

CORE PRINCIPLES OF STATE AND TERRITORY WEEDS LEGISLATION

Legislation for weeds shall include:

1. A duty of care binding all persons.

A general duty of care applies to all persons not just landholders, and should be embodied in legislation.

2. Integrated action against the economic, environmental and social impacts of weeds.

Weed management is an integral part of managing agricultural systems, natural resources, biodiversity and components of human welfare (directly eg health and aesthetic values, or indirectly eg viability of local communities).

3. Actions to support preventive weed management.

Preventing the introduction of weeds into the country, a State/Territory, a region, a property or a paddock is the most cost effective weed management practice.

4. Actions against human activity as a major vector of the spread of weeds and plants with weed potential.

Stopping human activity in moving contaminated objects, materials and plants with weed potential is a critical part of prevention.

5. A precautionary approach to weed management decisions.

Legislation should include a precautionary approach to decision-making when the impacts of weeds or the weed potential of plants is uncertain.

6. Weed management planning.

Specific weed planning, and/or the integration of planning for weed management in higher order planning, is necessary to ensure resources are targeted to priorities.

7. Community awareness and consultation.

Awareness and consultation are necessary to increase capacity, commitment and collaborative arrangements for weed management.

8. Precedence over other legislation where essential for minimising weed impact and spread.

Action to prevent or reduce weed impacts must be applicable across all land and human welfare to be effective.

9. Maximum uniformity of provisions with other States and Territories.

Uniform provisions across States and Territories make compliance easier for the community and minimises exploitation of gaps across borders.