

New threats, old foes: problem weeds for farmers

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Summary Weeds pose significant management concerns in farming systems across Australia. To better understand this national problem, the Department of Agriculture commissioned ABARES in 2016 and 2019 to collect a national dataset of landholders' views on managing weed species, including all the Weeds of National Significance and other current and emerging weeds. This was the largest single data collection ever run by ABARES, with responses from over 8,000 landholders across 53 natural resource management regions in Australia in the 2019 data collection. The survey provided a national picture of the extent of weed problems: which weeds are a problem for landholders, the impacts on production systems, the effort and cost landholders incur in managing weeds

on their land, the types of control actions conducted by landholders and local management groups, and how effective these actions are in addressing weed problems. This paper highlights key results from the 2019 survey of landholders and looks at long-term trends in weed management by comparing results from a previous data collection conducted in 2016. The potential for this dataset to be integrated with other national weed datasets, and how this integration can add value to research and policy, will be discussed.

Keywords Weed management, Weeds of National Significance, agricultural land managers, farmers attitudes and practices, national pest and weed survey