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Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

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Exploring the Agents of Change to Peri-urban Weed Management

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Upper Merimbidgee Catchment Governing Committee (UMCCG)

Griffith UNIVERSITY



dynamic area undergoing rapid change

Variety of knowledge levels

transition area of temporary land uses

conflicting values

highly contested activities

lack of planning and subdivision guidance

Attributes of a Peri-urbanising Landscape

illegible landscape

heterogeneous

natural resource threats

High numbers of landholders to engage

disjointed planning and policy

fragmented landscape

NRM values at threat

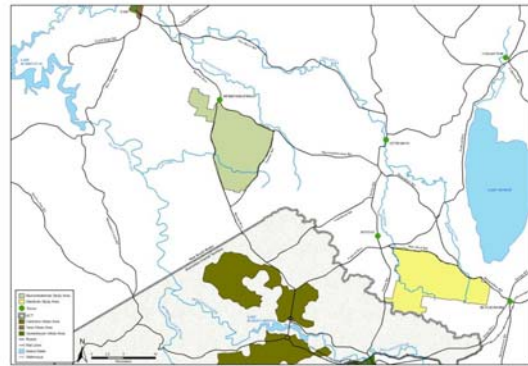
Assumptions

- The majority of RLLs undertake little weed management on their peri-urban properties;
- Most RLLs have limited skills in identifying environmental weeds;
- Most RLLs have little knowledge of appropriate weed management regimes;
- Many RLLs have no knowledge of new and emerging weeds and as a result pose potential biosecurity risk;
- Few RLLs are motivated to undertake weed management on their land;
- Most RLLs have financial resources to undertake weed management;
- Almost all RLLs have different motivation for controlling weeds, or reasons for not controlling weeds, than traditional farmers; and
- Providing more information to RLLs on weeds will result in a change in behaviour

Research Questions

- 🌿 What drivers of change are influential in attracting the new wave of peri-urban dwellers (rural lifestylers) to these locations and what are the characteristics of the lifestyles they are pursuing?
- 🌿 Are these drivers and trends likely to continue in the near future?
- 🌿 What are the priority weed management challenges for existing peri-urban areas?
- 🌿 Do rural lifestylers have the necessary motivation, capability and capacity to properly address existing and emergent NRM issues, particularly invasive weeds, on their properties?
- 🌿 Do rural lifestylers have well developed networks that can be utilised to inform and disseminate important NRM information and messages on weeds through their peri-urban communities?

Study area locations



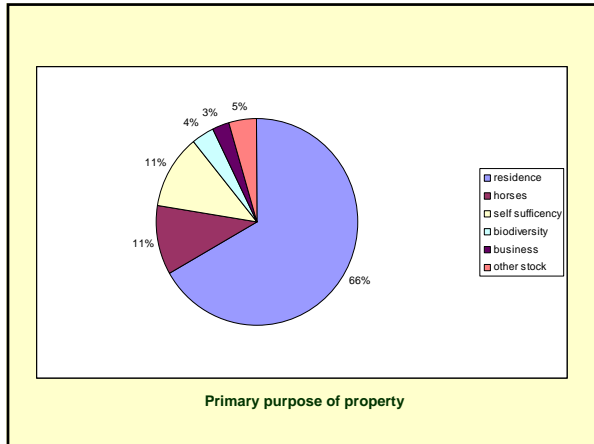
Who are they

- 👤 Well educated, working full time (81% tertiary qualifications)
- 🕒 Large amount of leisure time (60% has >20hr/wk)
- 🌿 Most common leisure activity was gardening (43%)
- 🐾 Most common clubs and local networks involved in were landcare, equestrian or dog related or sporting clubs (most in Canberra)
- 👶 46% of households had dependant children
- 🏠 31% had lived on their property for 1-4yr, 41% for >10yr
- 📍 76% had moved directly from Canberra, but 47% said they had lived on a rural property previously.
- 🚗 30% of landholders spent 5-7hr/wk commuting

What do they do with their land?

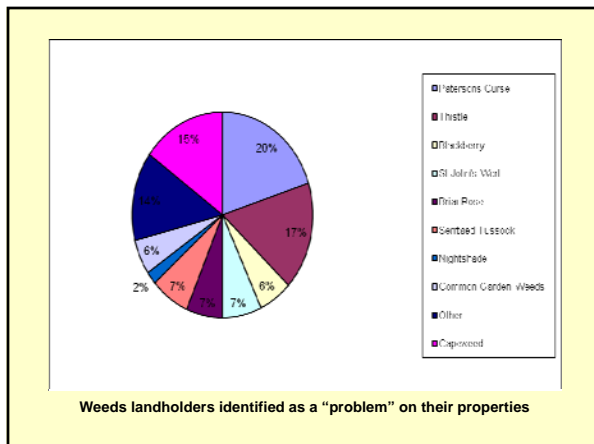
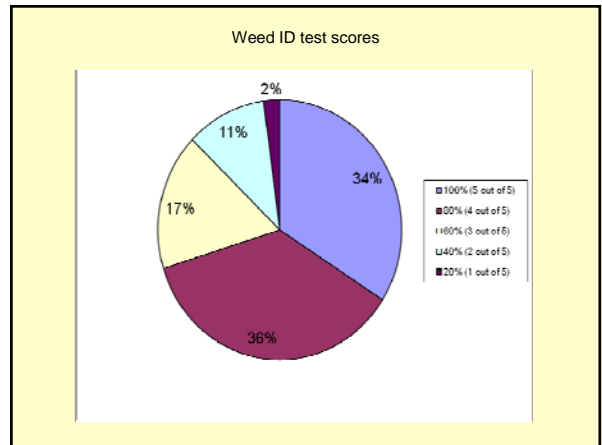
- 🌿 51% of properties were <10ac
- 🐾 25% of properties had horses (80% of these had >2)
- 🐕 57% of properties had dogs (most 2 or more)
- 🌿 13% had swimming pools, 10% stables, 13% horse yards (also dressage arenas, tennis courts ect)
- 🌿 66% had plans to stay indefinitely and improve their property





