



Priority Activities of the Taskforce in 2005

The following is a list of priority activities the National Chilean needle grass Taskforce deemed important in 2005. All activities listed are in accord with the actions contained in the National Strategy for Chilean needle grass. The list also appears in the order of priority (ie. the first activity is considered most important and so on).

1. Development of a Best Practice Management Guide for Chilean needle grass, as there is currently no comprehensive management advice that is applicable nationally for the control of this weed. The Guide should include information on the identification of the weed, and how to control it in different situations, with a focus on integrated weed control methods.
2. Continue research into biological control agents presently identified as potential agents for the broadscale control of Chilean needle grass (and other *Nassella* species). Biological control represents our best chance at significantly reducing CNG infestations at minimal cost and without negative environmental effects.
3. Continue to investigate how various management tools – chemical control, soil fertility management, plant competition and fire – can be best utilised in combination to provide long-term and sustainable control of Chilean needle grass. Research outcomes will feed into the Best Practice Guide, and allow for the development of a decision support tool to aid land managers in determining suitable treatments for particular situations.
4. Promote methods for reducing the spread of Chilean needle grass, such as through novel technologies and the Enviromark indicators developed by Greening Tasmania.
5. Communicate the key messages associated with Chilean needle grass, as outlined in the *Communication Strategy for National Chilean needle grass Management* (recently produced and endorsed by the National Chilean needle grass Taskforce).
6. Develop a national mapping system for Weeds of National Significance, allowing community, local government, utilities, and others to input data on weed distributions through links on the Weeds Australia website (www.weeds.org.au).