

PROJECT FACT SHEET: Insights into cross-tenure weed data collection and sharing Pest and Partnership (PAP) State Government Grant between the VSTWP, VGT and VBT

Project Purpose: Improving how we track and share information on invasive plants

Invasive species like serrated tussock, gorse, and blackberries pose a major threat to Victoria's biodiversity and agricultural productivity. While many landholders and agencies manage these weeds, they often use different mapping and recording systems. This project was established to:

- Identify the barriers preventing different land managers from sharing weed data.
- Determine the most effective digital tools and processes to support cross-tenure weed management.
- Recommend a path forward to ensure that on-ground control efforts are coordinated and strategic.

Key Findings

- **Widespread Monitoring:** 69% of survey respondents currently record weed species.
- **Primary Motivations:** Data is most commonly collected to inform where control work is needed (80%) and to assess the effectiveness of that work (74%).
- **Barriers to Participation:** For those not collecting data, the biggest hurdles are a lack of resources (42%) and not knowing how to record the information (27%).
- **Digital Shift:** Most managers (65%) now use digital methods. Popular applications include **iNaturalist** (24%), **ArcGIS Field Maps** (22%), and **WeedScan**.
- **Collaboration Gaps:** While 73% of people have shared data in the past, inconsistencies in data formats and privacy concerns remain significant obstacles to a truly statewide view.

Recommended Actions for Landholders/Landmanagers

To improve weed management on your property and across your region, consider the following actions:

1. **Adopt Verified Digital Tools:** Use mobile applications like **WeedScan** or **iNaturalist**. These tools are user-friendly and feed data into the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA), which helps the government decide where to invest in environmental projects.
2. **Standardize Your Records:** When mapping weeds, aim to record at least the **species name, mapped location, and type of control work applied** (e.g., sprayed or removed).
3. **Engage with Local Networks:** Participate in regional networking events or forums hosted by Community Pest Management Groups (CPMGs).
4. **Request Support:** If you want to record data but lack the resources or technical know-how, reach out to your local Landcare facilitator for guidance on accessible data collection.

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