

# Area wide management for cropping systems weeds



## Area wide management for weeds

It is well known that weeds, seeds and herbicide resistance genes have the potential to move across farm boundaries and between different land uses.

In Australia, a range of agricultural enterprises, such as horticulture, viticulture, and grain, inevitably share boundaries with each other and public land, making weed identification and management an issue across industries and for various land managers. So, while the weeds are shared, what isn't always shared, is the understanding, motivation or obligation to manage weeds with the same common goal.

The traditional approach to tackling weeds has been at a paddock or farm scale. Now a novel, new project Area Wide Management (AWM) for cropping systems weeds is investigating the agronomic, economic and social benefits of tackling the problem of weeds across farm boundaries with the involvement of multiple land managers and stakeholders.

## Who is involved?

This project is about bringing together land managers from various production industries and working with government and community weed managers to identify key weeds, trial collaborative management practices, assist in herbicide resistance sampling, and investigate the social hurdles to effectively working together.

The pilot project is working across three focus areas: the Darling Downs, the Riverina and Sunraysia. These regional groups will work with highly-regarded researchers and research organisations to assess impact at economic, agronomic, environmental and social levels.

## What is the aim?

The main aim is to reduce the spread and cost of controlling key weeds for all stakeholders. Therefore, the project is looking at the economic benefits and costs of area-wide weed management, as well as the practicality of a coordinated approach in reducing weed populations and spread across the landscape.

The work will also investigate the social hurdles that deter people from becoming involved in collaborative weed management across local areas.

Understanding these key principles, which influence successful area wide weed management, may allow localised approaches to be effectively developed in other regions of Australia.

## How can I find out more?

Anyone interested in or involved with weed management is welcome to be part of the project. Each region has a dedicated project co-ordinator, who will host community meetings and field days as part of this research. To find out more contact:

Darling Downs: Rebecca Kirby - 0427 952 336, [millmerranlandcare@bigpond.com](mailto:millmerranlandcare@bigpond.com)

Riverina: Iva Quarisa - 0402 069 643, [iva@irec.org.au](mailto:iva@irec.org.au)

Sunraysia: Tanja Morgan - 0429 395 918, [tanja.morgan@msfp.org.au](mailto:tanja.morgan@msfp.org.au)

Research and development partners involved with the project include Grains Research and Development Corporation, Cotton Research and Development Corporation, AgriFutures Australia, CSIRO, University of Queensland, University of Adelaide, University of Wollongong, Mallee Sustainable Farming, Millmerran Landcare Group, Irrigation Research & Extension Committee Inc, together with Wine Australia, the Toowoomba Regional Council and a range of additional local industry organisations.

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**WATCH:** Scan the QR code to view the video 'Taking an area wide management approach for cropping systems weeds'.

