

# Weed Management Plan for Mesquite (*Prosopis spp.*) 2012 - 2022

2020 Revision



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<b>Glossary</b>	
<b>Active management</b>	The control and monitoring of a weed infestation in order to meet strategic goals.
<b>Active treatment phase</b>	The first stage of an eradication response, involving active control and survey for the target weed. When no plants are detected for at least 12 months, the response moves into the monitoring phase.
<b>Core infestation</b>	An established population of weed from which satellite infestations (outliers) may arise.
<b>Eradicated</b>	A weed infestation can be considered eradicated when there is sufficient evidence that there are no remaining propagules (e.g. seed). See also 'proof of freedom'.
<b>Eradication</b>	The elimination of every single individual (including seeds and other propagules) of a species from a defined area in which recolonisation is unlikely to occur (Panetta 2016).
<b>Eradication response</b>	A weed control program that aims to eradicate a weed from a defined area. There are two operational phases: (1) active treatment phase; (2) monitoring phase.
<b>Containment</b>	The aim of preventing or reducing the spread of invasive species, e.g. by preventing invasions into new areas and eradicating any species that are found outside a defined area or beyond a defined line (Panetta 2016).
<b>Control</b>	To implement actions that reduce the effects of a weed where it occurs. For weeds, a wide range of treatment methods are used for control, generally falling into the categories of mechanical, chemical and biological control (Panetta 2016). Fire is also a useful management tool that can be used to reduce the impact of weeds.
<b>Human-assisted spread</b>	Spread of weeds into new areas with the assistance of humans and human activities. Includes transport by a person, vehicle, livestock, hay or contaminated produce.
<b>Mature plant</b>	A plant that has evidence of flowering or seeding, or is of sufficient size to be judged capable of flowering or seeding.
<b>Monitoring phase</b>	The second phase of any successful eradication response. Commences when no recruits or regrowth have been detected in the area subjected to active treatment, for at least 12 months (Panetta 2007). The monitoring phase continues for the life of the seed bank.
<b>Outbreak</b>	A recently detected pest population.
<b>Outlier</b>	Isolated plants at significant distance from a larger core infestation.
<b>Pest</b>	An organism that has a significant negative impact on the economy, environment or other human values.
<b>Proof of freedom</b>	In order to achieve proof of freedom, regular surveillance must establish that no regrowth has occurred for a defined period after: (1) the last detection of the weed; and/or (2) the last reproductive event.
<b>Regrowth</b>	The growth of new plant material following disturbance or control including the regeneration of established plants and the germination of new seedlings.
<b>Surveillance</b>	A standardised process to collect and record data on weed presence or absence by survey, monitoring or other procedures.
<b>Weed</b>	Pest plant.

# 1. Executive Summary

The aim of this plan is to guide the strategic control of mesquite in the Northern Territory with the long term aim of eradication. This aim is based on mesquite being a Class A weed (to be eradicated) under the *Weeds Management Act 2001* (the Act) administered by authorised weed management officers in the Weed Management Branch, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Objectives of this plan focus around achieving the aim of eradicating mesquite from the Northern Territory.

The Weed Management Plan for Mesquite (*Prosopis* spp.) 2012 – 2022 is a statutory plan under the Act. Weed management plans are legal documents designated under section 10 of the Act for high risk declared weeds in the Northern Territory. These plans establish the legal requirements and management actions to be undertaken by all owners and occupiers of land on which the declared weed is present in the Northern Territory.

Section 9(2) of the Act compels all owners and occupiers to comply with a weed management plan. Non-compliance is an environmental offence level 3 under the *Environmental Offences and Penalties Act 1996*. Non-compliance may include failure to undertake any of the required actions specified in this plan.

To achieve compliance with this plan under the Act, land owners and occupiers with mesquite on their land must comply with the requirements outlined in Table 1 of this plan.

Mesquite has been addressed in weeds management documents in the Northern Territory from 2005 in the “Weeds Management Tennant Creek, Regional Weeds Strategy, Barkly Region, Mesquite *Prosopis pallida*.” The first statutory plan for mesquite was gazetted on 7 March 2012. The 2012 plan was reviewed and amended in 2015 and the amended plan was gazetted on 23 December 2015. The 2015 plan has been reviewed and is being amended to form the 2020 plan. The 2020 plan will commence on the date it is gazetted, that is 27 May 2020 and will remain in force until 7 March 2022, 10 years from the commencement of the first mesquite plan.

