



## Established Pest Animals and Weeds Management Pipeline

The 2018-19 Budget provides \$6.6 million in 2019-20 to further fund research, development and extension, national coordination and key infrastructure to help combat some of Australia's worst established pest animal and weed species.

This continued investment will strengthen the legacy of the government's investment, through the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper, which has already seen the demonstrated effectiveness and application of a range of control tools, such as:

- A new bait to protect farmers and landholders from the impact of feral pigs.
- The use of endothall (a herbicide) by irrigators to clear irrigation channels of submersed weeds to improve water flow.

This additional investment of \$6.6 million will enable these benefits to be further maximised into the future. Working closely with states and territories to continue research and development into control tools, such as next generation biological controls and digital disruption technologies, to support regional communities in managing the impact of these pests and weeds.

### Why is this important?

Pest animals and weeds can negatively impact Australian ecosystems by destroying natural habitats and threatening native animals and plants. They can also affect agricultural productivity and profitability. In 2009, pest animals cost Australia an estimated \$620 million a year in production losses. Weeds cost the Australian economy around \$4 billion a year in control costs and production losses.

A number of established pest animals and weeds have high ongoing management costs to agriculture, as well as threatening key environmental assets and the natural resource base.

Pests and weeds can affect access to international and domestic markets, impose regulatory costs that affect the movement of commodities and increase on-farm production costs.

### Who will benefit?

Funding will directly benefit Australian farmers, land holders and the environment by providing access to the most advanced technologies and practices to reduce the impact of pests and weeds.

This funding will also continue to promote a shared responsibility and encourage co-investment from state and territory governments into research, development and extension activities for better pest animal and weed control, and management.

This proposal continues to build a more profitable, resilient and sustainable agricultural sector to help drive a stronger Australian economy. It also meets the Australian Government's obligations under the International Convention on Biological Diversity by reducing the negative impact of pest animals and weeds, including on the environment.

### What will this cost?