

Weeds of National Significance



WILLOW WORKSHOPS

Sept 06 – April 07

Supported by the State Government of Victoria.



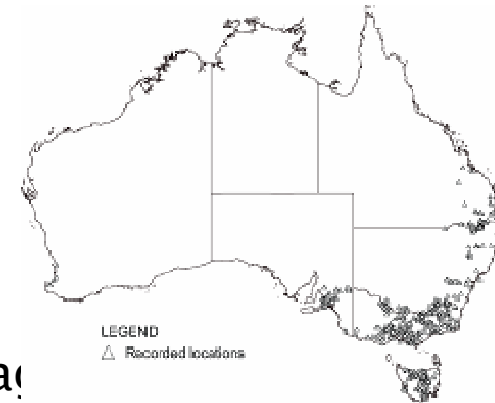
Department of
Primary Industries



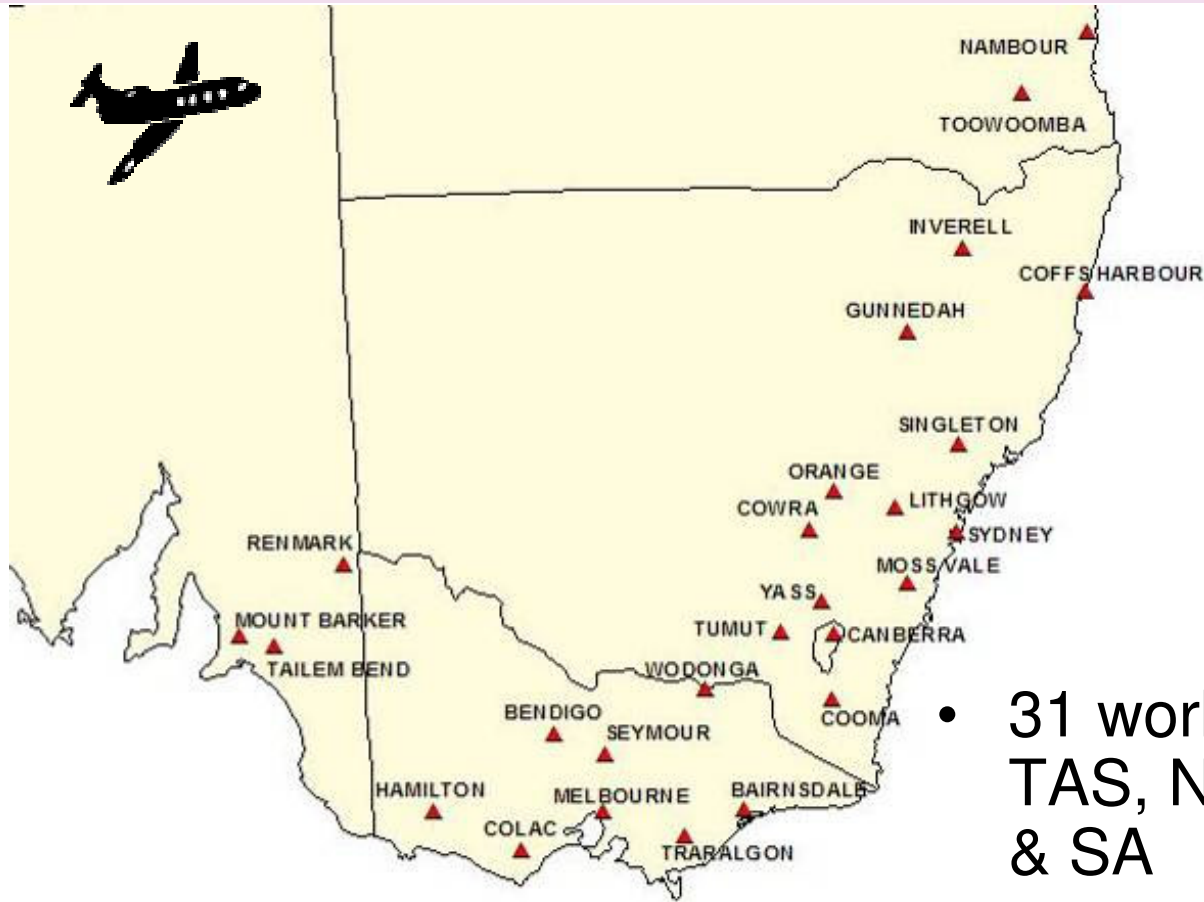
Australian Government

Developing Willow Management Priorities

- Workshops in every willow affected CMA/NRM region across Australia
- Workshop topics included;
 - National Willows Program
 - Willow Identification
 - Willow Sawfly
 - Willow Mapping & priorities for willow management
- Update regional mapping data of willows
- Weed Risk Assessment of 32 willow taxa
- Priority actions for willow management
 - reports to each state and CMA/NRM region
 - maps of distribution and potential spread



Where were the workshops?



- 31 workshops in VIC, TAS, NSW, QLD, ACT & SA



- 2 workshops in WA in May

Who did we reach?

- 538 willow managers have participated to date
- 29 CMA / NRM regions engaged
- Target audience included;
 - CMA & NRM agency staff
 - Council weeds officers
 - State government weeds officers & policy staff
 - Parks rangers
 - Waterwatch facilitators
 - Landcare facilitators & group members
 - Local NRM group representatives
 - Non profit organisations eg. Greening Australia
 - Contractors
 - Consultants
 - Landholders
 - Other WONs coordinators



What practitioners want to know?

Biology, ecology & water use

- What makes willows weedy in southern hemisphere and not in northern hemisphere?
- Can we use willows as quick colonisers ie. the Peter Andrews way to improve degraded waterways?
- Does water use of willows vary according to taxa?



What practitioners want to know?

Spread & hybridisation of willows



- Does seed viability vary with different taxa?
- How far can the pollen and seed of different willows spread?
- How close do males and females need to be in order to produce viable seed?
- What is the potential of *S. babylonica* hybridising and spreading by seed?

What practitioners want to know?

Willow management techniques



- What is the best chemical treatment in terms of effectiveness?
- Is the control method used species-specific?
- Can you foliar spray willows? And in what situations?
- What is the best time of the year to kill willows?
- What is the most effective method of disposal of the wood?



What practitioners want to know?

Sawfly

- Can sawfly kill trees?
- Have trees died from sawfly attack in Australia yet?
- To what extent will sawfly attack the same taxa in different regions? What causes the variation?
- What implications does sawfly have for management?
 - Effectiveness of techniques?
 - Revegetation prior to removal?
 - Prevent or facilitate the spread of willows?



What practitioners want to know?

Community education

- How do you explain the impacts of willows to community? What are the top four?



Re-vegetation

- Which are the best native species to plant after removal to stabilise the banks?
- Are there before and after studies available of improvements in river health eg. Increase in aquatic and terrestrial spp. post willow removal and revegetation?

Challenge to You.....

How can we implement these questions and others posed throughout today into future research?