

NATIONAL WEEDS STRATEGY



Fact Sheet

Weeds of National Significance – The first attempt ever

What are Weeds of National Significance?

- The world's first attempt to identify Weeds of National Significance (WONS)
- 20 weeds have been identified from a list of greater than 3 000 non-native naturalised plants in the Australian environment

What problems do Weeds of National Significance pose to Australians?

- Threat to human health and safety
- Threat to pastoral industries
- Threat to cropping industries
- Threat to forestry management
- Threat to water quality and supplies
- Threat to infrastructure damage
- Threat to plant communities
- Threat to cultural values
- Threat to tourism
- Threat to the community
- Threat to recreation and amenities

Why have Weeds of National Significance?

- To minimise the effects to Australia's productive capacity and natural ecosystems
- To manage future threats to
 - Primary Industries
 - Land Management
 - Human or Animal Welfare
 - Biodiversity
 - Conservation values

How were the Weeds of National Significance identified?

- A Weed Risk Assessment System was used that analysed each weeds'
 - Invasiveness and Impact characteristics
 - Potential and current area of spread
 - Current primary industry, environmental and socioeconomic impacts

Other material available for you

- Current Weeds of National Significance Distribution Maps
- Potential Weeds of National Significance Distribution Maps
- A table that lists the Weeds of National Significance and the problems they pose
- Electronic images of Weeds of National Significance
- National Weeds Strategy Web Site www.weeds.org.au

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