



Guide to nominating a nationally significant weed

Environment and Invasives Committee

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

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Introduction

The National Established Weed Priorities (NEWP) is a collaborative initiative between community, industry and government stakeholders to determine and address shared weed priorities, with the aim of reducing the spread and impacts of weeds in Australia.

Through this nomination process for nationally significant weeds, the Environment and Invasives Committee (EIC) are seeking to identify non-native weeds that:

- cause the most significant impacts (current and potential) on Australia’s natural environment, agricultural productivity, cultural values or community spaces
- have feasible management options to reduce these impacts
- have strong benefits and stakeholder support for taking a nationally coordinated approach to containing the species’ spread and improving its management.

Nominations will be assessed to determine approximately 8 nationally significant weeds to be included on the new national established weed priorities list.

Following approval by the National Biosecurity Committee (NBC), this list will be published on Weeds Australia. The list will include details of the nationally significant impacts, proposed management, and benefits from taking nationally coordinated action for each species.

At the conclusion of this process, government and non-government organisations will consider co-investing in new national established weed priorities to enable implementation of proposed management actions with stakeholders. The level of co-investment will determine the number of new Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) and number of discrete national management actions added to the National Established Weeds Action List (NEWAL). NBC would consider approval of any weed priorities to be identified as new WoNS or NEWAL actions.

To be classified as ‘nationally significant’, the weed must:

- have potential to impact more than one state or territory
- be of concern to more than one stakeholder group
- be listed as a priority by government, industry or community organisations in more than one state or territory
- have a demonstrated nationally significant impact, based on the species invasiveness, potential distribution and current and potential impacts.

Further, there must be:

- feasible management options to reduce the nationally significant impacts identified
- strong benefits and stakeholder support for taking a nationally coordinated approach to management.

To determine if your weed of concern could be considered nationally significant, see [Eligibility criteria](#) and the assessment criteria in [Step 3 Assessment](#).

Overview

Government and non-government organisations are invited to nominate a nationally significant weed under the National Established Weed Priorities initiative.

The process involves 4 steps:

- 1) Expression of interest (EOI) – Seeks to avoid duplicate nominations and join up organisations planning to nominate the same weed or group of closely related weeds.
- 2) Nomination – Requests supporting information on the weed or group of weeds for consideration in the assessment.
- 3) Assessment – Involves 2 stages
 - a) preliminary assessment to select approximately 30 nominations
 - b) detailed assessment of the selected nominations.
- 4) Review and approval – Supports a robust review and approval process, with oversight from the cross-sectoral NEWP Steering Group (NEWP SG).

EOI and nomination

You can nominate a single weed species or group of closely related weeds that are similar in life-form and management requirements.

EOIs must meet [eligibility criteria](#). Weeds that meet EOI criteria can be nominated in [Step 2](#).

Submit a separate EOI and nomination form for each weed or group of weeds.

Submission deadlines:

- EOIs – 9 pm (AEST), 20 September 2024 via the [EOI form](#)
- Nominations – 9 pm (AEDT), 12 January 2025 via the [nomination form](#).

You are encouraged to collaborate with other organisations to submit joint EOIs and nominations.

Assessment, review and approval

In the first stage of the assessment process, all nominations will be assessed against the [preliminary assessment criteria](#). Approximately 30 nominations that meet the criteria and present the highest merit will proceed to [detailed assessment](#).

Assessments will be reviewed and finalised by the NEWP SG, who will make recommendations to EIC, through the Weeds Working Group (WWG), on the weeds to be included on the national established weed priorities list.

The EIC will consider endorsement of approximately 8 new national established weed priorities, to progress to NBC for approval.

Use of information

A record of the information obtained through the nomination and any subsequent requests for information in relation to the process will be retained, and only used for the purposes of the nomination process, including the consideration of EOIs and the assessment of nominations.

