



KEMPSEY  
Shire Council

## DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

12<sup>th</sup> December 2006

### DCCS9 CLASS 4 WEED CONTROL MANAGEMENT PLANS File: 339 GWE

#### SUMMARY:

Reporting on the changes to the Noxious Weeds Act and the need for the development of Class 4 Noxious Weeds Control Management Plans.



Recent changes to the Noxious Weeds Act relate to:- a) the reclassification of weeds from the previous four categories, to five category classes of weeds, and b) the requirement that Council's develop Control Management Plans for all Class 4 Weeds within their locality.

The Act continues to stipulate that landowners as well as the occupiers of land are still responsible for the control of noxious weeds on their premises.

#### Background Information on Weed Control Classifications

Under the amendments to the Noxious Weeds Act, Noxious weeds are classified into five (5) distinct categories for control.

The new weeds classifications and characteristics are as follows:

##### *Class 1, State Prohibited Weeds,*

Class 1 noxious weeds are plants that pose a potentially serious threat to primary production or the environment and are not present in the State or are present only to a limited extent.

##### *Class 2, Regionally Prohibited Weeds,*

Class 2 noxious weeds are plants that pose a potentially serious threat to primary production or the environment of a region to which the order applies and are not present in the region or are present only to a limited extent.

##### *Class 3, Regionally Controlled Weeds,*

Class 3 noxious weeds are plants that pose a serious threat to primary production or the environment of an area to which the order applies, are not widely distributed in the area and are likely to spread in the area or to another area.

##### *Class 4, Locally Controlled Weeds,*

Class 4 noxious weeds are plants that pose a threat to primary production, the environment or human health, are widely distributed in an area to which the order applies and are likely to spread in the area or to another area.

#### *Class 5, Restricted Plants.*

Class 5 noxious weeds are plants that are likely, by their sale or the sale of their seeds or movement within the State or an area of the State, to spread in the State or outside the State.

A noxious weed that is classified as a Class 1, 2 or 5 noxious weed is referred to in the Act as a notifiable weed.

#### **Class 4 Weeds in the Kempsey Shire.**

Within Kempsey Shire Local Government Area there are nineteen (19) declared Class 4 weeds. Under the amendments to the Act, Council is required to prepare Weed Control Management Plans for each weed.

As these requirements relate to all Councils, the Mid North Coast Weeds Advisory Committee (MNCWAC) which comprises the local government areas of Kempsey, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Great Lakes, Gloucester and Greater Taree, prepared standard Weed Control Management Plans that would be implemented and used across the Mid North Coast Region.

At the most recent meeting of the MNCWAC these plans were considered and it was resolved to recommend their adoption by all member Councils.

The nineteen (19) Class 4 Weeds declared within Council's area include: Bathurst Burr, Bitou Bush, Blackberry, Boneseed, Chilean Needle Grass, Columbus Grass, Crofton Weed, Giant Parramatta Grass, Harrisia Cactus, Johnson Grass, Lantana, Long Leaf Willow Primrose, Noogoora Burr, Pampas Grass, Paterson's Curse, Prickly Pear, Rhus Tree, Serrated Tussock and Spiny Burr Grass.

As previously mentioned, Class 4 Noxious Weeds are plants that pose a threat to primary production, the environment or human health, are widely distributed in an area to which the order applies and are likely to spread in the area or to another area.

For a class 4 noxious weed, the growth and spread of the plant must be controlled according to the measures specified in a management plan published by the local control authority.

Included within the Weed Management Plan is a section with, coloured photos to assist in the identification and information on control techniques together with optimum times for control.

There has been positive feedback from officers of the Department of Primary Industries on the approach taken in complying with the new provisions of the Noxious Weeds Act as they relate to Class 4 Weeds.

A copy of a sample Weed Management Plan for Blackberry is attached - [\(Appendix I\)](#).

## **REPORT IMPLICATIONS:**

- *Environmental*

*To minimise the effects of noxious and environmental weeds on the natural environment.*

- *Social*

*There are no social impacts*

- *Economic (Financial)*

*There are no budgetary implications in adopting the recommendations of this report.*

- *Policy or Statutory*

*The recent amendments to the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 and the Mid North Coast Regional Weed Strategy were taken into consideration in the preparation of this report.*

- *Director's Review*

*The Weed Management Plans will be distributed to landholders where appropriate.*

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the report on the recent amendments to the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 be noted for information.**

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**G B Snape**  
**DIRECTOR CORPORATE & COMMUNITY SERVICES**