

Profile and conference talk info about Andrew Cox

Andrew has been interested in the impact of weeds for most of his life.

As CEO of the [Invasive Species Council](#) he works to reduce the environmental impact from weeds, pests, pathogens and other invaders. His work includes seeking changes to laws and policies at the state and Federal level, aiming for reforms such as improved quarantine surveillance, early invasive species eradication and a 'permitted list' approach to the sale and movement of weeds.

The Weed Society of Victoria invited Andrew to join their management committee to assist with weed advocacy. He is now the society's delegate to CAWS and a member of the CAWS advocacy and promotions sub-committee.

Andrew will be presenting a poster paper and talk to the 2014 Australasian Weeds Conference.

Poster Paper Topic: Quantifying efforts in tackling weeds and other invasive species in Australia

This poster paper will present the results of a survey conducted in 2013 by the Invasive Species Council of over 800 organisations.

The survey found that the total annual effort on invasives species management totalled the equivalent of 1,500 full time volunteers and 1,850 full time staff. The total effort of survey respondents was valued at \$168 million, with the majority of this (\$146 million) dedicated to weed management.

The annual effort of survey respondents from the community sector was valued at \$62 million, an average of \$125,000 per organisation. A conservative estimate of the total annual value of the community effort on invasive species management is about \$600 million. The survey results suggest that the total value of effort directed at invasive species management is at least \$1.6 billion each year.

Talk Topic: Environmental biosecurity needs new thinking not agricultural thinking

This talk will explain that Australia needs a more ecological, coordinated and collaborative approach to environmental biosecurity.

Weeds and other invasive species are overwhelming the capacity of current biosecurity systems and are set to worsen under climate change. Environmental biosecurity can't be just a bolt-on to existing institutions and thinking. The complexity and scale of environmental challenges warrants the establishment of a new national body, Environment Health Australia.

Environment Health Australia will be a sister to the industry bodies, Plant Health Australia and Animal Health Australia, and bring together major participants in environmental biosecurity, including community groups. It will improve preparedness, develop more-ecological approaches, facilitate collaboration and report on progress in environmental biosecurity. Environmental Health Australia will be a cost-effective solution to fill a major gap in Australia's biosecurity system.

