

WILLOWS National Priority Framework 2009-11

Stop the spread

Manage existing areas

Gain community support

Priority



- ★ Continue mapping new areas and update existing information on willow distribution (2.1.1)
- ★ Ensure reliable identification of willows is achieved (2.1.2, 2.1.7).

- ★ Control priority willows to protect national, state, regional or local assets (2.2.6)
- ★ Investigate options for willows biocontrol (2.2.3)
- ★ Seek consistency of declaration status of willows between jurisdictions
- ★ Investigate an appropriate decision support system for on-ground willow management (2.1.1, 2.2.2).

- ★ Continue to implement communication strategy (2.3.1).
- ★ Report on the outcomes and progress of the Willow Strategic Plan (2.3.2).

Priority



- ★ Determine appropriate alternative plants to willows (2.1.6).
- ★ Develop and implement a package for early detection and rapid response to new willow threats (2.1.7)

- ★ Facilitate adoption, and where appropriate assess and improve willow management techniques (2.1.8, 2.2.3, 2.2.4, 2.2.6).
- ★ Harness and share knowledge and expertise of trained staff and willow experts to improve knowledge of willow management across regions

- ★ Promote willow management sites with appropriate restoration and follow up management (2.3.3).
- ★ Measure community attitudes to willows (2.2.6, 2.3.1).

Priorities are based on the National Strategy. Numbers in brackets correspond to actions in the National Strategy. See detailed information sheet on next page.

Priority



- ★ Raise awareness not to buy or plant invasive willows (2.1.5, 2.1.6, 2.1.8)
- ★ Conduct research on willows in outlying climatic areas and environments
- ★ Work with AQIS to prevent the importation of willows into Australia (2.1.9)

- ★ Improve knowledge of seeding taxa (2.2.1)
- ★ Monitor and review willow research priorities as needed

- ★ Increase understanding of the willow problem in urban areas and within the nursery industry (2.2.6).

Priorities are based on the National Strategy. Numbers in brackets correspond to actions in the National Strategy. See detailed information sheet on next page.

Information regarding the WILLOWS National Priority Framework

In 1999, willows (except *S. babylonica*, *S. x calodendron* and *S. x reichardtii*) were listed as one of Australia's 20 Weeds of National Significance (WoNS). To help guide national coordination, the National Willows Strategic Plan was developed.

This framework is divided into 3 sections, each of which reflects one of the three goals in the National Willows Strategic Plan:

1. Stop the spread of willows
2. Manage existing areas of willows
3. Gain community support in managing the willow problem

This document provides further detail regarding each action contained in the framework. Priorities were developed by the *National Willows Taskforce* and are based on the National Willows Strategy. Numbers correspond to actions in the National Strategy.

Stop the spread

Priority 1

- Encourage regions to continue mapping new areas and update existing information on willow distribution, to improve and update our knowledge to:
 - Adjust weed risk assessment results and adapt our priorities as new mapping and willow impact information becomes available
 - set up a system to maintain currency of willows maps and encourage willow managers to continue mapping efforts (2.1.1)
- Ensure reliable identification and mapping of willows is achieved:
 - Continue to develop skills of land and water managers in willow identification; including regions running own willows training workshops using national willows workshops training kit.
 - Develop a train the trainer model for administering willow workshops.
 - Develop and implement genetic markers to improve willow identification, aid mapping and control efforts. Particularly for differentiating hybrids and willows of different priorities such as the 3 exempt WoNS taxa (*S. babylonica*, *S. x reichardtii* and *S. calodendron*) to aid identification (2.1.2, 2.1.7).

Priority 2

- Determine appropriate alternative plants to willows, including documenting current alternatives to willows for various scenarios and conducting further research to develop additional alternatives (2.1.6).

Priority 3

- Raise awareness amongst public and land managers not to buy or plant invasive willows (2.1.5; 2.1.6; 2.1.8).
- Conduct research to determine what distribution changes may occur under climate change predictions, including obtaining information on willows in outlying climatic areas and environments.
- Work with AQIS to prevent the importation of willows into Australia (2.1.9)

Manage existing areas

Priority 1

- Control priority willows as identified in the “developing willow management priorities from the local to the national level” prioritisation matrices, maps and toolkit, to protect national, state, regional or local assets (2.2.6).
 - Encourage use and adoption of regional prioritisation matrices for planning willow control and implementation of recommendations under “Developing willow management priorities from the local to the national level” report (see “Summary of State and Territory Recommendations for on-ground willow management; and Summary of National Recommendations for willow management).
 - Encourage adoption of Willows National Management Guide and use of developing willow management priorities CD toolkit (2.2.4).
 - Distribution and promotion of willow management DVD.
- Investigate options for willows biocontrol, including undertaking an options study and apply research to introduce biocontrol agents for willows (2.2.3).
- Seek consistency of declaration status of willows between jurisdictions to improve the consistency of willow legislation across all states and territories, in line with developing willow management priorities legislative recommendations (2.2.6).
 - Where possible encourage a review of status and level of enforcement for high risk willows, such as seeding willows.
 - Seek consistency for enforced willow management on public and private land, especially where willows impact critical assets (eg world heritage sites, Ramsar wetlands)
- Investigate an appropriate decision support system to aid on-ground willow management and enable management programs to be more effectively targeted towards asset protection as well as highest risk willows (2.1.1, 2.2.2).

Priority 2

- Facilitate adoption, and where appropriate assess and improve willow management techniques
 - Determine best methods and promote ongoing monitoring of the changes in stream and riparian ecology before and after willow control e.g. monitoring of macroinvertebrates and other indicators (2.1.8, 2.3.1, 2.3.3).
 - Continue to understand the dynamics and impacts of the willow sawfly and other natural enemies present in Australia and their implications for willow management (2.2.3).
 - Evaluate the impact of willow management prior and post-removal (2.1.8, 2.2.3, 2.2.4, 2.2.6).
- Harness and share knowledge and expertise of trained staff and willow experts to improve knowledge of willow management across regions, including National Research Forum/s (2.2.2, 2.2.4, 2.2.6).

Priority 3

- Improve knowledge of seeding willows (including dispersal patterns, seed viability, adult life span; 2.1.2).
- Improve coordination of willow management between land managers and management areas
- Monitor and review willow research priorities as needed

Gain community support

Priority 1

- Continue to implement communication strategy and raise awareness of willows through promotion of current resources and development of new materials that target priority species and areas (including willow free areas) defined in the weed risk assessment (2.3.1), including:

- disseminate information relating to willows and their management (2.3.5)
- improve awareness of willow impacts and understanding of the process of willow removal programs.
- Report on the outcomes and progress of the Willow Strategic Plan (2.3.2).

Priority 2

- Measure community attitudes to willows (2.2.6, 2.3.1).
- Promote willow management sites with appropriate restoration and follow up management

Priority 3

- Increase understanding of the willow problem in urban areas and within the nursery industry (2.2.6).