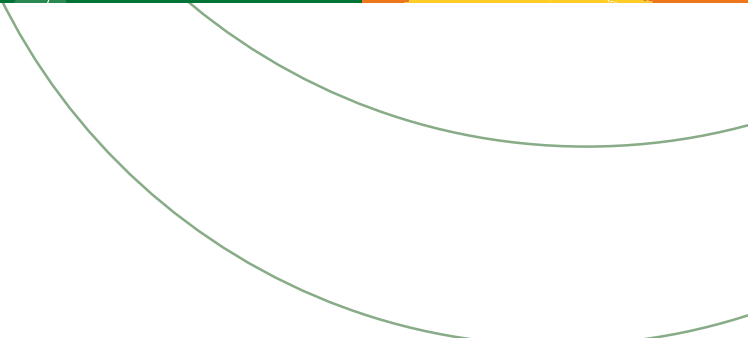


ACT WEEDS STRATEGY 2009 - 2019

Policy: Natural Environment | April 2009



DEPARTMENT OF
THE ENVIRONMENT
CLIMATE CHANGE
ENERGY AND WATER



ACT WEEDS STRATEGY 2009 - 2019

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Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water

PO Box 158

Canberra ACT 2601

Macarthur House

12 Wattle Street

Lyneham ACT 2602

Telephone (02) 6207 2507

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RECYCLED CONTENT



MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS



BLEACHING PROCESS

FOREWORD

Weeds cause damage to nature conservation assets and values, reduce primary industries productivity, detract from urban landscapes and recreational amenity and interfere with the ecological and other functions of our lands and waterways.

The ACT Weeds Strategy 1996-2006 has provided a framework to guide the reduction of negative social, economic and environmental impacts of weeds in the ACT. This Strategy has served the community well since its release, but weed management issues have changed and response strategies have evolved in light of experience and new knowledge.

The ACT Weeds Strategy 2009-2019 has been developed to reflect contemporary best practice in keeping with community expectations. The Strategy aims to reduce the impact of weeds on the environment, the economy, human health and amenity. It recognises that weed management is an integral component of sustainable management of natural resources and the environment, and that weed management requires an integrated, whole of community and government approach.

The Strategy provides authoritative guidance to all parties involved in addressing weeds, based on clearly stated objectives and identified priorities. It promotes the best use of available resources following best practice principles and is in line with the National Weeds Strategy.

Development of the Strategy has involved comprehensive community consultation and I commend all those who have contributed.



Mr Simon Corbell MLA

Minister for the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Context and Purpose

For the purposes of the ACT Weeds Strategy, a weed is considered to be a terrestrial or aquatic species of non-native or native plant that is harmful to the natural environment (ecosystems/biodiversity), agriculture and other industries, or public amenity and health.

Weeds have major negative economic, environmental and social impacts in the ACT. They cause damage to nature conservation assets and values, reduce primary industries productivity, detract from urban landscapes and recreational amenity and interfere with the ecological and other functions of waterways. Land that harbours weed species can be a source of infestation for other areas.

Weeds have significant impacts on biodiversity through competition with native plants and degradation of habitat. In particular, weeds are recognised as a significant threat to many of the ACT's threatened species and ecological communities and to the integrity of other vegetation communities that are of conservation concern.

Each year, public and private land managers, and dedicated groups of community-based volunteers invest considerable resources in combating weed problems in the ACT. These problems are complex, with multiple causes, and efforts to reduce their impacts need to be coordinated across all land tenures and landscape units.

The ACT Weeds Strategy 1996-2006 (ACT Dept. Urban Services, 1996) provided a framework to guide the reduction of social, economic and environmental impacts of weeds in the ACT. It recognised the value of a strategic approach to the management of weeds and established a structured, time-based approach to the design of weed management programs. Notwithstanding, the setting of priorities and the allocation of resources for specific weed management programs have typically been determined at a local scale resulting in diffuse efforts and variable outcomes. Consequently, the efficiencies that can be gained by adjoining landholders collaborating at a sub-catchment or landscape scale have not always been realised.

Since the ACT Weeds Strategy 1996-2006 was produced, weed management issues have changed and response strategies have evolved in the light of experience and new knowledge. There have also been changes to the institutional arrangements, legislation, policies and programs that support weed management in the ACT.

The ACT Weeds Strategy 2009-2019 aims to reduce the impact of weeds on the environment, the economy, human health and amenity. It recognises that weed management is an integral component of sustainable management of natural resources and the environment, and that weed management requires an integrated, whole of community and government approach.

While particular weed issues may be local or regional in scale, management of invasive plants is a nation-wide priority. The preferred strategic approach to planning and implementation of weed management programs in the ACT has been developed in the light of work being done by other jurisdictions and related intergovernmental committees. The Australian Weeds Strategy (NRMMC, 2006) and the Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) established as a nationally agreed list of weed species that warrant priority attention, have informed the development of the ACT Weeds Strategy 2009-2019.

ACT Weeds Strategy Vision: The ACT's economic, environmental and social assets are secure from the impacts of weeds.

ACT Weeds Strategy Mission: That Government and non-government land managers and the community work as strategic partners to effectively control weeds.

The ACT Weeds Strategy establishes five best practice principles that are consistent with the Australian Weeds Strategy:

1. Weed management is essential for the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment and for social well-being, and requires an integrated, community-wide approach;
2. Prevention and early intervention are the most cost-effective approaches that can be deployed against weeds;
3. Successful weed management requires a coordinated approach involving all levels of government in partnership with industry, landholders and community;
4. All land managers have a duty of care to manage weeds on their land; and
5. Community interests shall be protected from weeds by appropriate legislation.

This strategy encourages the adoption of these principles at appropriate levels of weed management, and contains objectives and strategic actions for achieving the desired outcomes. The strategy provides authoritative guidance to all parties involved in addressing weeds, based on clearly stated objectives and identified priorities, and promoting the best use of available resources.

1.2 Achievements

The 1996 ACT Weeds Strategy provided a strategic framework for the management of weeds in the ACT. Major achievements since 1996 include:

- Establishment of the ACT Weeds Working Group (WWG) as a source of expert advice on the design and implementation of weed management programs involving all major land managers in the ACT;
- The introduction of the *Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005* which provides for the declaration of pest plants, the preparation of pest plant management plans, the notification of a notifiable pest plant, and the creation of offences for the propagation of prohibited pest plants;

- The preparation of pest plant management plans for the majority of species on the declared pest plant list;
- Regional coordination activities including coordination with the NSW State and Local Government to ensure the introduction of new weeds is minimised, and continued ACT representation on relevant regional forums such as the Southern Tablelands South East Region Noxious Weeds Committee;
- Early incorporation of weed control in management programs for new reserves (such as the Jerrabomberra Grasslands Reserve);
- Strategic prioritisation of weed control in terms of species (such as willows and Serrated Tussock) and by area (such as where particular conservation values warrant protection or where an area-based approach will achieve the best results);
- Mapping of the distribution and abundance of Chilean Needle Grass throughout ACT;
- Mapping and survey of weeds in many sites containing threatened ecological communities and areas of high values such as Namadgi National Park;
- Extension activities such as workshops for weed identification and vehicle and machinery hygiene;
- Weed Buster Week – an annual event since 1998, held to promote weeds awareness in the local community. Activities resulting from these events have been weed displays at Floriade and a Weed Swap program; and
- Continued monitoring and evaluation of the ACT weed control program by the Weeds Working Group ensures that successes within the program are measured, and cost-effective, informed decisions are made for further enhancement of the program.