## 2. Overview

### 2.1. Aim

The aim of this plan is to guide the strategic and legislated control of mesquite in the Northern Territory with the long term aim of eradication.

### 2.2. Objectives

1. All seeding mesquite plants are destroyed by December 2021.
2. All regrowth of mesquite after December 2021 to be destroyed prior to the production of viable seeds.
3. All current distribution maps of mesquite are validated by field survey and data on the control of mature mesquite populations, to verify compliance with this plan.
4. The spread of mesquite from existing infestations is prevented.
5. Compliance and enforcement plans for mesquite are aligned with relevant regional weed strategies and priorities.

### 2.3. Required actions by all persons with mesquite on their land

The actions detailed in Table 1 have been identified as the minimum acceptable requirements needed to achieve compliance with this plan by all persons and organisations with mesquite on land they own, manage or occupy<sup>1</sup>. All required actions with timeframes based upon commencement of the plan are to be implemented from the gazettal date found on page 5.

**Table 1 – Required mesquite management actions**

<b>All land owners and occupiers with mesquite on their land must:</b>	
1.1	Destroy all mature mesquite plants by December 2021.
1.2	All mesquite regrowth after December 2021 to be under active management so that no mature plants are recruited to the population.
1.3	Document a two year property weed management plan according to the requirements in Section 4.2 by December 2020.
1.4	Provide an annual status report to the Weed Management Branch that documents progress made against actions outlined in the property weed management plan. The first annual status report must be provided by December 2021 and each December thereafter.
1.5	Notify the Weed Management Branch of the presence of mesquite within 14 days when identified in areas where it has not been observed previously <sup>2</sup> .

<sup>1</sup> All land includes privately owned land, vacant Crown land and other publically owned land parcels (such as parks and reserves, future development land, Land Corporation land, Defence and Commonwealth owned and leased land), Aboriginal land and all unzoned land, privately owned or leased (e.g. pastoral or Land Use Agreement parcels) or land under development. Refer to Appendix A for a full list of roles and responsibilities that apply to land owners and occupiers and land managers including the Northern Territory Government, local government and the Australian Government.

<sup>2</sup> For all required submissions and Department contact information, refer Appendix C.

## 2.4. Basis for aims and objectives in this plan

The original Weed Management Plan for Mesquite commenced in 2012. The 2012 plan included management requirements, targets and completion timeframes with 10 year goals. This plan was reviewed in 2015 and amended to include almost identical management requirements, targets and completion timeframes to the previous plan.

Key targets of the original 2012 plan required by year 5 to 10:

- all mesquite infestations in the Northern Territory are under active eradication programs
- the number and size of infestations of mesquite in the Northern Territory is reduced

The 2015 plan required that by years 4 to 6:

- mature seeding trees have been eradicated and the production of seed and spread of mesquite is prevented

The 2015 plan required that by years 1 to 10:

- all mesquite infestations in the Northern Territory are under active eradication programs and number and size of infestations of mesquite in the Northern Territory is reduced

This review reflects the good progress made towards the management and control of mesquite and the importance of setting definite management timeframes in this revision.

Progress against the 2012 and 2015 plans have been used to determine the current aim, objectives and required actions by all persons with mesquite on their land (Table 1).

The aim of these requirements is to enable the strategic control of mesquite in the Northern Territory with the long term aim of eradication.

## 2.5. Declaration of mesquite under the Act

Mesquite is a declared weed throughout the Northern Territory under section 7 of the Act.

It is a Class A weed (to be eradicated) in all areas of the Territory. This means land owners and occupiers are required to eradicate mesquite growing on their land and mesquite is not to be introduced into or moved within the Territory.

Declared weeds affect the entire Northern Territory community. Management of weeds is an essential precursor to achieving outcomes related to improving the Northern Territory's productivity, competitiveness, sustainability and natural environment.

