

# Council of Australasian Weed Societies (Inc.)



## Strategic Plan 2019 - 2024

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### Introduction

CAWS is the international body in Australia and New Zealand representing and promoting the interests of its member societies and their members towards reducing the impacts of weeds.

Individuals and organisations with an interest in weeds are members of the following Australian State or New Zealand weed related societies, which in turn constitute all current members of CAWS:

- Weed Society of Queensland (Inc.)
- Weed Society of New South Wales (Inc.)
- Weed Society of Victoria (Inc.)
- Tasmanian Weed Society (Inc.)
- Weed Management Society of South Australia (Inc.)
- Weeds Society of Western Australia (Inc.)
- Plant Protection Society of New Zealand (Inc.)

This strategic plan represents the views of all member societies, and outlines long-term goals and objectives that set the direction of CAWS activities for 2019-2024.

## **About CAWS**

The Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS) is an independent, representative voice for weed management in Australia and New Zealand. CAWS is composed of delegates from Australian state weed societies and the Plant Protection Society of New Zealand, who have weed management as their major focus. CAWS promotes weed management through communication and advocacy, including by means of education, awards, travel grants and publications.

CAWS is an associate member of the International Weed Science Society, and is affiliated with the European Weed Research Society and the Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society.

## **CAWS Vision**

Leadership, advocacy, information and support for the promotion of weed management in Australasia.

## **CAWS Objective**

To promote weed management in Australia and New Zealand by:

- i. providing independent, representative leadership in weed management through promotion and advocacy of weed science, policy, planning and operations;
- ii. Initiating and maintaining activities of national significance to meet member interests;
- iii. maintaining the Australasian Weeds Conference and providing other activities for information exchange, networking and debate;
- iv. providing national and international policy positions, promoting weed awareness and providing capacity to respond to weed issues;
- v. supporting national and international weed publications, and;
- vi. providing national and international level services, products and engagement opportunities to individual members of member societies.

## **CAWS Strategic Goals**

1. CAWS is recognised by government and the general community of Australia and New Zealand as an important, independent body regarding weed management issues.
2. CAWS promotes, supports and provides advice for weed related activities.
3. CAWS is a viable, effective and active body representing member societies.

## Strategic Planning Framework

CAWS activities are guided by the Strategic Plan, and the Organisational Development, Communication and Advocacy Annual Action Plans. The Strategic Plan sets out the broad strategic direction of CAWS, and outlines a series of high-level, long-term strategic goals. Annual Action Plans articulate potential initiatives and activities aimed at achieving the strategic goals. Shorter-term specific operational tasks, achievable with current resources, are given with clearly defined accountabilities and measurable performance criteria.

The Strategic Plan is reviewed every five years, and Annual Action Plans are reviewed and updated annually. Sub-committees critically examine their Annual Action Plan and assess CAWS's performance against them.

Based on this analysis, sub-committees develop and propose priority actions for Annual Action Plans which, when ratified by the CAWS Executive, inform the direction of CAWS activities for the coming year. To ensure robust evaluation, subcommittees present a brief review of progress towards Annual Action Plan activities at each quarterly CAWS Executive meeting.



## CAWS Strategic Planning Framework 2019-2024

## Strategic Goals, Actions and Evaluation

Strategic Goals (what we want to achieve)	Strategic Actions (how we will do it)	Evaluation (how we know we have succeeded)
CAWS is recognised by government and the general community of Australia and New Zealand as an important, independent body regarding weed issues.	<b>Communication</b>	
	A. Strengthen networks and increase liaison with peak bodies, whose business is or includes the impact and management of weeds.	Documented collaboration and two-way information flow occur between CAWS and other national weed bodies.
	B. Develop, regularly update and promote the CAWS website as a key source of Australasian weeds information.	Number of users of the website and number of linkages to the website increase.
CAWS promotes and supports weed related activities, and provides advice on relevant issues.	<b>Advocacy</b>	
	A. Support the organisation of the Australasian Weeds Conference (AWC) and other relevant national and international events.	Australasian Weeds Conferences are successful based on feed-back, number of delegates, finances. CAWS supports other national and international weed events.
	B. Promote and provide feedback on topical and relevant Australasian weed-related issues.	Submissions and media efforts are made by CAWS.
	C. Provide awards, grants and sponsorship for travel and weed-related activities.	CAWS-sponsored students and professionals promote CAWS at a variety of functions.
CAWS is a viable, effective and active body representing and supporting member societies.	<b>Organisational Development</b>	
	A. Assist member societies to maintain or improve membership.	Membership is stable or increased.
	B. Promote CAWS internally and increase opportunities for all members to participate in CAWS activities.	More individual society members take part in CAWS activities.
	C. Maintain financial and operational viability of CAWS.	Annual financial plan is developed, implemented and reviewed.

