

## Unpacking the ‘invasion curve’: a discussion and workshop session

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**Summary** Over the last ten years, there has been widespread adoption/recognition of the invasion curve (or biosecurity continuum) across Australasia. Given its importance in driving policy and legislation, this facilitated discussion forum and workshop will provide an opportunity to debate the validity and usefulness of the curve. Questions may include: How do we accurately portray the cost: benefits of management actions? For example, the current cost-benefit of asset-protection is said to be 1:1-5 however this may not reflect the biodiversity benefits gained by targeted weed management for biodiversity protection. Should the curve ‘taper down’ over time as we develop better ways to manage widespread weeds, such as a robust biocontrol agent? The benefits of eradication are said to outweigh the costs 25:1, however feasibility of eradication is often low, and few successful eradications exist on which to base this information.

- Would investment be better applied between the containment and asset-protection stages, (i.e. in the exponential growth stage) to stop a weed becoming widespread?
- How does scale factor in when using the curve (e.g. can local, regional, state or national decisions ‘feed up’ into overall management effectiveness)?
- Over 60% of Australia’s weeds are garden escapes, so by default may already be widespread: what is the relevance of the curve to these species?
- How does feasibility of control factor in when using the curve to determine actions?

Participants will first discuss the principles underlying the curve and determine key issues to be debated, then split into smaller groups to workshop key ideas to improve future application of the invasion curve.

**Keywords** Biosecurity continuum.

