

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Shire of Esperance**

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## **Weed Mapping Funded**

The Shire of Esperance has secured a grant to collate existing weed mapping data. The grant is for \$24,300 and has been funded by the State Government's Natural Resource Management Program's Community Stewardship Grants.

The Shire is an internationally biodiverse hotspot, covering 44 366 km<sup>2</sup> of land with an extensive road network (4 853 km) providing a pathway to spread environmental weeds. This grant is a part of a \$51k project that will focus on collating weed spatial data collected by various agencies over the last 20 years, into a single standard data storage, which can be shared with State Government managed databases.

This funding will also allow the development of a standard procedure to be used in future weed mapping ensuring it is consistently collected and recorded. This information will be used to update the Shire's Environmental Weed Strategy optimising future weed mitigation. Weed control is important to prevent degradation of water ways, loss of biodiversity, outcompeting natives, and thus threatening Esperance's flora and fauna. Additional to the environmental impact, weeds also pose an economic threat to the agricultural industry, which future mitigation efforts aim to reduce.

Chief Executive Officer, Matthew Scott said, "We are pleased to receive this grant and this is another example of our staff successfully applying for grants to deliver additional programs that protect Esperance's natural beauty.

By understanding the location, severity and threat of mapped environmental weeds our environment team will be able to take a strategic approach to future weed management and allocate limited resources to optimise successful weed mitigation outcomes."

**Ends**

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