## 2.6. Impacts of mesquite

Mesquite (*Prosopis* spp.) is a Weed of National Significance. It was declared a Weed of National Significance by the Australian Government in 1999 because of its ability to spread and infest valuable grazing lands. It has been assessed as a very high risk weed in the Northern Territory through the Weed Risk Management System due to its invasiveness, potential for spread and economic and environmental impacts (Northern Territory Government 2011).

Mesquite was introduced to Australia more than 100 years ago, where it was widely planted as a shade tree throughout towns and on station homesteads across western Queensland and north-western Western Australia. It was also used as a soil stabiliser around mine sites in Queensland and New South Wales. Mesquite is now present in all mainland states.

Pastoralism is the main land use in areas most susceptible to mesquite invasion. Severe mesquite infestations can reduce the production of native and introduced pasture species by up to 90%, resulting in a reduction in carrying capacity. Similarly increased costs associated with mustering and weed control can have large impacts on industry profitability. Thorns can injure animals and workers and also damage vehicle tyres.

Mesquite also reduces environmental values such as biodiversity and ecological function, through the invasion and replacement of native plant communities and habitat for wildlife. Mesquite has been documented as contributing to increased land degradation and loss of soil moisture due to its extensive and deep root system. Significant damage to sensitive areas such as watercourses can also result. Mesquite infestations can harbour feral animals, particularly feral pigs, hindering control efforts.

There are four species and several hybrids of *Prosopis*, which are collectively known as mesquite. The most problematic of these species in the Northern Territory is *Prosopis pallida*, however *P.velutina*, *P.glandulosa*, and *P.juliflora* are also declared weeds under section 7 of the Act.

Mesquite is among the suite of plants known as 'prickle bushes'. The others are prickly acacia (*Vachellia nilotica*), parkinsonia (*Parkinsonia aculeata*) and mimosa (*Mimosa pigra*). They can all be confused with each other. Likewise, they may be confused with other native trees and shrubs and the naturalized shrub, mimosa bush. Land managers should correctly identify any potential weed before considering control measures.

## 2.7. Current distribution across the Northern Territory

Mesquite favours alluvial and clay areas. In the Northern Territory mesquite occurs generally as scattered, isolated, low level infestations across multiple regions including:

- Arnhem Land
- the Barkly Tableland
- the Alice Springs region (Figure 1)

On the Barkly Tableland, low level infestations occur on approximately 20 pastoral leases. These infestations are current management priorities as further spread and establishment into clean areas is a significant risk.

It is understood at the time of this publication that only one property still has an extensive infestation of mesquite and it is acknowledged that they do have a planned control program for 2020. The Playford River also has been reported to have mesquite on it. In the Alice Springs region, scattered plants found are managed upon detection. Mesquite previously found in the Katherine Region, including the Victoria River District, have been eradicated and the area is now being monitored.

In all cases, follow up works must continue as long as isolated low density incursions continue to be found and seedlings emerge in areas previously controlled.

