

## Project details

### Riverina Weeds Action Program

Rapid Response Plan

*Eastern and Western Riverina Noxious Weeds Advisory Groups*

## Performance overview

Preparing a Rapid Response Plan is a second year activity to be completed for the Riverina Weeds Action Program. The purpose of the rapid response plan is to ensure a consistent approach to the management of new incursions of High Risk species throughout the Riverina. When a new incursion is found, this plan outlines specific procedures and recommended actions to be undertaken upon finding a new incursion of a Category A or B weed. This activity is a component of a suite of planning and process documents being developed in the Riverina to ensure effective, coordinated weed surveillance and detection capabilities.



Figure 1. Parthenium weed

## Activities completed

Twenty seven organisations (including Local Control Authorities and Livestock Health and Pest Authorities) have contributed data and provided information for the development of the Rapid Response Plan. The plan has been distributed for final endorsement. Associated plans and processes that have been developed include the High Risk Pathways Management Plan, New Incursion Plan - High Risk Species and Riverina Inspection Policy.

During the first year of operation Jerilderie Shire Council Weeds Inspector, Geoff Portbury discovered an extensive infestation of parthenium weed. The rapid response plan was put into action as parthenium weed is a Category A weed (not currently present in region). Below are the recommended actions (from the rapid response plan) along with the actual activities carried out in Jerilderie to date:

- Quarantine – all flowering/seeding plants removed within 48hrs. Remaining plants removed within 7 days and area treated.
- Awareness – all contacts in the Riverina notified via email of the outbreak. Neighbouring LCAs attended a spot field day (Figure 4). Neighbouring landholders informed of outbreak and given awareness information. Plant on display (in sealed container) at shire office. Presentations to LHPA and Essential Energy staff.
- Report – notifiable weed reporting form submitted to NSW DPI.
- Publicity – media release distributed and published on website. Interview with ABC radio – resulting in several landholders contacting Geoff and more spot field days.
- Record – photos taken. Added to Riverina's new incursions database.
- Map + surveillance – GPS coordinates taken. Neighbouring LCAs assist with surveillance and removal of all flowering plants and to ensure no plants are missed.
- Monitoring.



Figure 2. Parthenium weed.  
Conargo – Jerilderie Rd.

## Outcomes

Jerilderie Shire Council successfully implemented the Rapid Response Plan when Parthenium weed was discovered in their shire on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012.

No issues or limitations identified with the draft rapid response plan.

**Desired Outcome:** Eradication and prevention.



Figure 3. Parthenium weed rosette



Figure 4. Spot field day with neighbouring LCAs

**Rapid Response Plan** ERNWAG & WRNWAG WAP 2.2.1

NSW Invasive Species Plan. Goal 2: Eradicate or Contain	
Eliminate, or prevent the spread of new invasive species	2.2 Develop rapid response plans

**Regional Weed Strategy. Aim: Preventative Weed Management**

No new weeds naturalised over the life of the RWS	1.1.4 Develop a rapid response program for new incursions in the region
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The purpose of the rapid response plan is to ensure a consistent approach to the management of new incursions of High Risk species throughout the Riverina. When a new incursion is found, this plan outlines specific procedures (Figure 1) and recommended actions (Table 1) to be undertaken upon finding a new incursion of a Category A or B weed. Only those weeds already declared noxious are bound by legal obligations.

**Incursion** "An isolated population of an invasive species detected in an area where it has not been previously established."

As defined in the NSW Invasive Species Plan 2008-2015

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    graph TD
      A[Identify weed  
(research and submit herbarium sample)] --> B[Refer to appropriate sub region list to determine categorisation]
      B --> C[Category A - Weeds not currently present in the CMA subregion]
      B --> D[Category B - Weeds present with limited distribution, several small infestations in the CMA subregion]
      B --> E[Category C - Weeds present with moderate distribution, numerous to large partially dispersed infestations in the CMA subregion]
      B --> F[Category D - Weeds are widespread throughout the CMA subregion]
      C --> G[Report all Notifiable weeds to NSW DPI]
      G --> H[Eradication and Prevention]
      D --> I[High level of management to significantly reduce infestations where eradication is not possible]
      E --> J[Significant reduction of infestations where possible]
      F --> K[Containment]
      H --> L[Preventative Weed Management - To protect biodiversity, agricultural production and amenity (community values) by preventing new weed infestations.]
      I --> M[Management of Existing Weeds - To reduce the impact of existing weeds. Refer to individual Regional Weed Strategies and/or individual LCA Weed Management Plans for recommended actions.]
      J --> M
      K --> M
  
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Figure 1 - Flowchart for coordinated rapid response according to weed categorisation

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Figure 5. Page 1 of Rapid response plan

Table 1 - Weed categories requiring Rapid Response, recommended actions and desired outcome

Category A - Weeds not currently present in a CMA sub region	
<b>Quarantine</b>	Quarantine the area and remove infestations/plants (where possible) within 7 days (species dependent)
<b>Awareness</b>	Hold a spot field day with surrounding neighbours upon identification/finding
<b>Report</b>	Report notifiable weeds (Class 1, 2 or 5) to NSW DPI Weeds Hotline 1800 680 244 or email form to <a href="mailto:weeds@industry.nsw.gov.au">weeds@industry.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>Publicity</b>	Widespread publicity using mass media; become proactive with established groups and increase awareness of the key features of these weeds during property inspections (LCAs)
<b>Record</b>	Record all details of outbreak including photos and any other relevant information
<b>Map + surveillance</b>	Map infestation and survey surrounding area to determine possible sources of infestation
<b>Monitoring</b>	Monitor for re-emergence, treat as needed, update records
<b>Desired outcome</b>	<b>Eradication and prevention</b>

  

Category B - Weeds present with limited distribution, several small infestations in a CMA sub-region	
<b>Isolate</b>	Remove and/or isolate infestations using best management practices
<b>Report</b>	Report notifiable weeds (Class 1, 2 or 5) to NSW DPI Weeds Hotline 1800 680 244 or email form to <a href="mailto:weeds@industry.nsw.gov.au">weeds@industry.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>Publicity</b>	Utilise media (newsletters, existing networks) to raise awareness
<b>Awareness</b>	Hold field days to focus on the distribution of the weed
<b>Raise Profile</b>	Become proactive with established groups. Fact sheets to be made available stating what needs to be done and why it is needed. Increase awareness of the key features of these weeds during property inspections (LCAs)
<b>Record</b>	Record all details of outbreak including photos
<b>Map + surveillance</b>	Map infestation and survey surrounding area to determine possible sources of infestation
<b>Monitoring</b>	Monitor for re-emergence, treat as needed, update records
<b>Desired outcome</b>	<b>High level of management to significantly reduce infestations where eradication is not possible</b>

Refer to High Risk Species WAP 1.2.1 for complete list of High Risk Species in the Riverina.

**Linkages**

- High Risk Pathways WAP 1.1.1
- High Risk Pathways Management Plan WAP 1.1.2
- High Risk Species WAP 1.2.1
- New Incursion Plan - High Risk Species WAP 1.2.2
- Riverina Inspection Policy WAP 1.2.3
- Notifiable Weed Reporting Form NSW DPI (extranet) <http://extranet.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds/permit-report/report/notifiable-report/>
- NSW Invasive Species Plan
- Murray RWS
- Murrumbidgee RWS
- Lower Murray Darling RWS
- Lachlan RWS

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Figure 6. Page 2 of Rapid response plan

## Further information

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