

Future weeds RD&E investment under a collaborative national biosecurity approach

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Summary To reduce the huge impacts of weeds to manageable levels, governments and industry have committed to major national 2030 targets – for example, the Meat Industry Strategic Plan commits to invest in research and innovation to reduce weed and pest impacts by \$150m a year, while governments have committed to a national target to reduce the impacts of invasives on Australia’s biodiversity by 10%. To achieve these targets requires a new major collaborative effort to accelerate and transform weed management innovation.

In March 2018, at the request of the Commonwealth, the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (CISS) began the process to develop its national plan for weed R&D investment over 2020–2030. This draft Plan proposes a major, decade long coordinated investment in public good weeds RD&E that would

give effect to broad agreed priorities developed by Australia’s governments and particular livestock industries. The aspiration places the planned investments firmly within National Biosecurity System arrangements, in particular the National Biosecurity RD&E Framework. Like the Framework, the Plan seeks to engender robust and integrated (systems) R&D capabilities and infrastructure that effectively and collaboratively support management of weed risks across the invasion curve. The Plan will prioritise investment in weed RD&E activities with the results feeding into continuously updated pipelines of best management practice. An exposure draft of the Plan will be released at the 21st Australasian Weeds Conference for ongoing consultation.

Keywords Weeds, invasive plants, investment frameworks, research, engagement.