

FINAL Methodology for prioritising WAP1520 project partner applications

Version 16th September 2015

BACKGROUND

The NSW Weeds Action Program 2015-2020 (WAP1520) is in place to assist the NSW Government to reduce the impact of weeds under the NSW Biosecurity Strategy 2013-2021 and the NSW Invasive Species Plan 2015-2020 (ISP). The WAP1520 is an outcomes based program where each and every activity funded clearly contributes to achieving the weed outcomes of the ISP.

The ISP has four goals:

Goal 1: Exclude – prevent the establishment of new invasive species

Goal 2: Eradicate or contain – eliminate, or prevent the spread of new invasive species

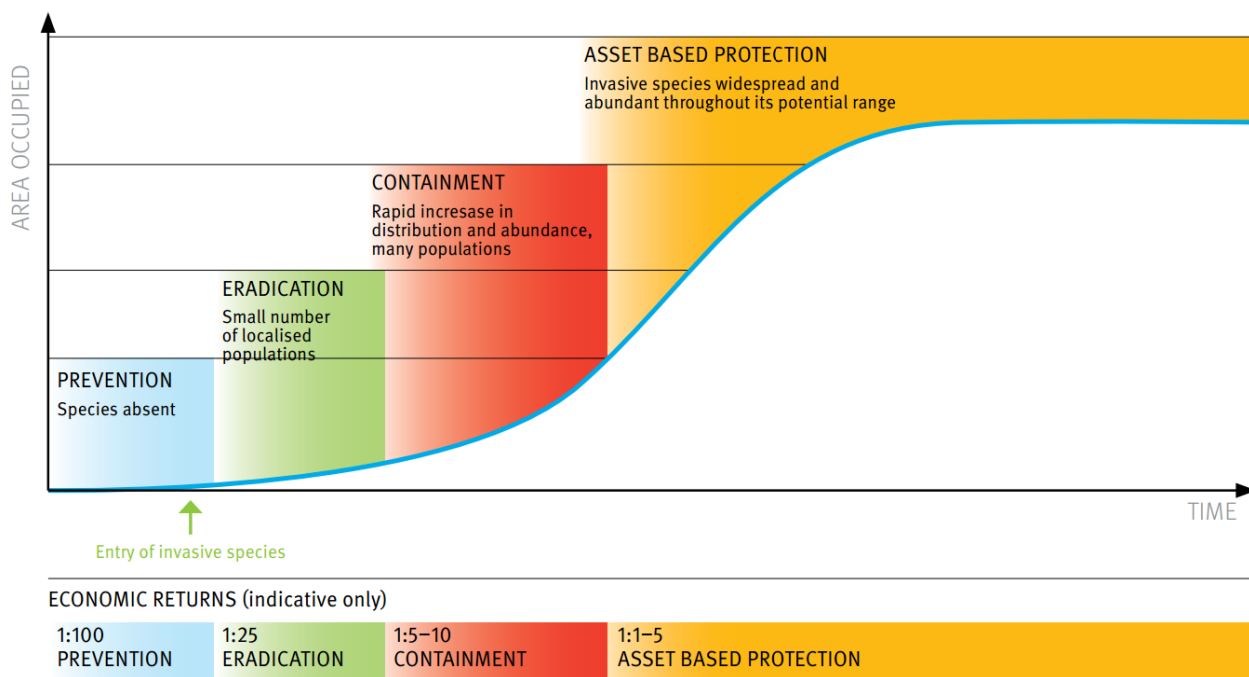
Goal 3: Effectively manage – reduce the impact of widespread invasive species

Goal 4: Capacity Building – ensure that NSW has the ability and commitment to manage invasive species.

The WAP1520 targets funds at these four ISP goals in the priority in which they appear.

The aim of the WAP1520 grant application assessment panel is to prioritise projects and activities in accordance with the:

1. NSW Invasive Species Plan goals (above),
2. Invasion curve (below), and the
3. regional high risk weeds list.



The above diagram illustrates the weed invasion curve and the relationship between the stages of invasion, the level of effective control that could be expected and the likely return. Grant funds are to be prioritised towards activities where the economic return on investment is highest; that is at the beginning of the invasion curve.

Thus according to the invasion curve and ISP priorities, WAP1520 grant funds for on-ground activities should be directed in the following priority:

1. Prevention and early detection (i.e. inspections and surveillance)
2. Eradication
3. Containment
4. Assess Based Protection

Capacity Building activities are designed to build the skills, knowledge, ability and intent of both the general community and of practitioners within the weed control industry. These projects should be prioritised somewhere below Eradication and above Asset Based Protection.

The following factors should be considered if projects cannot otherwise be differentiated:

- value for money in terms of targets achieved
- agency co-contribution commitment (cash and in-kind contributions)
- cooperative arrangements made between agencies e.g. cost-sharing arrangements
- contribution to project from partners such as industry groups, Landcare groups, educational institutions and other public authorities

This document outlines the process by which the WAP1520 grant applications are to be assessed.

PROCESS

1. Consider need for contingency

Reach agreement on whether a contingency budget should be held aside by the Lead Agency to address new incursions and, if so, what figure or percentage of the annual or total budget should be held aside as contingency.

2. Review mandatory outcomes

Review mandatory project outcomes. Reach agreement on budget required to deliver these outcomes.

3. Review administration costs

Confirm administration costs. These are costs associated with administering the WAP project and include the WAP Project Officer salary, superannuation, workers compensation costs, project operating costs and the Lead Agency administration fee and should not exceed 10% of the overall WAP grant.

-----Confirm how much funding is available for project partner grant allocations-----

\$ available for allocation = Total grant allocation – (Contingency +Mandatory Outcomes + Administration Costs)

4. Review proposed Prevention & early detection activities

Approve all proposed inspections and surveillance activities (\$508,915).

5. Review proposed Eradication and Containment activities

Approve all proposed Eradication and Containment activities that aim to eradicate Class 1 and 2 noxious weeds, and those weeds classed “B” on the regional high risk weeds list. Consider activities that aim to control Class 3 noxious weeds that are located in the upper reaches of catchments with potential to spread readily across a wide area.

-----Confirm how much funding is available for remaining activities-----

6. Review proposed Asset Based Protection activities

Review all proposed Asset Based Protection activities. Approve all proposed activities that aim to control Class 1 or 2 noxious weeds.

7. Review proposed Capacity Building activities

Review all proposed Capacity Building projects to identify savings, particularly in relation to staff training, the biennial NSW weeds conference and metadata policy projects. Reach agreement on which projects are definitely approved and how to prioritise activities.

-----Review whether any funding is available for remaining activities-----

6. Review unfunded activities

If any funds remain available, consider projects that target Class 3 noxious weeds and/or Category C on the high risk weeds list. Prioritise projects that are aimed at preventing the weed from spreading to other areas or at minimising the abundance of the weed. For example, aquatic weeds around boat ramps and/or at the top of catchments.

Methodology approved and authorised by all panel members on Wednesday 16th September, 2015.

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