1.3 Priorities for Weed Management in the ACT

A weed can be considered a priority for control because of its prevalence, ecological (including biodiversity) or economic impact, potential for further spread, or simply because it offends aesthetically.

Determination of priority weed control programs is the foundation of this Strategy, recognising the impossibility of effectively dealing with all weeds in all locations at the one time. Determining priority control programs will ensure strategic and focused allocation of available resources.

The criteria for determining weed management priorities will vary with the asset or value that is suffering impact, its sensitivity to impact, the characteristics of the weed involved and the level of control being sought. An holistic approach is often necessary to achieve optimal outcomes. This may include determining whether to apply resources in areas that have low infestation with a high capacity to invade or in high value areas that are infested with less aggressive weeds. By distributing available resources amongst high and low value areas,

with priorities targeting values to be protected, a more effective result can be achieved in a more efficient way.

Priorities for weed management in the ACT will consider the impacts of weeds species on biodiversity, agricultural production and recreational amenity. There will be a requirement to balance resources and effort across areas managed for nature conservation, agriculture, recreation and urban settlement.

The setting of priority weed species will be guided by the Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) guidelines (Thorp and Lynch, 2000) and the list of species declared under the *Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005* (see Section 7 - Appendix 1).

1.4 Support for ACT Weed Programs

Effective implementation of weed control programs requires adequate and ongoing resources. While all land managers have a responsibility in managing weed problems, the ACT Government has a key role in guiding a strategic approach, and ensuring that appropriate institutional arrangements are in place.

Weed problems do not recognise administrative and land tenure boundaries. A successful strategic approach to weed management will require a high degree of coordination and integration between different land managers.

Public land comprises the majority of land in the ACT. Much of this is managed for the purposes of environmental conservation as national park, wilderness area or nature reserve. Consequently, ACT Government agencies bear a major responsibility for on-ground weed control, with biodiversity conservation being a primary objective. A constructive partnership with private land managers is called for to protect nature conservation values generally, but also to manage the impact of weeds on agricultural productivity and to control the spread of weeds throughout the Territory.

Continuing support for on-ground weed management activities will remain a significant challenge to government. The strategic approach outlined in this strategy will assist in making the most effective and efficient use of available resources. Collaborative partnerships with private landholders and support for community engagement in weed management are vital ingredients of success. National programs that provide funding assistance for particular weed issues and community-based action are likely to remain important sources of additional resources.

1.5 Weeds Working Group

The ACT Weeds Working Group was established in 1996 following the release of the ACT Weeds Strategy 1996-2006. The Working Group's membership has been comprised of representatives from agencies responsible for land management in the Territory, including ACT Government and Commonwealth Government, and representatives from the community. The Working Group

has been successful in ensuring coordinated approaches to weed control have been implemented.

It is important that weed management strategies and programs are continually reviewed and refined to maintain their effectiveness. As such, a revised Terms of Reference has been developed for the Weeds Working Group (Section 8 - Appendix 2), which will focus its activities more towards the coordination and implementation of weed control programs, rather than priority setting. The group will be called the ACT Land Managers Weeds Working Group (LMWWG).

To assist the refocused working group in coordinating and implementing weed control programs, a technical reference group (ACT Weeds Advisory Group -WAG) has been established (see Section 8 - Appendix 3). This group will oversee implementation of the ACT Weeds Strategy, be a source of expert advice on weeds matters, and serve as a conduit for providing reports to the Department and ACT Government.

These arrangements will ensure that all levels of management are aware of the strategic direction and priorities for weed control in the ACT and provide support for on-ground programs.

1.6 About Weeds

Weeds successfully spread and establish in new areas because of an ability to respond to changes in the landscape more quickly than other species. These changes may include storm damage, fire, floods and droughts, or anthropogenic changes such as land-use change. Climate change may also influence the potential range and vigour of some weeds. Changes to the landscape and climate may also facilitate incursions of new weed species in the ACT.

Weeds typically produce large numbers of seeds, assisting in their dispersal. They can also spread rapidly by vegetative propagation (e.g. poplars and willows). Weeds rapidly invade disturbed sites. They range in size from small herbs (eg. Patterson's Curse) and grasses to shrubs (e.g. Gorse) and trees (e.g. pines). Weeds also alter bushfire pattern and intensity, contribute to loss of plant cover and contribute to soil disturbance. They threaten the survival of many native plants because they (Dept. Environment and Heritage, 2004):

- *Usually grow faster than native plants and successfully compete for the available nutrients, water, space and sunlight;*
- *Often survive better than native plants as they may not be affected by the pests or diseases that would normally control them in their natural habitats;*
- *Reduce natural diversity by smothering native plants or preventing them from growing back after clearing, fire or other disturbance; and*
- *Replace native plants that animals use for shelter, food and nesting.*

1.7 Weed Spread Pathways

Weeds can be introduced and spread in the following ways:

- Introduction in landscape material and topsoil;
- Introduction on and in stock, in stock fodder and seed supplies;
- Erosion rehabilitation;
- Discarded as garden refuse;
- Garden escapes – usually assisted by birds carrying seed;
- Spread by machinery such as grass slashers on road verges or in mud on vehicles and earth moving equipment;
- Spread by wind or water;
- Dispersal from deliberate plantings;
- Cross-border transport of plant materials or goods;
- Aquarium trade; and
- Recreational users (for example - bush walkers, horse riders, recreational vehicles, mountain bikes).

2 THE IMPACTS OF WEEDS IN THE ACT

Weeds directly or indirectly impact on the ACT's economy and environment, animal and human health and public amenity.

2.1 Economy

Weeds have direct and significant economic impacts in the ACT in terms of the cost of management programs, loss of agricultural productivity, and impaired landscape function. There are also indirect economic impacts arising from the ability of weeds to cause allergic reactions, to poison animals, to constrain recreational access or use, and to provide habitat for animal pests.

There are also higher costs associated with regular maintenance of areas that contain weeds, which produce high levels of biomass. For example, African Love Grass requires a high frequency of slashing where it dominates roadsides and in parks, because it grows actively in summer, when alternative species of native and introduced species are not producing high levels of biomass.

2.2 Environment

Weeds are one of the most significant threats to biodiversity in the ACT. They displace native species, reduce habitat quality, modify vegetation structure and alter ecological functions. An effective management response needs to be based on a sound understanding of the ecology of problem weeds to avert a major impact on indigenous biodiversity and sustainable land use.

2.3 Health and Public Amenity

Many weeds can significantly impact on human and animal health, causing problems such as allergies, dermatitis, asthma and other respiratory problems, and poisoning. For example, Paterson's Curse (*Echium plantagineum*), a persistent weed found extensively throughout pastures where horses graze in the ACT, contains a compound that is toxic to horses.

