

Bitou Bush National Priority Action Framework 2008-2010

	Early Detection	Prevention of Spread	Reduction of Impacts	Cross Program Actions
Priority 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Monitor and record any new infestations. (2.1.2.2) ★ Increase the recognition and understanding of the impact of bitou bush. (2.3.1.3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Support, maintain and progress national eradication and containment zones. (2.1.2.3) ★ Ensure ongoing maintenance and updating of maps and distribution data. (2.2.1.1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Undertake control in high priority areas. (2.2.2.1) ★ Reduce the impact of dense and large infestations. (2.2.2.2) ★ Develop re-vegetation guidelines for different habitats and vegetation communities. (2.2.3.4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Provide support for volunteers and expand the volunteer effort. (2.2.4.2) ★ Improve effectiveness of biocontrol programs. (2.2.3.2) ★ Facilitate and maintain the NBBBMG (2.3.1.1)
Priority 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Provide extension materials for dissemination. (2.1.3.1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Establish and support regional and local groups to prepare and implement management plans. (2.2.4.1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Develop & implement site-specific integrated management strategies. (2.2.3.4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Refine and adopt best management practices (2.2.3) ★ Evaluate existing herbicide applications. (2.2.3.1)
Priority 3				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Promote communication and information exchange. (2.2.4.3)

Priorities are based on the National Strategy. Numbers in brackets correspond to actions in the National Strategy.

See detailed information sheet on next page; also see Boneseed National Priority Action Framework for more information.

Cross Program Actions include research, education, awareness, management group & coordinator operations, & other actions relevant to all programs 1 of 3

Introduction

Boneseed and bitou bush are recognised as Weeds of National Significance (WONS). In 2000, a National Strategy for the management of these weeds was developed. Work has progressed towards many actions in the National Strategy in conjunction with the National Coordinator and the National Bitou Bush & Boneseed Management Group (NBBBMG). The NBBBMG has developed this list of priority actions for bitou bush based on the National Strategy and the current progress of the bitou bush program. A separate framework was developed for boneseed to reflect differing management priorities. [Please see the Boneseed National Priority Framework for further information.]

Detailed information regarding the Bitou Bush National Priority Action Framework

The framework is divided into 4 sections of equal priority: Early Detection, Prevention of Spread, Reduction of Impacts, and Cross-Program Actions. Cross-Program actions include research, education, awareness, management group and national coordinator operations, and other actions relevant to multiple programs. This document provides supporting information regarding each action contained in the framework. Numbers in parentheses correspond to actions in the National Strategy.

Early Detection

Priority

- 1 Monitor and record any new infestations of bitou bush (2.1.2.2). Model and assess impacts of climate change on expansion of bitou bush distributions; establish monitoring priorities, protocols and actions. Continue to monitor and control new infestations in New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria.
- 1 Increase the recognition and understanding of the impact of bitou bush (2.3.1.3). Develop and implement education and awareness programs aimed at all Stakeholders, with emphasis on developing and implementing school resources (eg. *Weeds Attack!*).
- 2 Provide extension materials for dissemination (2.1.3.1). Widely distribute extension materials, including the Management Manual, throughout the range of bitou bush.

Prevention of Spread

Priority

- 1 Support, maintain and progress national containment and eradication zones for bitou bush. (2.1.2.3) Support eradication program in Queensland; develop and implement eradication plan in Victoria. Support containment and buffer zones in NSW. Support research on seedbank dynamics to inform and enhance eradication efforts.
- 1 Ensure ongoing maintenance and updating of maps and distribution data. (2.2.1.1) Maintain maps updated in 2008 as part of Bitou Bush Management Manual production.
- 2 Establish and support regional and local groups to prepare and implement management plans. (2.2.4.1) Establish, maintain and support regional and local groups and involve them in preparation and implementation of management plans that incorporate national priority framework actions. Support these groups in the establishment and maintenance of containment and eradication zones.

Reduction of Impacts

Priority

- 1 Undertake control in high priority areas. (2.2.2.1) Currently undertaken in NSW through Bitou Bush Threat Abatement Plan (TAP). Source funding for TAP and implement

control.

- 1 Reduce the impact of dense and large infestations. (2.2.2.2) Continue to release biological control agents at strategic locations and involve the community through the Weed Warriors program. Monitor the establishment and impact of established agents. Determine strategies to integrate biological control with other control options to reduce bitou bush populations and contain spread.
- 1 Develop re-vegetation guidelines for different habitats/vegetation communities. (2.2.3.4) Source funding for guideline development and widely consult with all stakeholders to ensure uptake of revised revegetation methods.
- 2 Develop and implement site specific integrated management techniques. (2.2.3.4) Promote and implement site management methodologies in NSW Bitou bush TAP and Bitou bush Management Manual.

Cross-Program Actions

Priority

- 1 Provide for volunteers and expand the volunteer effort. (2.2.4.2) Support NRM and Coastcare programs. Provide information and assistance with funding programs. Involve the community in bitou bush biocontrol efforts. Widely distribute Bitou Bush Management Manual and other materials to assist community groups.
- 1 Improve effectiveness of biological control agents for bitou bush. (2.2.3.2) [*Please note: Biological control priorities for bitou bush and boneseed are currently undergoing a strategic review*] A current priority in this category is to promote and enhance the Weed Warriors program for bitou bush.
- 1 Facilitate and maintain the NBBBMG (National Bitou Bush and Boneseed Management Group) (2.3.1.1) Continued facilitation of the NBBBMG, through the National Coordinator, is an overarching priority as this Group is responsible for national coordination and management of boneseed and bitou bush.
- 2 Refine and adopt best management practices. (2.2.3) Promote and distribute Bitou bush Management Manual; evaluate and refine as required.
- 2 Evaluate new and existing herbicide applications. (2.2.3.1) Evaluate herbicide effects on bitou bush, native plants, native fauna and interactions with biological control agents.
- 3 Promote communication and information exchange (2.2.4.3). Promote and use information networks. The National Coordinator maintains a communication network for national information sharing.