

# **Biosecurity for natural ecosystems: a case study of the introduction of *Phytophthora* species into the native plant communities of south-west Western Australia**

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The application of biosecurity in Australia is largely focussed on preventing the introduction of pathogens, pests and weeds that impact the agricultural industry. However, similar standards and hygiene procedures are required to protect Australian natural ecosystems from the introduction and subsequent spread of a number of identified invasive species. The introduction of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* with European settlement and its spread into the native plant communities of south-west Western Australia demonstrate the significant impacts that can occur as a result of poor biosecurity practices. However, more concerning is that a number of other *Phytophthora* species have also been introduced into Western Australia's native ecosystems as recently as the past few decades. Unless there is a significant increase in application of hygiene procedures then other pests, pathogens and weeds will continue to become established within the natural ecosystems of Western Australia. This presentation will cover a range of simple standards and hygiene procedures that you can implement when entering native ecosystems that will significantly reduce the risk of introducing or spreading invasive species.



## Program and Abstracts

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