

# Council of Australasian Weed Societies (Inc)



## Strategic Plan 2013 -2018

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## **CAWS vision**

CAWS is the Australasian, independent, representative voice for weed management in Australia and New Zealand providing leadership, advocacy, information and support to advance weed management.

## **CAWS objectives**

To encourage and foster the study and promotion of weed science and technology in Australia and New Zealand and in particular to:

- i. Provide independent, representative leadership for weed management in Australia and New Zealand, including weed science, policy, planning and operations
- ii. Initiate and maintain activities of national significance to meet Australian and/or New Zealand member's interests
- iii. Maintain the Australasian Weeds Conference and provide other activities for information exchange, networking and debate
- iv. Provide national and international policy positions, promote weed awareness and provide a capacity to respond to weed issues
- v. Support national and international weed publications
- vi. Provide national and international level services, products and engagement opportunities to individual members of member Societies

## **CAWS Strategic goals**

1. CAWS is recognised by government and the general community of Australia and New Zealand as an important, independent body regarding weed management issues.
2. CAWS promotes, supports and provides advice for weed related activities.
3. CAWS is a viable, effective and active body representing member societies.

## **Introduction**

CAWS is the international body in Australia and New Zealand representing and promoting the interests of its member societies and their members towards reducing the impacts of weeds.

Individuals and organisations with an interest in weeds are members of the following Australian State or New Zealand weed related societies, which in turn constitute all current members of CAWS:

- Weed Society of Queensland (Inc)
- Weed Society of New South Wales (Inc)
- Weed Society of Victoria (Inc)
- Tasmanian Weed Society (Inc)
- Weed Management Society of South Australia (Inc)
- Weeds Society of Western Australia (Inc)
- Plant Protection Society of New Zealand (Inc)

This strategic plan represents the views of all member societies, and outlines long-term goals and objectives that set the direction of CAWS activities for 2013-2018.

## **Strategic planning framework**

CAWS activities will be guided by this Strategic Plan and annual 'Action Plans' – one for each of the three strategic goals in this document. CAWS sub-committees will be responsible for developing and overseeing the implementation of these Action Plans. Each Action Plan will articulate potential initiatives and activities to achieve the respective strategic goal covered by that Action Plan.

The Strategic Plan will be reviewed every five years, and each of the Action Plans will be reviewed and updated annually. This will be done at a strategic planning meeting to be held in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of CAWS. Each subcommittee will critically examine the Action Plans and assess CAWS' performance against them.

Based on this analysis, the sub-committees will also develop and propose a new series of priority actions for each of the Action Plans, which when ratified by the CAWS Executive, will inform the direction of CAWS activities for the coming year. To ensure robust evaluation, each subcommittee will also present a brief review of progress towards Action Plan activities at each quarterly CAWS Executive meeting (teleconference).



## CAWS Strategic Planning Framework 2013-2018

To support this process, the Strategic Plan sets out the broad strategic direction of CAWS, and outlines a series of high-level, long-term strategic goals. The Action Plans will contain specific operational tasks that are shorter term, achievable with current resources, and have clearly defined accountabilities and measurable performance criteria. All activities outlined in the Strategic Plan and Action Plans should be subject to regular and thorough critical evaluation through the evaluation process outlined above.