Community enjoyment of the outdoors and open space is also affected by the impacts of weeds on both amenity values and the natural function of ecosystems. For example, weeds cause the clogging of waterways, prevent boating and water sports, increase the risk of drowning and destroy fishing spots.

Some weeds can significantly add to fuel loads causing higher bushfire intensity, resulting in increased potential for loss of property, infrastructure and other assets, in addition to increased impacts on the natural environment.

2.4 Impacts of Climate Change

Within the predicted temperature changes over the next 50 years, the Australian environment will be very different from that we see today. The ACT is likely to become warmer, drier, face increased frequency of extreme weather events and increased risk of bushfire. Species that can tolerate warmer and drier conditions and/or larger variations in climate will be at a greater advantage than those species that are sensitive to change. Some species will decline in abundance or become extinct, while others may increase in abundance.

Ecosystems are more resilient to the impacts of climate change if their natural functioning is maintained and other threats reduced. This includes the threats posed by weed incursions. New ecosystems that may emerge, made up of plants tolerant to climate change, may not provide suitable habitat for the animals that have historically lived in that area.

Climate change is expected to increase the risk of invasion by alien organisms, including pest plant species new to Australia. Climate change may also favour some established alien and native organisms that are currently restricted in range, causing them to become invasive. This is of particular concern as weed species not already found in the ACT may establish in the Territory, while those already established may become more prolific. This will make weed management and on-ground control activities more difficult and somewhat unpredictable.

While the exact impacts of climate change are unknown, it is likely that the pressures on biodiversity, primary production, human health and amenity from weed incursions will increase.

3 MANAGING THE WEED PROBLEM

3.1 Legislation and Policies

The *Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005* and the *Nature Conservation Act 1980* provide the primary statutory basis for weed management in the ACT. This strategy and ongoing weed management activities reflect the requirements of this legislation. A number of plans and strategies recognise the relationship between weed management and sustainable land management outcomes, most notably the ACT Nature Conservation Strategy, the ACT Natural Resource Management Plan, management plans for public land and land management agreements with rural lessees.

The ACT Weeds Strategy also takes into account complementary strategies such as the ACT Lowland Woodlands Conservation Strategy, ACT Lowland Native Grassland Conservation Strategy, ACT Aquatic Species and Riparian Zone Conservation Strategy, the Murrumbidgee Catchment Blueprint and specific area management plans.

Pest Plants and Animals Act

The objectives of the *Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005* are to protect the ACT's land and aquatic resources from threats from pest plants and pest animals, and to promote a strategic approach to pest management.

The *Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005* provides for the declaration of various classes of weed species of concern, the preparation of pest plant management plans in response to a declaration and establishes authority for the control of declared weed species.

Land managers have certain responsibilities under the *Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005*. If a pest plant has been declared as notifiable, its presence must be notified to the chief executive of the relevant government agency. If a plant has been declared as prohibited, its importation, propagation, commercial supply and disposal is controlled.

A declaration can be made requiring that a pest plant must be suppressed or contained. An outline of what is meant by *must be suppressed* (suppression) or *must be contained* (containment) is in section 4.1.3. The chief executive may give written directions to do or not do something in relation to a pest plant. Such directions must be in accordance with a relevant pest plant management plan.

The inaugural declaration of pest plant species under the provisions of the *Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005* is at Section 7 - Appendix 1.

Nature Conservation Act

The *Nature Conservation Act 1980* protects native plants and animals and provides management authority for the ACT's nature conservation estate (reserved areas). It provides for the identification and conservation of threatened species and communities and the identification and management of ecologically threatening processes. The Flora and Fauna Committee is established to provide expert advice on these matters. The *Nature Conservation Act 1980* also provides for preparation of a nature conservation strategy.

The ACT Flora and Fauna Committee has the capacity to assess the ecological impact of a weed species and recommend that it be declared as a threatening process. An Action Plan must be developed as a management response to a declaration. To date no weed has been declared as a threatening process. However the Committee has ensured that, where relevant, the threats posed by weeds are addressed in the Action Plans prepared for threatened species and ecological communities. The Key Action Plans are:

- ACT Aquatic Species and Riparian Zone Conservation Strategy (Action Plan No. 29);
- ACT Lowland Native Grassland Conservation Strategy (Action Plan No. 28);
- ACT Lowland Woodland Conservation Strategy (Action Plan No. 27); and
- Threatened Species action plans not covered by conservation strategies for ecological communities.

ACT Nature Conservation Strategy

The ACT Nature Conservation Strategy provides a policy framework for conservation of biodiversity. It recognises the impact of weeds as a significant threat to biodiversity but defers to the ACT Weeds Strategy as the key policy document for achieving related conservation objectives.

ACT Natural Resource Management Plan

The ACT Natural Resource Management Plan guides national natural resource management program investment in the Territory. It establishes conservation of biodiversity as a key target, and identifies weeds as a significant threat to threatened species and communities. It includes an aim of managing and improving biodiversity and, more specifically, identifying and monitoring significant ecological threats, including weeds. *Bush Capital Legacy (2008)* the draft plan for managing the natural resources of the ACT, sets the challenge of preventing further introductions of potential and actual pest plants, and reduction in existing weed problems.

Management Plans for Public Land

Land reserved under the Territory Plan as public land is required to have management plans prepared that describe how management objectives are to be achieved. Management plans for land use categories of urban open space, special purpose reserve, national park, wilderness or nature reserve, will typically address weed management, particularly when environmental conservation is prescribed as a primary management objective.

Management plans are the primary mechanism for identifying specific area-based weed issues on public land. Priorities may be established. Weed management activities will be consistent with the objectives and strategic actions identified in the ACT Weeds Strategy.

Land Management Agreements

As part of the approvals process for establishing a new rural lease, a Land Management Agreement (LMA) must be developed between the prospective lessee and the Government. The purpose of a LMA is to establish an agreed framework for sustainable management of the land. It also provides a basis for assessment of compliance with related lease conditions.

LMAs identify land management issues such as fire and drought risks, pest plants and animals, and nature conservation values. Management practices and actions designed to address identified issues are documented.

An LMA is the most relevant vehicle for developing a strategic approach to the management of weed concerns on rural land.

3.2 Weeds Management Roles and Responsibilities

Management responsibilities for land and water in the ACT are vested in government agencies, private land managers, and other occupiers under lease and licence arrangements.

All land managers have a responsibility to manage weed issues on their land as an environmental duty of care. The ACT Government has a role to encourage responsible weed control and eradication by providing a suitable institutional and legislative framework, developing and implementing effective policies and programmes, and providing support through extension and coordination services to landholders. The ACT Government also works with Australian Government agencies that have responsibilities for national land in the Territory, particularly the Department of Defence, the National Capital Authority and the Department of the Environment Water, Heritage and the Arts. All land managers and stakeholders in the ACT play an important role in this process.

The ACT Government also has a role in engaging with the broader community in terms of education and awareness programs, and regulation of controlled activities.

3.3 Involvement in Collaborative Approaches

The ACT Weeds Strategy recognises that weed management is of regional and national significance and there are substantial benefits to be gained from a collaborative approach to common issues. As a member of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) the ACT Government is also committed to participation in relevant national natural resource management and primary industries programs.

