

## **The New Invasive Plants and Animal (NIPAA) project: managing invasive plants at the early stage of invasion on public land in Victoria**

Kate Blood<sup>1</sup> and Rebecca James<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Environment and Primary Industries, PO Box 7, Beaufort, Victoria 3373

<sup>2</sup> Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Port Phillip Region, PO Box 500, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002

(rebecca.james@depi.vic.gov.au)

**Summary** Investigating the barriers that prevent action on early invaders has helped create a process and tools for weeds at the early stage of invasion in Victoria.

The New Invasive Plants and Animals (NIPAA) project has developed an easy-to-follow framework to guide public land managers through a decision making process. This framework is supported by a range of guides and tools to help answer questions such as: I found a new plant in my park, what do I do? Is this early invader in my reserve a high risk? How do I work out how far this early invader has spread? How do I prepare an eradication response plan?

The focus of the NIPAA project is the early intervention and localised eradication of high risk invasive species on public land in Victoria at any scale. It aims

to support, enable and build the capabilities of Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) and Parks Victoria staff working on early invaders that threaten biodiversity.

The series of guides focus on search and detection, naming and notification, risk assessment, site delimitation, decision response, and eradication response. Tools assist with species identification, species prioritisation, risk assessment, feasibility of eradication and the preparation of response plans. Through the establishment of several pilot areas in the State, NIPAA is testing and refining these guides and tools.

NIPAA is resourced by DEPI's Weeds and Pests on Public Land program and compliments Statewide biosecurity protection of agricultural assets and eradication at a Statewide scale.