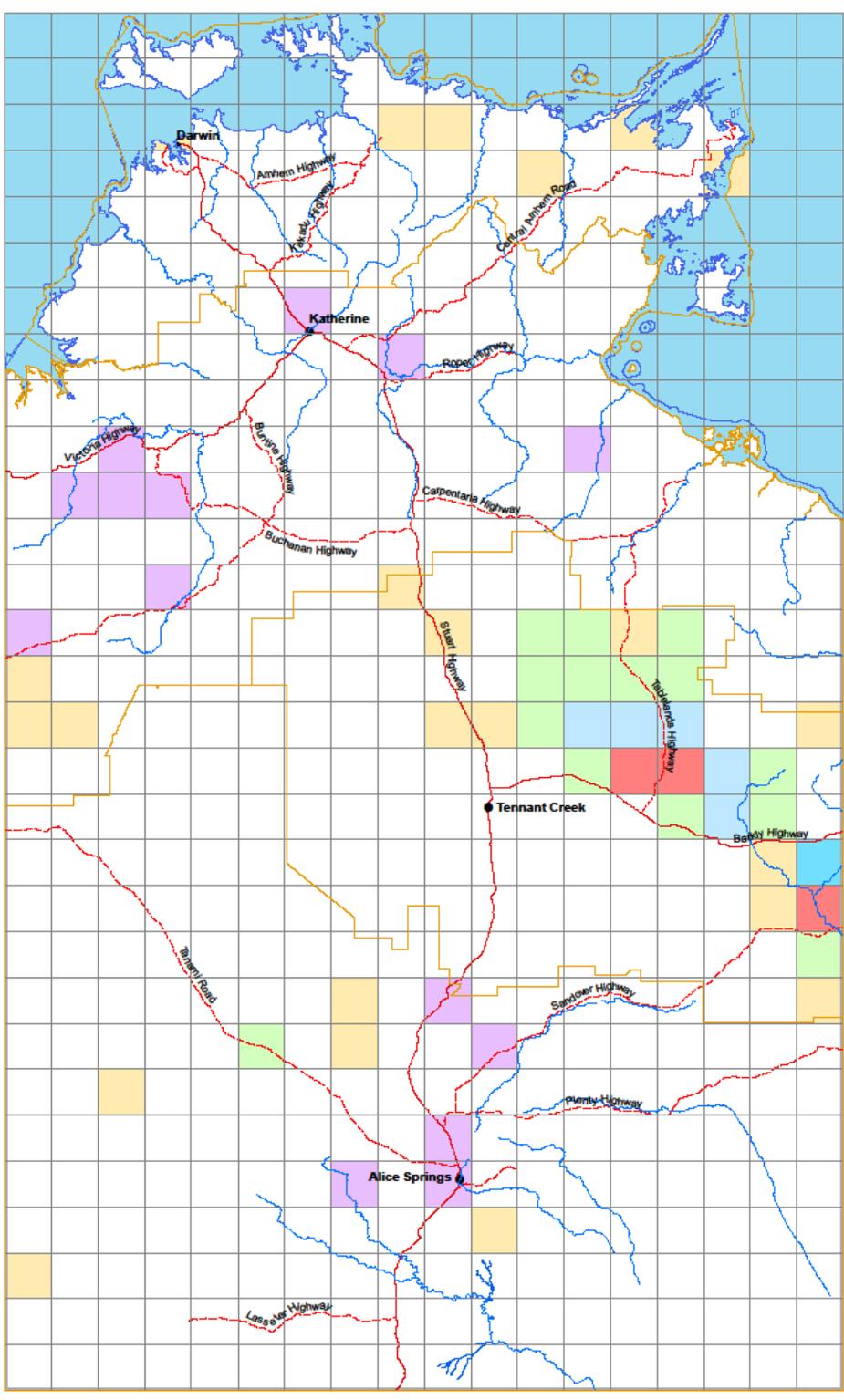
# Mesquite

**Legend**

- Region outline
- 50km Grid

**Weed Distribution Description**

- Absent
- Eradicated and Monitored
- Present - Density Unknown
- Unknown Occurrence
- Occasional and Localised
- Occasional and Widespread
- Common and Localised
- Common and Widespread
- Abundant and Localised
- Abundant and Widespread



N

0 50 100 KM

**NORTHERN TERRITORY**  
GOVERNMENT

Figure 1 Known distribution of mesquite across the Northern Territory (source: Weed Management Branch 2020)

## 2.8. Achieving the plan's objectives

Achieving the plan's objectives will require strategic and coordinated action and investment from land owners, occupiers and managers with mesquite, the three tiers of government, Landcare or natural resource groups and other relevant stakeholders.

### Education and awareness

An important and effective tool in achieving results for any weed management program is education and awareness. Awareness of the damage a weed can impose on the environment, people and the economy is helpful for land owners and occupiers to better understand the effects of non-management.

Successful delivery and implementation of extension activities and programs will assist land owners and occupiers to understand their obligations and execute management actions to manage mesquite in the Northern Territory.

Education and awareness in mesquite management includes delivery of extension materials and activities focused on:

- strategic planning
- data collection
- best practice control methods
- spread prevention and hygiene protocols
- risk management

Stakeholder investment and long-term commitment to weed management as well as implementation of a targeted education and awareness program based on the elements above, will greatly assist with achieving the objectives of this plan.

### Strategic approaches

The Northern Territory Government expects owners and occupiers of land with mesquite present to take action to eradicate all mesquite on their land.