This Strategy is designed to complement the Australian Weeds Strategy, which identifies an agreed approach to national priorities for weed management throughout Australia. It also draws on the WoNS list of weed species as a starting point for determining ACT priority species (see section 4.1.1).

As a member of the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council and the Primary Industries Ministerial Council, the ACT participates in national programs for the management of weed issues. The Australian Weeds Committee is an important forum for collating expert advice on weed issues across Australia and developing an agreed approach to the management of common issues. Arrangements for the detection and control of weed species that are new to Australia form an increasingly important part of this work.

The ACT Natural Resource Management Plan provides an important vehicle for establishing partnerships between the ACT and Australian Governments, and community and business groups to achieve the objectives in the plan. Through related national natural resource management funding programs, targeted projects can be developed that address community participation in on-ground works, including weed control, or related awareness-raising activities.

The ACT Weeds Strategy also considers cross-border weed management policies and strategies. These include the NSW Weed Strategy (NSW DPI, 1998) and the Victorian Weed Management Strategy (Vic. DNRE, 2002). Consistent weed control priorities and cross-border communication is essential to effectively target and implement weed control programs on a regional and national scale. ACT Government agencies participate in a number of regional forums in cooperation with surrounding NSW state and local governments, including the Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordinating Committee, the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority, and the Southern Tablelands and South East Region Noxious Weeds Committee.

4 IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the ACT Weeds Strategy will be coordinated through the ACT Department of Territory and Municipal Services and will be consistent with the objectives of the *Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005*.

4.1 Approaches to weed control

4.1.1 Identifying Priority Weeds

Weeds have variable distribution and impacts, and differing biological characteristics. Management resources available to respond to weed issues are finite and will always be a limiting factor. It is therefore important that there be an authoritative list of weed species that warrant priority attention and can guide the allocation of management resources.

The *Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005* provides for the declaration of a plant species as a pest plant (weed). A declaration is formal recognition that a species is a weed of concern that warrants management action of some kind. Declaration may also give authority to take certain actions.

Declaration of a pest plant is based on a risk assessment analysis of a species' invasiveness and impact characteristics, its potential and current area of spread and its current primary industry, environmental and socio-economic impacts. Expert advice is sought in nominating a species for declaration as a plant pest. The Minister is the ultimate adjudicator.

The priorities for design of weed management programs and the allocation of resources will be guided by those species that are declared under the Act. Included in the declaration schedule are those pest plants that have been determined to be WoNS and that are either established in the ACT or have the potential to establish.

Weeds of National Significance

The Weeds of National Significance are nationally agreed priority plant species for control and management. A list of those found in the ACT and those with current potential to establish in the ACT is found in the table below. All have been declared under the provisions of the *Pest Plants and Animals Act*.

Table 4.1
Weeds of National Significance established or with the potential to be established in the ACT

<i>Established in the ACT</i>	
<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i>
Chilean Needle Grass	<i>Nassella neesiana</i>
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
Serrated Tussock	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>
Willow	<i>Salix spp.</i>
Alligator Weed	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>
<i>Potential to establish in the ACT</i>	
<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>
Bridal Creeper	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>
Cabomba	<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>
Salvinia	<i>Salvinia molesta</i>

4.1.2 Controlling the Introduction of Weed Species

Preventing the establishment of a weed species is the cheapest and most effective way of its control. Declaration of a pest plant under the *Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005* may include a qualifier in relation to required control action for a species that is not established or has a very limited distribution.

A declared pest plant may be ‘notifiable’ and its presence must be officially advised to the authorities so that immediate and urgent action can be taken with a view to its eradication.

A declared pest plant may be ‘prohibited’ and its importation, supply or propagation is consequently strictly controlled.

These statutory mechanisms establish authority for early intervention to respond to a new weed incursion or to build on other management arrangements being employed to reduce the risk of an incursion.

4.1.3 Preventing Weed Spread

Pest plants declared under the *Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005* that are already established may also be declared as *must be suppressed* or *must be contained*. A declaration of this kind indicates the degree to which the weed may be controlled. Suppression implies that a reduction to an acceptable

level of infestation is a feasible objective. Containment is a recognition that prevention of further spread is the most practicable approach.

Weed management and control programs typically have eradication, suppression/eradication or containment as objectives.

Eradication

Eradication of a weed means that not a single plant or seed would exist in the managed area after control measures are implemented. Eradication is extremely difficult to achieve unless the weed is only present in very low numbers, the whole infestation is accessible and it is not being constantly reintroduced from adjacent land or other sources. Where feasible, eradication is the preferred approach.

Criteria to assess the feasibility of eradication

- The weed will always be identified before it seeds
- There is a suitable technique available to eradicate the weed
- There are sufficient resources (time, personnel, equipment and materials) to treat most of the plants every year until eradication is achieved
- The weed is not present elsewhere where reinfestation could occur

Eradication is feasible only if all criteria are met.

Suppression

Suppression involves reducing the density of weeds within the infested area and at the same time preventing the infested area from expanding. The intention is to keep the weed at a level where ongoing treatment requires minimal resources and to prevent spread to new areas. The remaining level of the weed should be low enough that it is having little or no impact on biodiversity, agricultural production and public amenity. The suppression approach recognises that the weed is not going to be eradicated. Reasons for choosing suppression as an approach could include a large persistent seed bank, difficulty in spotting seeding weeds or a low kill rate from the best available control method. Reducing the infestation to the desired level is often achieved gradually.

Containment

Containment involves defining the boundary of the existing weed infestation and preventing any spread beyond that line. Within the infested area the weed may not be treated; it may even become more dominant. Containment is most suitable when there are severe difficulties in attempting to treat the main part of the infestation - for example, it may simply be too large for the resources available, the weed may be very difficult to kill or there may be location constraints which may prevent access. Containment works best when the weed has a slow natural rate of spread so that the annual effort required removing all occurrences outside the boundary is low.

More than one approach may be used. For example, if eradication is not successful, suppression may be the next best approach or suppression may be used in some areas with containment the preferred approach in more difficult areas. Conceivably, containment and/or suppression could be the initial response strategy with eradication as a final goal.

4.1.4 Control Methods

This strategy advocates the use of best practice management and initiatives developed through research and recent trials. Such practices usually involve multiple control measures and rehabilitation of sites to prevent re-infestation. Site rehabilitation aims to fill the gaps left by the removal of weeds with desirable plant communities. Integrated programs, while more complex, are generally more effective in the long-term. This may involve collaboration by neighbouring land managers to reduce avenues of re-invasion.

