

Weed Risk Australia user guide

Version 1.0

February 2025

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Purpose and background

Weed Risk Australia is a national platform that increases the accessibility of weed risk tools to land managers and policy-makers, enables data sharing between jurisdictions and provides new tools to prioritise weeds for management after major disturbance events.

The project, Future-proofing Australia's National Post-Border Weed Risk Management System, was funded through the Australian Government's Enhancing National Pest Animal and Weed Management program and has been developed with input from each state and territory government.

This user guide summarises how to use the Weed Risk Australia web application, including creating, editing, viewing and searching assessments and an overview of how methodology and assessment permission and access are managed.



Figure 1. *Weed Risk Australia* home screen

1.0 Creating an assessment

1. From the Weed Risk Australia **home screen**, click “New assessment”.
2. Do a keyword search for the species that you want to create an assessment for. You can use the common name or scientific name. Select the species using the radio button and then click “Next”.
 - a. If you find that your species doesn't yet have a profile in the system, you can create a temporary species profile using the link at the end of the instruction text. You can proceed with creating an assessment for the species, but the species name won't appear in the Weed Risk Australia species list (e.g. on the Search screen) until the new profile has been approved by an Administrator.
3. Select the jurisdiction that your assessment is relevant to from the drop-down list. This will filter the list of methodologies available to you.
4. Select the methodology that you want to use for the assessment from the drop-down list. Click “Next”.
 - a. Keep in mind that you will only be able to create assessments with public-access methodologies or methodologies where you have been granted user-

specific access (e.g. as a Coordinator or Collaborator user for that methodology). Methodologies that you do not have access to will be greyed out.

5. Check whether there is an existing assessment for the species with your chosen methodology before creating a new assessment. Any matching assessments will be listed on this page. If you want to proceed with creating a new assessment without using any of the matching assessments, click “Create”.
 - a. If the matching assessment(s) are available to you, you can click on the assessment ID to view the assessment(s). If you want to use this assessment, scroll to the bottom of the **View screen** and click “Copy” to create your own copy of the assessment which you can then update as needed. Your copy of the assessment will open in the **Edit screen**.
6. Enter your management area, land use (if applicable) and any other notes about the assessment. Click “Next” to finish creating your new assessment and move to the **Edit screen**. See [Editing an assessment \(Edit screen\)](#) for further instructions.