In administering this process, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry will disclose information (including confidential information) in connection with either an EOI or nomination to assessors, committee members or other third parties for the purposes of this process, provided those persons have agreed to not disclose any confidential information included in those documents. The department will also require any person involved with the assessment of an EOI or nomination to sign a confidentiality agreement.

Time frame and enquires

The EIC is aiming to publish new national established weed priorities by late 2025.

The time frame required to assess nominations is subject to completeness and complexity of nominations and the number received.

For questions on this guide or the NEWP initiative, email weedpriorities@aff.gov.au.

Eligibility criteria

Who can apply

Government and non-government organisations with an ABN are eligible to nominate a weed.

Nominations will not be accepted from an individual or sole trader. Individuals will need to nominate through an organisation to demonstrate broader support.

Eligible weeds

To meet the threshold criteria, a nominated weed must:

- be a single species or small group of closely related species that are similar in life-form and management requirements (see Box 1)
- not be native to Australia
- not be [under national eradication](#)
- be established in at least one state or territory.

Box 1 Example of weeds similar in life-form and management requirements

Blackberry is a common name that covers many closely related species of *Rubus* from Europe, including 15 species naturalised in Australia. Previously these species were grouped under an aggregate name, *Rubus fruticosus*, but they are now considered separate species. While blackberry is already a Weed of National Significance, it provides an example of a group of species that are closely related, have broadly similar impacts and management requirements. A grouping of species of this kind would be eligible for consideration as a single group.

Species under national eradication

- *Limnocharis flava* (Yellow burrhead, Sawah lettuce)
- *Miconia calvescens* (Velvet tree)
- *Miconia nervosa*
- *Miconia racemosa*
- *Mikania micrantha* (Mile-a-minute, Mikania vine)
- *Striga asiatica* (Red witchweed)

Weeds in Australia

'Weed', for the purposes of this process, means a non-native plant that requires control to reduce its impact on the economy, environment, human health and amenity.

Weeds adversely affect our natural environment, agricultural productivity, cultural values, human health and community spaces. Weeds cost the Australian agricultural industry around \$4 billion annually in production losses and control costs.

Weed management is a shared responsibility between landholders, community, industry and governments.

Many established weeds are distributed across multiple states and territories. Some are only present in one state or territory but have the potential to spread. Slowing the spread of weeds and suppressing (reducing the density of existing infestations) provides net benefits, even when eradication and containment are no longer achievable.

Implementation of actions under the [Australian Weeds Strategy](#), including through WoNS, has demonstrated the benefits that can be realised through national coordinated action.

Weeds of National Significance

Under the [Australian Weeds Strategy](#), Australian governments have identified [32 WoNS](#) based on their invasiveness, potential distribution, impacts, feasibility of management intervention and benefits from national coordination.

Weeds of National Significance declarations aim to deliver targeted, strategic and nationally coordinated action to reduce the impact of established weeds.

The existing 32 WoNS are a focus for land managers around the country. Best practice resources to support sustained management by landholders are available from [Weeds Australia](#). The established nature of WoNS means they need ongoing management beyond the period of nationally coordinated action.

Evaluation of previous national coordinated action on WoNS found:

- increased capacity and capability to manage weeds
- partnerships that leveraged support
- improved resources and tools
- community participation
- new incursions of WoNS rapidly detected and contained to prevent further spread.

We are working to build on and increase these benefits by identifying nationally significant weeds that can benefit from nationally coordinated efforts.

National Established Weed Priorities

National Established Weed Priorities (NEWP) is a collaborative initiative to determine and address weed priorities through nationally coordinated actions. The initiative aims to reduce the spread and impacts of established weeds in Australia.

Pending co-investment from government, industry and community, NEWP will be delivered through 3 streams:

- 1) Weeds of National Significance (WoNS)– facilitates nationally coordinated action on priority established weed species.
- 2) Weed Issues of National Significance (WINS) – develops collective solutions to priority established weed issues.
- 3) National Established Weeds Action List (NEWAL) – facilitates management of discrete national priority actions, including actions for existing WoNS.

