



SCRUBBED UP

An update on the Invasive Native Scrub Research Program

Issue 1 - September 2007

Highlights:

Suite of INS related projects being implemented across central-west and western NSW.

Range of researchers and organisations carrying out research. Field work is commencing.

Landholder consultation workshops beginning late September.

Preliminary end-product to be released mid-2008.

Welcome to the first issue of Scrubbed Up – a regular newsletter for those involved or interested in the Invasive Native Scrub (INS) Research Program.

This program is being undertaken across the central-west and western regions of NSW and addresses gaps in knowledge of INS management.

It is a collaborative exercise between Central West, Western and Namoi CMAs; universities; consultants; government departments and landholders.

This newsletter will give you a two-minute update of the various INS projects and their state of play. Feel free to forward this to others who may also be interested.

Cheers,

Carolyn Raine
Chair

INS Research Program Management Team

Team members - Carolyn Raine (Central West CMA), Russell Grant (Western CMA), Brian Wilson (DECC), Sue Briggs (DECC), Gary Howling (DECC)

About the INS Research Program

A program of research and communication projects is being undertaken in the central-west and western regions of NSW dealing with Invasive Native Scrub.

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 research will ultimately lead to a better understanding of how INS treatment options vary between areas and how these treatments can be accommodated. Our intent is that regulations, incentives and advice will facilitate good practice.

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

The projects are being run by a range of researchers, and are being coordinated by the Central West and Western Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs).

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.

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.



New South Wales
Government



Australian Government



Project updates as at September 2007:

Soil erosion

- This project looks at relationships between soil erosion/ processes and INS management.
- UNE PhD researcher Carlos Munoz has examined a number of potential study sites and met with landholders across the Nyngan-Cobar region.

Soil function project

- This project looks at relationships between soil function/health and INS management
- UNE post-doctorate researcher Matthew Tighe has visited a number of potential INS study sites across the Nyngan-Cobar region.

Landholder knowledge

- This project investigates and records landholders' knowledge and experience in managing INS.
- Researcher Geoff Cunningham is currently surveying landholders regarding their INS management experiences.

Fire management

- This project investigates using fire to manage INS and the factors influencing landholder use of fire as a management tool.
- Brian Dohnt has recently been appointed to the Western CMA to carry out this research.
- Brian has begun initial consultation with local landholders and other stakeholders in the Cobar region.

Case studies

- This project looks at examples of INS, and examines the case for treatment and likelihood of success.
- A study by the NSW Department of Primary Industries examining short-term cropping as a management tool has been included in the case studies project.

Biodiversity

- 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.
- CSIRO researchers Veronica and Erik Doerr are currently choosing sites across the study area and will be undertaking their field research in October 2007 and April 2008.

Classification and mapping

- This project classifies types and categories of INS, maps areas of INS, and recommends priority regions for management.
- Researcher Jason Cummings (GHD Consultants) is currently setting up the project and field sites in consultation with CMAs.

Principles of effective INS management

- 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.
- May include printed material, case studies, field days, etc.
- Initial landholder consultation workshops beginning late-September.

For more information about the INS Research Program, or to added or removed from this list, contact:

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