Integrated approaches to weed control may involve the following:

- **Herbicide use:** broad acre spraying, spot spraying, spray topping in pasture, spray grazing, soil sterilisation, cut stump treatment and stem injection, and basal spray. Chemicals have been developed to be highly specific in their application, targeting a particular species or group of species, and of low toxicity to humans, other animals and non-target plants. However, the over reliance and singular use of herbicides can lead to the expansion of individual weed species. To overcome problems associated with this problem, integrated approaches using a variety of measures are preferred.
- **Biological control:** may be employed as a form of integrated weed control management, which usually involves the introduction of predators or diseases from a weed's area of origin. However testing biological control agents is often expensive, time consuming, and can be ineffective in isolation, highlighting the need for effective integrated control mechanisms.
- **Grazing management:** the selective grazing preference of some weed species by livestock such as sheep and goats.
- **Pasture management:** improving the competitiveness of pasture by maintaining productive native and exotic perennial species, applying nutrients with precision, spelling from grazing at appropriate times, manipulating grazing pressure and employing appropriate selective grazing by livestock, maintenance of adequate ground cover (> 70%) to prevent weed infestations.
- **Mechanical/physical removal:** mechanical slashing (preferably before seed set), ploughing with an awareness of the risks of the invasive species gaining a competitive advantage, removal by backhoe/bobcat, physically removing by hand including pulling, hoeing and cutting by hand.

- **Isolation of infestation:** removing stock from infested areas to prevent weed spread offsite, establishment of buffer zones for containment of weed species.
- **Fire:** understanding the role of fire in maintaining native species and how fire frequency and intensity can promote the expansion of exotic species.
- **Vegetation management:** wind breaks, competition, encouraging native plant species regeneration.
- **Hygiene:** ensure machinery operators are familiar with hygiene protocols and weed identification. Machinery, equipment and vehicle users should aim to limit initial contamination to help reduce clean-down procedures. The use and movement of machinery, equipment, vehicles and stock can be a significant factor in the spread of weeds to new areas.

4.1.5 Community Engagement

Effective weed management depends on the development and implementation of working partnerships between Government, other land managers and the wider community. All land managers have a role to play in achieving environmentally sound, cost-effective weed management in the ACT.

While a significant part of the solution to managing weeds is raising public awareness of the impacts and appropriate responses to weed incursions, it is also important that the community is engaged and participating in efforts to address weed problems.

Public and private land managers, and volunteer community groups invest considerable resources and effort in addressing weed problems in the ACT, however the ACT's weed problems cannot be solved over night. Weed management in the ACT requires continued action from many individuals with appropriate knowledge and skills. Support and training will be essential for community participation in weed activities.

The ACT Natural Resource Management Plan and related funding programs may provide opportunities for targeted activities that support community participation in on-ground works, including weed control, or related awareness-raising activities.

4.2 Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of weed programs is essential to determining their effectiveness in weed control. If effectively evaluated an unsuccessful program can identify what should not have been done, and what could have been done to make it successful, thus providing a learning experience to guide future programs. Monitoring also provides a means to demonstrate to the community accountability for the use of government resources. A monitoring program helps in setting priorities for weed management in the ACT, together with the WoNS list, the *Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005*, and Action Plans for threatened species and communities. Existing monitoring of weed distribution and control include:

- Relevant government agencies undertake regular inspections in sites where incursions of weeds that require suppression can occur, treat them as required, inspect for levels of success and report on the results (e.g. Alligator Weed in the urban lakes);
- All government land management agencies maintain and report on weed control programs (what weeds were treated, how, where, and the cost);
- Biodiversity surveys and monitoring that identify the distribution and extent of weeds, for example, surveys of targeted weeds (e.g. Chilean Needle Grass) and results of general surveys that can be used to analyse changes in weed distribution and extent over time and within geographical regions; and
- Regular visits to nurseries and other plant outlets, including markets, to ensure prohibited pest plants are not being sold.

Monitoring the effectiveness of weed control includes determining whether:

- (a) New weed incursions are found and treated;
- (b) The desired response has been achieved;
- (c) The methods of treatment applied are the most cost-effective to achieve the desired response;
- (d) The weeds program results in maintenance and/or enhancement of biodiversity;
- (e) The weeds program results in protection of agricultural productivity and public amenity; and
- (f) Collateral damage is minimised and managed.

Existing monitoring programs require review and possibly augmentation to meet these requirements. In particular they do not measure whether weed control is minimising threats to biodiversity, neither do they quantifiably measure whether weed control is effectively reducing the distribution and/or abundance of a particular weed species.

There is benefit in incorporating assessments of efficiency (determining whether existing actions can be improved) and effectiveness (determining whether or not actions are having the desired effect) into existing monitoring programs. As such, it is proposed that the following approaches be integrated into existing monitoring activities:

- a) Monitor the effects of weed control as part of the existing reports on weed control undertaken by government agencies (e.g. including a post-treatment report of death rate, replacement species and requirements for follow up);
- b) Modify existing biodiversity monitoring where possible to incorporate data identifying the effects of weed control on biodiversity attributes; and
- c) Undertake specific weed monitoring programs to directly and quantifiably measure the benefits of control of particular weeds on biodiversity, agricultural production and public amenity.

Where appropriate, integration of weed monitoring activities with existing monitoring and survey programs will be undertaken to measure whether weed control is impacting biodiversity, productivity and/or public amenity. For example, existing monitoring programs such as Waterwatch and Frogwatch may be used to determine if willow control in Ginninderra Creek has impacted on water quality and frog populations in that locality.

Implementation of a modified monitoring program would provide data that will enable a comprehensive and quantitative analysis to determine how well, and in what ways, the annual weeds programs are achieving the objectives of the strategy.

Results from monitoring will be used to support evaluations of the Strategy's implementation at appropriate points in its life. These evaluations may need to consider:

- unforeseen consequences of weed control activities;
- external factors impacting on the delivery weed control activities and likely achievement of outcomes of the strategy; and
- attribution - the extent to which annual weeds programs contribute to, or are responsible for, achievement of the desired outcomes.

Annual reporting will draw on monitoring and evaluation activities to document and gauge progress made against the objectives and actions articulated in this strategy.

5 GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIC ACTIONS

Broad ranging goals with complementary objectives and strategic actions will be used to guide weed management and control activities in the ACT to secure economic, environmental and social assets from the impacts of weeds.

The principle that *prevention is better than cure* can be applied to weeds for the ACT from interstate and overseas, this includes the introduction of weeds already in the Territory to areas not yet infested. It is important that the ACT minimise the risk of new weeds incursions occurring in the ACT.

Essential in preventing new weeds from entering the ACT will be identifying and prioritising potential weed species, weed problem and their causes. Complementing identification and prioritisation are the early detection and rapid action against, new weed problems, and actions to reduce the spread of weeds present within the ACT. This work will require working closely with key stakeholders and our neighbours to ensure that all of those involved in weed management activities are working towards the same outcome.

An important part of reducing the impacts of weeds on key assets will be developing approaches to managing weeds based on the protection of environmental, cultural and production values and assets. Such management approaches will be most effective if implemented within a consistent strategic and legislative framework. The use of appropriate risk management practices will also see more effective responses to environmental change as it relates to weeds and weed problems. It is also important that solutions for priority weeds and weed problems are implemented in a coordinated and cost-effective manner.

Community commitment and involvement is fundamental to solving weed problems in the ACT. This will require strengthening and enhancing capacity within the community, primarily through raising awareness and providing motivation to address weed problems and improve weed management. As part of building capacity, we will need to measure and evaluate progress of weed management and control efforts through systematic monitoring and reporting.