This nomination process will identify new national established weed priorities, that pending co-investment would become a WoNS or action under the NEWAL. A separate process will occur to determine WINS.

The NEWP is a key mechanism for implementing the [Australian Weeds Strategy](#) and to achieve action under the NBC [National Framework for the Management of Established Pests and Diseases of National Significance \(EPDNS\)](#).

The policy principles in the EPDNS have informed the NEWP design:

- Principle 1 – The most relevant approach is asset protection, and containment of established weeds.
- Principle 2 – The collaborative approach reflects the shared responsibility and cooperation needed between landholders, community, industry and governments to sustain efforts.
- Principle 3 – Co-investment between government and non-government organisations is sought to support industry and community leadership and actions, resulting in better outcomes.
- Principles 4 and 5 – Research, development and education are key components of NEWP, reflecting the need for innovation to support improvement in control tools and landholders understanding of and compliance with their responsibilities.
- Principles 6 and 7 – Weeds managed under ‘national coordinated action’ will have associated action plans to mitigate impacts and be reviewed at year 3 and year 5.

In 2023 the NBC approved implementation of the initial phase of the NEWP, which firstly focuses on determining new national established weed priorities.

Outcomes

NEWP, through WoNS, WINS and NEWAL actions, aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- Land managers effectively contain and suppress nationally significant weeds, facilitated by access to effective tools and training.
- Investment in control tools improves effectiveness of management.
- Coordinated action is supported at the local and regional level resulting in increased community collaboration that effectively contains and suppresses national priority weeds in targeted locations.
- Information sharing on NEWP strategic actions increases community awareness of the impact of weeds in Australia and benefits are realised through coordinated management.
- First Nations land managers and stakeholder groups are collaboratively working to implement strategic actions for nationally significant weeds.
- Commonwealth, state and territory government programs support land managers to control established weeds, prioritise investment towards national priority weeds, contributing to the resources needed for on-ground projects.
- Agricultural productivity improves through more effective control of priority weeds impacting the sector.
- Biodiversity improves through more effective control of priority weeds, including threatened species and ecological communities.
- Reduction in impact on First Nations cultural values through more effective control of priority weeds.

Roles and responsibilities

Project team

The project team is responsible for administering the processes outlined in this guide. The team comprises staff from the department, including from the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES), and state and territory government weed experts. CSIRO is providing support in their agreed capacity as a member of the WWG and the NEWP SG.

National Established Weed Priorities Steering Group

A NEWP SG is leading the overall implementation of NEWP. The NEWP SG provides strategic advice to the WWG, which is accountable to the EIC and NBC.

The NEWP SG is cross sectoral and brings together stakeholder views on managing weeds from government (Australian, state, territory and local), industry (agriculture, forestry) and community (First Nations representatives, natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, volunteer groups), with support from the science and research sector. Members of the NEWP SG represent their sector's views based on their experience and involvement in relevant networks.

The NEWP SG will oversee this nomination and assessment process for nationally significant weeds, including reviewing draft assessments, agreeing refinements where needed and making recommendations to the EIC, through WWG. Additional representatives will be invited to assist the NEWP SG in reviewing draft assessments if there are gaps in sector representation or expertise.

Environment and Invasives Committee and Weeds Working Group

The EIC, a sectoral committee of the NBC and the WWG, will provide recommendations to NBC.

The cross jurisdictional NBC established the EIC, who are responsible for providing national policy leadership on the identification, prevention and management of invasive plant, vertebrate and invertebrate species that adversely impact the environment, economy and community.

National Biosecurity Committee

The NBC will endorse the list of new national established weed priorities, which will be referred for consideration by the EIC based on outcomes from the assessment process. The NBC will also consider co-investment, with non-government organisations, to agree an NEWP investment plan.

The NBC is formally established under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity. It is responsible for managing a national, strategic approach to biosecurity threats. The core objective of the NBC is to promote cooperation and coordination between Australian governments.

