



Weed Spotters Network Queensland

Melinda Laidlaw
Department of Environment and Science
Weed Spotter Network Queensland Coordinator 2013-2021
Melinda.Laidlaw@des.qld.gov.au

Weed Spotters Network Queensland

In a nut shell...

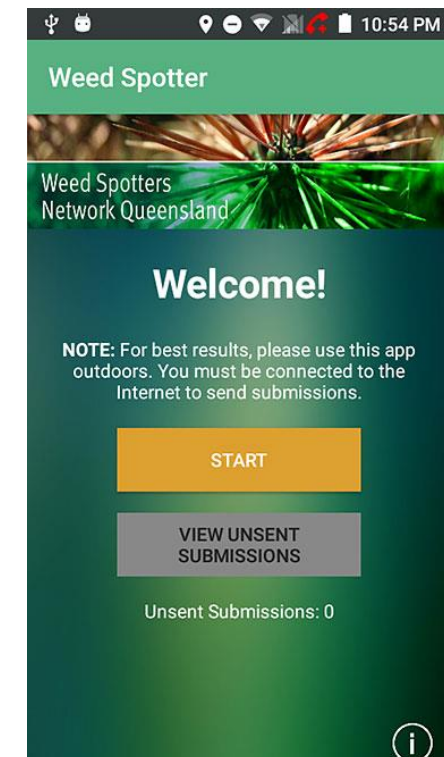
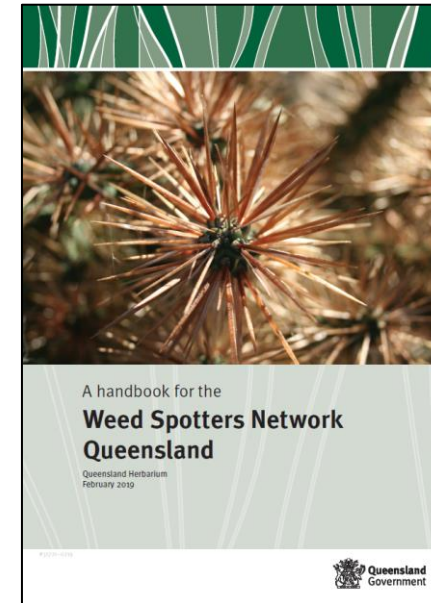
- Weed Spotters is a citizen science project focussed on the detection, identification and reporting of *new incidents of state restricted and prohibited weeds* early so that preventative measures can be taken.
- A joint project between the Department of Environment and Science (Queensland Herbarium) Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (Biosecurity Queensland) and local government, with funding support from the Land Protection Fund.



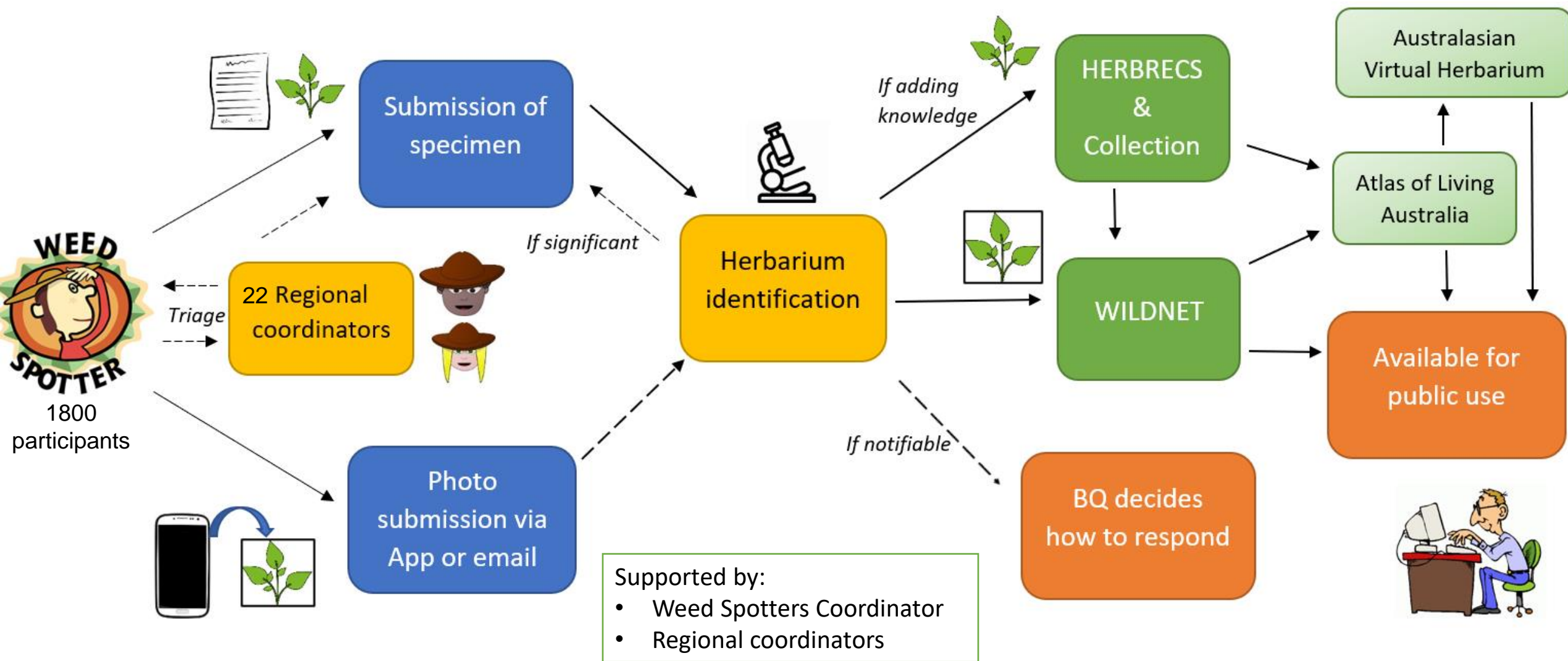
Weed Spotters Network Queensland

In a nut shell...

- Weed spotters are provided with training, monthly bulletins and a handbook to guide them in their weed spotting activities.
- Volunteer regional coordinators provide support to Weed Spotters and promote the program in their regions.
- Weed Spotters submit a specimen to the Queensland Herbarium or send in photos via email or the Weed Spotter App to notify sightings.
- Remind they are part of something bigger



Weed Spotters Network Queensland



Weed Spotters Network Queensland

Key stakeholders

- Biosecurity Queensland
- Department of Environment and Science
- Local governments
- Natural Resource Management groups
- Industry associations
- Queenslanders



Win-win for all

- Free weed identification, *feeling part of something bigger*
- Provide stakeholders with weed related networks
- More specimens for the herbarium collection
- Early detection lowers response cost, maximises chances of eradication/containment



Weed Spotters Network Queensland

Key challenges and lessons

- Not all weeds are equal
- Managing Weed Spotter expectations
- Time as a reporting barrier
- Weed spotters are a powerhouse!

Acknowledgements

- ABARES
- WSNQ steering committee
- Weed Spotters

