



## What is Weedbusters?

Weedbusters is an annual awareness campaign that works with the community to increase public involvement in weed management, education and awareness projects.

### The history of Weedbusters

Weedbusters started in 1994 as Queensland Weed Awareness Week. In 1995 and 1996 it became Weedbuster Day, with thousands of people participating in events throughout the State. NSW also held Weed Awareness Weeks in 1986, 1990 and 1996.

In 1997 the campaign went national with Weedbuster supported by the Australian Government, all State and Territory Governments and the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Australian Weed Management.

Weedbuster Week is held in the first week of September nationally. Each year hundreds of events are held by individuals, schools, community groups and local and state governments each year.

The Weedbusters program has been taken up in New Zealand and South Africa, and other countries have expressed interest in running their own Weedbuster campaigns.

Events range from award ceremonies; weed clean-ups on farms, in creeks and bushland areas; field days and machinery demonstrations; weed seminars or weed identification walks; displays at shopping centres, libraries and local councils, and competitions.

Although much Weedbuster activity occurs in early September, weed awareness events can be held at any time to highlight weed messages throughout the year under the banner of Weedbusters.

### The aims of Weedbusters:

1. To raise awareness and increase public understanding about the problems weeds cause
2. Help the public make the connection between their gardening, farming or grazing practices and potential land and environmental degradation.
3. Provide the public with the information and skills required to play a responsible role in the sustaining use of the land and water resources and ultimately make the necessary changes in behaviour to help the environment.
4. Foster community ownership of problems resulting in acceptance and support for weed management projects.
5. Recognise efforts of volunteers / community groups / local governments in areas of excellent weed management.

### Participating organisations

Weedbusters is run nationally by participating governments and organisations, including:

- Australian Government Defeating the Weeds Menace program  
(Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry and the Department of Environment and Water Resources)
- Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
- New South Wales Department of Primary Industries
- Victoria Department of Primary Industries
- Tasmania Department of Primary Industries and Water
- South Australia Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation
- Western Australia Department of Agriculture and Food
- Northern Territory Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts
- ACT Department of Territory and Municipal Services
- Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Australian Weed Management