Strategic approaches to weed management planning ensure more efficient use of resources to achieve the best on-ground outcomes. Regional weed management plans can significantly improve stakeholder awareness and ownership in weed management and provide for long-term goal-setting and agreed regional actions rather than one-off, reactive control.

Through strategic weed management planning on a regional or cross-jurisdictional basis, areas can be prioritised for control to reduce spread and infestation of other clean areas, or to protect assets whether they be cultural, economic, production or environment-focused. Land owners and occupiers can also agree where effort needs to be focused to maximise the impact of resources applied.

Advice regarding this type of planning is available to land owners and occupiers, from the Weed Management Branch.

Regional scale planning is explored further in Section 4, together with an outline of how property weed management plans should be developed.

## Compliance and enforcement

Implementation of a compliance and enforcement framework includes providing management advice and issuing work orders and Penalty Infringement Notices under the Act, to achieve the objectives of the plan.

Implementation of the management requirements in Section 2 Table 1 of this plan will safeguard compliance with this plan.

## 3. Management

Best practice management methods should be utilised by land owners and occupiers to minimise the impacts of mesquite. These methods are to be used to achieve compliance with this plan.

### 3.1. Data collection and survey

Surveying for weeds and collecting and analysing weed data can greatly improve success in weed management, particularly on large blocks or at a landscape or catchment scale. Knowing the location and the extent of mesquite on properties or in the surrounding area will inform prioritisation of control work and most efficient use of resources. Pathways of spread, including road and infrastructure corridors and rivers and creek lines, are particularly important to survey.

Refer to the Northern Territory Government's Weed Data Collection Manual and Field Guide documents for further information on [data collection](#), or contact the Weed Management Branch for advice.

### 3.2. Integrated weed control

Effective mesquite management is dependent on the application of an integrated natural resource management approach. Weed control will be more successful where land managers are also implementing appropriate grazing regimes, managing feral animals and controlling erosion and fire on their properties.

It is recognised that successful weed management outcomes may take time and repeated effort to become clear. Effective control, particularly in rangeland situations, will require the development of a long term management plan, which takes into account any existing seed bank which may have accumulated in the soil. The results of a strict management program will become more evident over time.

For more information regarding best practice control of mesquite refer to:

- the [NT Weed Management Handbook \(2018\)](#)
- the [NT Mesquite Fact Sheet](#)
- the [QLD Weed Management Guide Mesquite](#)
- view control options for mesquite at the [nt.gov.au/mesquite](http://nt.gov.au/mesquite)
- contact the NT Weed Management Branch at [weedinfo@nt.gov.au](mailto:weedinfo@nt.gov.au) or on (08) 8999 4567

## 4. Planning

It is well recognised that successful planning, prevention of weed spread and management of weeds requires effective partnerships, clear management goals, best practice management techniques, and methods to monitor progress and targeted research. Planning is one of the most useful tools in managing weeds and achieving the best outcomes for effort.

### 4.1. Regional weed plans and priority areas for weed management

In the Northern Territory, there are regional weed plans for the Darwin, Katherine, the Barkly and Alice Springs regions (to be renamed as strategies in coming versions).

Regional weed plans identify priority weeds in a region for strategic control. The plans are developed in consultation with key stakeholders including regional weed reference groups and are supported by outputs from the Northern Territory Weed Risk Management System.

Regional priorities are guided within these plans by:

1. priority weeds
2. priority landscape areas
3. priority pathways of spread

Mesquite is listed in the current Katherine and Barkly Regional Weed Plans as a priority weed for management. Mesquite is also identified for strategic control in the Alice Springs region in accordance with the current Alice Springs Regional Weed Plan.

To view the priority landscape areas and criteria used to determine priority landscape areas refer to each of the [regional plans](#) for the Northern Territory.

Priority pathways of seed spread have also been identified in the regional weed plans above. Specific to mesquite, the main pathways of seed spread are:

- cattle that consume and excrete seeds that remain viable after passing through the digestive tract
- water flow
- accidental transport by feral animals, vehicles and cattle
- movement of soil typically by vehicles and machinery where there is soil seedbank.

Regional priorities may change over the life of this plan as the regional plans are reviewed and updated.