Implementation of this Strategy will work towards three overarching goals, which are:

- *Prevent new weed problems;*
- *Reduce the impact of priority weed problems; and*
- *Enhance our capacity and commitment to solve weed problems.*

GOAL ONE: PREVENT NEW WEED PROBLEMS

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Strategic Action</i>	<i>Responsibility for Action</i>	<i>Performance Measures</i>
1.1 Prevent new weed incursions in the ACT through identifying and prioritising potential weed species, problems and causes.	1.1.1 Maintain vigilance and liaise with key stakeholders to minimise the risk of new weeds being introduced to the ACT.	All Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed surveillance to be incorporated into weed control programs and land management operations. (2009-ongoing) • A stakeholder forum, the ACT Land Managers Weeds Working Group (LMWG) is maintained. (2009-ongoing)
	1.1.2 Work with neighbours to minimise the risk of introduction of new weeds to the ACT.	All Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-border and regional networks are established and maintained. (2009-ongoing)
	1.1.3 Maintain participation in national and regional forums that seek to address weed problems.	ACT Government Agencies/*WAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ACT is represented on appropriate national and regional forums. (2009-ongoing)
	1.1.4 Conduct risk analyses of weed species to identify and prioritise for action, including risks associated with climate change. (<i>linked to action 2.4.1</i>)	ACT Government Agencies/**LMWG /WAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathways for weed introduction and spread are reviewed and assessed. (2009-ongoing) • Risk assessments are completed for all Weeds of National Significance that have the potential to occur in the ACT. (2009-10) • Risk assessments are incorporated into all weed management plans specified under the <i>Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005</i>. (2009-10)

*WAG – ACT Weeds Advisory Group (see Section 8 – Appendix 3)

**LMWG – ACT Land Managers Weeds Working Group (see Section 8 – Appendix 2)

GOAL ONE: PREVENT NEW WEED PROBLEMS continued

Objective	Strategic Action	Responsibility for Action	Performance Measures
1.2 Ensure early detection of, and rapid action against, new weed problems	1.2.1 Collect and maintain data on weed incursions and distribution in ACT, and disseminate information in a suitable format.	ACT Government Agencies/ LMWG/ WAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A weeds database is maintained within existing systems. (2009-10) • Information on weed incursions is collected regularly and appropriately. (2009-ongoing) • Appropriate information on weed incursions is provided to the public. (2009-ongoing)
	1.2.2 Establish a coordinated weed alert and early warning system for the ACT.	ACT Government Agencies/WAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A coordinated system for weed alerts and warning is established and maintained. (2009-10)
	1.2.3 Participate in the development of national approaches to weed problems.	ACT Government Agencies/WAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ACT has an appropriate level of participation on the Australian Weeds Committee and other national forums addressing weed issues. (2009-ongoing)
	1.2.4 Establish minimum standards for response to significant weed incursions.	ACT Government Agencies/LMWG/ WAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard protocols are established and maintained for Territory wide responses to weed incursions to ensure early intervention. (2009-ongoing)
	1.2.5 Establish protocols for identification and response to sleeper weeds ¹ . (linked to action 1.2.4)	ACT Government Agencies/LMWG/ WAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protocols for sleeper weeds are established and maintained. (2009-ongoing)

¹Sleeper weeds are non-native or non-endemic plants that have the potential to spread widely and have significant impacts on agricultural production, natural environments or public amenity. The issue of sleeper weeds is further complicated by the potential impacts of climate change.

Objective	Strategic Action	Responsibility for Action	Performance Measures
	1.2.6 Formalise arrangements with the National Herbarium to rapidly and accurately identify plants species	ACT Government Agencies/WAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrangements with the National Herbarium are formalised and documented. (2009)
1.3 Reduce the spread of weeds present within the ACT	1.3.1 Develop, review and implement control plans and programs to minimise the spread of weeds.	All Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All weed control plans and programs are current and make use of the latest information available, including results of monitoring. (2009-ongoing) • Pathways of weed spread in the ACT are identified and the associated risks assessed. (2009-ongoing)
	1.3.2 Identify weed issues, including pathways for their spread, in natural resource, environmental and developmental management planning in the ACT and implement action.	ACT Government Agencies/WAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All relevant ACT plans, strategies and policies appropriately address weed issues. (2009-ongoing)

GOAL TWO: REDUCE THE IMPACT OF PRIORITY WEED PROBLEMS

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Strategic Action</i>	<i>Responsibility for Action</i>	<i>Performance Measures</i>
2.1 Develop approaches to managing weeds based on the protection of environmental, cultural and production values and assets	2.1.1 Develop and implement site led approaches to manage weed threats in relation to key assets and values in the ACT.	ACT Government Agencies/LMWG /WAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual weeds programs are developed and implemented which incorporate site led approaches. (Annual) Weed threats to environmental, cultural and production values are identified and assessed. (2009-ongoing)
	2.1.2 Build community support for development and implementation of site based plans for weed management.	ACT Government Agencies/LMWG /WAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community support mechanisms, developed through the LMWG/WAG and national NRM funding programs, are incorporated into Annual weeds programs. (2009-ongoing)
2.2 Manage weeds within a consistent strategic and legislative framework.	2.2.1 Ensure existing weed management efforts are effectively targeted and coordinated.	ACT Government Agencies/LMWG /WAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual weeds programs are developed in consultation with key stakeholders. (Annual)
	2.2.2 Foster consistent and complementary weed management planning and priority setting.	ACT Government Agencies/LMWG /WAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through key stakeholder forums, ensure that weed management approaches in the ACT are complementary and that there is consistency in their application. (2009-ongoing)

Objective	Strategic Action	Responsibility for Action	Performance Measures
	2.2.3 Clearly define, communicate and implement weed management roles and responsibilities of the ACT Government and other key stakeholders for directly managed lands.	ACT Government Agencies/LMWG /WAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles and responsibilities for weed control and management are established and clearly articulated. (2009-10) • The ACT WWG/WAG meets on a regular basis to ensure coordinated approaches across land management boundaries. (2009-ongoing)
2.3 Implement coordinated and cost-effective solutions for priority weeds and weed problems	2.3.1 Ensure that appropriate levels of resources are targeted towards weed management priorities. (linked to action 2.2.1)	ACT Government Agencies/LMWG /WAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources for weed management are matched to priority actions and control measures through annual weeds programs. (2009-ongoing) • Through ongoing review and evaluation, ensure that resources are secured and directed toward weed management priorities (2009-ongoing).
	2.3.2 Review and update plans for the management of priority weeds and weed problems for action as per the <i>Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005</i> . (linked to action 1.3.1)	ACT Government Agencies/LMWG /WAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed management plans specified under the <i>Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005</i>, are current and make use of the best information available. (2007-ongoing) • Undertake a five year rolling program to review existing management plans. (2009-ongoing)

