

yass valley council

the country the people

Yass Valley Local Strategic Weeds Plan



Record of Versions

Date Published	Reason for Amendments	Resolution	Author/Document Owner
16/7/19	Original draft for review		Mark Livermore
25/10/19	Revised draft adopted by Council	235/19	

Uncontrolled document when printed. Please refer to intranet for controlled document

With thanks to Brett Jones from Snowy Monaro Regional Council for his considerable assistance with the material included in this document.

Contents

1. Introduction	5
1.1. Yass Valley	5
1.2. Implementation of the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i>	5
1.2.1. General Biosecurity Duty	7
1.2.2. Prohibited Matter	7
1.2.3. Mandatory measures	9
2 South East Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022	10
3 Priority weeds within Yass Valley	11
3.1 The Economic Impact of Weeds	11
3.2 Prevention	12
3.3 Elimination	12
3.4 Containment and Asset Protection	12
3.5 Mapping	12
3.6 Education	14
3.7 Weeds Focus Group	14
3.8 Impacts of Control	14
4 Plan review	15
5 Appendices	16
APPENDIX 1 Serrated Tussock	17
APPENDIX 2 Blackberry	19
APPENDIX 3 African Lovegrass	21
APPENDIX 4 Chilean Needle Grass	23
APPENDIX 5 Gorse	25
APPENDIX 6 Coolatai Grass	27

APPENDIX 7	Sweet Briar	29
APPENDIX 8	Bathurst Burrs	31
APPENDIX 9	Scotch/English Broom	33
APPENDIX 10	Fireweed	35
APPENDIX 11	St Johns Wort	37

Tables

Table 1:	Prohibited Matter (Weeds) to which specific restrictions are legislated	8
Table 2:	Schedule 3 Weeds to which mandatory measures apply	10

Figures

Figure 1	Yass Valley Council Geographical area	6
Figure 2	Generalised Invasion Curve	13
Figure 3	High Risk Pathways in the Yass Valley	15

1. Introduction

1.1. Yass Valley

Yass Valley is a thriving community made up of eight diverse towns and villages of Binalong, Bookham, Bowning, Gundaroo, Murrumbateman, Sutton, Wee Jasper and Yass along with the surrounding rural areas.

Yass Valley is located in the Southern Tablelands of NSW, a regional area boasting a proud Aboriginal, strong colonial and innovative agricultural history. Yass Valley is located 280km southwest of the Sydney CBD, 600km northeast of the Melbourne CBD and 60km north of the Canberra CBD.

Yass Valley was traditionally inhabited by the Ngunnawal and Wiradjuri Tribes. The Yass area was first seen by Europeans in 1821, on an expedition led by Hamilton Hume, and by 1830 European settlement had begun.

Yass Valley is an area of 4,000km² and adjoins five other NSW local government areas and the Australian Capital Territory.

The topography of the region is extremely diverse ranging from the dramatic and beautiful hills, valleys and waterways of the Wee Jasper area, to the huge expanse of Burrinjuck Dam, the rolling hills of Binalong and the vast plains of Yass and Murrumbateman that are home to some of the finest wool and wine country in Australia.

The region is reliant on agricultural production, which is based largely on sheep and cattle grazing enterprises. It is also a major 'cold climate' wine producer.

Weed invasion, and in particular invasion by perennial grass weeds like Serrated Tussock, African Lovegrass and Chilean Needle Grass, have the potential to reduce, and in some cases, eliminate native and introduced pastures, and native vegetation communities. For this reason, these weeds are identified as one of the greatest threats to the biodiversity of the Yass Valley region.

1.2. Implementation of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*

On 1 July 2017, the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015* became the primary legislation dealing with weed management in NSW. The Act supersedes the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* and operates on a risk management framework, providing flexibility in the development and implementation of weed management programs at a local level based on the level of risk that a weed poses to the local economy, environment and/or community.

The primary objective of the new Act is to provide a framework for the prevention, elimination and minimisation of a wide range of biosecurity risks, including pest animals, diseases, contaminants and weeds. In relation to the management of weeds, the Act aims to prevent the introduction of new weeds into or within the State, to eradicate new incursions quickly and efficiently and to minimise the impact of widespread established weeds.

