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# Weed spray lowers the boom on tilapia

**Jon Ortlieb**

jon.ortlieb@dailymercury.com.au

TODAY'S Tilapia Army meeting has been postponed – hopefully for good reason.

A weed spraying program from the Mackay Regional Council at the Gooseponds looks like it is starting to have an effect.

By eradicating the noxious "water lettuce" weed in the ponds, the invasive tilapia fish will have fewer places to hide, making them more vulnerable to the introduced barramundi.

Project officer from Catchment Solutions, Trent Power said the meeting and a planned "drag" to take more weed out of the ponds, was

postponed to give more time to assess the spraying.

"It looks like the spraying is working so they may not be any need to go out with the boom drag and take more weed out," Mr Power said.

"We have postponed the meeting to another date when we can more accurately gauge how much weed is eliminated."

President of the Mackay Recreational Fishers Alliance, Lance Murray said the project to eradicate tilapia was "heading in the right direction".

The Reef Catchment authority has issued a reminder that people can be fined up to \$200,000 for possessing noxious fish, using them as bait or putting them into waterways.



**The tilapia fish will have less places to hide as weeds are removed from the Gooseponds.**

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED