

Can Waterwatch assist with the early detection of aquatic weeds?

This workshop aims to gauge the capacity of Waterwatch groups to assist with early detection of several aquatic weeds that pose a serious threat to Australia's waterways. These include the aquatic Weeds of National Significance and the National Alert species.

The National Aquatic Weeds Management Group and affiliated organisations are developing practical aquatic weed detection mechanisms to help manage this threat. However, if the concept is to be successful it will need to be implemented by a range of community groups.

The workshop is open to all conference attendees, however Waterwatch coordinators and long term volunteers will provide most benefit.

The workshop will involve:

- a presentation on the background on these aquatic weeds and outline why early detection is so critical for their management.
- an introduction to a possible aquatic weeds detection methods that aims to be suitable for volunteers.
- a workshop session on the methodology, resources required and reporting.
- discussion on future directions

Workshop participants will be expected to give feedback to the workshop conveners about the feasibility of the concept and proposed method. Participants will learn about the impact these aquatic weeds have on our waterways and the many challenges for their management.