Step 1 Expression of interest

The EOI process seeks to avoid duplicate nominations and join up organisations seeking to nominate the same weed to enable them to strengthen their nomination.

Submitting an EOI

Expressions of interest should be prepared using the EOI form and to meet the [eligibility criteria](#).

Submit a separate EOI form for each weed or group of weeds.

EOIs must be submitted by 9 pm (AEST), 20 September 2024.

By completing and submitting the EOI form, you consent to the contact details and weed species contained in the document being shared with other organisations who nominate the same weed.

Consideration of EOIs

For each EOI, the project team will:

- review the EOIs to determine if they meet the eligibility criteria
- identify EOIs for the same weed
- identify where EOIs for single weeds may be better grouped due to them being closely related and similar in life-form and management requirements.

If the project team recommends a variation to the group of species for an EOI containing multiple species, they will contact the lead organisation.

The project team will prepare advice for the NEWP SG to approve outcomes of the EOI process.

If the NEWP SG determine that the EOI does not meet all the eligibility criteria, the lead organisation will be notified via email about the reason that the weed will not be eligible for [Step 2 Nomination](#).

If the EOI meets the eligibility criteria, the lead organisation will be emailed to advise:

- that the EOI has met the eligibility criteria
- whether the weed is determined to be a stand-alone nomination, or part of a group of weeds closely related and similar in life-form and management requirements
- where other organisations have submitted an EOI for the same weed or group of weeds – providing organisation contact details and encouraging collaboration on a joint nomination.

Following completion of the EOI step, a list of weeds submitted through the EOI process deemed eligible to proceed to nomination will be listed on Weeds Australia's National Established Weed Priorities.

Step 2 Nomination

The [nomination form](#) requests key information necessary to assess the weed against national significance criteria.

If duplicate nominations are submitted, the information provided in each nomination will be used to assess the species.

First Nations engagement

You are encouraged to:

- engage with First Nations people to determine cultural impacts of the weed being nominated
- gain free, prior and informed consent before including information from First Nations people on the cultural impacts of a weed or including Indigenous organisations as a group member
- recognise and acknowledge continuing Indigenous ownership of the traditional knowledge, traditional cultural expressions and intellectual property rights of the First Nations content referenced.

Submitting a nomination

Nominations should be prepared using the [nomination form](#) and emailed to weedpriorities@aff.gov.au in PDF format.

Submit a separate nomination form for each species or group of weeds.

Nomination forms must be submitted by 9 pm (AEDT), 12 January 2025 to be considered.

The project team will acknowledge receipt of the nomination to the lead organisation's primary and secondary contacts.

Consideration of nominations

Following closure of the nomination period, nominations will be assessed against the preliminary assessment criteria defined in [Step 3 Assessment](#).

Step 3 Assessment

The assessment process consists of:

- [preliminary assessment](#)
- [detailed assessment](#).

All nominations will be assessed against the preliminary assessment criteria to determine those that meet the criteria and present the highest merit to proceed to detailed assessment.

The preliminary assessment has been designed to manage the potential for a large volume of nominations and to limit the number of nominations proceeding to detailed assessment.

Project resources will allow for detailed assessment of approximately 30 nominations.

Preliminary assessment

The project team will assess nominations received against the preliminary assessment criteria.

The project team may give a lead organisation the opportunity to clarify an omission or ambiguity in their nomination.

Criterion 1 Potential range of the species

To be considered nationally significant, the weed must have the potential to impact more than one state or territory.

This criterion is assessed through questions 9 and 10 of the nomination form:

- Q9 What is the current distribution of the weed in Australia?
- Q10 What is the potential distribution of the weed in Australia?

In providing evidence, you may wish to provide current species distribution maps from the [Atlas of Living Australia](#) (or other sources).

You may wish to provide supporting information for the species ecology, climatic requirements, land-use impacted and potential distribution maps if available from the literature as additional evidence against this criterion. Organisations are not expected to undertake species distribution modelling.