### 4.2. Property weed management plans

It is a requirement that all landholders who have mesquite on their land develop a property weed management plan, which includes a detailed assessment of mesquite on the property. This assessment will enable consideration of the current distribution of mesquite, potential for spread (along water courses, access tracks/roads, animal movement) and potential impacts on land use and other values such as biodiversity and agricultural production.

Successful weed management may require significant investment over an extended period of time. In particular, the control of large, established infestations will require careful planning, prioritisation and budgeting.

A property weed management plan must detail exactly what needs to occur in order to meet or exceed all requirements of this Mesquite Weed Management Plan 2012 – 2022, and must include:

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1. A map of the property including:

- mesquite plants and dense infestations
- areas previously treated and requiring follow up surveillance and control
- clean areas to be kept free of mesquite
- areas where there is an increased risk of spread or input. Examples include tracks, fence lines, suitable habitats and infrastructure.

2. A work program that includes:

- a plan for achieving the requirements of this plan to destroy all mature mesquite plants by December 2021
- a description of control methods to be used including timing of control applications
- a schedule for undertaking follow up monitoring and follow up control and how this will be recorded and documented
- hygiene and weed spread prevention measures to be implemented to prevent mesquite spread

Depending on circumstances, an effective property weed management plan may also identify actions to assist early detection of new weed incursions.

Prioritising control work will help get the most from resources. Prioritise control of:

- outlier mesquite plants and infestations
- mesquite plants likely to contaminate vehicles and equipment (with seed) such as graders, field vehicles (quads, ATVs)
- mesquite infestations likely to spread into neighbouring properties or clean areas from upstream infestations.

Follow up monitoring helps determine if control methods are working, or if adjustments are required. It is essential to monitor control work, as management of mesquite requires ongoing commitment.

Based on mesquite seeds being known to be viable for over 10 years (Northern Territory Government 2011) follow-up monitoring is required for at least 10 years after the destruction of all mature plants. During this period, all mesquite regrowth must be destroyed prior to maturity.

Best practice for monitoring control efforts is as follows:

- document control methods and success of control
- analyse success or failure of control works
- review and amend control as required to reach optimal results
- inspect and retreat controlled areas to prevent seeding
- regularly check areas that are disturbed, mesquite free or are downstream of current infestations to ensure no new outbreaks are occurring
- establish photo points to help compare growth and management success from year to year.

Refer to the following documents for further assistance with the preparation of a property weed management plan including weed spread prevention measures:

- the Northern Territory Government's [Planning for Better Weed Management](#) document
- the Northern Territory Government [Preventing Weed Spread is Everybody's Business](#) document.

## 5. Monitoring and evaluation of this plan

Full compliance with a statutory weed management plan can require a great deal of effort, commitment and investment from land managers, particularly from those who are already affected by declared weeds. For this reason it is essential that the Northern Territory Government monitors whether the stipulated management actions are contributing towards the identified outcomes at a Territory level.

The Weed Management Branch will monitor the results of this plan to determine whether it is achieving its objectives, remains relevant, responds to changing conditions and is supported by the community.

Continuous improvement can only be achieved if the following can be determined:

- investments in weed management are resulting in progress towards the plan's identified goals and objectives
- the recommended management actions are achieving the most effective and efficient control outcomes
- adaptive management involves using the feedback from monitoring and evaluation to inform and revise plans and policy.

This plan has been drafted using the best information available at the time of writing. However, should new information become available which should be included in, or influence the structure and content of this plan, it may be incorporated as a revision.

## 5.1. Performance indicators

A performance indicator is used to track and measure performance. The following indicators provide a means to measure the performance of this plan against its objectives

