

Invasive Native Scrub Research Program

Research Project Five: Classifying and Mapping Invasive Native Scrub

What is this project about?

This project involves developing a method to identify, classify and map Invasive Native Scrub (INS) across a portion of the Central West catchment.

Vegetation mapping undertaken to date in the catchment area has not identified, classified or mapped INS, and has not distinguished between different densities of vegetation.

In this project, satellite imagery will be used to quantify vegetation cover, and this will be overlaid with existing vegetation maps. Field sampling will then be conducted to 'ground truth' the judgements made from satellite images.

The final product will be an indicative map of areas with INS.

This project is being carried out by Jason Cummings from GHD.



Why is it being done?

The purpose of the study is to:

- classify INS in Central West catchment according to vegetation type and condition
- determine the extent of INS in the study area
- identify priorities for managing INS
- determine how and where to apply specific management practices available for INS.

The maps developed will assist the process of delivering incentives to manage INS. The indicative INS layers can be overlaid with property boundaries and other environmental variables to help focus incentives towards priority areas.



How can I be involved?

Landholders are invited to contribute to the project through providing advice on, and access to, locations that we can sample that contain INS or don't have INS present. We need to examine a range of landscapes and vegetation types.

We will be able to, in turn, provide landholders with information on the vegetation types on their property.

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About the overall INS Research Program

A range of research and communication projects dealing with Invasive Native Scrub (INS) are being undertaken in central-west and western NSW. This is a serious issue across the region and can have an adverse impact on habitats, wider landscape health, communities and farming operations.

The research program builds on community involvement, landholder knowledge and scientific research to complement and update previous INS studies.

It will ultimately lead to a better understanding of how INS treatment options vary between areas and need to be accommodated. Our intent is that regulations, incentives and advice will facilitate rather than constrain good practice.

The overall product will be a resource outlining what we

have learned from landholders and the research projects – what INS management techniques work under different circumstances.

This resource will provide a means of distributing research findings widely amongst landholders, government agencies and policy-makers alike.

Preliminary information is expected to be released mid-2008.

Various researchers and organisations are running the research projects and the overall program is coordinated by the Central West and Western Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs).

Want to be involved?

We are keen to work with the farming community on these projects and hope you are able to help. Local knowledge and experience, and access to INS sites for research are vital to the success of the program.

To be involved or updated on the program's progress, please contact the Central West CMA:

Email: Rodney.campbell@cma.nsw.gov.au

Fax: 02 6881 3401

Post: PO Box 2105, Dubbo NSW 2830

Phone: 02 6881 3430

Your details:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Area of interest:

- General interest in INS
- Interested in INS management information
- Have INS sites on my property available for research
- Would like to share experiences in managing INS
- Would like to share examples of INS treatment
- Other _____

Your personal information will remain within the Central West and Western Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) and will not be divulged to other organisations.