

August 2022

Towards a National Established Weed Priorities Framework

Building the future of established weed management in Australia



The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has commissioned work to develop the National Established Weeds Priority (NEWP) Framework, to guide the future collaborative management of weeds in Australia. The Framework has been developed by Wild Matters Pty Ltd, in consultation with weed stakeholders across Australia. The NEWP Framework now has in-principle endorsement from the intergovernmental Environment and Invasives Committee, pending an agreed national implementation plan.

Drawing on the successes and lessons of the 20-year Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) initiative, the NEWP Framework seeks to build a revitalised, long-term approach to reducing the spread and impacts of established weeds across Australia. Implementation will be through nationally coordinated strategic plans for established weed priorities determined through a national nomination and assessment process. The NEWP Framework has three delivery streams:

1. **Weeds of National Significance (WoNS)**. This is a rejuvenation of the WoNS initiative which began in 1999. Currently there are 32 WoNS (weeds.org.au/overview/lists-strategies/). Industry, community and government stakeholders would be able to nominate new WoNS. These would be selected through a risk assessment and prioritisation process. Each new WoNS would have its own strategic plan, which would be a focus for improved control tools and sharing knowledge on best practice management, leading to more effective on-ground control programs for these weeds.
2. A new approach termed **Weed Issues of National Significance (WINS)** takes a multi-species, landscape scale approach to weed management. WINS would better integrate weed management with other aspects of land management for both biodiversity and production purposes. Examples of issues raised during consultation as potential candidates for nomination include sustainable use of herbicides, weeds and natural disaster recovery, managing multi-species invasions and social challenges in achieving coordinated weed control. Like WoNS, WINS would have their own national strategic plan.
3. A **National Established Weed Action List (NEWAL)** is proposed for discrete, feasible short-term actions of national benefit. These can be either outstanding priority actions from having majority implemented a WoNS or WINS strategic plan, or discrete actions identified during the assessment process for unsuccessful WoNS or WINS nominations. The actions would be consolidated into a regularly updated NEWAL plan.

In addition, a virtual weed information hub is proposed as the “home” for all the knowledge, information and tools produced under the NEWP Framework. This will support the ongoing management of established weeds and associated issues, including maintaining best practice information for the existing 32 WoNS.

[NEWP Project Team](#)

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NEWP FRAMEWORK AT A GLANCE

Vision

Australians are enabled and supported to collaborate on national established weed priorities to protect the environment, economy and communities

Guiding Principles

Priorities are shared and inclusive

All threats are considered

Sustained resourcing is required

Decisions are evidence-based

Effective technology and innovation supports control efforts

Leadership guide investment and collaboration

Medium-term outcomes

Industry, community and government are connected, collaborating and co-investing to find and implement solutions to established weed problems.

The importance of established weed management is understood, valued and integrated with broader land management issues.

Land manager capability is built through national coordination and access to tools, best practice information and expertise.

NEWP delivery streams

1



WoNS
WEEDS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

Facilitating action on priority established weeds

2



WINS
WEED ISSUES OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

Developing collective solutions to priority established weed issues

3



NEWAL
NATIONAL ESTABLISHED WEED ACTION LIST

Coordinating discrete priority actions with national benefit