

Relative effort calculation as a guide for regional weed investment

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Summary Biosecurity NSW has developed a risk-based funding process called the Relative Effort Calculator. This model considers weed risk potential as well as providing for Local Government's capacity to deliver basic compliance obligations - such as property inspections and surveillance.

The model analyses the comparative 'relative effort' of delivering weed management across NSW. Considerations include the relative difficulty of inspecting properties of different scales and the associated costs of travelling to visit those properties. The model also accounts for the influence of terrain on the costs of doing weed management and compares regional variation.

The third component of the model is a pathway analysis of where weeds are most likely to impact NSW. This part of the model assesses historical weed occurrence, climate modelling and the abundance of known vectors such as livestock movements, rivers, roads and fodder production.

The Relative Effort Calculator is potentially a powerful new tool to increase performance across the NSW and presents several benefits for weeds management including:

- Targeting weed resources where they are most needed,
- Quantifying comparative effort required across regions,
- Establishing a monetary value for what has traditionally been an in-kind contribution from Local Government,
- Providing the basis for a 'Compliance Standard' and performance measurement, and
- Creating a competitive and transparent management environment within Local Land Services regions.

Keywords Resource allocation, terrain modelling, weed risk.