

POLICY NO:	84
POLICY TITLE:	NOXIOUS WEEDS POLICY
SECTION RESPONSIBLE:	ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING
MINUTE NO:	1555/2199
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Above: Alligator Weed
(*Alternanthera philoxeroides*)
A Weed of National Significance in Australia.
This aquatic weed has not reached its potential range in Australia and has the ability to devastate the environment and agriculture if unchecked

NOXIOUS WEEDS POLICY



FIGURE 1:

Greater Hume Shire Council – The Region To Which This Policy Applies

What is a Weed?

As defined in the National Weed Strategy:

"A weed is a plant which has, or has potential to have, a detrimental effect on economic, social or conservation values."

What is a noxious weed?

Noxious weeds are weeds that are declared under the New South Wales Noxious Weeds Act 1993 (as amended 2005).

Weeds may be declared over the entire state or in one or more local government areas.

Both environmental and production weeds may be declared under the act.

What is a notifiable Weed?

A Notifiable Weed is a noxious weed that is classified as a Class 1, 2 or 5 noxious weed, in accordance with the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 (amended 2005). The presence of the weed must be notified to the local control authority within 3 days.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 VISION

To control existing weeds and prevent the spread of new and emerging weeds in the Greater Hume Shire through coordination, cooperation and commitment from weed managers.

1.2 OBJECTIVES

To progressively remove noxious weeds from:

- i Council owned land,
- ii Privately owned land,
- iii Crown land, and
- iv Other statutory authority owned land; and further
- v Protect the environment, community and overall agricultural productivity from the impact of weeds
- vi Educate stakeholders on weed management.
- vii Establish and maintain linkages with neighbouring shires, agencies and other management authorities.

1.3 OBLIGATIONS

Council is required under the Noxious Weeds Act of New South Wales 1993 (as amended 2005), to control and manage noxious weeds.

What is a Class 1 Noxious Weed?

These 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.

The plant must be eradicated from the land and the land must be kept free of the plant.

Class 1 weeds are NOTIFIABLE WEEDS.

Eg: Parthenium Weed

What is a Class 2 Noxious Weed?

These weeds are plants that pose a serious threat to primary production or the environment of an area, are not present in the region or are present only to a limited extent.

The plant must be eradicated from the land and the land must be kept free of the plant.

Class 2 weeds are NOTIFIABLE WEEDS

Eg: Alligator Weed.

2 METHODS

- 2.1 To prevent the spread of noxious weeds on Council owned lands by carrying out an effective control program.
- 2.2 To prevent the spread of noxious weeds on private land by carrying out an effective inspectorial programme.
- 2.3 To reduce noxious weeds from private and other land by encouraging the active cooperation and participation of landholders in the development of practical, reasonable, and effective management programs.
- 2.4 To provide ongoing educational opportunities for all stakeholders in relation to weed management.
- 2.5 Ensure landholders carry out their obligations under the Noxious Weeds Act of New South Wales 1993 (as amended 2005).
- 2.6 To strategically allocate Council resources in the following manner;
 - To place emphasis on those weeds that have the potential to pose the greatest threat.
 - To place emphasis on those weeds that have limited infestations but have the ability to spread if not eradicated.
 - To review the list of declared noxious weeds on an ongoing basis in light of conditions and advice from the relevant authorities

What is a Class 3 Noxious Weed?

These plants pose a serious threat to primary production or the environment of an area, are not widely distributed in the area and are likely to spread in the area or to another area.

The plant must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed

Eg: Chilean Needle Grass

- Management Authorities, Rural Lands Protection Boards and other Land Management Agencies.
- To submit and support applications to the relevant authorities for available grants for co-ordination and operation works.
- To develop Integrated Weed Management strategies to control and manage weeds.
- To continue to draw the attention of the relevant state authorities to the need to provide adequate funding for on-ground control works.

What is a Class 4 Noxious Weed?

These weeds are plants that pose a threat to primary production, the environment or human health, are widely distributed in an area and are likely to spread in the area or to another area.

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.

Eg: St. Johns Wort.

What is a Class 5 Weed?

These plants 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.

The requirements in the Noxious Weeds Act for a Notifiable weed must be complied with.

Class 5 weeds are NOTIFIABLE WEEDS

Eg: Athel Pine

3 LISTING OF WEEDS

Council will be guided in its action in reference to noxious weeds as described in Sections 7-10 of the

Noxious Weeds Act of New South Wales 1993(amended 2005).

These sections of the Act determine the due process to be followed before the Minister can make a weed control order that applies to either part or the whole of the State.

4 PRIORITISING OF WEEDS

In addition to the requirements as laid out in the Noxious Weeds Act of New South Wales 1993 (amended 2005), Council will prioritise weeds, for the purpose of operational work, under the following headings:

- A Weeds not currently present in the Greater Hume Shire.
- B Weeds present with limited distribution in the Greater Hume Shire.
- C Weeds present with moderate distribution in the Greater Hume Shire.,
- D Weeds that are widespread throughout the Greater Hume Shire.

4 RESOURCES

- 4.1 Council will, at all times, subject to adequate resources, in relation to staff and plant, (either Council owned and operated, or by the use of contractors) to meet their obligations under the Noxious Weeds Act of New South Wales 1993 (amended 2005).

Steven Pinnuck
General Manager

Date Signed:

POLICY DOCUMENT CONTROL

Noxious Weeds Policy	First Adopted:	18 Oct 2006 Min 785
Noxious Weeds Policy	First Revision	16 Jul 2008 Min 1555
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