This plan identifies the priority weeds with which Council maintains an active management and compliance program. It also specifies the extent to which land managers within the Yass Valley Region must manage these priority weeds in the absence of State legislated requirements.

Figure 1 Yass Valley Geographical Area



1.2.1. General Biosecurity Duty

To ensure that the risk posed by all weeds is prevented, eliminated or minimised, the Act requires land managers to manage all weeds in accordance with their 'General Biosecurity Duty'.

General Biosecurity Duty is referred to in Section 22 of the Act as '*Any person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier and who knows, or ought reasonably to know, the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by the biosecurity matter, carrier or dealing has a biosecurity duty to ensure that, so far as reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised*'.

Although the general biosecurity duty applies broadly, there are a number of elements that must be satisfied. These are well defined by Department of Primary Industries at (<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/biosecurity-legislation/general-biosecurity-duty>) as:

- **Dealing with** – the general biosecurity duty only applies to a person who 'deals with' biosecurity matter or a carrier of biosecurity matter. 'Deal with' includes a wide range of activities, which are listed in section 12 of the Act. Some examples of dealing with biosecurity matter are; to keep, possess, grow, breed, move, supply or manufacture biosecurity matter.
- **Knowledge** – a person must know, or ought reasonably to know, that there is or is likely to be a biosecurity risk arising from the biosecurity matter, carrier or 'dealing'. This will be a question of fact and will depend on the circumstances of each situation.
- **People who know or ought reasonably to know will** generally include people who deal with biosecurity matter or carriers on a regular basis as part of a commercial or recreational activity, and people who work professionally (i.e. 'deal') with a particular type of biosecurity matter or carrier. For these people their general knowledge and expertise would in most cases be sufficient to indicate they know the risks.
- **'Reasonably practicable'** – what is reasonably practicable for the prevention, elimination or minimisation of a biosecurity risk will depend on what was reasonably able to be done at a particular time, taking into account and weighing up all relevant matters. Relevant matters include, the nature and potential impact of the biosecurity risk, the person's level of knowledge of the risk and related actions that could be taken to prevent, eliminate or minimise the risk, and the cost, availability and suitability of these actions. It is not likely to be reasonably practicable if the cost is greatly disproportionate to the risk.
- **Preventing, eliminating or minimising** the biosecurity risk – the risk must be prevented or eliminated if reasonably practicable, otherwise it must be minimised so far as is reasonably practicable.

The general biosecurity duty can apply to more than one person in relation to the same biosecurity risk, for example an owner and a manager may both be responsible for managing a particular biosecurity risk on a property.

1.2.2. Prohibited Matter

Schedule 2 of the Act identifies weeds which are legislated as Prohibited Matter throughout NSW. These weeds are subject to specific restrictions relating to the possession, purchase, sale, movement and other dealings as identified in the Act. A person who becomes aware of the presence of a prohibited weed, or suspects that a prohibited event has occurred, is occurring or is about to occur must immediately notify Council. Prohibited Matter (Weeds) are detailed in Table 1.

