

Northern Australian Weeds Network – a proposal

Proposal

To establish and maintain a network of people working on Northern Australian weeds and weed-related issues.

Network Objectives

1. Support and encourage network members, and people beyond the network, in their work on Northern Australian weeds.
2. Raise awareness of the multiple benefits of effective weed prevention, eradication, control and management across the North.
3. Ensure a strengthened Northern Australian biosecurity system to prevent and reduce new and spreading weed threats, including environmental weeds which are often neglected.
4. Increase public investment in strategic weed management, biological weed controls and weed research across North Australia.

Network Rationale

Invasive plants in Northern Australia represent a serious threat to agricultural production, biodiversity, human health, ecosystems services and infrastructure. Despite this governments are moving away from funding weed management and are shifting responsibility to individuals. This, along with the long haul nature of weed work, means that mechanisms to support people working on weeds are especially important in places like Northern Australia where vast distances and jurisdictional separations can create a sense of isolation. There is also much to be gained in terms of improved exchange of information and ideas across the North, whose landscapes and issues have much more in common on an east-west axis than a north-south one. Finally, multiple un-tapped synergies exist for more collaborations, efficiencies and celebrations of the huge amount of weed work that passionate individuals are undertaking across the North.

Proposed initial actions for the network

1. Share information on new approaches, research, benefits, economic values etc related to Northern Aust weeds and distribute via broader networks.
2. Share submissions (including drafts), and/or support or coordinate joint submissions to eg align messages, facilitate cross boundary/border work, and create efficiencies.
3. Support each other to re-invigorate action on Northern Australian weeds eg teleconferences, celebrations, cross border partner system, weed related stories.
4. Scope the idea of advocating for integrated, comprehensive action on 1, 2 or 3 priority weeds across Northern Australia as capacity etc allows.
5. Take and make opportunities to advocate for our objectives.



Para grass invading Kakadu National Park (photo S Setterfield)

Support

We are currently seeking support to establish a Northern Australian Weeds Network and look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

To discuss ideas or for more information please contact:

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