

GAMBA GRASS COMPLIANCE

A Community Approach



GAMBA GRASS

Andropogon gayanus

- invasive perennial grass
- grows to 4m tall
- very high biomass and fuel load
- causes extremely hot destructive fires
- imminent threat to life and property
- impacts on neighbours and community relationships
- Northern Territory Government provides education and free assistance
- many land managers still fail to comply with the legislation
- subject to the statutory *Weed Management Plan for Gamba Grass*
- regulated under the *Weeds Management Act*.



Gamba grass in Humpty Doo

TRADITIONAL WEED CONTROL

Long term goal to prevent spread and reduce infestations.

PRIORITY

- Eliminate outliers
- Clean up spread pathways
- Contain isolated outbreaks
- Reduce established infestations
- Address high density areas

REVERSED METHOD FOR GAMBA GRASS CONTROL

Prioritisation is reversed due to imminent threat.

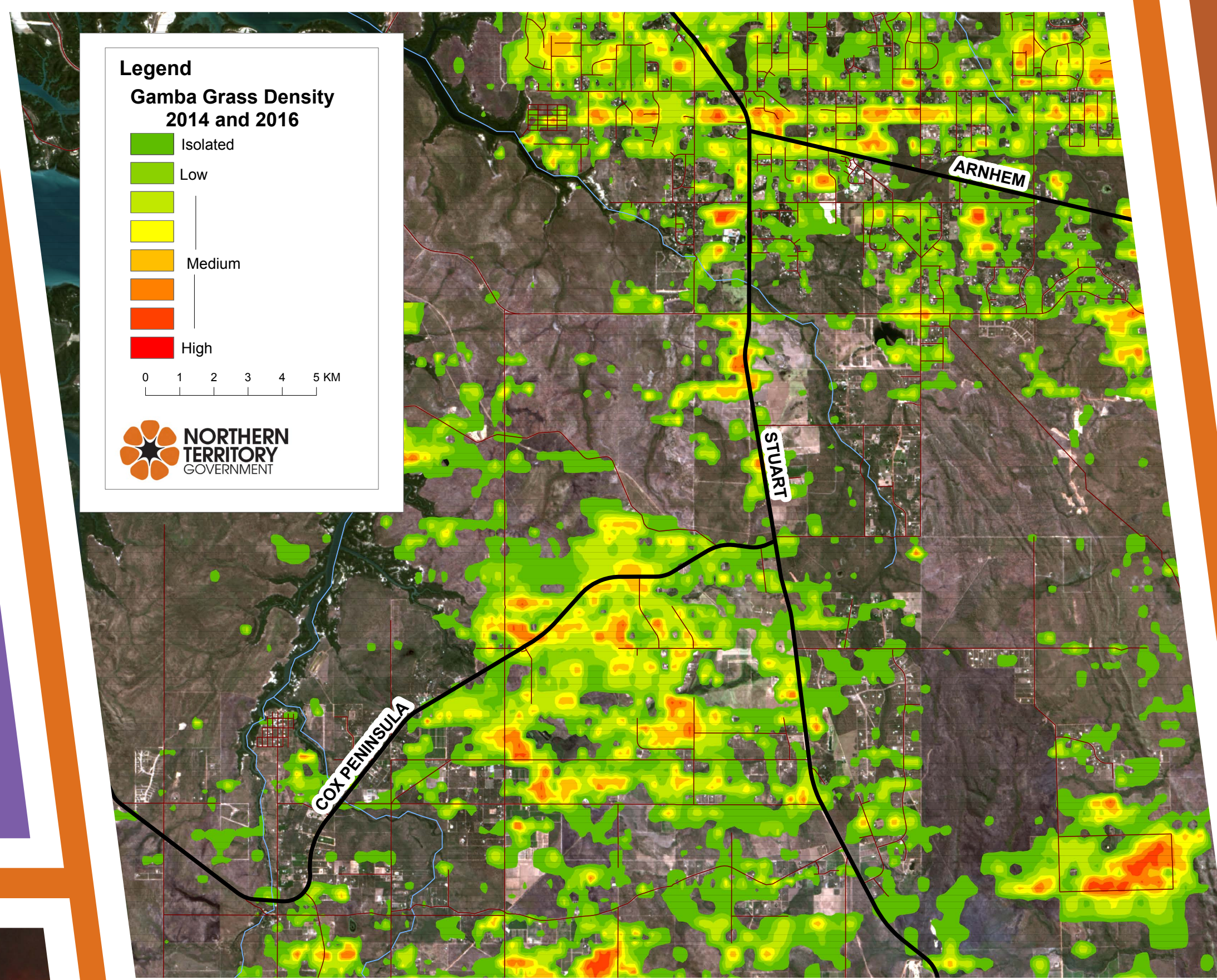
PRIORITY

- High density population
- High density gamba grass
- Proximity to infrastructure
- Smaller infestations
- Isolated areas
- Outliers

COMMUNITY ACTION

For years the Weed Management Branch has received complaints from property owners who are being impacted by uncontrolled gamba grass on neighbouring land. Spread across property boundaries can lead to breakdowns in community relationships.

By enforcing the installation of 15m gamba grass free buffers, and thus minimising weed spread impacts, tensions can be calmed, making way for conversations about community level action and cooperation. Only when we have all hands on deck, can we start to make headway in the fight against gamba grass.



