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Maximising knowledge from recent national weeds R&D
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**'Defeating the Weed Menace'
R&D program**

- June 2006 - June 2009
- Managed by Land & Water Australia on behalf of DAFF & DEWHA
- 27 projects across several themes
- \$5.4m + 4.3m cash & in-kind




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DWM R&D Objectives

Generate new knowledge to:

1. Reduce the rate of emergence of new weed problems
2. Reduce the impact of existing weed problems
3. Support national frameworks and build capacity for sustainable weed management




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Theme 1: Reducing rate of emergence of new weed problems

- Assessing pathway risk – national survey, grazing management, climate change
- Impacts of land use change – nutrients, coastal ecosystems, peri-urban
- 'Best practice' early detection, survey and eradication – environmental flows, Murray River
- Developing efficient surveying and eradication for emergent weeds – peri-urban, on-property, robotic surveillance




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Theme 2: Reducing impact of existing weed problems

- Identifying biocontrol agents for priority weeds
- Developing new, integrated weed management strategies incorporating landscape scale ecological processes




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Theme 3: Supporting national frameworks & capacity for sustainable weed management

- Quantifying weed impacts on sustainability & environment – benefits & costs of control
 - Buffel grass, Para & Gamba grasses, Hymenachne – TBL assessments
 - *Pinus radiata* 'wildlings' in bushland
 - Managing WoNS in natural ecosystems



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Translating knowledge into practice

From individual projects:

- Research papers
- Conference presentations
- Practitioner workshops & seminars
- Management guides & field notes
- Magazine & journal articles

Cross-project knowledge products (1)

Issues / Discussion papers:

- Emerging technologies in weed monitoring, identification & management
- 'Conflict of Interest' plant species
- Managing landscapes, not weeds
- Understanding biocontrol agent development & prioritising investment
- End-user needs of a national weeds information system

Cross-project knowledge products (2)

- 'Thinking Bush: Thinking Weeds' magazine
- Weeds R&D folder
- Workshops & conferences

Visit: www.lwa.gov.au/weeds

Purpose of this forum

Working with state-based Weed Societies & others, to

- Increase awareness of recent national weeds R&D
- Provide advice to DAFF re. future priorities for weeds R&D

Selected sample of projects most relevant to NT

- Margaret Friedel, CSIRO – understanding perceptions of buffel grass
- Samantha Setterfield, CDU – tall invasive grasses & fire
- Tim Heard, CSIRO – Biological control agents for Parkinsonia
- Quentin Paynter et al., Landcare Research NZ – prioritising target weeds for biocontrol – links to Weed Risk Assessment (Keith Ferdinands)

+ Discussion of priorities for new research

Research priorities for managing weeds in a changing world – advice to DAFF

- Protecting values and assets not weeds per se
- Climate change implications for weed invasion
- Weeds and biodiversity loss
- Changing land use patterns & weediness
- Integrated management, landscape scale (incl. biocontrol)
- New technologies in detection & management
- Targeting biocontrol research – links to Weed Risk Assessment process
- Understanding the 'people' issues: social, economic & institutional influences in weed management

Your input in final workshop session

Knowledge products available

- 'Thinking Bush: Thinking Weeds' magazine
- Weeds R&D folder
- USB stick containing final research reports from all 27 projects
- Products available from CanPrint warehouse

Visit: www.lwa.gov.au/weeds

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