GOAL TWO: REDUCE THE IMPACT OF PRIORITY WEED PROBLEMS continued

Objective	Strategic Action	Responsibility for Action	Performance Measures
	2.3.3 Develop and implement improved management practices for priority weed problems at landscape scales, and promote adoption of best management practice.	ACT Government Agencies/LMWG /WAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best available management practices are utilised to address weed problems across the ACT. (2009-ongoing) • The adoption of best management practices is promoted through key stakeholder forums. (2009-ongoing)
2.4 Implement risk management practices to respond to environmental change	<p>2.4.1 Prioritise weed species and incursions for action, through risk analysis. (linked to action 1.1.4)</p> <p>2.4.2 Through monitoring, develop, review and implement appropriate responses to weed incursions to minimise their impacts.</p>	<p>ACT Government Agencies/WAG</p> <p>ACT Government Agencies/LMWG /WAG</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weeds problems in the ACT are prioritised according to the risks they pose to environmental, cultural and production assets. (2009-ongoing) • An enhanced monitoring program is developed and implemented that considers weed control in terms of impact on weed species, impacts on biodiversity, and economic returns. (2009-ongoing) • Weed control programs across the ACT are continually refined through monitoring and evaluation. (2009-ongoing)

GOAL THREE: ENHANCE OUR CAPACITY AND COMMITMENT TO SOLVE WEED PROBLEMS

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Strategic Action</i>	<i>Responsibility for Action</i>	<i>Performance Measures</i>
3.1 Raise awareness and motivation to gain commitment from the ACT community to act on weed problems	3.1.1 Develop and implement targeted weed awareness activities for all stakeholders, including industry and the community.	ACT Government Agencies/LMWG /WAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raising activities are incorporated into annual weeds programs. (Annual) • Awareness raising activities are held in conjunction with key stakeholder group activities. (2009-ongoing)
	3.1.2 Recognise and reward community achievements in weed management in the ACT.	ACT Government Agencies/WAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through key stakeholder forums, pursue nominations for community members/groups for awards recognising outstanding achievement (ie. Landcare awards). (Annual)
	3.1.3 Develop and implement incentive programs in partnership with national NRM funding programs.	ACT Government Agencies/LMWG /WAG/ACT NRM Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed projects are implemented through Government and community partnerships supported by national NRM funding programs. (2009-ongoing)
3.2 Strengthen the ACT's capacity to address weed problems and improve weed management.	3.2.1 Create opportunities for training and development in weed management skills.	ACT Government Agencies/LMWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training requirements and capacity development are assessed. (2009-ongoing) • Training opportunities are provided as part of annual weed programs. (2009-ongoing)
	3.2.2 Support the operation of ACT networks for community-based on-ground action.	ACT Government Agencies/LMWG /WAG/ACT NRM Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support mechanisms for community involvement in on-ground action developed and implemented through national NRM funding programs and partnerships. (2009-ongoing)

GOAL THREE: ENHANCE OUR CAPACITY AND COMMITMENT TO SOLVE WEED PROBLEMS continued

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Strategic Action</i>	<i>Responsibility for Action</i>	<i>Performance Measures</i>
<p>3.3 Monitor, evaluate and report against progress of weed management and control efforts.</p>	<p>3.2.3 Identify, facilitate and promote new technologies, research and approaches to weed problems through collaborative arrangements.</p>	<p>ACT Government Agencies/WAG</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative partnerships with research and development organisations are developed, enhanced and maintained. (2009-ongoing)
	<p>3.2.4 Provide ready access to high quality weed management information and knowledge.</p>	<p>ACT Government Agencies/WAG</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information and knowledge relating to weed problems and management practices is appropriately presented and disseminated to relevant stakeholders. (2009-ongoing)
	<p>3.2.5 Reduce the barriers to adoption of best management practices.</p>	<p>All stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best management practices for weed control are adopted across the ACT. (2009-ongoing)
	<p>3.3.1 Develop, implement and maintain consistent auditing of weed distribution, impacts and management.</p>	<p>ACT Government Agencies/ LMWG /WAG</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual weeds monitoring programs are undertaken based on a scientific monitoring framework. (Annual)
	<p>3.3.2 Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the annual weeds programs.</p>	<p>ACT Government Agencies/ LMWG /WAG</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The existing monitoring programs are revised and enhanced to ensure they provide a scientific framework for the evaluation of the effectiveness and efficiency of the weed control programs on biodiversity, productivity and public amenity. (2009-2010) • Monitoring results are analysed as required to ensure best practice weed control management is implemented. (2009-ongoing)

Objective	Strategic Action	Responsibility for Action	Performance Measures
	3.3.3 Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the ACT Weeds Strategy.	ACT Government Agencies/ LMWG /WAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the ACT Weeds Strategy is periodically evaluated, with evaluations incorporated into Annual reports. (2009-ongoing) • Evaluation outcomes are used to guide annual weeds programs. (2009-ongoing)
	3.3.4 Report periodically on achievements in weed management and control in the ACT.	ACT Government Agencies/ LMWG /WAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual reports are prepared by ACT Government Agencies and the LMWG for endorsement and public release. (Annual)

6 REFERENCES

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Department of Environment and Heritage (2004) *Environmental Weeds in Australia*, 10 November 2004 <http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/index.html>

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Thorp, J R, & Lynch, R (2000) *The Determination of Weeds of National Significance* National Weeds Strategy Executive Committee, Launceston

<http://www.weeds.org.au/natsig.htm>

Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002) *Victorian Pest Management, A Framework for Action – Weed Management Strategy*

7 PEST PLANTS SPECIES IN THE ACT

Appendix 1. Declared pest plant species in the ACT listed under the Pest Plants and Animals (Pest Plants) Declaration 2005 (No 1).

<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Declaration</i>
African Boxthorn	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	Must be suppressed/ Prohibited
African Love Grass	<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	Must be contained
Alligator Weed	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	Notifiable/Prohibited
Athel Pine	<i>Tamarix aphylla</i>	Prohibited
Bathurst Burr	<i>Xanthium spinosum</i>	Must be suppressed
Bitou Bush/Boneseed	<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>	Prohibited
Black Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Prohibited
Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus (aggregate)</i>	Must be contained/ Prohibited
Box Elder	<i>Acer negundo</i>	Prohibited
Bridal Creeper	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>	Prohibited
Broad-kernel Espartillo	<i>Achnatherum caudatum</i>	Notifiable/Prohibited
Broad-leaf privet	<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	Prohibited
Broom species	<i>Cytisus (ALL species)</i>	Must be suppressed/ Prohibited
Broom species	<i>Genista (ALL species)</i>	Must be suppressed/ Prohibited
Cabomba	<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>	Notifiable/Prohibited
Chilean Needle Grass	<i>Nassella neesiana</i>	Must be contained/ Prohibited
Cootamundra Wattle	<i>Acacia baileyana</i>	Prohibited
Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster franchettii</i>	Prohibited
Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster glaucophyllus</i>	Prohibited
Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster pannosus</i>	Prohibited
Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster simonsii</i>	Prohibited
English Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	Prohibited
False Acacia	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Prohibited
Firethorn	<i>Pyracantha angustifolia</i>	Prohibited
Firethorn	<i>Pyracantha fortuneana</i>	Prohibited

