

# Group Discussion: Toward a National Weed Strategy - What Role Can CalEPPC Play?

## Summary by John M. Randall

Immediately following Stella Humphries' presentation, Stella and John Randall led a discussion on what role, if any, CalEPPC might take on a national level to promote wildland weed prevention and control.

Many in the audience were greatly impressed by Stella's presentation and wanted further details on the lessons she drew from Australia's experience creating a National Weed Strategy. After that Stella and John presented a slate of options for CalEPPC, one of which was taking no national level role, and then the audience broke up into small groups to discuss the pros and cons of those options and to develop others. Following about 15 minutes of lively and productive exchanges in the small groups the entire audience came together again and was asked to suggest additional options. Among these were developing a state weed strategy, creating a Landcare Program similar to the Australian version described in Stella's presentation. Finally, all these suggestions were listed along with those presented earlier by Stella and John and each person was asked to vote on them. Individuals were asked to allocate a total of 10 points among the options they wanted CalEPPC to pursue; they could divide the points in any way they wanted, giving all 10 to a single option or giving 1 point each of 10 options, for example. Stella and John tabulated the result that evening and presented them briefly during the Symposium the next morning.

The option with the most points was one suggested by the audience: Promoting the development of a State Weed Strategy. Three other options essentially tied for second place: a) Developing a comprehensive Weed Management Strategy for one "flagship" weed; b) Promoting development of a national education strategy; and c) Organizing a national prevention meeting. All the options voted on and the total points they received are presented in Table 1 below.

**Table 1.**

**National-level roles suggested for CalEPPC and the total number of points allocated to each by individuals in the audience.**

	<b>Option</b>	<b>Points</b>
1.	Promote development of a State Weed Strategy	104.5
2.	Develop a management strategy for a "flagship" weed species	59.0
3.	Promote development of a National Weed Education strategy	59.0
4.	Organize and hold a national weed prevention meeting	58.5
5.	Promote biocontrol	37.5
6.	Promote passage of the Federal Noxious Weed Act Amendments	22.5
7.	Other	
	a. Promote development of a State Weed Education Strategy	5.0
	b. Promote early detection of weeds	2.5
	c. Promote/organize local/grass-roots involvement in weed control	2.5
	d. Develop a funding strategy for restoration	2.0
	e. Develop cultivation practices and fire exclusion understanding	2.0
	f. Promote development of a Landcare Program in the U.S.	1.0
	g. Promote use of weed eradication as mitigation for development	1.0
8.	Take NO action at a national level	10.0