2.0 Viewing an assessment (**View screen**)

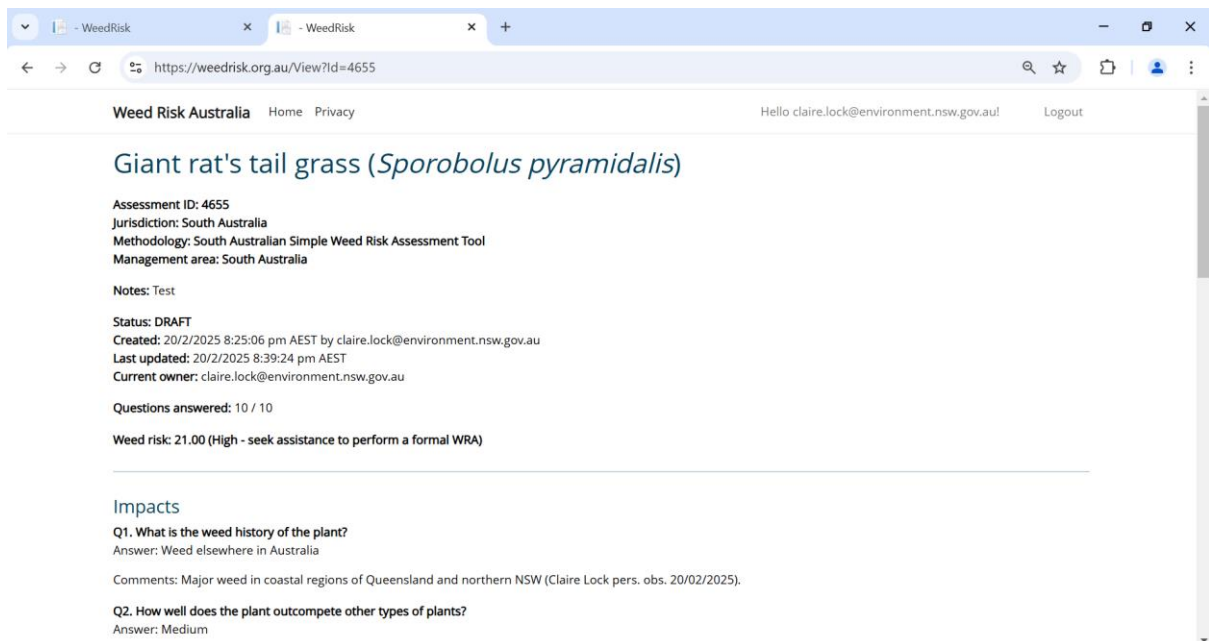


Figure 2. Weed Risk Australia view screen – top of page

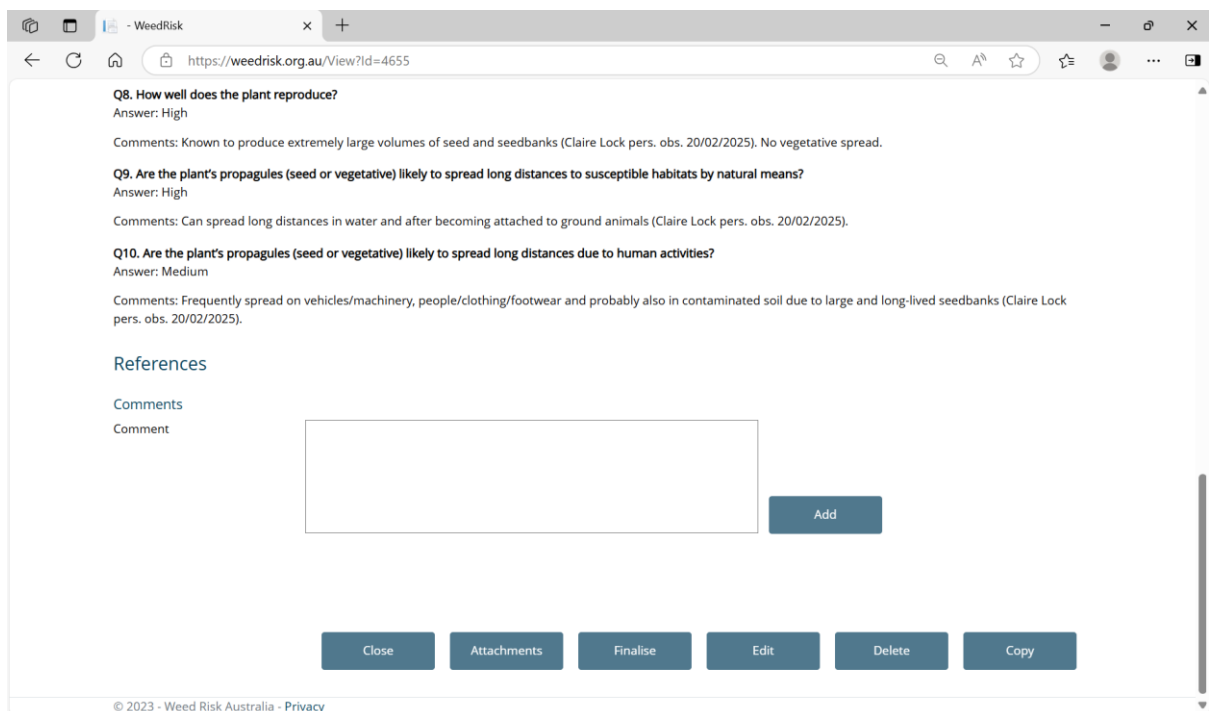


Figure 3. Weed Risk Australia view screen – bottom of page

- You will be directed to the **View screen** for an assessment when you click on the assessment ID in the search results list, or if you are sent the assessment hyperlink. You will only be able to view assessments where either:
 - a. You are the current owner of that assessment (either as the creator of the assessment, or if the assessment has been assigned to you by a Coordinator user)
 - b. You are a Coordinator user for that methodology.

- c. You are a Collaborator user for that methodology and the assessment has been marked as Finalised.
 - d. The assessment has been Published.
- The **View screen** presents the assessment on one page, including:
 - a. Assessment metadata (species common name, species scientific names, methodology, jurisdiction, land use (if applicable), management area, notes, assessment status, created by, created date, last updated by, last update date). Note that who the assessment was created and last updated by are only visible to the assessment owner and Coordinators on Draft assessments and also Collaborator users on Finalised and Published assessments (i.e. who the assessment was created and last updated by are not publicly visible on Published assessments).
 - b. Assessment scores and outcomes.
 - c. Assessment questions, answers, confidence (if applicable) and comments.
 - d. Overall comments on assessments from the assessment owner, Coordinators and Collaborator users. Note that overall comments are only visible to the assessment owner and Coordinators on Draft assessments and also Collaborator users on Finalised and Published assessments (i.e. overall comments are not publicly visible on Published assessments).
- The following buttons and associated functionality are provided at the bottom of the **View screen**:
 - a. “Exit” – return to the Search assessments screen
 - b. “Attachments” – navigate to the Attachments screen, where attachments (e.g. hyperlinks and files <5mb) can be added, viewed or removed.
 - c. “Finalise” or “Publish” – change the status of the assessment. Finalised assessments become visible to all Collaborators for that methodology. Published assessments are publicly visible. An assessment must first be marked as Finalised before it can be marked as Published, and only Coordinator users can mark an assessment as Published (provided publishing is enabled for the methodology). To revert an assessment to Draft, click the “Edit” button.
 - d. “Delete” – delete the assessment. Only Coordinator users can delete an assessment after proceeding through a deletion confirmation screen.
 - e. “Copy” – copy the assessment and open this copy in the **Edit screen**. Only users with access to the assessment and methodology can create a copy of the assessment.
 - f. “Edit” – open the assessment in the **Edit screen**. This will revert the assessment status to Draft.

