

Developing the National Established Weed Priorities Framework

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Summary The National Established Weed Priorities (NEWP) Framework is an initiative to determine and address shared weed priorities through strategic, nationally coordinated actions. Initiated by the Weeds Working Group of the Environment and Invasives Committee, the Framework seeks enhanced collaboration in established weed management between industry, community and government, from local to national levels.

The NEWP Framework is built around three key delivery streams:

1. The proven Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) model, that is expected to continue through selecting new WoNS and maintaining knowledge and tools for best practice management of the existing 32 WoNS.
2. A new innovative concept of Weed Issues of National Significance (WINS), that takes a multi-species, landscape-scale approach, tackling common challenges in established weed management across Australia.
3. A National Established Weed Action List (NEWAL), provides a mechanism to consolidate and work through short-term management actions of high national benefit that are not otherwise addressed through WoNS or WINS.

The NEWP Framework has been developed to align with the National Framework for the Management of Established Pests and Diseases of National Significance, which sets three overarching criteria in determining national priorities: national impact; feasibility of management intervention; and benefits from taking a nationally coordinated approach.

Fundamentally, the Framework fosters collaboration and co-leadership between community, industry and government stakeholders, supported through a balanced and independent NEWP steering group. This approach extends to nomination and assessment processes to determine priorities, and to the membership of taskforces charged with implementing strategic plans for WoNS, WINS and the NEWAL. These plans will include activities relating to research, development and extension (RD&E), best-practice information and training, prevention, monitoring and supporting networks and partnerships for coordinated weed control programs. The Framework has been developed with funding support from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

Keywords Established weeds, priorities, assessment, WoNS, WINS