<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Declaration</i>
Fireweed	<i>Senecio madagascariensis</i>	Notifiable/Prohibited
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Must be suppressed/ Prohibited
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Must be contained/ Prohibited
Horsetail	<i>Equisetum species</i>	Notifiable/Prohibited
Hymenachne	<i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i>	Prohibited
Illyrian Thistle	<i>Onopordum illyricum</i>	Must be contained
Japanese Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Prohibited
Kochia	<i>Kochia scoparia</i>	Notifiable/Prohibited
Lagarosiphon	<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>	Notifiable/Prohibited
Lantana	<i>Lantana camara</i>	Prohibited
Lobed Needlegrass	<i>Nassella charruana</i>	Notifiable/Prohibited
Lombardy Poplar	<i>Populus nigra</i> 'Italica'	Prohibited
Mesquite	<i>Prosopis spp.</i>	Prohibited
Mexican Feather Grass	<i>Nassella tenuissima</i>	Notifiable/Prohibited
Mimosa	<i>Mimosa pigra</i>	Prohibited
Narrow-leaf privet	<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	Prohibited
Nettle Tree	<i>Celtis australis</i>	Prohibited
Nodding Thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Must be suppressed
Noogoora Burr	<i>Xanthium occidentale</i>	Must be suppressed
Pampas Grass	<i>Cortaderia jubata</i>	Prohibited
Pampas Grass	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Prohibited
Parkinsonia	<i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>	Prohibited
Parrot's Feather	<i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	Notifiable/Prohibited
Parthenium Weed	<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>	Notifiable/Prohibited
Paterson's Curse	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Must be contained
Periwinkle	<i>Vinca major</i>	Prohibited
Pond Apple	<i>Annona glabra</i>	Prohibited
Prickly Acacia	<i>Acacia nilotica ssp. indica</i>	Prohibited
Radiata Pine	<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Must be contained
Rhus Tree	<i>Toxicodendron succedaneum</i>	Notifiable/Prohibited
Rubber Vine	<i>Cryptostegia grandiflora</i>	Prohibited
Saffron Thistle	<i>Carthamus lanatus</i>	Must be contained

<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Declaration</i>
Salvinia	<i>Salvinia molesta</i>	Notifiable/Prohibited
Scarlet Firethorn	<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i>	Prohibited
Scotch Thistle	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Must be contained
Senegal Tea Plant	<i>Gymnocoronis spilanthoides</i>	Notifiable/Prohibited
Serrated Tussock	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>	Must be contained/ Prohibited
Service Tree, Rowan	<i>Sorbus sp.</i>	Prohibited
Slender Thistle	<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	Must be contained
Slender Thistle	<i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i>	Must be contained
Spanish Broom	<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Prohibited
Spotted Knapweed	<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>	Notifiable/Prohibited
St John's Wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Must be contained
Sweet Briar, Briar Rose	<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	Must be suppressed/ Prohibited
Tree of Heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Prohibited
Viper's Bugloss	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Must be contained
Water Hyacinth	<i>Eichornia crassipes</i>	Prohibited
Water Lettuce	<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	Notifiable/Prohibited
White Poplar	<i>Populus nigra 'Italica'</i>	Prohibited
Willow-leaf Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster salicifolius</i>	Prohibited
All Willows except for the permitted species: Weeping Willow, Pussy Willow, Sterile Pussy Willow	<i>Salix ALL Species of willow except for the permitted species: Salix babylonica, Salix x calodendron, Salix x reichardtii</i>	Must be suppressed/ Prohibited
Yellow Bamboo	<i>Phyllostachys aurea</i>	Prohibited

8 WEEDS STAKEHOLDER FORUM AND ADVISORY GROUP

Appendix 2. Terms of Reference - ACT Land Managers Weeds Working Group (ACT LMWG)

1 Purpose

- Coordinate weed control activity across land management boundaries in the ACT in line with the strategic actions outlined in the ACT Weeds Strategy and priorities set by the ACT Weeds Advisory Group (*Appendix 3*);
- investigate resource sharing opportunities for joint activity to control weeds on a local and regional basis; and
- establish and maintain weed control partnerships with community groups.

2 Membership

Membership for the ACT Land Managers Weeds Working Group will include representatives from Environment and Recreation, Department of Territory and Municipal Services, and other Government land managers and the community. ACT Government expertise will be sought from agencies directly responsible for managing land in the Territory. Representatives from Commonwealth Government agencies, such as the Department of Defence and the National Capital Authority, that are responsible for land management in the Territory will be invited to be part of the group. Community representation would be sought from key stakeholder groups involved directly in land management activities. Input from the community will also be provided through ACT Government agency coordinators responsible for assisting community environmental groups involved in environmental weed control.

3 Functions

The main functions of the group include:

- Developing weed control programs, in consideration of relevant national/state/regional weed control strategies and programs, for integrated weed control in the ACT;
- Investigating opportunities and seeking funding for a coordinated approach to weed control across land management boundaries;
- Participating with community groups on weed management matters;
- Preparing Weed Management Plans for declared pest species;
- Ensuring regional perspectives in weed control are considered;
- Reporting on weed control programs;
- Publicising and fostering awareness of environmental weed issues to the general community;
- Prepare annual program in conjunction with ACT Weeds Advisory Group; and
- Provide input into annual report prepared by ACT Weeds Advisory Group.

4 Meeting Frequency

The ACT Land Managers Weeds Working Group would meet approximately every 6–8 weeks.

Appendix 3. Terms of Reference - ACT Weeds Advisory Group (ACT WAG)

1 Purpose

- Prioritise weed control activity across land management boundaries in the ACT in line with the strategic actions outlined in the ACT Weeds Strategy;
- provide advice on weed control priorities across land management boundaries in the ACT in line with the strategic actions outlined in the ACT Weeds Strategy;
- provide input to Australian Weeds Committee; and
- establish and maintain weed control partnerships with other states, territories and the Australian government.

2 Membership

Membership for the ACT Weeds Advisory Group will include representatives from Environment and Recreation, Department of Territory and Municipal Services, and the community. ACT Government expertise will be sought from areas covered by Research and Monitoring, Program Coordination, and Policy. Community representation would be sought that covers a broad range of stakeholders. Input from the community will also be provided through the ACT Land Managers Weeds Working Group (*Appendix 2*).

This group would be limited to a membership of five.

3 Functions

The main functions of the group include:

- Coordinating the implementation of the ACT Weeds Strategy;
- Developing weed control priorities and strategies, in consideration of relevant national/state/regional weed control strategies;
- Investigating opportunities and seeking funding for a coordinated approach to weed control across land management boundaries;
- Advising the ACT Land Managers Weeds Working Group Committee on weed control strategies and directions;
- Providing advice on aspects of pest legislation relevant to the ACT;
- Conducting an annual review of ACT list of Declared Pest Plants;
- Reporting on weed control programs;
- Publicising and fostering awareness of environmental weed issues to Government;
- Preparing the annual program in conjunction with LMWG;

- Preparing the annual report on weed programs in the ACT in consultation with the ACT Land Managers Weeds Working Group, for endorsement by the ACT Government. Reports will be published and made publicly available on the Departments website; and
- Facilitating and advising on the implementation of research and monitoring activities to enhance weed control.

4 Meeting Frequency

The ACT Weeds Advisory Group would meet at least twice annually.