3.0 Editing an assessment (**Edit screen**)

Weed Risk Australia

Home

Privacy

Hello claire.lock@environment.nsw.gov.au

Logout

Rhodes grass
(*Chloris gayana*)

Western Australian Rangelands Environmental
Weed Risk Assessment Protocol
Management area: Rangelands
Notes: ...

INVASIVENESS

Q1. Weed history - A
Q2. Establishment - C
Q3. Grazing tolerance - C
Q4. Persistence without management - C
Q5. Rapid spread or colonisation - B
Q6. Low nutrient soils - C
Q7.1. Flying animal dispersal - D
Q7.2. Other animal dispersal - B
Q7.3. Water dispersal - B
Q7.4. Wind dispersal - A
Q8.1. Accidental dispersal - B
Q8.2. Contaminant dispersal - A
Q9.1. Generation time - A
Q9.2. Seedset - A
Q9.3. Seed persistence - C
Q9.4. Vegetative reproduction - B

IMPACTS

Q1. Biodiversity value - C
Q2. Reduce establishment - C
Q3. Ecosystem structure - C
Q4. Restrict physical movement - D
Q5. Fire regime - B
Q6.1. Harmful to animals - B
Q6.2. Pest animals - B
Q7.1. Native vegetation - B
Q7.2. Water quality - C
Q7.3. Water table - B

POTENTIAL DISTRIBUTION

Q1. Potential distribution - 10 to 20 million ha

REFERENCES

Weed risk: 121.38 (High)

Q6. Will the species establish and reproduce in low-nutrient soils?

This question deals with the ability of the species to establish in a novel environment without the addition of fertiliser or rhizobia. Many of the soils in the rangelands are low in multiple nutrients including phosphorus, nitrogen, sulphur, calcium, potassium and trace elements. Species that can grow or even thrive in these low-nutrient soils pose a higher weed risk than those that require good fertility for successful establishment, growth and seed production.

Also consider that many non-indigenous legumes have specific rhizobia requirements that may or may not be met by rhizobia present in the soils. If the specific rhizobia are absent, establishment, growth and reproduction may be affected, and this should be reflected in your choice of answer.

☐ A
Establishment, growth and reproduction uninhibited in low-nutrient soils

☐ B
Establishment, growth and reproduction reduced in low-nutrient soils

☒ C
Establishment, growth and reproduction severely diminished in low-nutrient soils

☐ D
Establishment, growth and reproduction unlikely in low-nutrient soils without soil additives

☐ E
Don't know

Comments

Rhodes grass is considered a 'high fertility' species in its natural habitat and is very responsive to N fertilizer application (Minson 1973; Loch et al. 2003). Rhodes grass can tolerate soils with low fertility, but will be unproductive and may eventually die out, particularly if grazed regularly (Cook et al. 2005). It is the most salt-tolerant of the commonly sown tropical grasses, with some cultivars tolerating soil salt levels where electrical conductivity exceeds 10 dS/m. (Cook 2007) and where the pH is less than 4.3.

To save your changes, please use the Save, Next or Back buttons.

<< Back

Exit

Save

Next >>

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Figure 4. *Weed Risk Australia* edit screen

- You will be directed to the **Edit screen** once you have created an assessment, or if you click the “Edit” button at the bottom of the **View screen** for an assessment. You will only be able to edit assessments where either:
 - a. You are the current owner of the assessment (either as the creator of the assessment, or if the assessment has been assigned to you by a Coordinator user)
 - b. You are a Coordinator user for that methodology.
- The edit assessment interface includes one question per page and a navigation bar, which has an abbreviated list of all questions and tracks the options chosen. The navigation bar also lists the species’ name, methodology, land use (if relevant) and the assessment outcomes.
- To save your answer and comments, use the “Save”, “Back” or “Next” buttons below the comment box. Your changes, including any comments, will not be saved if you use the navigation bar or if you navigate away from the **Edit screen** without first saving any changes you have made.
- By clicking the pencil symbol in the navigation bar, you can edit the core assessment as follows:
 - a. Update the management area and/or notes
 - b. Assign the assessment to a new owner (available to Coordinator users only). Enter the email address of the new owner or select their name from the drop-down list of Coordinators and Collaborator users for that methodology.
 - c. Change the species that the assessment is for by doing a keyword search and then selecting the species, or creating a new temporary species profile if the species doesn’t already have a profile.

