

## **Challenges associated with the management of *Phytophthora* diseases in Australia and the importance of community engagement for success**

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*Phytophthora cinnamomi* is listed as a “Key Threatening Process to Australia’s Biodiversity” by the Commonwealth Government, consequently there is a national threat abatement plan (TAP) in place. The TAP establishes a national framework to guide and coordinate Australia’s response to *P. cinnamomi*. It sets out the actions necessary to abate impacts of this key threatening process, and identifies the research, management and other actions needed in Australia’s response to this pathogen. The success of this TAP depends on a high level of cooperation between all key stakeholders. We will discuss how different stakeholders have met the challenges of identifying and mapping the pathogen across the landscape, taking into account other *Phytophthora* species, global change, other environmental priorities, the need for prioritizing areas that are “protectable” over the next 50-100 years and the importance for societal engagement to ensure uptake. A number of case studies from the Commonwealth, State, non-government organizations, “friends of groups” and industry will be provided to show how different stakeholders have engaged in attempts to meet the objectives of the TAP. We will discuss how research can help guide and invigorate different stakeholders in the process of managing and containing the spread and impacts of this pathogen across different landscapes. Lastly, examples of the importance of working with community to ensure uptake of processes and procedures will be highlighted, together with the associated challenges.