

Meet the National Willows Taskforce...

The National Willows Taskforce was established in August 2005 in order to facilitate progress towards the National Willows Strategic Plan (NWS).

The role of the National Willows Taskforce is to:

- Coordinate the implementation of the NWS and monitor progress.
- Coordinate specific planning activities necessary to achieve progress on the goals and actions identified in the NWS.
- Provide guidance, direction, policy advice and funding priorities for the management of willows through implementation of the NWS.
- Identify new issues and priorities for the management of willows and provide information on new strategic directions.
- Identify and set priorities for funding and identify funding sources consistent with the goals outlined in the National Strategy.
- Participate in an annual review of the National Strategy and identify opportunities for improvement.
- Report annually on progress against the NWS to the Australian Weeds Committee and all key stakeholders.
- Establish linkages between all levels of government, regional bodies and other stakeholders.
- Encourage national action and raise the profile of willows across Australia.
- Set a benchmark by which success may be measured for identified indicators such as legislation status, mapping, control activity and community awareness.

Current members of the National Willows Taskforce are:



Community Chair

Drew English

Regional Manager

Conservation Volunteers Australia ACT and south-east NSW branch



Tasmania State Government

Karen Stewart

Regional Weed Management Officer

Department of Primary Industries and Water

"I represent Tasmania's Department of Primary Industries and Water, where my position is Regional Weed Management Officer for the North West region based in Devonport. The role involves incursion management, regulatory activities, and support for the implementation of the recent Cradle Coast Regional Weed Management Strategy among numerous other tasks. I am also a representative on the National Gorse Taskforce. Crack willow is a common feature of the Tasmanian landscape, and its control has been the focus of many community rivercare projects. In the last few years the detection of seeding willow populations has highlighted a potential future problem. Eradication of these populations is a high priority in Tasmania. The National Willow Taskforce has an important role to provide strategic direction for management in Australia and guidance for all levels of government and community."

Victorian State Government

Andrew Hodges
Statewide Weeds Project Coordinator
Department of Sustainability and Environment

Victorian Catchment Management Authorities

Malcolm Gibson
Operations Manager
West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

Australian Capital Territory Government

Stefanie Straub
Manager, Environmental Management
Parks and Places

New South Wales State Government

Sydney Lisle
State Weed Control Coordinator
Department of Primary Industries New South Wales



New South Wales Regional Weeds Advisory Groups

Paula Ash
Riverina Noxious Weeds Project Officer
Eastern and Western Riverina Noxious Weeds Advisory Groups
(ERNWAG & WRNWAG)

" My role is to coordinate weed management activities across the 25 Local Council Areas (LCAs) and 7 Rural Land Protection Boards (RLPBs) in the Riverina and provide executive and technical support to the LCAs, RLPBs and noxious weeds advisory groups. I also work closely with the Murray, Murrumbidgee and Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs). I am currently in the process of developing Regional Weed Strategies based on CMA boundaries, with willows being an issue right across the Riverina and NSW, particularly seeding willows. An eradication program for black willow is currently under way in the Tumut region. My role on the taskforce is important to ensure the flow of information occurs in both directions, from on the ground in NSW up to the national taskforce level. Willows are hybridising so rapidly that it is important that the operators are kept current with national best practice as well as the high risk willow species. Consistency, cooperation and coordination are the keys to effective willow management."



South Australian Government

Dennis Gannaway
South Australian WoNS & National Asparagus Weed Management
Coordinator
Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation

"My role on the taskforce is to ensure that South Australia is represented at the National scale so projects can be developed to prevent future incursions into the State. The position is important so that current best practice developed interstate for the management of willows is disseminated to decision-makers within South Australia to ensure that current infestations are managed effectively."

Queensland State Government

Phil Maher

Senior Project Officer (Strategic Weed Control)
Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water

Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management



Eligio Bruzzese
Research Director
Department of Primary Industries Victoria

Mr. Eligio Bruzzese (B. Agr. Sc.) is Statewide Leader Weed Sciences, responsible for scientific leadership in weed management R&D in the Victorian Department of Primary Industries. He is also Centre Manager of the DPI Frankston Centre. Eligio has 10 years experience in R&D management and a total of 30 years experience in integrated weed management, at the practical, research, education and policy level. He is a national and international expert in weed management and the rehabilitation of infested land and has extensive knowledge in biosecurity and invasive species management. He is a contributor to the Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management, a weed policy and weed research adviser to the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment and a weed research adviser to the Victorian Catchment Management Council's Weed Policy Committee.

Nursery and Garden Industry of Australia (NGIA)

Rebecca Dawson
National Environmental Policy Manager
Nursery and Garden Industry of Australia



Department of Environment and Heritage
Shareen Wall
Vegetation Management Policy Section –
Willows, bridal creeper, bitou bush and boneseed
Department of Environment and Heritage



National Weeds Management Facilitator
John Thorp
Private consultant
Funded under the Natural Heritage Trust and supervised by the
Australian Government Departments of the Environment and
Heritage, and Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry.



National Willows Taskforce Executive Officer
Sarah Holland Clift
National Willows Coordinator
Department of Primary Industries Victoria

'My role is to help facilitate progress towards the goals of the *Weeds of National Significance National Strategic Plan for Willows* that will lead to improved conservation and resource management outcomes relating to the integrated management of willows across Australia. I am constantly striving to make contact with people across Australia who are working with or are affected by willows, in order to: provide a coordinated focus to willow management; foster a national information sharing network; ensure that all willow infestations are recorded and included in the national action plan; increase public awareness; and promote best practice management.