

Mesquite— a weed of national significance

The mesquite threat

Mesquite (*Prosopis* spp.) is one of the greatest weed threats to the arid and semi-arid rangelands. It can transform grasslands and floodplains into impenetrable thickets. Mesquite may be spread by stock and other animals consuming pods and dispersing the seeds in their droppings.

Native to the Americas, the various species of mesquite in Australia now affect over one million hectares.

The impacts of mesquite include:

- reduced pasture production and stock-carrying capacity
- difficulty in mustering and restricted access to water
- habitat destruction and a loss of biodiversity
- damage to vehicles and animals from thorns
- provision of a refuge for feral animals.



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Identifying mesquite



Mesquite tree



Mesquite flower



Mesquite pods

What can I do?

- Learn to identify mesquite.
- Undertake prevention measures to stop the spread or introduction of weed seeds.
- Monitor susceptible areas such as stockyards, waterways, roadsides and watering facilities for mesquite and other weeds.
- Seek advice and implement a control plan.
- Coordinate control activities with neighbouring properties.



More information

Contact your local weeds officer or visit the website www.weeds.gov.au



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