Criterion 2 Multiple stakeholders are needing to control the species to manage or prevent its impacts

To be considered nationally significant, the weed must impact multiple stakeholder groups.

This criterion is assessed against question 11 of the nomination form:

- Q11 Which land management groups are working to reduce the impacts of the weed?

You should include supporting evidence to demonstrate that the weed impacts on multiple stakeholder groups. This may include evidence from stakeholder organisations demonstrating why

the weed is of concern and efforts being undertaken to manage the weed, links to websites and relevant weed management strategies or plans.

Criterion 3 Government, industry and/or community organisations, including in more than one state or territory, have documented the species as a priority weed

The weed must be listed as a priority by government, industry and/or community organisations in more than one state or territory to be considered of national concern.

This criterion is assessed against the information provided in question 12 of the nomination form:

- Q12 Which organisations have documented the species as a priority weed?

You should include supporting evidence (e.g. priority or target lists of weeds of concern). List the government entity and/or non-government organisation name. Include links to websites, weed management strategies and plans to support your claims.

Criterion 4 There is sound evidence of significant impacts (economic, environmental, cultural, social) of the species

The weed must have a demonstrated nationally significant impact. National impact refers to impacts on one or more of the following according to the EPDNS:

- international market access and/or trade
- economic health of the nation
- human health
- natural environment and ecosystems
- infrastructure – causing disruption to more than one state or territory and substantial damage to or deterioration of infrastructure used by a significant proportion of people over an extensive area
- amenity of resource (such as public lands and waters) – that has the potential to affect more than one state or territory
- Australian culture, cultural assets, practice or custom or national image.

This criterion is assessed against the information provided in question 13 of the nomination form:

- Q13 What are the current and potential impacts of the weed?

You should include supporting evidence to demonstrate that the weed is causing nationally significant impacts and (if applicable) that the weed has the potential to cause further impacts. You may include evidence through a literature review and supporting evidence such as documents, reports, publications and testimonies that can be provided as attachments to the nomination.

Impacts could include:

- 1) Economic – impacts on yield (e.g. crop, pasture, forestry or other industries), animal production, weeds acting as alternative hosts for pests and diseases, increases in the cost of production or management, market access and product quality

- 2) Environmental – impacts on vegetation structure, biodiversity and ecosystem function
- 3) Social – impacts on human physical and mental health, social amenity (including services, infrastructure and non-First Nations cultural heritage)
- 4) Cultural – impacts on First Nations culture and cultural heritage (oral traditions, arts, rituals, ceremonies and knowledge; traditional subsistence and sustenance resources; and place-based heritage).

Criterion 5 There is likely to be strong benefits and stakeholder support for taking a nationally coordinated approach to containing the species' spread and improving its management

This criterion is assessed against the information provided in questions 14, 15 and 16 of the nomination form:

- Q14 What are the goals and actions that require national coordination to manage the weed?
- Q15 What benefits would a nationally coordinated approach bring to management of the weed?
- Q16 What are the barriers or challenges to applying a nationally coordinated management approach?

You should include supporting evidence of the likely benefits and stakeholder support for taking a nationally coordinated approach to containing the species spread and improving its management. Information may be provided through a literature review, and may include supporting evidence such as documents, reports, publications and testimonies that can be provided as attachments to the nomination.

Decisions and communication

Following preliminary assessment of all nominated weeds, the project team will provide recommendations to the NEWP SG and WWG, who will review the assessments and make the final decision on which weeds progress to detailed assessment.

The project team will notify the relevant lead organisation's (primary and secondary contacts) of the outcomes of the preliminary assessment and provide reasons for the decision.

The outcome of all nominations assessed will be published on Weeds Australia's National Established Weed Priorities after the relevant lead organisation has been advised in writing.

