



NSW DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

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<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/pubs/nsw-invasive-species-plan>



THE PLAN'S VISION

The environment, economy and community of NSW are protected from the adverse impacts of invasive species.

WHO HAS A ROLE IN IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN?

The NSW Invasive Species Plan is relevant to all people working in primary industries and natural resource management who make decisions about invasive species. This includes those working in field operations, policy, education, communications, training, community involvement and research, whether in industry, educational institutions, government or community organisations.

INTRODUCTION

Invasive species affect our environment, economy and social well-being. They can reduce the productivity of our land and waterways and reduce biodiversity in natural areas. Invasive species can out-compete, or prey on other species and spread disease. They can also damage buildings, roads, wharves and other structures. These impacts are detailed further in Box 1 and the effect of climate change on these issues is discussed in Box 2.

This Plan outlines a coordinated response by stakeholders to minimise the impacts of invasive species in NSW using a risk-based approach. Based on the NSW Government's current investment in invasive species management it will also guide future investment as additional resources become available. The Plan includes existing and planned activities as well as new projects that will commence as agencies redirect resources in response to the priorities in the Plan.

An Invasive Species Plan Steering Group comprising representatives from NSW DPI, DECC, Lands, CMAs and RLPBs, engaged stakeholders in a series of three workshops in 2006 to prepare a consultation draft of the NSW Invasive species Plan. In September 2007 over 188 groups and individuals were contacted producing forty-five submissions.

All stakeholders – government agencies and authorities such as CMAs, industry, landholders and members of the community play a valuable role in achieving the challenges, goals and actions in this Plan. Stakeholders identified current and future invasive species issues and considered animal welfare, climate change and philosophical objections to lethal control when setting its overall goals and direction for invasive species management in NSW.

The Plan provides a framework for the coordinated and cooperative management of invasive species aiming to prevent new incursions, contain existing populations and adaptively manage already widespread species. It includes weeds, vertebrate and invertebrate pests, in terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments. It excludes pathogens, blue-green algae and the impacts of native species unless they are declared under legislation (refer to Appendix 4 for more detail).

A comprehensive set of principles, challenges, goals and actions to protect the economy, environment and community from the adverse impacts of invasive species in NSW are included. Importantly, the Plan specifies who is responsible for specific tasks and establishes cross-agency mechanisms to ensure effective communication among stakeholders.

The Plan uses current monitoring and assessment techniques to ensure the effective use of public resources, and prioritises areas where pest management provides the best cost to benefit ratio in protecting biodiversity, productivity and community most threatened by invasive species. It uses best management principles and is integrated into the Australian Biosecurity (AusBIOSEC) program, an overarching fabric of common principles and guidelines to enable biosecurity arrangements to be applied consistently across Australia.

The Plan complements other existing strategies such as the **NSW State Plan**, the **Australian Pest Animal Strategy**, the **Australian Weeds Strategy**, the **NSW Biodiversity Strategy**, the **NSW Biosecurity Strategy**, **NSW Natural Resources Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting Strategy** and the **National System for the Prevention and Management of Marine Pest Incursions**. It also provides links with industry, regional and catchment based plans and the many species-specific management strategies already in existence.

The NSW Invasive Species Plan will provide a State level framework for the coordinated and cooperative management of invasive species aiming to build the capacity to prevent new incursions, contain existing populations and adaptively manage already widespread species in NSW.