Emerging weed threats in Queensland – a narrow window of opportunity

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The flow of new weeds

- Over 1,300 naturalised plant species in Qld
- About 10 – 15 new species each year
- Only 1-2 “high-risk” species per annum

Prioritisation

- About 225 emerging weed threats listed (nominated by various people)
- Have all been risk assessed (available on request – many on-line)
- 71 “high-risk”, about 43 declared (34 eradication targets)

Targets of “pre-emptive” control

Bitou bush

- Detected 1979
- Major weed in NSW and dominant in native range

Bitou bush – 1980s
Bitou bush – 1980s

Bitou bush

Bitou bush

Karoo thorn

Horsetails (Equisetum spp.).
Witchweeds (*Striga* spp).
- Parasitic plants that affect grain crops
- $7B$ in Africa
- $250M$ eradication USA

Gamba grass

Tropical soda apple (*Solanum viarum*)
Kudzu

Kahili ginger

Hudson pear
Miconia

How feasible is eradication?
- Depends on lots of factors
- Mainly size of search area + seed longevity
- Feasibility declines rapidly as search area exceeds 1000 ha

Some data
- $4,270 less than 0.1 ha
- $19,700 for 1 ha
- $1,052,500 for 400 ha
  - (Waldendorp and Bomford 2004)

Cost increases rapidly

Badhara bush
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eradication</th>
<th>What is “success”?</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Eradication is possible (has been done)</td>
<td>• High-level population suppression still a great outcome</td>
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<td>• Needs 'early detection' (active surveillance – weedspotters)</td>
<td>• Avoids major impacts at relatively low cost</td>
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<td>• must target small areas, + delimitation important + address propagule pressure + don’t give up</td>
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