**Table 5: Performance indicators**

Performance indicator	What will be measured?	Options for how indicators may be measured
<b>Increased awareness</b>	Knowledge of issues and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of properties with mesquite where the owners and/occupiers demonstrate an understanding of the requirements of the Mesquite Weed Management Plan 2012 - 2022.</li> <li>• Proportion of properties with mesquite where the owners and/or occupiers are compliant with the requirements of the Mesquite Weed Management Plan 2012 - 2022.</li> </ul>
	Compliance	
<b>Better information</b>	Distribution data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of properties with mesquite where owners and/or occupiers have provided current data (less than 12 months old) on mesquite on their land with regard to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ control</li> <li>○ surveillance</li> <li>○ distribution</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Proportion of properties with mesquite where owners and/or occupiers have a current property management plan in place for the weed.</li> </ul>
	Density data	
	Use of property management plans	
<b>Better management</b>	Eradication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation of the status of mesquite on properties as to whether:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ all mature plants have been destroyed</li> <li>○ they are under active management</li> <li>○ they are not under active management</li> <li>○ unknown status</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Evaluation of the status of mesquite on properties as to whether the weed is:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ increasing</li> <li>○ decreasing</li> <li>○ stable</li> <li>○ unknown</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	Containment	
	Spread reduction	

## 6. References

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7. Panetta, FD (2016). Environmental weed risk screen for Victoria: background and development. A report prepared for the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Vic. ISBN 978-1-76047-017-3 (Print); ISBN 978-1-76047-018-0 (pdf/online).

# Appendix A – Legal obligations and penalties for non-compliance

## Roles and responsibilities

Everyone has a role to play in the management of declared weeds.

**Australian Government:** The Australian Government's role in managing weeds is mainly in relation to national pre-border and border biosecurity; with a coordination and leadership role for achieving national biosecurity outcomes, identifying key threatening processes and developing national level policies and strategies such as the Australian Weeds Strategy. It also manages Commonwealth lands, including Defence land e.g. Tindal Air Base, Bradshaw, Mount Bundy and Kakadu National Park. It further funds regional NRM bodies to support strategic projects.

**Northern Territory Government:** The Weed Management Branch is responsible for mitigating the impact of weeds in the Northern Territory. It does this by enabling land managers to control weeds on their land by providing advice on best practice weed control methods and coordinating strategic management of weeds across the Northern Territory. The Weed Management Branch also administers the Northern Territory's primary legislation for declared weeds, the *Weeds Management Act* (the Act), setting Territory-wide strategic policy for declared weeds and enforcing the provisions of the Act.

The Northern Territory Government also has responsibilities for the management of declared weeds as a land manager under the Act. For example, the Northern Territory Government Department of Tourism, Sport and Culture manages parks and reserves and sporting grounds, the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics manages Crown land and road reserves, the Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development manages some residential properties, the Department of Primary Industries and Resources manages land holdings used as research facilities, and Power and Water manage easements.

**Land Owners and Land Occupiers:** All land owners and land occupiers (public and private) are responsible for managing declared weeds on their land under the Act and relevant statutory weed management plans, including this plan, the Weed Management Plan for Mesquite (*Prosopis* spp.) 2012 - 2022.

**Local Government:** Local governments have responsibilities to manage declared weeds on land they manage.

## Legislation

Section 9 of the Act stipulates the General Duties of all owners and occupiers of land with regard to the management of weeds.

Under section 9(1) of the Act, all land owners and occupiers, (including the Crown, public authorities and licensees of Crown lands), must, in relation to their land, take all reasonable measures to:

- (a) prevent the land being infested with a declared weed;
- (b) prevent a declared weed or potential weed on the land spreading to other land; and
- (c) within 14 days after first becoming aware of a declared weed that has not previously been, or known to have been, present on the land, notify a weed management officer of the presence of the declared weed.

In accordance with Section 9(2), the owner and occupier of land on which a declared weed or potential weed is present must comply with a weed management plan relating to the weed.

Section 9(3) stipulates that the owner and occupier of land on which a potential weed is present must dispose of the weed only on the land or at a designated weed disposal area.

Section 9(4) states that a person must not do any of the following, unless in accordance with a permit:

- bring a declared weed or take part in, or be responsible for, bringing a declared weed into the Northern Territory.
- propagate or scatter a declared weed
- sell or offer to sell a declared weed or any thing that contains or carries a declared weed
- hire any equipment, device or thing that contains or carries a declared weed or potential weed
- purchase or offer to purchase a declared weed or any thing that contains or carries a declared weed
- store, grow or use a declared weed or any thing that contains or carries a declared weed
- transport or carry on his or her person a declared weed or anything that contains or carries a declared weed.

In relation to cutting declared weeds in certain areas, section 31 of the Act states:

Except to manage a declared weed in accordance with a weed management plan, a person must not cut or mow an area for the purpose of producing fodder or mulch if the person knows or should reasonably know that the area is infested or contaminated with a declared weed.