NRM Knowledge (Pre-purchase & Current)

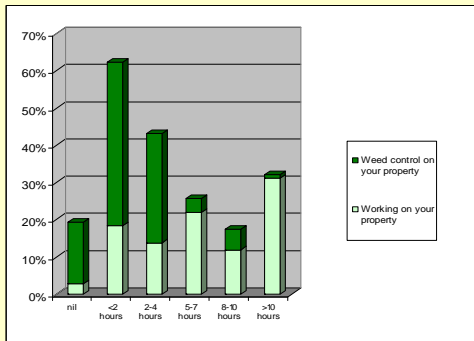
Degree NRM knowledge	1 (poor)	2	3	4	5 (excellent)
Knowledge Prior purchase	42%	21%	17%	13%	6%
Current Knowledge	14%	20%	23%	32%	11%



Comparison of respondents and weed officer weeds of concern

landholder listed species	Percentage of landholders	Weed officer top 10 species W - Wamboin, M - Murrumbateman
Patterson's Curse (C4)	20.0%	Patterson's Curse (W, M)
Thistle (C4)	17.0%	Thistle (W, M)
Capeweed (C4)	15.0%	
Serrated Tussock (C4)	7.0%	Serrated tussock (W, M)
St John's Wort (C4)	7.0%	St John's Wort (W, M)
Briar Rose (C4)	6.5%	Briar Rose (W, M)
Blackberry (C4)	6.0%	Blackberry (W, M)
Broom (C3 - Wamboin & C4 - Murrumbateman)	1%	Broom (W)
Wild Radish	0.50%	Wild Radish (M)
N/A	0%	African Lovegrass (M) (C4)
N/A	0%	Chilean needle grass (M) (C4)

Comparison of Time Spent on Property Management to Time Spent on Weed Control



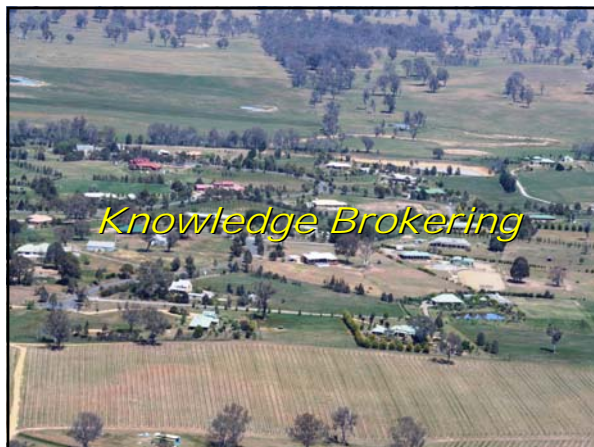
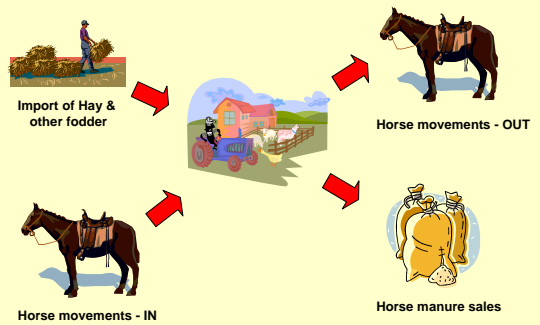
Recommendations

- Landholders' lack of time needs to be taken into consideration when trying to engage them.
- Social and recreation networks can be a vehicle for delivering knowledge and awareness products.
- Focusing on particular lifestyle landholder interests such as equestrian ownership or self sufficiency may also be a vehicle for delivering knowledge and skills.
- There is a greater role for landcare to engage with lifestyle land owners.
- There is a need to increase the knowledge and skills in ID of newer less easily identified weeds and particularly new and emerging weeds.
- Information should be developed to be relevant to lifestyle landholders.
- There is an immediate need to engage the equestrian groups to ensure they do not become a vector for the spread new and emerging weeds into regions.

Potential Weed movements



Potential Weed movements



Questions?