4.0 Searching assessments (Search screen)

Weed Risk Australia Home Privacy Hello claire.lock@environment.nsw.gov.au! Logout

Search weed risk assessments

Assessment ID

Weed

Jurisdiction

Methodology

Keyword

Status

Order results by

☐ Search only my assessments

ID	Weed	Land use	Management area	Methodology	Status	Last updated
4546	African lovegrass (<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>)	-	All of Australia	NEWP preliminary (National)	Finalised	18/02/2025
4570	African olive (<i>Olea europaea</i> subsp. <i>cuspidata</i>)	-	All of Australia	NEWP preliminary (National)	Finalised	05/02/2025
4558	Amazon frogbit (<i>Limnobiium laevigatum</i>)	-	All of Australia	NEWP preliminary (National)	Finalised	06/02/2025
4577	American rat's tail grass (<i>Sporobolus jacquemontii</i>)	-	All of Australia	NEWP preliminary (National)	Finalised	05/02/2025
4554	Arum lily (<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>)	-	All of Australia	NEWP preliminary (National)	Finalised	23/02/2025
4581	Berry-flower heath (<i>Erica baccans</i>)	-	All of Australia	NEWP preliminary (National)	Finalised	06/02/2025

Figure 5. Weed Risk Australia search screen

- After clicking the “Search assessments” button on the home screen, you will be directed to the **Search screen**.
- A list of search options and filters will be provided and can be combined as needed:
 - a. Assessment ID – enter the unique identifier number associated with an assessment (e.g. “1234”)
 - b. Weed – choose a weed from a list of all weed profiles ordered by common name. Type in the first 1-3 letters of the common name to jump to a position within the list.
 - c. Jurisdiction – choose a state/territory or national.
 - d. Methodology – choose a methodology.
 - e. Keyword – enter text to search across the weed name (common or scientific), management area and assessment notes.
 - f. Status – choose an assessment status (Draft/Finalised/Published).
 - g. Order results by – choose how to order the list of assessments.
 - h. Search only my assessments – return a list of assessments where you are the current owner.
- Only assessments that are visible to you will be returned. This includes assessments where either:
 - a. You are the current owner of the assessment (either as the creator of the assessment, or if the assessment has been assigned to you by a Coordinator)
 - b. You are a Coordinator user for that methodology.
 - c. You are a Collaborator user for that methodology and the assessment has been marked as Finalised.
 - d. The assessment has been Published.

5.0 Methodology access, assessment status and user types

Access to weed risk methodologies and data is managed through (1) methodology access, (2) assessment status and (3) user types, as follows:

1. Methodology access is either: User-specific or General.
 - a. **User-specific access** methodologies are private - assessments can only be created by specified users (i.e. Coordinator and Collaborator users).
 - b. **Public access** methodologies are public - assessments can be created by any user.
2. Assessment status is either: Draft, Finalised, Published or Archived.
 - a. **Draft** assessments are only visible to the owner (e.g. creator) of the assessment, the Coordinator users set for that methodology. Draft assessments can be reassigned to any user by Coordinator users.
 - b. **Finalised** assessments are only visible to the owner (e.g. creator) of the assessment and the Coordinator and Collaborator users set for that methodology.
 - c. **Published** assessments are visible to all users, including Anonymous and General users, which could include members of the public. Assessments are published at the discretion of the Coordinator users set for that methodology. Note there is no obligation to publish assessments in Weed Risk Australia, and the processes for determining whether an assessment be published should be managed by each organisation. Publishing functionality can be disabled for a methodology.
 - d. **Archived** assessments are only visible to the Coordinator users for that methodology.
3. There are four user types: Coordinator, Collaborator, General and Anonymous.
 - a. **Coordinator** users are individually set for each methodology. For methodologies where they are set as Coordinators, Coordinators can create assessments and view, edit, reassign, copy, finalise, publish and archive any assessment associated with that methodology. Coordinators are responsible for setting Collaborators and additional Coordinators for that methodology. A methodology may have multiple Coordinators and a user can be set as a Coordinator / Collaborator / General user for multiple different methodologies.
 - b. **Collaborator** users are individually set for each methodology. For methodologies where they are set as Collaborators, Collaborators can create assessments and view and copy all Finalised and Published assessments associated with that methodology. A methodology may have multiple Collaborator and a user can be set as a Coordinator / Collaborator / General user for multiple different methodologies.
 - c. **General** users can view all published assessments. General users can only create assessments with public access methodologies, not user-specific access methodologies. Currently, any person can sign up for a General user account and General user is the default user type.
 - d. **Anonymous** users can access Weed Risk Australia without having registered for an account. Anonymous users can view all published assessments but cannot create assessments.