



Weedmanagement

UNDERSTANDING WEED MANAGEMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES

All weed management in New South Wales (NSW) can be classified into one of four categories: **Prevention, Eradication, Containment and Asset protection**. These four categories can be thought of as the invasion process of a weed species from arrival through to widespread establishment (see Figure 1).

The categories can be responses to specific or local situations, or used to describe broader weed management approaches at a regional, state or national scale. Different weed management strategies and legislation can be applied to each of the four categories depending on the specific situation.

What weed is our highest priority?

Three methods are used to determine priority weeds in NSW:

- The *Weed Risk Assessment* (WRA) system for quarantine or pre-border management addressing the **Prevention** category (see Figure 1). or
- The *Weed Risk Management* (WRM) system for post-border assessment and prioritisation of weed species once they have arrived and established, addressing **Eradication** and **Containment** (see Figure 1). or
- In NSW environmental assets are determined and prioritised using a two-stage process, as developed in the Bitou Bush Threat Abatement Plan. This process protects **Assets** to help ensure that impact reduction is the primary focus for control of widespread weeds (see Figure 1). A system for selecting non-environmental assets is yet to be established.

Weed management strategies and legislation in NSW

There are a variety of weed management strategies, programs and legislation in NSW that can be used in one or more of the four management categories. For example, quarantine is specific to **Prevention** while the *NSW Invasive Species Plan* (NSW ISP) is relevant for all four categories. Broader strategies, programs and legislation can be applied to more than one category and often rely on, or build upon other strategies that are specific to some categories. For example for asset protection, DPI and DECC are working with the 13 CMAs to identify the weeds posing a threat to environmental assets. The outcomes of this project will contribute to the NSW ISP, CMA weed strategies, NRM MER Strategy as well as actions under the *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act*.

Reporting and monitoring

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) must be an integral component of any weed management program. A state-wide MER strategy for invasive species is being developed, based around the four categories, using three indicators: (i) new incursions; (ii) emerging species; and (iii) asset protection through reducing impacts at priority sites. All weed management stakeholders in NSW should include MER actions within their programs.



NSW DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

For further information visit

WWW.DPI.NSW.GOV.AU/WEEDS OR WWW.ENVIRONMENT.NSW.GOV.AU/PESTSWEEDS

Department of Environment & Climate Change NSW



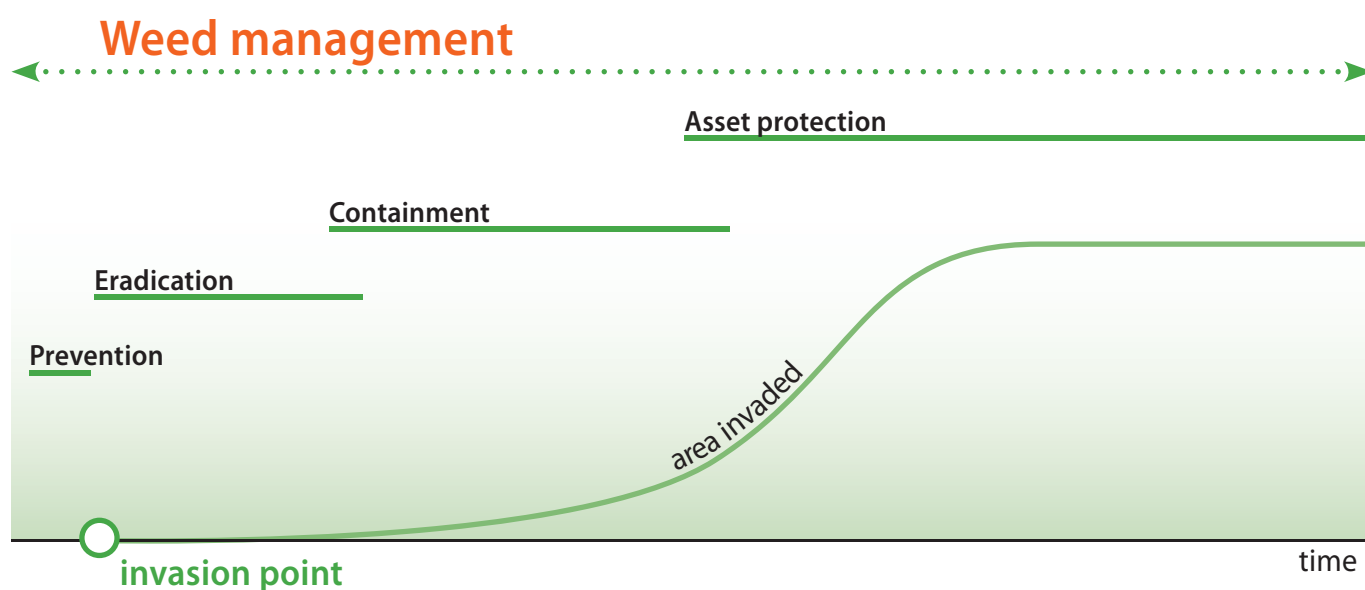


Figure 1. Weed management programs in NSW (after DSE 2007).

All weed management programs can be broken into one of 4 categories, each of which has specific strategies, policies and legislation

Prevention – weed management aimed at preventing new weed species from arriving.

Examples of relevant strategies or legislation:

- Australian *Quarantine Act 1908*
- NSW New Weed Incursion Plan
- National Prohibited and Permitted Lists
- Australian National Eradication programs
- Australian National Environmental Alert List
- Australian Agricultural Sleeper Weed List

Eradication – weed management aimed at removing newly arrived and naturalised weeds (including all plant material), where eradication is an achievable goal.

Examples of relevant strategies or legislation:

- NSW Incursion Plan for Invasive Plant Species
- Australian National Eradication Programs
- Australian National Environmental Alert List
- Australian Agricultural Sleeper Weed List

Containment – weed management aimed at reducing the spread and/or severity of established weed infestations using defined geographic boundaries. Eradication is no longer feasible.

Examples of relevant strategies or legislation:

- Weeds of National Significance containment lines (e.g. Lantana in Southern NSW)

Asset protection – weed management aimed at protecting assets from the impacts of established weed species. Assets may be environmental, primary production or community (human health or cultural). Control in areas with no defined assets are a low priority.

Examples of relevant strategies or legislation:

- *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*
- *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*
- *NSW Native Vegetation Act 2003*
- *Australian Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- NSW Threat Abatement Plans/Priority Action Statement (PAS)
- NSW Biodiversity Strategy
- DECC/DPI/CMA weed strategies for conservation

All 4 categories

Examples of relevant strategies or legislation:

- *NSW Noxious Weeds Act 1993*
- *NSW Fisheries Management Act 1994*
- NSW Invasive Species Plan
- NSW Natural Resources Management (MER) Strategy
- NSW Catchment Weed Management Strategies
- NSW State and Regional Weed Management Plans
- NSW Regional Pest Strategies
- NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change Pest Management Strategies
- Australian Weeds Strategy
- Weeds of National Significance Strategies
- AusBioSec – Australian Biosecurity System for Primary Production and the Environment