

WEEDS ACTION FUND

West Coast Weed Management Plan

The Tasmanian Weeds Action Fund (WAF) is a \$6.4 million state government initiative that supports farmers and other community organisations tackle weeds impacting valuable agricultural and environmental assets across the state.



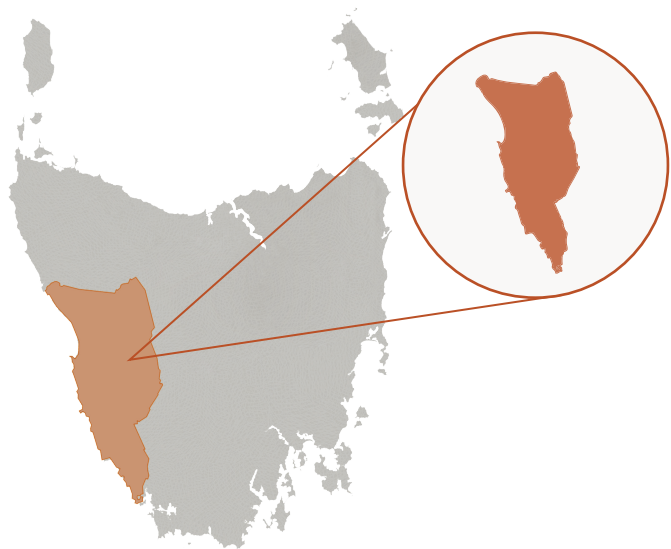
CASE STUDY

Shared responsibility

Underpinning the WAF is the concept of ‘shared responsibility’. Landowners, local government, and the community are encouraged to work together to identify and, where possible, eradicate priority weeds.

The initiative is also designed to support and drive shared responsibility through co-investment (of cash or in-kind resources) for the life of the program and beyond, to achieve long-term outcomes.

Project snapshot



WHERE

West Coast municipality

WHO

Enviro-dynamics on behalf of multiple stakeholders

ACTIONS

- Development of a weed management plan for the West Coast municipality
- Existing programs and priorities to mitigate weed threats will be considered
- A stakeholder working group will be established to consider individual weed threats, weed pathways, and best-practice management priorities
- Surveys of public roads and other forms of data collection will be conducted to build an understanding of weed distribution



Weeds Action Fund Objectives

- Improve the productive value of agricultural land and protect Tasmania’s natural values by removing the harmful effects of serious weed threats
- Support landowners, local government and the broader community to make sustainable, long-term and effective actions to address high priority weeds with eradication as a key objective
- Ensure there is a strong coordinated link between the different levels of government and the Tasmanian community in tackling serious weeds

At 9,962 square kilometres, the West Coast municipality is Tasmania’s largest Local Government Area. It contains some of Tasmania’s most iconic scenery, with a diverse range of landscapes from spectacular coastline to temperate rainforests and rugged mountain ranges. In addition to its vast wilderness areas, the West Coast supports a range of industries including tourism, mining, forestry, aquaculture, and the generation of hydroelectricity.

Consultancy firm Enviro-dynamics is developing the West Coast Weed Action Plan to prioritise weed control actions across tenure, provide a mechanism for investment by identifying budget requirements, and initiate a working group.

Enviro-dynamics Director and Senior Environmental Consultant Dr Josie Kelman said the unique land tenure and use in the municipality made it particularly important for the approach to be coordinated, strategic, and collaborative.

“The West Coast municipality has an amazing diversity of natural values and much of the region is either protected area or managed for forestry, with very little privately owned land. This has a big impact on the way in which we need to tackle the risks weeds pose to the region.” - Dr Josie Kelman



- Encourage the concept of ‘shared responsibility’ for weed management and biosecurity in general and provide an opportunity for landholders to co-invest in removing the threat of serious weeds on their properties
- Provide a strategic and targeted approach to tackling high priority weeds impacting agricultural and environmental assets



Project delivery



Plans are underway to protect Tasmania’s iconic West Coast from invasive weed threats

Cradle Coast NRM and Biosecurity Tasmania coordinated a meeting of major stakeholders in November 2022, which identified the need for a cross-tenure weed action plan to ensure key priorities are addressed.

Enviro-dynamics, along with major stakeholders including the West Coast Council, Parks and Wildlife, State Growth and Tas Networks, have committed to co-invest more than \$182,000 to develop the plan and implement annual weed control programs. This is backed by \$54,000 from the WAF.

Dr Kelman said co-investment from the Weeds Action Fund will enable them to prioritise actions to protect areas renowned for their conservation, recreation, and tourism values.