

Invasive Native Scrub Research Program

Overall Research Program

What is this program about?

A range of research and communication projects are being undertaken across the central-west and western regions of NSW that deal with Invasive Native Scrub (INS).

INS comprises native shrubs and trees that are listed as INS species, and have either regenerated thickly following disturbance or have encroached on vegetation communities where they previously didn't occur.

This issue can have a serious adverse impact on habitats, wider landscape health, communities and farming operations.

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

The program incorporates the knowledge and advice of farmers in several ways, including having members of the landholder community on the program's Advisory Committee.

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

Why is it being done?

This research 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 the program has 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.



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What are the various projects?

The specific research projects and researchers are as follows:

1. Soil erosion - Carlos Munoz (University of New England). This project investigates relationships between soil erosion processes and INS management.
2. Soil function - Matt Tighe (University of New England). This project investigates relationships between soil health/function and INS management.
3. Fire management - Brian Dohnt (Western CMA). This project investigates using fire to manage INS and the factors influencing landholder use of fire as a management tool.
4. Landholder knowledge - Geoff Cunningham (Geoff Cunningham Natural Resource Consultants). This project investigates and records landholders' knowledge and experience in managing INS.
5. Classification and mapping - Jason Cummings (GHD). This project classifies types and categories of INS, maps areas affected by INS and recommends priority regions for management.
6. Biodiversity - Veronica and Erik Doerr (CSIRO). This pilot project investigates relationships between the patterns of INS and open areas across the landscape. It takes a new perspective on how birds use different kinds of habitat across the whole landscape, including INS, woodland and open areas.
7. Case studies of INS treatment - includes research by the Namoi CMA and Yohannes Alemseged (Department of Primary Industries). This project looks at examples of INS, and examines the case for treatment and likelihood of success. It also examines short-term cropping as a management tool.

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.