

National priority list of exotic environmental pests and diseases: an update

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Summary In 2017, the independent review into the capacity of the national biosecurity system and its underpinning intergovernmental agreement delivered its final report, *Priorities for Australia's biosecurity system*. The report recommended the development of a national priority list for environmental pests and diseases, to be developed in partnership with system participants (recommendation 11). The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) are leading the development of a national priority list of exotic environmental pests and diseases. The priority list will provide an understanding of those exotic species that pose the greatest risk

to the Australian environment and social amenity and provide for enhanced awareness and preparedness of environmental biosecurity risks. The list will include within its scope consideration of exotic environmental pests and diseases across all taxa, including weeds. ABARES will be collaborating with weed experts in governments, research and environmental stakeholder groups to develop the priority list. The list will be developed over several stages, including two expert workshops held in early and mid-2018, and the project is due for completion in 2019. Here, we will present the current status of the project.

Keywords Environmental weeds, priority, exotic, prevention.