



## Contact Details

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### Name

Select your Title **(required)**

First name **(required)**

Last name **(required)**

### Contact

Email **(required)**

Phone number **(required)**

Postcode

### Stakeholder Group

Select the stakeholder group  
that best represents you  
**(required)**

## Question 1

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**The revised strategy sets out the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders in weed management and prevention. Are these clear?**

This area is not adequate.

We support the explanation of how Australia's biosecurity system fits together and includes weed management, however it would be more appropriate for this to form part of an introduction to a strategy document. This is an explanation of a set of systems across jurisdictions and agencies, which while wholly necessary and worthwhile in itself is not a strategy for weeds in Australia for the next ten years. How the system fits together should be background to what systems should be there to achieve this over particular timeframes. This document needs SMART (Strategic, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time bound) goals, and needs SMART actions included into the document, to address the priority weed management issues that we as a country, and each agency specifically, can work towards and be accountable for achieving.

A strategy must include actions, ideally with associated designated roles and responsibilities. There are overarching goals contained in this current draft document, but no actions for how they should be achieved. By the end of the timeframe for this strategy, in 2027, where do we want to be with regards to our weed situations in various land use systems across Australia? Who is going to be responsible and accountable for doing exactly what in order to reach which priority targets?

The biosecurity system is a procedural and process tool for getting there, but it doesn't specify what our most pressing or strategically beneficial weed issues are over the next ten years, who specifically is responsible for what, how those targets will be achieved, even at a high program level, along with who will fund, co-ordinate and be accountable for the programs. There is an inherent danger in over-specifying that this is a strategy for everyone, and for shared responsibility. While undoubtedly goals could not be reached without input and shared responsibility from multiple parties, unless the lead agency is made clear in each case, and the roles and responsibilities of all involved are also made clear, then important weed issues could potentially, and will likely, 'slip through the cracks' – without active national co-ordination. Our priority issues (however they may be prioritised) may not receive adequate time or funding allocation by any particular agency or any work done towards achieving them. Also, the efficient achievement of the target could get missed due to fragmented, unco-ordinated and duplicated efforts. Unfortunately, we see this happen time and time again – we need to learn from our national weed management achievements and also our past mistakes.

It is well understood and acknowledged that groups and agencies from Commonwealth, State (including Local) Government, Industry groups and Community groups including NGO's all have roles to play in weed management across environmental and agricultural and other production systems in Australia, including freshwater and marine systems. However, robust long term programs need to be established where needed, and carefully and strategically built upon where programs, such as the Weeds of National Significance program (WoNS) and Weedbuster Week program, have existed before. For example, many worthwhile weed control actions, educational messages and skill developments have been imparted to communities across Australia as part of the WoNS programs – but now let's develop a clear plan for efficiently building upon all of that hard work and community momentum. Let's support that with Federal and State Government funds at various levels from new programs for maintenance of programs and access to relevant knowledge and assistance for the many multiple groups and individuals who are now voluntarily acting on weed management in their areas, as the WoNS Program intended.

Capacity: Into the future, what are Australia's capacity needs for weed management? What do we need to do in order to achieve capacity goals across the country? Greatly increased weed management capacity could be achieved in Australia with long term gap analysis, planning and funding commitments by Federal and State Governments, as well as key support from relevant industry bodies and community groups. Funds need to be carefully and strategically utilised, as opposed to random and piece-meal funding opportunities being released for short term projects. Key researchers will, and have already, moved into other fields of work due to a lack of consistency in, and priority for, funding commitments to weeds in Australia. A large amount of capacity has been lost since the conclusion of the CRC for Australian Weed Management. More recently, capacity is currently being lost due to the cessation of funding for the WoNS Programs in Australia.

## Question 2

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**Are the goals and priorities of the strategy focused in the necessary areas? why / why not?**

This area is not adequate.

Are the Vision and Goals in this AWS to be followed by a 'Program and Implementation Plan', with actions, for the strategy itself? Who is to be accountable for what? There is no analysis of the former Australian Weeds strategy contained in this current version (it is only referred to in an appendix). Currently there is no analysis of how we should address the short-falls from weed management in Australia over the last ten years, and how we need to capitalise on the past learnings of recent weed management in Australia across multiple scales and weeds. This information needs to be compiled and analysed at a national level – what have been the impacts of various weed management programs on a national, state, local and property scale? What should we change, do better, do again, and build upon?

What are our specific goals for nationally improving weed management over the next ten years? For example, to name but a few:

- What do we really want the vegetation to look like in ten years' time of, as one example of so many, Booderee National Park, NSW South Coast, a highly biodiverse landscape at the confluence of northern and southern climatic zones on the Australian east coast?
- What new technologies, knowledge sets and capacity building areas are a priority to work towards and fund/seek funding for in order to enable Australia's agricultural, horticultural, forestry, aquacultural and other growers and communities to maintain and improve their productivity and social/psychological wellbeing by 2027?
- What are our goals for forecasting and acting in advance of changing weed distributions and their associated impacts, under changing climatic conditions across Australia?

## Question 3

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**The strategy is intended to describe how weed management fits into Australia's biosecurity system. Is the link between Australia's biosecurity system and weed management made clear in the strategy? why / why not?**

Yes, this link is clear.

## Comments / Feedback

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**Any other comments or feedback?**

[This submission may be published on the website as being from CAWS, however the name, mobile number and email address of the submitting person may not be published. People can contact CAWS via our website.]

CAWS congratulates IPAC on writing and releasing this Australian Weeds Strategy 2017 to 2027: consultation draft, and thanks IPAC for the opportunity to provide input.

Our three main points regarding improving the draft are that:

- The implementation of this strategy needs national responsibility and accountability – a national agency needs to take ownership over leading the implementation of the Vision and Goals of the Strategy itself – who are these goals for? Page 27 paragraphs two, three and four state that implementation is for everyone, however this is non-specific and inadequate.
- To be a strategy, this document needs actions. Actions need to include SMART (Strategic, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time bound) components.
- Public and overall acceptance of this document will rely on it being adjusted to read less like a government document, and more like an active public document that key industry and community stakeholders have and will be increasingly willing to sign up to/buy into/operate within. This will require people from all types of agencies, groups and industries to understand that there is a firm commitment and leadership from key Federal and State Government Environmental and Agricultural departments to co-ordinate and support long term weed management in Australia.

The implementation of the contents of this document requires national leadership. While this document explains the biosecurity system, this is essentially introductory material. There needs to be real leadership shown for this document in order to bring stakeholders together. People need to be efficiently organised at a national level, and effective communication needs to be facilitated between groups who may not know yet that they are relevant to each other. Stakeholders need national leadership in order to gain knowledge of and to take ownership of their roles and responsibilities for particular national weed programs so people across the country know who will be doing what. There needs to be efficiency in weed management on a national scale rather than fragmentation, duplication and patchy efforts by only those who look at this document and decide to act on it.

Commonwealth and State Government long term commitments to support funding for weed management across Australia are also required, given the multitude of acknowledged threats from weeds to Australian environments, production systems, social health and psychological well-being contained in the document. Industry bodies need to be brought in and co-ordinated within programs to contribute both funding and in-kind capacity. The sustained coordination of community awareness of weed problems and management is needed.

## Attach a document

File formats allowable are .doc, .docx or .pdf with a maximum file size of 5 MB.

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Dragging and dropping onto the upload attachment box

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File: None

# Submission

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