## APPENDIX - CAWS Action Plan templates

### CAWS Communication and Advocacy Annual Action Plan

#### Strategic Goals

##### Communication

CAWS is recognised by government and the general community of Australia and New Zealand as an important, independent body regarding weed issues.

##### Advocacy

CAWS promotes and supports weed related activities, and provides advice on relevant issues.

Strategic Actions (from Strategic Plan)	Tasks and Activities to Achieve Strategic Actions	Resources Needed	Who is Responsible? (incl. lead role)	Completion Date	Performance Indicators
<b>Communication</b> A. Strengthen networks and increase liaison with peak bodies, whose business is or includes the impact and management of weeds.					
<b>Communication</b> B. Develop, regularly update and promote the CAWS website as a key source of Australasian weeds information.					
<b>Advocacy</b> A. Support the organisation of the Australasian Weeds Conference (AWC) and other relevant national and international events.					

<b>Advocacy</b> B. Promote and provide feedback on topical and relevant Australasian weed-related issues				
<b>Advocacy</b> C. CAWS to provide awards, grants and sponsorship for travel and weed-related activities.				

## Organisational Development Annual Action Plan

### Strategic Goal

CAWS is a viable, effective and active body representing and supporting member societies.

Strategic Actions (from Strategic Plan)	Tasks and Activities to Achieve Strategic Actions	Resources Needed	Who is Responsible? (incl. lead role)	Completion Date	Performance Indicators
<b>Organisational Development</b> A. Assist member societies to maintain or improve membership.					
<b>Organisational Development</b> B. Promote CAWS internally and increase opportunities for all members to participate in CAWS activities.					
<b>Organisational Development</b> C. Maintain financial and operational viability of CAWS.					

## **APPENDIX - History of CAWS**

CAWS was formed at a meeting of state weed society representatives during the 1976 Australian Weeds Conference in Melbourne, and was then known as the Council of Australian Weed Science Societies (CAWSS). It was agreed that the CAWSS organisation would provide national coordination between state member societies to meet the varied needs between states. Bill Haseler was elected as the first President.

CAWSS organised its first national conference in 1978, the 1<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Council of Australian Weed Science Societies. The Australian Weeds Conferences were organised at that time by the Australian Weeds Committee, an inter-governmental body composed of representatives from weed related State/Territory and Australian government departments. The success of the 1978 conference resulted in the Australian Weeds Committee handing responsibility for future Australian Weeds Conferences (AWC) to CAWSS.

In 2003, the Plant Protection Society of New Zealand became a member and the name was changed to the Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS). 'Science' was removed from the name to assist in recognising the diversity of personnel involved in weed management.

Increased national activity in weed science and weed management, and an increased pool of funds, enabled the AWC (now known as the Australasian Weeds Conference) to be supported by CAWS on a biennial rather than triennial basis. The AWC has grown in size and prominence.

CAWS has supports the publication of various weed related books and provides travel awards for students and early career weed scientists, as well as sponsoring CAWS Orators at weed related conferences. CAWS provides comment on national weed strategies and action plans, and in the past has contributed to the debate on invasive garden plants and other nationally important issues. CAWS supports national weed awareness activities, such as WeedBuster Week, and other initiatives where possible. A core activity for CAWS is to ensure the Australasian Weeds Conference is maintained as a national and international forum for the exchange of weed management knowledge and information.

## **APPENDIX - Definitions**

The following definitions are used by CAWS:

- Member Society – a society that is a member of CAWS.
- Member or society member – a member of a member society.
- Weed management – all activities that are directly or indirectly aimed at preventing or reducing the impact of weeds; includes research, extension, communication, training, policy, planning and on-ground operations.
- Executive Committee – the CAWS executive committee.