In relation to moving animals and vehicles on roads section 32 stipulates:

A person must not move or drive an animal or vehicle that the person knows or should reasonably know contains or carries a declared weed on a public road or from the person's land to another person's land unless the animal or vehicle has been cleaned in accordance with a declared weed management plan or in compliance with the direction of an officer.

In the case of non-compliance with sections 9, 31 and 32 of the Act, a weed management officer can serve an order on a land owner or occupier outlining reasonable measures that must be taken for the control or eradication of a declared weed species on their land within a specified timeframe. Not complying with the conditions of an order is an offence and may involve financial penalty.

## Penalties for offences under the Act

The Northern Territory Government has the capacity to prosecute for non-compliance with the Act or this weed management plan. A land owner or occupier must also comply with a weed management officer's order in relation to any of these requirements.

Land owners and occupiers should be aware that non-compliance with section 9, 31 and 32 of the Act can incur a range of penalties from 77 to 770 penalty units<sup>3</sup> for an individual and 385 to 3850 penalty units for a body corporate.

Non-compliance with an order can incur a penalty of 100 penalty units. At 1 July 2019, a penalty unit was \$157.

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<sup>3</sup> Click on the link for current [penalty unit value](#).

## Permits

Under section 30 of the Act, a person may apply to the Minister for a permit to use a declared weed. The Minister may refuse or grant a permit subject to a range of conditions. Permits will generally only be granted where landholders have demonstrated a commitment to continual improvement in weed management or research, and are not intended to allow ongoing use or spread of declared weeds. Permit applications can take up to 6 weeks to process, depending on the proposed activity.

## Appendix B – Support and information for land managers

The Northern Territory Government can provide training, advice and extension materials to support improved mesquite management. The following documents are available by contacting the Weed Management Branch on 8999 4567 or accessing the internet site [www.nt.gov.au/weeds](http://www.nt.gov.au/weeds).

Document Title	Useful information in document
<a href="#">Mesquite fact sheet</a>	Provides information on mesquite identification, impacts, habitat, distribution and management.
<a href="#">Mesquite management guide</a>	Provides information on mesquite identification, impacts, control options and management case studies from across Australia (Produced by CRC Weed Management).
Best Practice Mesquite Manual	Provides information on mesquite ecology, impacts, control methods and case studies. (Produced by Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, Queensland 2003).
Weeds of National Significance Mesquite ( <i>Prosopis spp.</i> ) Strategic Plan	Outlines the National Strategic Plan for the management of mesquite. (Produced by Agriculture & Resource Management Council of Australia & New Zealand, Australian & New Zealand Environment & Conservation Council and Forestry Ministers, 2001).
<a href="#">Northern Territory Weed Management Handbook</a>	Provides information on strategic and planned approaches to weed management, including integrated weed control methods. Specific information is provided on herbicides registered for use in the Northern Territory. The 'weed control option tables' include a colour photo of the weed in question, list herbicides registered for use, indicate optimum treatment times and which method/s can be employed for maximum effectiveness.
<a href="#">Preventing Weed Spread is Everybody's Business</a>	Contains information on what different industries can do to prevent spread of weeds during day to day working conditions and actions.
<a href="#">Weed Data Collection Manual</a>	Describes how to, and what information to collect when undertaking weed mapping and surveys.
<a href="#">Weed Data Collection - A field guide for mapping weeds in the Northern Territory</a>	This is a step-by-step guide to collecting weed mapping data using a GPS, how to submit data and how to use this data for weed management on your property.
<a href="#">Weed ID Deck</a>	Weed identification flip-book. Contains photos and written descriptions to assist with identification. Great for the glovebox.
<a href="#">Planning for Better Weed Management</a>	This is a guide to help plan weed management on individual properties and identify areas of priority management.

## Appendix C – Submissions and consultation contacts

### NT Weed Management Branch

Phone: 8999 4567

Email: [weedinfo@nt.gov.au](mailto:weedinfo@nt.gov.au)

Address: PO Box 496 Palmerston NT 0831

Web: [nt.gov.au/weeds](http://nt.gov.au/weeds)