

Invasive Native Scrub Research Program

Research Project Four: Landholder Knowledge of Invasive Native Scrub Management

What is this project about?

The aim of the Landholder Knowledge Project is to record information from a cross-section of landholders in the Cobar Penepplain Area who have had experience in managing the impacts of Invasive Native Scrub (INS).

In particular, the project aims to record in detail the management techniques that have been used by local landholders to reduce INS density in order to maintain the economic viability of their enterprises.

The Landholder Knowledge Project also aims to record the use of INS management techniques that have failed to reduce the density of INS in the longer term, or may have led to an increase in the severity of the problem.

This information will come from on-farm interviews and will be supported by photographs showing before and after the INS management. Quantitative economical details of the various techniques will also be incorporated.

The project is being run by Geoff Cunningham, Managing Director and Principal Ecologist of Geoff Cunningham Natural Resource Consultants Pty Ltd (GCNRC).

Why is it being done?

Landholders hold a significant and valuable bank of knowledge in managing INS. This project documents this knowledge about INS management techniques and their effectiveness under a range of conditions and vegetation types.

This information will be made available to the wider landholder community to help effective INS management.

How can I be involved?

A number of landholders have been interviewed by Geoff Cunningham and preliminary results have been developed. This information will be used to form general recommendations of what management techniques have been effective.

Landholders are invited to share specific examples of where INS management has and hasn't been effective, and possible reasons why.



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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.