

National Best Practice in the Management of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* for Biodiversity Conservation in Australia¹

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Abstract

Disease in natural ecosystems of Australia, caused by the introduced plant pathogen *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, is listed as a key threatening process under the Australian Government *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The Act requires the Australian Government to prepare and implement a threat abatement plan for nationally coordinated action to mitigate the harm caused by *P. cinnamomi* to the Australian environment particularly threatened flora, fauna species and ecological communities.

The ‘National Threat Abatement Plan for Dieback Caused by the Root-Rot Fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi*’ (NTAP) was released in 2001, and was reviewed and revised in 2006. The NTAP is designed to promote a common understanding of the national threat *P. cinnamomi* poses to biodiversity in Australia.

The Centre for Phytophthora Science and Management is a key stakeholder in the management of *Phytophthora* in the State of Western Australia. The Centre has also played a key role in undertaking some of the most significant projects of the National Threat Abatement Plan, and undertook the review and revision of the Plan in 2006. This has placed the Centre in a unique position to critique the mechanisms for management of *P. cinnamomi* in Australia, and the impact that the three-tiered (Commonwealth or Federal, State and Local) system of government has on developing, attaining and maintaining ‘best practice’ management. This paper examines national and state management frameworks and discusses the outcomes for biodiversity conservation in Australia.

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