Weed Proofing Australia:
A Way Forward on Invasive Garden Plants

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Talk Outline

- Setting the Scene
- A Way Forward: 10 Point Plan
Escaped Invasive Garden Plants – Who Pays?

Farmers – Over $100m/yr
Escaped Invasive Garden Plants – Who Pays?

National Park agencies/taxpayers – $millions/yr
Escaped Invasive Garden Plants – Who Pays?

Bushcare/ Landcare groups and volunteers give 1,000s of hours
Escaped Invasive Garden Plants – Who Pays?

Environmental cost of Lippia – over 5 million ha
A Way Forward: A 10 Point Plan

Features:

- Effective outcomes
- Least cost
- Strategic and systematic
- Stable and orderly transition plan
- Consultative

Will Deliver:

- Certainty for industry
- Effective response to mitigate risk
- Enhance industry reputation
- Create new markets for low risk garden plants
1. Close Australia’s Front Door to New Weeds

Morning Glory (*Ipomoea Indica*) invading bushland.

Move bans import of invasive Pitted Morning Glory (*Ipomoea lacunosa*), and over 4,000 weeds not yet in Australia. 120,000 others OK.
2. Provide Certainty on Weed Status

- National List of Invasive Plant Species
  - Build on Weed Categories List
3. Know what invasive plants in recent trade

- **National audit** of referenced invasive plants in recent trade

- **National shadow list** of high risk grazing, cropping and environmental weeds in recent trade
4. More knowledge

- More research into why and what plants become invasive

- More research to produce genuine sterile cultivars
5. Build Industry and Community Capacity

- Garden industry capacity building and training
- National Weed Information System / Portal
6. Mobilise Garden Industry

- Garden industry policies
  - Duty of care
  - Codes of practice
  - Targets and outcomes
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<th>National List of Invasive Plant Species</th>
<th>High Risk Plant Species</th>
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<td>Low Risk Plant Species</td>
<td>National Permitted Plant List (New)</td>
<td>Voluntary ‘Grow Me Instead’ Labelling Scheme</td>
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Consumers have a:

• Right to know

• Need to know
Consumers have a:

- **Right to know**
  - Product disclosure
- **Need to know**
  - ‘Care’ information

Also reduces industry civil liability risk
National Labelling Standard and Scheme

Supported by:

- Nursery and Industry Association of Australia
- Australian Institute of Horticulture
- The Garden Clubs of Australia
- Council of Weed Societies
- Number of State governments (in principle)
- WWF-Australia
8. Phase out supply of high risk plants

National Invasive Garden Plant Accord
9. Increase Demand for Low-risk Plants

- Education and Awareness
- Grow Me Instead Labelling
- Garden Plant Replacement Schemes
10. Mobilise People to Search and Destroy

National Weed Alert Early Warning and Rapid Response System

- Find new infestations of high risk invasive garden plants
- Eradicate known Yellow Soldier (*Lachenalia reflexa*)
Summing Up: Superb Opportunity

- Stable and orderly transition process
- Collaborative
- Reduces industry civil liability risk
- Create new markets for low risk plants
- Achieves lasting triple bottom line outcomes
For more information:

• Weed Proofing Australia: a way forward on invasive garden plants
• Weed Proofing Australia: making the new Australian Weed Strategy Work
• CSIRO Jumping the Garden Fence
• Etc…