Three ministerial councils endorsed and launched the National Weeds Strategy in June 1997 in order to bring a strategic focus to weed management across Australia. The three councils, Agriculture and Resource Management Council Of Australia and New Zealand, Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council and Forestry Ministers formed The National Weeds Strategy Executive Committee (NWSEC) to oversee the implementation of the strategy.

The Committee is to report to the Councils annually on progress and refer significant issues to them for endorsement. This committee deals with high-level policy issues and liaises closely with Australian Weeds Committee for technical advice.

**Project Manager** In order to facilitate the implementation of the Strategy, the states and commonwealth agreed to fund a Project Manager, Mr John Thorp.

**Mission Statement** The purpose of the National Weeds Strategy is to reduce the detrimental impact of weeds on the sustainability of Australia’s productive capacity and natural ecosystems.

**Goals** The Strategy lists three goals with eight objectives, covering twenty six strategies. Environmental and agricultural weeds are treated equally, recognising that weeds comprise one of Australia’s major land degradation problems.

**Goal 1** To prevent the development of new weed problems.

**Goal 2** To reduce the impact of existing weed problems of national significance.

**Goal 3** To provide the framework and capacity for ongoing management of weed problems of national Significance.

**Work Program**

- To establish a process for prioritising major weed problems as a means of determining the nation’s Weeds Of National Significance (WONS).
- To develop an administrative process for managing WONS and developing national strategies for their management.
- To gain Ministerial endorsement of the first WONS.
- Encourage all states and territories to develop and implement weeds strategies and associated management structures.
- Encourage and monitor the development of Weed Risk Assessment by AQIS, for use in assessing all new plant introductions into Australia.
- Implement a national reporting system for all newly naturalised plants, backed by risk assessment and incursion management processes.
- Establish a network of people working with weeds across Australia.
- Establish a World Wide Web site that links all aspects of weed management together in order to make high quality information available to any interested person.
- To develop national training competencies for people involved in weed management and develop 10 distance education training modules.