**MUCH ADO ABOUT SOME THINGS:**

**After plant identification when does the stony pathway**

**lead to weed response in NSW?**

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Many plants species are introduced to Australia each year. Some of these plants naturalise. That is, they can be later found growing where they were not planted. A small but significant proportion of these naturalising plants become invasive where they cause an impact on our economic, environmental, societal (political, technological/infrastructural, legal) and/or cultural interests.

As the lead-agency for weed management, NSW DPI responds to the most invasive plant species that threaten our economic, environmental, societal and/or cultural interests. But to do this, our response starts with you. If you see something unusual, please tell us. Take a photo, record the location, and/or use WeedScan. Consider submitting a plant specimen to a herbarium like the National Herbarium of NSW, where it can be accurately identified.

Accurate identification is a critical first step to drive any weed response. Our assessments then commence with research to understand if the plant is: a weed anywhere in the world; known to occur elsewhere in Australia; able to invade our natural and agro-ecosystems; and through its invasion, produce impacts. Many plants that present as weedy will then be assessed with the NSW Weed Risk Management system. This system considers its invasiveness, impact and potential distribution (weed risk); and control costs, persistence and current distribution (feasibility of coordinated control). Finally, NSW DPI considers an externality test and the program rationale/linkages around current response planning and capacity, before recommendng management options.

This paper discusses each of these steps in more detail to help you understand how the NSW government prioritises its weed response activities to “new” weeds. Further, we will discuss a new project about horizon scanning. This will help identify and assess plants: that could enter but are not yet in Australia; or are not yet in NSW; or that have not yet escaped from cultivation.