

Emerging environmental weed issues for Western Australia

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Summary Weeds are dynamic, as are the issues and resources to address these weeds. The Western Australian Herbarium currently makes over 100 changes to the names and naturalization status of plant species in WA per year and is currently attempting to obtain clear definitions of what should be added (or deleted) as naturalized plants to the WA/Australian flora.

The Department of Parks and Wildlife has completed several major prioritizations of environmental weeds across the State to attempt to utilize resources efficiently at a regional level. However, since these reviews a large number of Ecological Communities are being listed by the Commonwealth in Western Australia. Several of these have weed issues that have not been addressed in the past (*Limonium* species, tall wheat grass). Also changing land practices in the rangelands and the shift to more intensive farming in tropical Australia is changing the potential for more

environmental weeds and conflicts with agricultural imports in these areas.

Community based and indigenous groups are increasingly becoming the front line in weed management as the government consists more of a declining and aging weed research/management cohort, where there is less active and passive surveillance of weeds in the field. The engagement and education of these groups needs to be a higher priority.

Finally increasing numbers of local native species are behaving as serious environmental weeds (*Typha orientalis* C.Presl.) under a changing climate and land uses. These are potentially challenging to control in natural ecosystems where native species are by default protected.

Keywords Environmental weeds, Western Australia, emerging issues.