

# Weeds of National Significance



## WILLOW WORKSHOPS

Sept 06 – April 07

*Supported by the State Government of Victoria.*



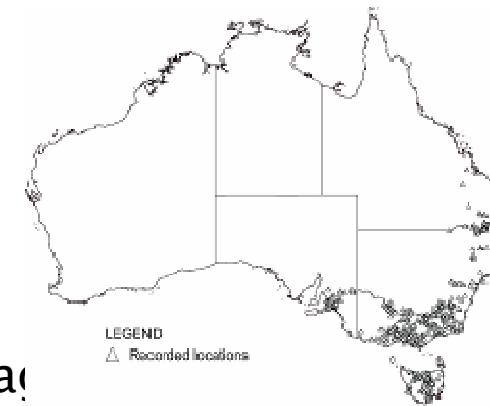
Department of  
Primary Industries



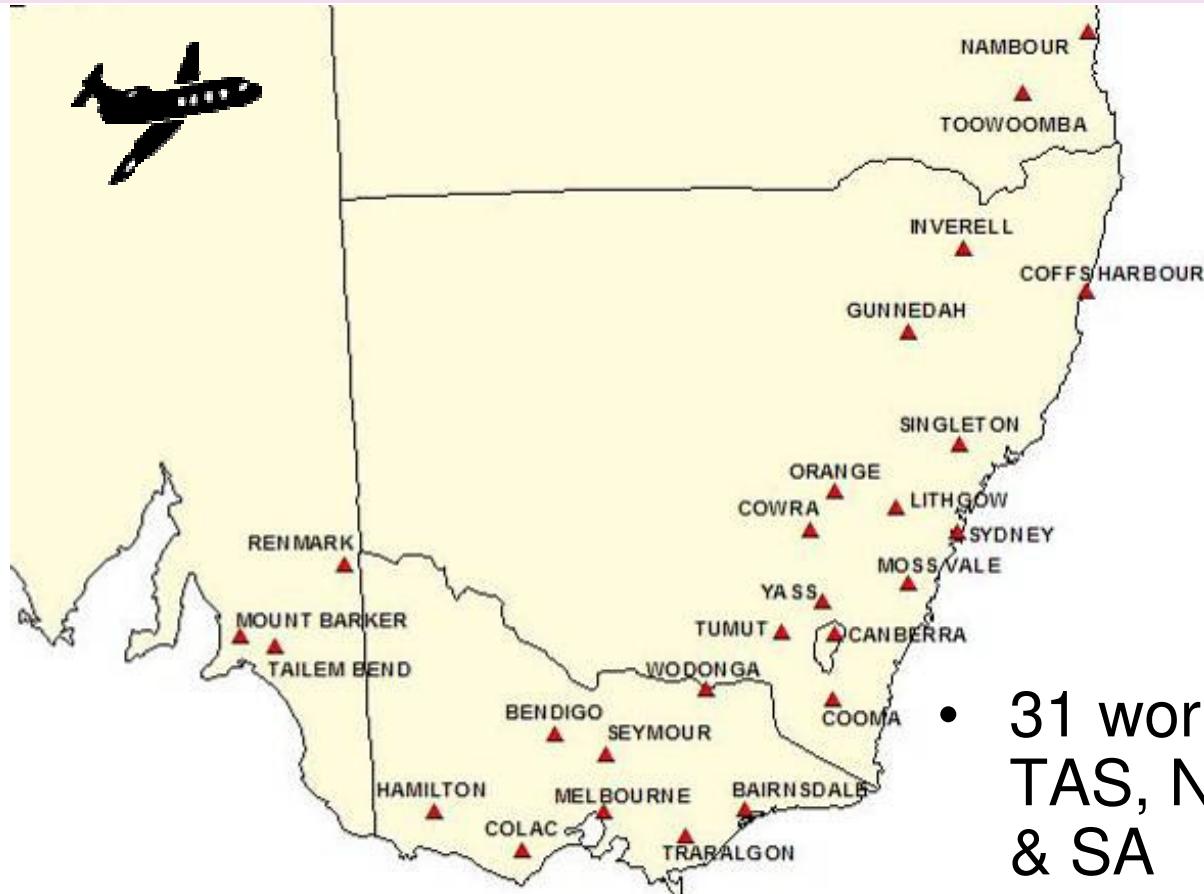
**Australian Government**

# 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?*