

# INVASIVE SPECIES SOLUTIONS TRUST

Twenty Five Million Sets of Eyes

A wave of new plant and animal invaders are expected over the decade. Escaped invasive garden plants, ornamental fish, reptiles and birds, as well as hitchhikers like invasive ants and toads all put Australia's environment at risk.

To be successful we need all Australians involved



[invasives.com.au](https://invasives.com.au)

The Invasive Species Solutions Trust is the philanthropic arm of The Centre



CENTRE FOR  
INVASIVE SPECIES SOLUTIONS





Australia’s international trade is increasing rapidly. Unfortunately, the imported goods that cross our borders can also bring pests with them. Some of these are hitchhikers and some of them are deliberate and illegal imports.

Large numbers of imported exotic animal and ornamental plant species with invasive characteristics are already here and could easily escape our ponds and aquariums, our aviaries and gardens. Some are bought and sold legally in ignorance of their invasive potential; others are illegally sold with no consideration of the impacts they could have on our environment and primary production.

Ornamental fish make up most of the recent naturalised pests in Australia, along with snakes and amphibians like the Black-spined Asian toad. Ornamental and vagrant birds — as well as exotic ant species — also threaten to naturalise and spread in Australia.

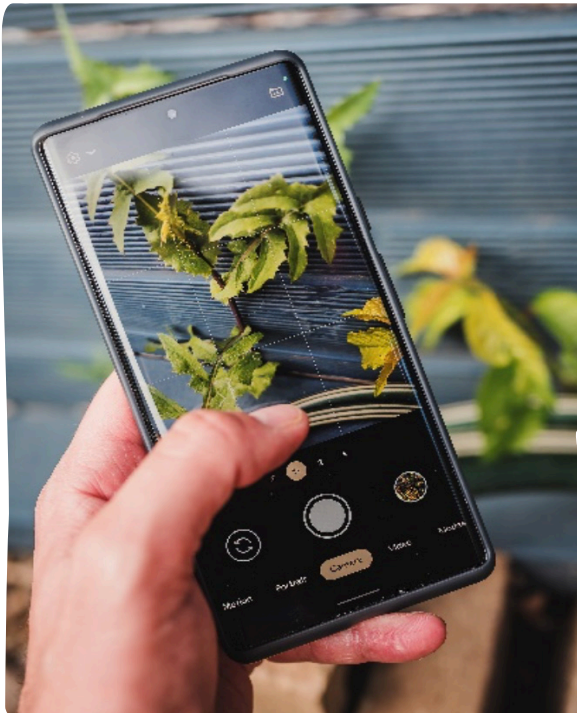
Without stronger biosecurity defences at our borders and within our country these pests will risk the extinction of ever more unique Australian plants and animals and the decline of threatened ecological communities.

We need to make all Australians aware of the threat in every transaction.

The arrival of new weeds is a particular threat. There are already more than 5,900 non-native plant species in Australia that have weed histories overseas. Given the right conditions, they have the ability to naturalise in our environment. Already, this reservoir of potential weed species is resulting in the naturalisation of about twenty new weed species in the Australian environment each year.

Our system to stop pests and diseases from entering, establishing and spreading in Australia is under ever increasing pressure from increasing trade, climate change and extreme weather events.

WeedScan is one solution being developed by the Centre in collaboration with CSIRO, NSW Department of Primary Industries and the Queensland, South Australian and Victorian Governments.



### The Solution

Four agencies have joined forces in declaring this the Decade of Biosecurity: the Centre, the Invasive Species Council, Animal Health Australia and Plant Health Australia.

Success will only be guaranteed by involving all Australians. This requires a concerted campaign, education and community engagement. We are seeking your help to make this happen.

The Centre is looking to focus on the 2023 release of the WeedScan app as a means to engage everyday Australians in our 25 million eyes campaign. This will start a national conversation on the importance being biosecurity aware every day of the year.

As increasing awareness occurs within the community, a National Coordinator will be needed to motivate community groups (e.g., bushcare, wildlife, water way user and recreational fishing groups) around Australia to add detection of new and emerging priority invasive animals and weeds to their activities. Initially, the Centre will focus on weeds to coincide with the introduction of their WeedScan app, with other biosecurity areas to be addressed as opportunities become available. This program will complement the national Animal Health Australia and Plant Health Australia Farm Biosecurity Program and will link to existing State based detection programs using both volunteers and professionals (e.g., State biosecurity officers).

Project Title	Summary	Funding Request	Investment Sought
<b>Twenty-five million sets of Eyes</b>	Currently we are in the decade of biosecurity. The Centre recognises that a critical component of the success of the decade will come from the success in engaging all 25 million Australians in protecting the Australian environment from invasive pests and weeds.	A ‘citizen science’ approach will encourage people to actively be involved in biosecurity surveillance.  The funding request seeks to engage a marketing professional with graphic design and video support to create an engagement campaign on the importance of biosecurity.	Initial starting budget to establish a developed and evaluated awareness campaign for the general community is \$144,000.  Once initiated investment will be sought to continue promotion and engaging community organisations.
<b>Controlling the new invasive weeds</b>	The Centre will engage a national coordinator to build and work with a community biosecurity network, initially focusing on weed pieces.  WeedScan will be promoted as key solution for individuals and community groups such as Bushcare groups to identify and report weeds.  A ‘citizen science’ approach will encourage people to actively be involved in biosecurity surveillance.	The Centre will engage a national coordinator to build and work with a community biosecurity network, initially focusing on weed species.  WeedScan will be promoted as key solution for individuals and community groups such as Bushcare groups to identify and report weeds.	We are seeking \$149,000 a year to employ a National Community Engagement Manager (Weeds) over the next 4 years.



Your support can help us to speed up solutions and ensure that all Australians understand the importance of Biosecurity and the role that they need to play to keep our environment safe and protect our primary producers.

As well as the involvement and interest of all Australians we especially need new supporters who through financial or in kind support can make a real difference to the protection of our threatened species, our environment and our primary producers. To donate click on this QR code or go to our website [invasives.com.au](https://invasives.com.au).



# DECADE OF BIOSECURITY

2021-2030



## Contact us

Ph: 02 6201 2887 | Email: [Trust@invasives.com.au](mailto:Trust@invasives.com.au)

Address: PO Box 5005, University of Canberra LPO, University of Canberra ACT 2617