Detailed assessment

There are 3 main elements to the detailed assessment process, which align with the EPDNS criteria:

- 1) National significant impacts – this is an assessment of a species invasiveness, potential distribution and impacts (current and potential).
- 2) Feasibility of management – this is an assessment of the current management gaps for the weed and feasibility (including benefits and social acceptability) of potential management solutions.
- 3) Benefits from national coordination – this is a qualitative assessment to determine if there are sufficient benefits to taking a nationally coordinated approach to address the weed.

Information provided by organisations in their nomination form will be used to undertake assessments, in addition to independent information obtained by assessors.

National significant impacts

Invasiveness

ABARES will assess the invasive characteristics of a species.

The invasiveness criterion seeks to identify characteristics of a weed that enhance its invasiveness, such as its ability to colonise and establish, its growth and competitive ability, reproductive ability, and dispersal (human mediated and natural).

In assessing the criteria, ABARES will conduct a literature review and seek additional information from experts as required. Information on invasiveness characteristics provided by organisations in response to question 17 of their nomination form will be considered in informing the assessment.

Potential distribution

ABARES will assess the potential distribution.

Potential distribution (under current climate) will be modelled to inform what percentage of the potential distribution is currently occupied by the weed and therefore what is its scope for range expansion. Potential distribution due to climate change will be modelled under up-to-date climate change scenarios and will be compared with the weed's potential distribution (under current climate) to inform if the predicted range would contract, expand, or remain the same due to climate change.

Impacts

A panel of experts (guided by ABARES) will assess the current and potential economic, environmental, social and cultural impacts of a species. The panel will include representation from relevant stakeholder groups and First Nations people. Experts may include scientists (e.g. ecologists, weed scientists, agronomists, social scientists and risk analysts) and weed control practitioners (e.g. land managers, advisers, rangers and farmers).

The current and potential impacts of a weed will be assessed separately. Impacts are assessed across 4 categories:

- 1) Economic – impacts on yield (e.g. crop, pasture, forestry or other industries), animal production, weeds acting as alternative hosts for pests and diseases, increases in the cost of production or management, market access and product quality
- 2) Environmental – impacts on vegetation structure, biodiversity and ecosystem function
- 3) Social – impacts on human physical and mental health, social amenity (including services, infrastructure and non-First Nations cultural heritage)
- 4) Cultural – impacts on First Nations culture and cultural heritage (oral traditions, arts, rituals, ceremonies and knowledge; traditional subsistence and sustenance resources; and place-based heritage).

In assessing this criteria, individual experts will consider the impacts of a weed (magnitude and extent), though the overall impact of a weed will be informed by a panel of experts. Experts may use their own knowledge and conduct their own literature review to support their assessment. ABARES will provide experts with current and potential distribution maps to help assess the extent of

impacts. Information on the impacts of a weed provided by organisations in question 13 of their nomination form will be provided to experts to assist them in making an informed assessment.

Feasibility of management

This will be assessed by state and territory government representatives from the WWG, who may consult within their organisations where needed on nominated weeds, with support from CSIRO in its capacity as a WWG member, followed by a review by the NEWP SG. The representatives will have expertise in weed management (on-ground control, research, asset protection, awareness and communication), social political context of weed (stakeholders views and willingness to manage weed), and policy and regulatory frameworks.

This is an assessment of the current management gaps for the weed and whether there are feasible potential management solutions. An assessment of the social acceptability for the potential management solutions will be undertaken, including consideration of any benefits (economic, environmental, social or cultural) of the weed, as well as whether there are benefits (or potential conflicts) from undertaking the proposed management solutions in a nationally coordinated manner.

In assessing this criterion, the assessors may consider their own knowledge, draw on additional expertise as well as conduct their own literature review to support their assessment. Information provided by organisations in their nomination form will be provided to the assessors to help inform their assessment of the feasibility of management. This includes responses to questions 18, 19, 20 and 21 of the nomination form:

- Q18 How is the weed currently being managed through existing strategies, plans or processes?
- Q19 What is the effectiveness of current chemical, biological and mechanical control options for the weed?
- Q20 What other control options could be implemented to improve effectiveness of management?
- Q21 What is the likely level of cooperation among stakeholders and land management groups to collaboratively manage the weed?

