Gold Coast City Council, CMAs
- Agree on project governance, organisational responsibilities (funding, management, operations and reporting)
- Design and agree on surveillance protocols to ensure cross-border consistency

Surveillance strategy

- Develop agreed protocol for property searches – (systematic, consistent, thorough)
- Initial zone – within 1km of parent plant (wholly in NSW)
- Map and sample all new plants – prior to destruction
- Revise survey area with each new ‘fertile’ discovery
- Extend outwards to 2 km zone
- Model bird dispersion pathways with information gathered from plant’s distribution
- Project will need to run for many years
- Best case scenario is that no new plants are found.

Community participation

- Education and awareness campaign – targeting property owners, schools and community organisations
- *'Has anyone here seen Mike?'* – rewards scheme
- Community must become aware of the immediate threat to the region and the need for constant vigilance
- Active community participation is vital

- For any further information, please contact:

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