TRADITIONAL CONTROL AT THE PROPERTY SCALE

Orders are issued under the *Weeds Management Act*, and enforcement action is used where necessary to achieve compliance.

PRIORITY

- Establish escape routes
- Protect infrastructure
- Clean up spread pathways
- Contain infestations
- Address high density areas

IS BEING RIGHT ENOUGH?

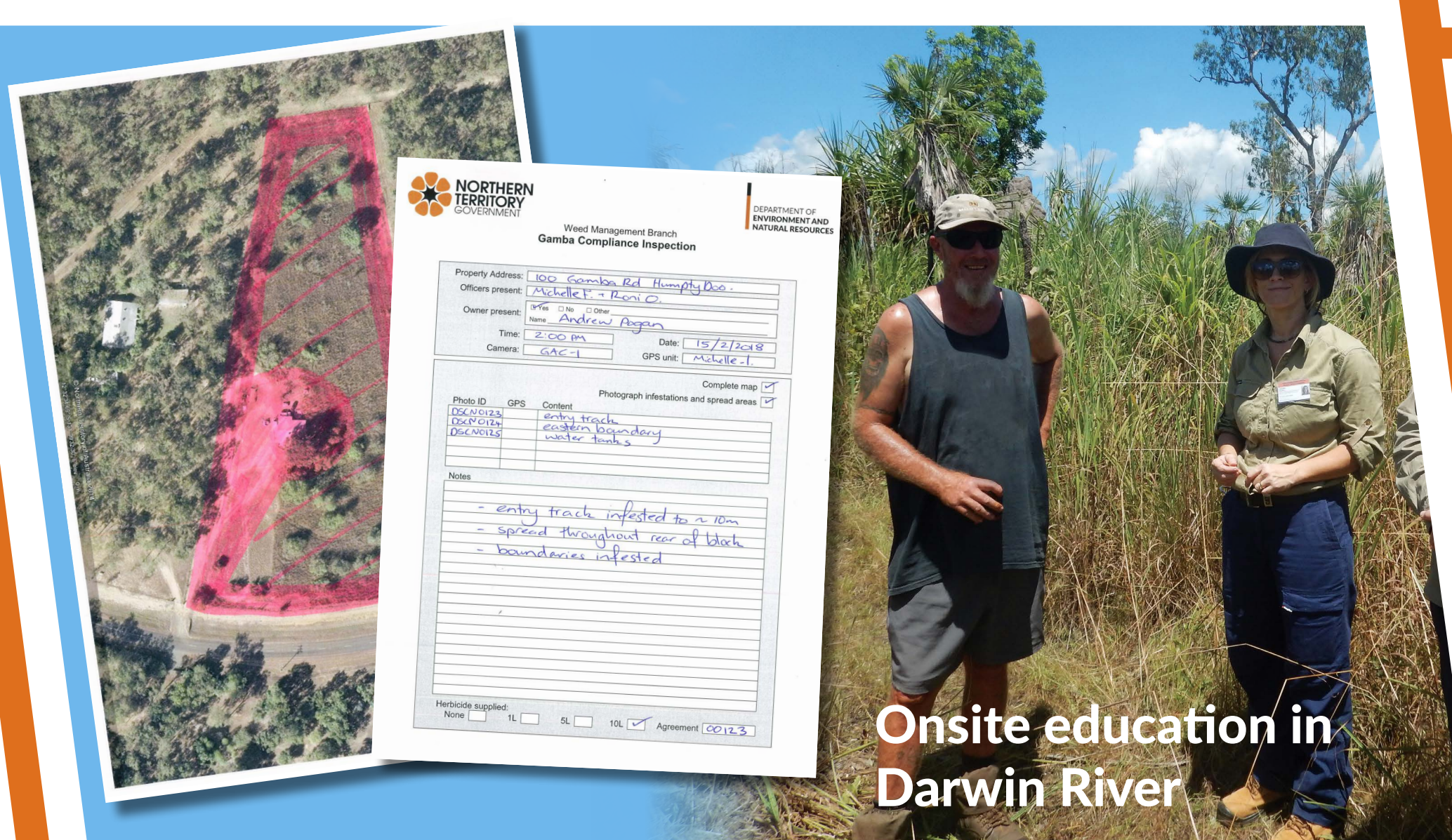
In the community there is resistance to gamba grass control for three main reasons;

- reluctance to accept responsibility for gamba grass control
- time and effort needed for control
- conflict in areas where it is favoured as fodder for stock.

Sometimes enforcement is needed where people refuse to do the right thing.



Gamba grass infested property in Humpty Doo



Onsite education in Darwin River

OUTCOMES

- the **Gamba Action Program** is in its second compliance season
- compliance action during the growing season (Oct-May)
- increase in land manager awareness
- increased weed control activity
- support for those who have been doing the right thing
- consequences for those who have not complied with gamba grass control legislation
- safer fire season.

REGULATORS

- Weed Management Branch (*Weeds Management Act*)
- Bushfires NT (*Bushfires Management Act*)
- Fire and Rescue Service (*Fire and Emergency Act*)
- Development Consent Authority (*Planning Act*)
- Pastoral Land Board (*Pastoral Land Act*)

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Gamba Action Vehicle