Benefits from national coordination

This will be assessed by the same representatives (or their nominated proxy) as [Feasibility of management](#).

The weed must meet the EPDNS criteria of 'Benefits from national coordination'. This criterion requires that there be a clearly demonstrable benefit from a nationally coordinated approach or plan that outlines the action to be undertaken by all responsible parties. An established weed may have (or potentially have), significant impacts in one or more regions, but would not be considered as an established weed of national significance if no particular benefit can be demonstrated by taking a nationally coordinated approach or having a national plan.

This includes consideration of:

- whether a national plan is needed and if there is support for a strategic plan from multiple stakeholders

- whether collaboration is needed between government, industry and community stakeholders to implement the national plan
- whether implementation of the national plan would require action across more than one state or territory
- whether the national plan would bring public benefits

In assessing this criterion, assessors will undertake a qualitative analysis to determine whether there would be sufficient benefits from taking a nationally coordinated approach to manage the weed.

Information provided by organisations in their nomination form will be provided to the assessors to help inform their assessment of benefits from national coordination. This includes responses to questions 14, 15 and 16 of the nomination form:

- Q14 What are the goals and actions that require national coordination to manage the weed?
- Q15 What benefits would a nationally coordinated approach bring to management of the weed?
- Q16 What are the barriers or challenges to applying a national coordinated management approach?

Weeds recommended for national coordinated action

The 3 EPDNS criteria combine to determine those weeds that are recommended for national coordinated action, whereby:

- 1) there is economic, social, cultural and/or environmental benefit in taking action (i.e. nationally significant impacts avoided or reduced)
- 2) the proposed management approach is technically feasible and practical
- 3) there is a clear benefit from, or requirement for, a nationally coordinated action or approach.

The project team will prepare advice for the NEWP SG, providing the draft assessments against the 3 EPDNS criteria for approximately 30 nominations. Where a nominated weed has identified benefits (e.g., as a pasture species) with differing views on the need to manage, and the proposed management actions could impact on land managers (beyond what is required under current jurisdictional biosecurity requirements), any recommendations would focus on opportunities to improve management for the whole community and recognise the need for further consultation with key stakeholder groups.

The NEWP SG will review the assessments and any refinements will be completed by the project team. The NEWP SG, through the WWG will then recommend to EIC the nationally significant weeds for consideration as priorities under NEWP.

Assessment report

The project team with the NEWP SG will prepare an assessment report. This will be a compilation of the nomination and assessment processes, including number of EOIs, number of nominations, number of nominations that proceeded beyond preliminary assessment and new national established weed priorities recommended for national coordinated action.

Following endorsement, the assessment report will be made publicly available.

Step 4 Review and approval

The assessment report will be considered and endorsed by the governance committees and a briefing will be provided to EIC and NBC to agree the new national established weed priorities list.

This list will be published on Weeds Australia following approval by NBC. Details may include:

- weed species (scientific and common name)
- where it is found
- what it looks like
- declared status in Australian states and territories
- summary of nationally significant impacts (current and potential)
- how it is managed
- proposed management approach and benefits from national coordinated action.

All lead organisations who submitted a nomination will be advised of the outcome.

Co-investment and implementation

After conclusion of this process, government and non-government organisations will consider co-investing in new national established weed priorities, with the scale of investment determining the number of new WoNS or discrete national actions to be listed on the NEWAL that are proposed for national coordinated action.

An estimate of the investment required to implement nationally coordinated action for the agreed new national established weed priorities, and recommended delivery approaches, will be prepared.

Negotiations will be progressed with government and non-government organisations to co-contribute to implementation, in recognition of shared benefits across sectors.

Following consideration by government and non-government organisations on the level of support and scale of investment, the NEWP SG will provide advice through to NBC on the weeds included on the list of established weed priorities to be identified by Australian governments as WoNS or NEWAL actions for approval.

