

# Invasive Native Scrub Research Program

## Research Project Three: Managing rangeland vegetation with fire

### What is this project about?

Fire has an important role in shaping native vegetation communities in Australia. There is ample evidence that since European settlement there have been great changes in the timing, intensity and frequency of fires throughout much of Australia.

Research points toward the change in fire regimes (particularly the decline in the incidence of fire) as a major factor contributing to the widespread phenomenon of woody invasion. Whilst this evidence suggests that a reintroduction of burning may be a useful approach to managing Invasive Native Scrub (INS), for various reasons it has not been widely adopted in western NSW.

However, fire is becoming more attractive as the cost of other treatments rises. Additionally, improved control of grazing pressure through TGP fencing and water-point management opens the option to burn when seasonal conditions permit.

This project has three main tasks:

- (1) To work with landholders to document their knowledge and case studies on the use of fire for managing INS, including identification of the barriers to its use.
- (2) To review regional and global scientific information on the management of rangeland vegetation with fire.
- (3) To produce information for landholders on best management principles for managing rangeland vegetation with fire, combining landholder knowledge, case studies and scientific research.

This project is being managed by Brian Dohnt from the Western Catchment Management Authority (CMA).

### Why is it being done?

This project aims to understand what factors influence landholder's attitudes to fire. It will document case studies and present guidelines for the use of fire to manage native vegetation in pastoral systems for both environmental and production values.



### How can I be involved?

Landholders can participate through sharing their knowledge on fire and the history of wildfires or controlled burns on their properties; participating in workshops; providing access to areas where burns may be conducted for the monitoring of outcomes; as well as supporting demonstration burns.

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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:

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Fax: 02 6881 3401

Post: PO Box 2105, Dubbo NSW 2830

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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.