

Revising the Australian Weeds Strategy

What you need to know

Managing weeds is a fundamental part of the national approach to onshore biosecurity. If not managed effectively, weeds can impact extensive areas of land and affect a range of agricultural industries. We are in the process of revising the Australian Weeds Strategy, and invite your views.

The Australian Weeds Strategy

The Australian Weeds Strategy (AWS) is a guide for weed management across the country. This includes informing the plans made and actions taken by governments, Natural Resource Management agencies, industry, landholders and the wider community. The strategy also explains how biosecurity policy can be applied to weed management strategies and plans at all levels.

The AWS draws attention to areas that require national collaboration. It provides clarity around priorities, roles and responsibilities of all involved.

It aims to:

1. Inform a consistent national approach which helps to reduce risks and impacts of weeds.
2. Facilitate landholders, communities, industry and/or governments to work together to leverage investment and effort.
3. Enable more timely and effective responses to weed risks.

This strategy supports three national goals: prevention, detection and early intervention. These goals minimise the impact of established weeds and enhance Australia's capability and commitment to managing weeds.

Individuals, organisations and industry groups that create risks that may result in a weed entering, emerging, establishing or spreading in Australia have a role in minimising the impacts and contributing to the costs of management.

The AWS is being revised

As the strategy is almost ten years old, we are revising it to improve consistency with updated biosecurity policies, including most notably, the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity (IGAB). The outcomes of an independent evaluation of the strategy in 2012 suggested a revision was necessary to reflect changes in weed management in Australia.

Key Messages

1. In Australia, weeds have major economic, environmental and social impacts.
2. The Australian Weeds Strategy is an important part of Australia's biosecurity framework.
3. Biosecurity is a shared responsibility between government, industry and landholders.
4. The strategy has national goals and priorities to assist stakeholders to successfully manage weeds.
5. The revised strategy is now available for public consultation.
6. All stakeholder views are important and will help shape the future direction of weed management in Australia.





Changes to the way you manage weeds

The revised AWS does not have to change the way that you manage weeds on your property. It sets the direction for national weed management, including principles that can be applied by all stakeholders. The strategy also provides guidance on the roles and responsibilities of individuals and encourages all parties to work together to improve the way weeds are managed.

Public consultation

The public consultation process on the revised AWS is being conducted from 5 September to 14 October 2016. Submissions received during this process will be collected and reviewed and the draft strategy will be updated. The revised AWS will then be submitted to the National Biosecurity Committee for endorsement prior to publication in 2017.

Impact on other weed strategies

The revised AWS will support existing weed strategies, while providing more up to date information in some areas. For example, a priority in the revised strategy is to develop and implement early detection of weeds. This complements the goal in the New South Wales Orange Hawkweed Strategy to prevent the establishment of new Orange Hawkweed infestations.

The AWS and government investment

While there is no specific funding attached to the strategy, governments, community groups and landholders continue to make significant investments to manage and prevent weeds.

The revised AWS will set the direction for weed policy in Australia, which will help to ensure that this investment is coordinated and targeted at the right areas.

Get involved

Public consultation of the revised AWS consultation draft is intended to capture community, industry and government views. The Invasive Plants and Animals Committee welcomes all submissions. The consultation period is open until **5pm AEDST 14 October 2016**.

When reading the revised Australian Weeds Strategy 2017 to 2027: consultation draft, please consider the following:

- This strategy is a part of Australia's national biosecurity system
- The link between Australia's biosecurity system and the revised strategy should be easy to understand
- The roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders should be clearly understood
- The priorities in the revised strategy should be focused on important and relevant areas.

Have your say

Consultation drafts:

www.agriculture.gov.au/aws-revision

The Australian Pest Animal Strategy is also being revised:

www.agriculture.gov.au/apas-revision

Questions may be emailed to:

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Call 1800 900 090

