

Fund a landowner's weed control and you've weeded for a season, teach a landholder long-term weed control strategies and you've weeded for a lifetime

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Summary Invasive unpalatable grasses reduce carrying capacity of pasture and selective grazing results in them dominating, further compounding their impact. African lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*), Coolatai grass (*Hyparrhenia hirta*), Chilean needlegrass (*Nassella neesiana*), Texas needlegrass (*Nassella leucotricha*) and fountain grass (*Cenchrus setaceus*) are all unpalatable and impact primary production. These weeds are being managed by landholders throughout regions of South Australia, but many continue to spread to previously uninfested areas. A South Australia wide project is being undertaken to improve community led management of unpalatable grasses. Funded through the Federation Funding Agreement, Enhancing National Pest Animal and Weed Management (Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment) and in partnership with Landscapes SA, the project works closely groups of neighbouring landholders. With assistance from Landscape Board staff, landholders were contacted and encouraged to take part in the project. Participating landholders receive training in best

practice incursion response and integrated weed control. Assistance with long term planning was provided using the Early Intervention Handbook and associated resources. Some landholders weren't aware of the presence of these weeds in the landscape, or the threat posed, mainly in areas where they aren't widespread. There was also an underutilisation of some herbicides registered for these weeds. On farm practices that help prevent spread were often overlooked.

It has been established that if invasive species management tools are not used appropriately by landholders there can be adverse outcomes (Taggart et al. 2022). This project has demonstrated that this is also the case for community led weed control. Investing in coordinated landholder capacity building reduces the threat of weed spread thereby reducing weed management costs in the long term. Landholder training and coordination as conducted by in this project is crucial for optimal management of weeds in SA.

Keywords Coordination, community, landholder, landscape scale, capacity