

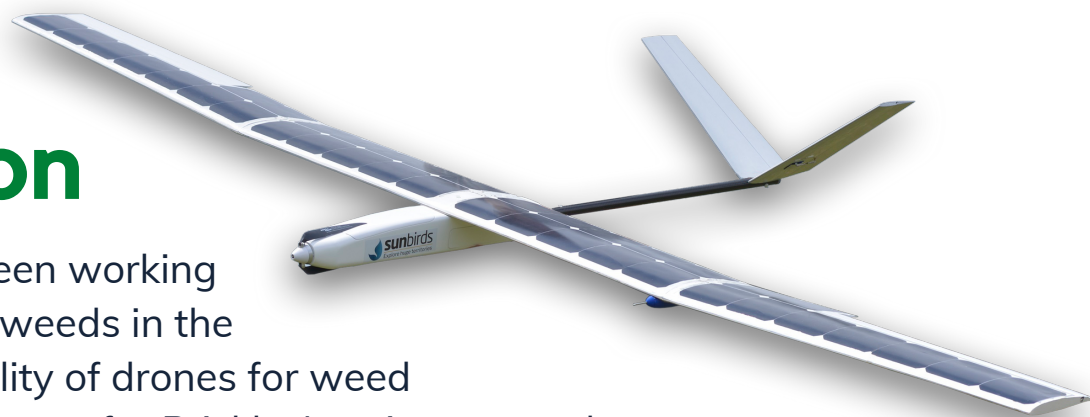
DRONE TECHNOLOGY

For Natural Ressources Organisations



Pricky Acacia Eradication

Sunbirds Australia and Desert Chanel Queensland have been working together on a significant environmental project to monitor weeds in the Queensland Desert. The mission aimed at testing the viability of drones for weed spotting and help DCQ develop advanced detection techniques for Pricky Acacias, a weed of national significance.



20M ha

is the spread of Pricky Acacias in the Desert of Queensland.

\$5M

per year is the the economic impact on Queensland's grazing industry - estimated when the spread was only 6.6 million of hectares.

KILL NATIVE PLANTS

They are a threat to the Australian environment as they kill native plants and the pasture needed to feed the livestock.

Drones to Detect & Monitor Natural Ressources

Since June 2019, drones were used to map 5,000+ hectares of Pricky Acacias in QLD. The key findings are:

- Acquisition of data from remote/large/inaccessible areas;
- Improvement of current eradication programs;
- Adaptation of land management practises;
- Better budgeting & targeting;
- Cheaper and easier deployment than helicopters.



The Impacts

- 1 The aerial photos have then been used to detect and classify trees by size thanks to an artificial model.
- 2 Knowing the size of the trees, DCQ have been able to reduce the quantity of pesticide needed for their eradication program, reducing operational costs.

DCQ became the premier weed control organisation across one-third of Queensland, reducing the number of Pricky Acacias by a few million.