

INVASIVE SPECIES SOLUTIONS TRUST

WEEDS

Australia has one of the highest proportions of weeds to flora of all continents. Weeds are transforming Australia's landscapes, displacing native plants, increasing fuel loads for bushfires and choking waterways.



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



CENTRE FOR
INVASIVE SPECIES SOLUTIONS



The Issue

Weeds are transforming our landscapes, displacing native plants, increasing fuel loads for bushfire and choking waterways.

Australia is burdened with almost 3000 weeds, making up about 12% of our flora. Two-thirds of weed species were deliberately imported as garden plants.

About 20 new weed species establish each year. This equates to one new weed establishing every 18 days. This rate is being aided by the weed reservoir, of some 5000 non-native plants that are weeds overseas but are yet naturalise in Australia.

Weeds cost Australian agriculture nearly \$5 billion a year and have major impacts on biodiversity.

Weed Control and WeedScan

It is difficult to manage what you can't identify, and so it is with weeds!

The answer to this is the ability to identify these weeds and notify State authorities of their location, if they are priority or notifiable weeds.

Australia's first real-time weed identification app will help farmers and community groups act earlier on invasive weeds. WeedScan's artificial intelligence model is being trained by CSIRO to recognise approximately 300 priority weed species across Australia to help people identify weeds using the app. It is the culmination of a three year project.



Public WeedScan records will be visible on a map which can be viewed and searched by users.

WeedScan is being developed by the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, CSIRO, the NSW Department of Primary Industries and the South Australian, Queensland and Victorian Governments.

PLEASE JOIN US

The WeedScan project will provide expertise, equipment, and a level of co-ordination throughout Australia.

It has been established with joint support from State Governments and the CSIRO under the Centre's co-ordination. The physical effort on the land will be provided by multiple

community-based organisations, farmers, and environmentalists.

But the project needs to grow. We need to be able to make people aware of the WeedScan app, have the resources to produce the optimal results and the funding to expand its knowledge base.

There is an opportunity for businesses and philanthropists to get on board and back the expansion of the app.

Project Title	Summary	Funding Request	Investment Sought
WeedScan+ - Expanding weed ID App capability	Initial funding supported the creation of the Weedsan App and the inclusion of 300 weed files. There are over 1000 priority weed species that are currently recognised. Each weed needs to be photographed at various stages of growth, distinct times during the day and in different seasons.	Investors are sought to fund the increase in the number of weeds that can be accurately identified by the Artificial Intelligence based WeedScan App from 300 to one 1,000 priority weeds. This requires the engagement of a botanist to take hundreds of photos of the given weed and train the WeedScan App. There may be an opportunity for sponsors to nominate and fund a weed of interest.	For a cost of \$5000, an additional weed species can be added to the Weedsan App.
Spreading the word to stop the weed	The effectiveness of Weedsan will come from the numbers of users. Successful outcomes require marketing and engagement. We are seeking investors who will support the creation of a WeedScan Engagement Co-ordinator who will be responsible for marketing the app and recruiting organisations and groups to monitor weeds in their area.	A National Co-ordinator will be engaged with a focus on promoting the importance of the program. Volunteers will be recruited as individuals or through the mobilization of Landcare groups and Gardening Clubs. The program will report on the number of successful individual and group interactions which are occurring. Where possible reports will also highlight geographically where interventions are occurring.	\$165,000 per annum for 5 years
Controlling weeds by working together.	Numerous community based organisations (such as Landcare groups) are involved in eradicating invasive species from specific parcels of land. CISS will create an equipment library which together with the expertise of our National Co-ordinator roles will assist community based associations and individuals to have maximum impact in controlling weeds.	Funding is sought to enable the Centre to support community based organisations with both expertise and equipment to maximise their efforts.	\$50,000 to develop training package \$2500 per specialised drone or high resolution camera.



The Centre for Invasive Species Solutions is creating a formidable team to undertake the challenge of controlling invasive pests and weeds. Governments, Industry Associations and Research Institutions are on board. The missing piece is you!

Your support can help us to speed up solutions and get those solutions to the environmentalists and primary producers who are dealing with the effects of invasive species on a daily basis.

Your donation through the Invasive Species Solutions Trust will contribute to the protection of our environment, our threatened species, and our primary production. To donate click on this QR code or go to our website **invasives.com.au**



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