

# NATIONAL WEEDS STRATEGY



## Media Release

### **Weeds of National Significance – The first attempt ever**

For the first time in Australia and the world, Weeds of National Significance have been released to move one step closer to a WIN against weeds' that cause detrimental impacts worth billions of dollars to the sustainability of Australia's productive capacity and natural ecosystems.

John Burley, Chairman for the National Weeds Strategy Executive Committee, said, "Weeds of National Significance is a proactive attempt to strategically manage priority weeds that pose future threats to primary industries, land management, human or animal welfare, biodiversity and conservation values."

"The Weeds of National Significance were prioritised using a series of questions that measured each weeds' Invasiveness, Impacts, Potential for Spread and Socioeconomic and Environmental aspects. Scientists and policy makers from all State and Territory Primary Industry, Natural Resource and Environment departments were involved in submitting data for analysis.

"The use of lists is an effective tool that many Australians use to manage their lives and the Weeds of National Significance list assists States/Territories to prioritise their weed management strategies for the benefit of Australians.

"In excess of 3 000 non-native naturalised plants are recorded in Australian environments. Weeds of National Significance were prioritised using information from reputable sources to ensure that the weeds chosen would be the most strategic for the protection of Australia. The process was designed to be transparent and easily understood, in order to gain commitment from people affected by the 20 species.

"A cooperative approach will be essential for the implementation of Weeds of National Significance management strategies, an approach that is also needed for the other hundreds of weeds that create concern for graziers, croppers, foresters or environmentalists.

"It is believed that with the support and commitment from all Australians, the Weeds of National Significance can be turned into major WINS for agriculture and the environment" Mr Burley concluded.

Further information about the Weeds of National Significance is available on the National Weeds Strategy Web Page [www.weeds.org.au](http://www.weeds.org.au)

## Inaugural List of Weeds of National Significance

(exotic species only)

Common Name	Scientific Name
alligator weed	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>
athel pine	<i>Tamarix aphylla</i>
bitou bush / boneseed	<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>
blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.
bridal creeper	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>
cabomba	<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>
Chilean needle grass	<i>Nassella neesiana</i>
gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>
hymenachne	<i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i>
lantana	<i>Lantana camara</i>
mesquite	<i>Prosopis</i> spp.
mimosa	<i>Mimosa pigra</i>
Parkinsonia	<i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>
parthenium weed	<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>
pond apple	<i>Annona glabra</i>
prickly acacia	<i>Acacia nilotica</i> spp. <i>indica</i>
rubber vine	<i>Cryptostegia grandiflora</i>
salvinia	<i>Salvinia molesta</i>
serrated tussock	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>
Willows except weeping willows, pussy willow and sterile pussy willow	<i>Salix</i> spp. except <i>S. babylonica</i> , <i>S. X calodendron</i> and <i>S. X reichardtiji</i>

Ends.....

**Additional Information:** General information, and current and potential distribution maps are available from the Media Contact or may be down loaded from [www.weeds.org.au](http://www.weeds.org.au).

**Media Contact:** Mr John Thorp, National Weeds Strategy Project Manager (03) 6344 9657 or 0419 323 400.

**Media Talent:** Mr John Burley, National Weeds Strategy Executive Committee Chairman (03) 9637 8123.

o:\national weeds strategy\media\wons media release.doc