Potential regulatory mechanisms for new WoNS will be considered in line with EPDNS principles. Unlike the existing WoNS, states and territories may choose not to introduce or amend regulation for any new WoNS if there is no benefit.

Once agreed, the scale of implementation will be published by Weeds Australia and communicated to stakeholders through various channels.

National coordinated action will include development of strategic plans for new WoNS or listing of discrete national actions on the NEWAL.

Each strategic plan will share common goals, but the objectives and strategic actions will be specific to the needs of individual weed priorities and will be developed by taskforces in consultation with broader stakeholder groups.

Probity

Probity principles require the conduct of open, fair, accountable and consistent processes. The probity principles applied through this process aim to assure all parties of the integrity of the decision-making process. The probity principles include:

- honesty and impartiality
- identification and management of conflicts of interest
- appropriate security and confidentiality arrangements
- consistency, fairness and due diligence
- transparency
- maintaining an appropriate audit trail
- compliance with legal and policy frameworks.

For queries about the probity of this nomination process, email weedpriorities@aff.gov.au.

Conditions of nomination

In administering this process, the project team, in consultation with the NEWP Steering Group, may:

- accept a late EOI or nomination form after the closing date, or accept an amended EOI or nomination form after submission –probity advice would be sought by the project team to uphold fairness.
- amend or vary this process, in consultation with the WWG and EIC – the updated guide would be published on Weeds Australia.

The department will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by an organisation because of participating in the nomination process contained in this guide.

The information in the EOI and nomination may be made available to the public (except for personal information and any information specifically identified by you as confidential and you have explained why the department should treat that information as confidential, including an explanation as to how disclosing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else).

Your details (lead organisation, member organisations, primary and secondary contact person details) will be used in accordance with the privacy notice in the EOI and nomination form. Subject to paragraph (1), any information identified as confidential information will not be released and will remain confidential.

- 1) In addition to individuals involved with any stage of the process outlined in this guide, the department may also disclose confidential information included in an EOI or nomination:
 - a) to the Auditor-General, Commonwealth Ombudsman or Australian Information Commissioner
 - b) to the responsible minister
 - c) for public accountability reasons, including to a House or committee of the Australian Parliament, or
 - d) if the information is already in the public domain other than due to a breach of confidence.

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about the initiative, are subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

Glossary

Term	Definition
ABARES	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences – a division of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.
assessors	Individuals involved in applying the eligibility criteria, preliminary assessment or detailed assessment.
AWS	Australian Weeds Strategy 2017 – 2027
detailed assessment	The second stage of assessment, limited to approximately 30 nominations that proceed beyond preliminary assessment.
EIC	Environment and Invasives Committee
eligibility criteria	The criteria applied to determine EOI eligibility.
EOI	Expression of interest
EPDNS	Established Pests and Diseases of National Significance
established weed	An exotic, naturalised plant whose spread and persistence has made it technically unfeasible to be eradicate from Australia.
group members	The organisations who support the EOI or nomination with the lead organisation.
lead organisation	The organisation who is submitting the EOI form or nomination form.
lead organisation primary contact	The person nominated by the lead organisation as the primary contact for the EOI or nomination (to receive information and respond to enquires).
lead organisation secondary contact	The person nominated by the lead organisation as the secondary contact for the EOI or nomination (to receive information and respond to enquires).
NBC	National Biosecurity Committee
NEWP	National Established Weed Priorities
NEWP SG	National Established Weed Priorities Steering Group
NEWAL	National Established Weeds Action List
nomination	The supporting information on the weed or group of weeds for consideration in the assessment.
preliminary assessment	Stage 1 of the assessment, applied to all nominations to determine those that proceed to detailed assessment.
preliminary assessment criteria	The preliminary assessment criteria that will be applied to determine merit of the nomination to proceed to detailed assessment.
project team	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and state and territory government staff responsible for administration of the process.
weed species	means a single species or group of closely related weeds
WoNS	Weeds of National Significance
WWG	Weeds Working Group (of EIC)