

CAWS Discussion Panel

What is the biosecurity approach and how will it impact weed management?

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Summary Over the past ten years, governments in Australia and New Zealand have progressively adopted a ‘biosecurity approach’ for managing pests and diseases, including weeds. This is an inclusive approach that combines many weed management aspects (that were previously managed separately) into a ‘whole of biosecurity’ management scheme that addresses biosecurity threats holistically. A key element of the biosecurity approach is shared responsibility; that there is an obligation for all members of society to be responsible for managing biosecurity threats.

But how will this new approach affect the way we manage weeds on the ground? What opportunities and challenges will exist for regional groups, local governments and the community as they move towards adopting the biosecurity approach? These and other questions form the basis of an interactive panel discussion forum to be held at the 19th Australasian Weeds Conference. Led by an expert panel, forum participants will explore biosecurity topics and aim to:

- Define the biosecurity approach and discuss examples of ‘best practice’ implementation.

- Discuss legislation, regulation and policy – how will changes impact on-ground weed management?
- Discuss roles and responsibilities, including for governments, industry and the general public.
- Explore knowledge gaps – what do weed managers and the community need to know about the biosecurity approach?

In a facilitated discussion, six biosecurity experts will respond to questions from the audience, as well as questions that will be sourced from weed managers from across Australia and New Zealand via an online survey. Information and ideas generated at the workshop will be collated and shared with all interested groups.

Keywords Biosecurity, weed management, community, engagement.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This discussion session is sponsored by the Council of Australasian Weed Societies. Thanks to the expert panel members for their participation.