

LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.

Appendices

1. List of Environmental Weed Species of Actual & Potential Significance in WA. Weeds to be divided into 'actual' and 'potential', and prioritised using criteria for ranking. Weeds with equivalent ranking to be listed in alphabetical order.
2. Criteria used for Ranking Significant Environmental Weeds of WA.
3. Database on Environmental Weeds of WA. Database to include scientific name, common name, bioregion, CALM region, priority ranking, actual or potential significance etc.

IS THIS STRATEGY USEFUL TO YOU?

Through this strategy, you will be able to use the database to determine what weeds are in your locality and how important they are. You will be able to contribute information to the database to ensure it is complete and up to date.

The strategy will encourage all land managers to work cooperatively in a coordinated way towards compatible objectives, ensuring best use of available resources from all sources, both government and community.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The database will be finalised and all information currently available will be loaded into it. This version of the database will be distributed with the Environmental Weed Strategy as a CD-ROM. In the future, when user protocols and database functionality have been finalised, it will be available online to the community and government.

With the agreement of Environment Australia, the strategy will be published (with CD-ROM) and widely distributed. Comments on the strategy after publication are welcomed. Although these comments will not affect the published strategy, they will be very useful in future revision of the strategy and in developing the State Weed Strategy.

Inquiries should be addressed to:

Executive Officer
Environmental Weed Strategy WA
Department of CALM
Environmental Protection Branch
Locked bag 104
Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983

ENVIRONMENTAL WEED STRATEGY FOR WA

The Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) has embarked on an Environmental Weed Strategy for Western Australia. A vital part of this strategy is community involvement and awareness of the strategy's aims.



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

4370-0898-500



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

For many landholders throughout the State, weed control is an essential part of landcare management. It is important to know what weeds are threatening environmental values and what can be done to control them. This pamphlet will help inform you of the steps being taken under the Environmental Weed Strategy and how you can become involved in its implementation.

BACKGROUND

CALM is responsible for the conservation of flora and fauna on all lands throughout the State. A major threat to these conservation values is the impact of weeds, particularly those known as environmental weeds.

Weeds, like many other environmental issues, are not constrained by administrative or property boundaries. CALM manages more than 19 million hectares of conservation lands and ensures that special conservation values (such as threatened flora, fauna and ecological communities) are protected on all lands throughout the State. As CALM has limited resources to deal with weed infestations, a strategy is currently being developed for effective weed management. Given that weed problems extend to all lands and not only those managed by CALM, a generic environmental weed strategy, useful to all land managers, seemed appropriate.

WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO DO?

The strategy-funded by CALM and a grant from the National Heritage Trust-aims to achieve a number of outcomes. Primarily, it will collate the large amount of data already held by CALM, other land management agencies and community interest groups on environmental weeds, the threats they pose to biodiversity and the most appropriate means of control. This information will be presented as a strategy document and a database to be used by weed managers. The strategy will:

- ❖ Determine what are the significant environmental weed species and their distribution;
- ❖ Address the actual and potential effects of weeds on biodiversity;

- ❖ Address the available means of weed control (chemical, mechanical and biocontrol) and their potential environmental impacts;
- ❖ Identify the resources required to implement the control measures across the State;
- ❖ Identify the most appropriate mechanism and criteria to set priorities for environmental weed control in WA; and
- ❖ Address the most appropriate means of monitoring and rehabilitating treated sites.

HOW ARE WE ACHIEVING THESE OUTCOMES?

A steering committee has been established consisting of representatives from the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority (NPNCA), Water and Rivers Commission, Wildflower Society, Environmental Weed Action Network, CALM and Agriculture WA. A consultant, Ecospace, has been engaged to develop the database and the strategy document, and work closely with the steering committee.

A workshop with experts in the weed management field, both government and community, was held to determine the expectations of the strategy and the completed database parameters. This information was used to model the final shape and content of the database and the strategy.

Information on weeds from many sources is currently being collated and entered into the database.

WHAT WILL THE STRATEGY LOOK LIKE?

The Environmental Weed Strategy will be complementary to the National Weed Strategy and have a structure and content similar to State Weed Strategies currently in existence. Its focus is on environmental weeds only, not agricultural weeds. It is anticipated that this strategy will contribute to the preparation of a more comprehensive State Weed Strategy in the future, which will include agricultural as well as environmental weeds.

WA is different from the other States in terms of its size, range of climatic zones and number of bioregions. The weeds addressed by the Environmental Weed Strategy are of significance

to WA only and not necessarily weeds of national significance.

Though the strategy concentrates on bioregions and not State or administrative boundaries, information can still be obtained from the database by Shires and CALM regions. A cross-flow of information between States will also be encouraged.

Here's what the strategy document will contain:

Principles of Environmental Weed Management

Some weeds are common, widespread and very visible; others are found in small, localised infestations. Some are very invasive of natural ecosystems; others are not. Some have demonstrated long-term perseverance before spreading rapidly and damaging our natural ecosystems.

To deal with the range of weed situations found across WA requires a means of ranking and prioritising weeds for action. Once this is achieved, integrated and coordinated action by all affected land managers is essential.

An integrated approach needs to accommodate the variety of objectives of land managers, the biology of the weed, the environment/s in which it exists, the control strategies available and the research that needs to be undertaken to fill knowledge gaps.

Components of the Environmental Weed Strategy

The Environmental Weed Strategy in WA will address issues under a number of components, including:

- ❖ Coordination and Integration
- ❖ Roles and Responsibilities
- ❖ Introduction, Spread and Effects on Biodiversity
- ❖ Means of Control & Integrated Weed Management
- ❖ Rehabilitation, Monitoring and Evaluation
- ❖ Priorities and Planning
- ❖ Resources
- ❖ Legal Framework, Research, and Other Plans and Strategies
- ❖ Public Awareness and Community Involvement
- ❖ Responsibilities of agencies