## Strategic goals, actions and evaluation

Strategic goals	Strategic actions	Evaluation
What we want to achieve	How we will do it	How we know we have succeeded
<p><b>Communication</b></p> <p>CAWS is recognised by government and the general community of Australia and New Zealand as an important, independent body regarding weed issues</p>	<p>Strengthen networks and increase liaison with peak bodies, whose business is or includes the impact and management of weeds</p>	<p>Documented collaboration and two-way information flow occur between CAWS and other national weed bodies</p>
	<p>Develop, regularly update and promote the CAWS website as a key source of Australasian weeds information.</p>	<p>Number of users of the website and number of linkages to the website increase.</p>
<p><b>Advocacy and promotion</b></p> <p>CAWS promotes and supports weed related activities, and provides advice on relevant issues</p>	<p>Support the organisation of the Australasian Weeds Conference and other relevant national and international events.</p>	<p>Australasian Weeds Conferences are successful based on feed-back, number of delegates, finances.</p> <p>CAWS supports other national and international weed events.</p>
	<p>Promote and provide feedback on topical and relevant Australasian weed-related issues</p>	<p>Submissions and media efforts are made by CAWS</p>
	<p>Provide awards, grants and sponsorship for travel and weed-related activities</p>	<p>CAWS-sponsored students and professionals promote CAWS at a variety of functions</p>
<p><b>Organisational Development</b></p> <p>CAWS is a viable, effective and active body representing and supporting member societies</p>	<p>Assist member societies to maintain or improve membership.</p> <p>Promote CAWS internally and increase opportunities for all members to participate in CAWS activities</p>	<p>Membership is stable or increased.</p> <p>More individual society members take part in CAWS activities</p>
	<p>Maintain financial and operational viability of CAWS</p>	<p>Annual financial plan is developed, implemented and reviewed.</p>

## APPENDICES

### CAWS Action Plan templates

<b>Communication Annual Action Plan</b>					
<b>Goal:</b> <i>CAWS is recognised by government and the general community of Australia and New Zealand as an <b>important</b>, independent body regarding weed issues</i>					
<b>Strategic actions</b> (from Strategic Plan)	<b>Tasks and Activities to achieve strategic actions</b>	<b>Resources needed</b>	<b>Who is responsible?</b> (incl. lead role)	<b>Completion date</b>	<b>Performance indicators</b>

  

<b>Advocacy &amp; Promotion Annual Action Plan</b>					
<b>Goal:</b> <i>CAWS promotes and supports weed related activities, and provides advice on relevant issues</i>					
<b>Strategic actions</b> (from Strategic Plan)	<b>Tasks and Activities to achieve strategic actions</b>	<b>Resources needed</b>	<b>Who is responsible?</b> (incl. lead role)	<b>Completion date</b>	<b>Performance indicators</b>

**Organisational Development Annual Action Plan**

**Goal:** *CAWS is a viable, effective and active body representing and supporting member societies*

<b>Strategic actions</b> (from Strategic Plan)	<b>Tasks and Activities to achieve strategic actions</b>	<b>Resources needed</b>	<b>Who is responsible?</b> (incl. lead role)	<b>Completion date</b>	<b>Performance indicators</b>
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## History of CAWS

CAWS was formed at a meeting of state weed society representatives during the 1976 Australian Weeds Conference in Melbourne, and was then known as the Council of Australian Weed Science Societies (CAWSS). CAWSS was agreed as an organisation to provide national coordination between state member societies to meet the varied needs between states. Bill Haseler was elected as the first President.

CAWSS organised its first national conference in 1978, the First Conference of the Council of Australian Weed Science Societies. The Australian Weeds Conferences were organised at that time by the Australian Weeds Committee, an inter-governmental body composed of representatives from weed related State/Territory and Australian government departments. The success of the 1978 conference resulted in the Australian Weeds Committee handing responsibility for future Australian Weeds Conferences (AWC) to CAWSS.

Increased national activity in weed science and weed management, and an increased pool of funds enabled the AWC to be supported by CAWS on a biennial rather than triennial basis. The AWC has grown in size and prominence, with 469 delegates attending the 15<sup>th</sup> conference in Adelaide in 2006, and successful conferences organised biennially through to the 18<sup>th</sup> AWC in Melbourne in 2012.

CAWS has supports the publication of various weed related books and provides travel awards for students and early career weed scientists, as well as sponsoring CAWS Orators at weed related conferences. CAWS provides comment on national weed strategies and action plans, and in the past has contributed to the debate on invasive garden plants and other nationally important issues. CAWS supports national weed awareness activities, such as WeedBuster Week, and other initiatives where possible. A core activity for CAWS is to ensure the Australasian Weeds Conference is maintained as a national and international forum for the exchange of weed management knowledge and information.

## Definitions

The following definitions are used by CAWS:

- Member Society – a society that is a member of CAWS
- Member or society member – a member of a member society
- Weed management – all activities that directly or indirectly are aimed at preventing or reducing the impact of weeds; includes research, extension, communication, training, policy, planning and on-ground operations.
- Executive Committee – the CAWS executive committee