

## **The Weed Spotters' Network Queensland: involving citizen scientists in the early detection of new and emerging weeds**

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**Summary** A significant time lag can exist between the initial naturalisation of a non-native species and its expansion to become an environmental weed. Detection of the weed in these early phases of expansion via active surveillance can make the difference between achieving eradication or instead, inheriting an ongoing, costly and time consuming management issue.

Members of the Weed Spotters' Network in Queensland are involved in active surveillance for new and emerging weed threats across the state. Participants are trained to help find, identify and document new occurrences of potential and existing weeds at an early stage so that appropriate and timely action can be taken.