Table 1 Prohibited Matter (Weeds) to which specific restrictions are legislated

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Andropogon gayanus</i>	Gamba grass
<i>Annona glabra</i>	Pond apple
<i>Asparagus declinatus</i>	Bridal veil creeper
<i>Bassia scoparia (excluding subsp. trichophylla)</i>	Kochia
<i>Centaurea stoebe subsp. micranthos</i>	Spotted knapweed
<i>Centaurea x moncktonii</i>	Black knapweed
<i>Chromolaena odorata</i>	Siam weed
<i>Clidemia hirta</i>	Koster's curse
<i>Cryptostegia grandiflora</i>	Rubber vine
<i>Eichhornia azurea</i>	Anchored water hyacinth
<i>Hieracium spp (all species)</i>	Hawkweed
<i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i>	Hydrocotyl/Water pennywort
<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>	Lagarosiphon
<i>Limnobium spp. (all species)</i>	Frogbit/Spongeplant
<i>Limnocharis flava</i>	Yellow burrhead
<i>Miconia spp. (all species)</i>	Miconia
<i>Mikania micrantha</i>	Mikania vine
<i>Mimosa pigra</i>	Mimosa
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Eurasian water milfoil
<i>Nassella tenuissima (syn. Stipa tenuissima)</i>	Mexican feather grass
<i>Orobanche spp. (all species except the native O. cernua var. australiana and O. minor)</i>	Broomrape
<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>	Parthenium weed
<i>Stratiotes aloides</i>	Water soldier
<i>Striga spp. (except the native S. parviflora)</i>	Witchweed
<i>Trapa spp. (all species)</i>	Water caltrop
<i>Vachellia karroo (syn. Acacia karroo)</i>	Karoo acacia
<i>Vachellia nilotica (syn. Acacia nilotica)</i>	Prickly acacia

1.2.3. Mandatory measures

Schedule 3 *Biosecurity Regulation 2017* identifies a number of weeds with which mandatory measures apply. The mandatory measures applying to these weeds are detailed in Clause 33 of the Regulation as ‘a person must not import into the State or sell’ any listed plant.

Table 2 Schedule 3 Weeds to which mandatory measures apply

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	Alligator weed
<i>Anredera cordifolia</i>	Madeira vine
<i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i> , <i>A. africanus</i> , <i>A. asparagoides</i> Western Cape form*, <i>A. declinatus</i> , <i>A. plumosus</i> , <i>A. scandens</i> (except <i>A. officinalis</i> , <i>A. racemosus</i>)	Asparagus weeds
<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>	Bridal creeper
<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>	Cabomba
<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>	Bitou bush/Boneseed
<i>Dolichandra unguis-cati</i>	Cat’s claw creeper
<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	Water hyacinth
<i>Genista monspessulana</i> , <i>G. linifolia</i> , <i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Brooms
<i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i>	Hymenachne
<i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i>	Bellyache bush
<i>Lantana camara</i>	Lantana
<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	African boxthorn
<i>Nassella neesiana</i>	Chilean needle grass
<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>	Serrated tussock
<i>Opuntia</i> spp., <i>Cylindropuntia</i> spp., <i>Austrocylindropuntia</i> spp. (except <i>O. ficus-indica</i>)	Opuntoid cacti
<i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i>	Parkinsonia
<i>Prosopis</i> spp.	Mesquite
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Blackberry except the varieties Chester Thornless, Dirksen Thornless, Loch Ness, Silvan, Black Satin, Murrindindi, Smooth Stem, Thornfree and Chehalem
<i>Sagittaria platyphylla</i>	Sagittaria
<i>Salix</i> spp. except <i>S. babylonica</i> , <i>S. X calodendron</i> and <i>S. X reichardtiji</i>	Willows except weeping willows, pussy willow and sterile pussy willow
<i>Salvinia molesta</i>	Salvinia
<i>Senecio madagascariensis</i>	Fireweed
<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i>	Silverleaf nightshade
<i>Tamarix aphylla</i>	Athel pine
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse

2 South East Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022

The *South East Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022* was developed by the South East Regional Weed Committee in 2017 on behalf of the South East Local Land Services Board. This is a Regional Plan and its intent is to outline strategic actions to guide collaborative weed management, resource allocation and investment in the whole South East Region. The Regional Plan identifies a number of weed priorities within the South East. An objective and repeatable weed risk assessment was carried out at a State and Regional level. These Priority Weeds include weeds that impact:

- Animal and plant industries
- Biodiversity and the natural environment
- Urban and peri-urban environments
- Human health, lifestyle, cultural values, recreation and social amenity
- Infrastructure and service industries, including energy, transport and water supplies,

The Plan recommends strategic responses to prevent, eliminate or minimise the biosecurity risk associated with each weed.

The *Yass Valley Local Strategic Weeds Plan* adopts the principles and priorities identified within the Regional Plan and further prioritises actions based on local risk, impact and feasibility of control.

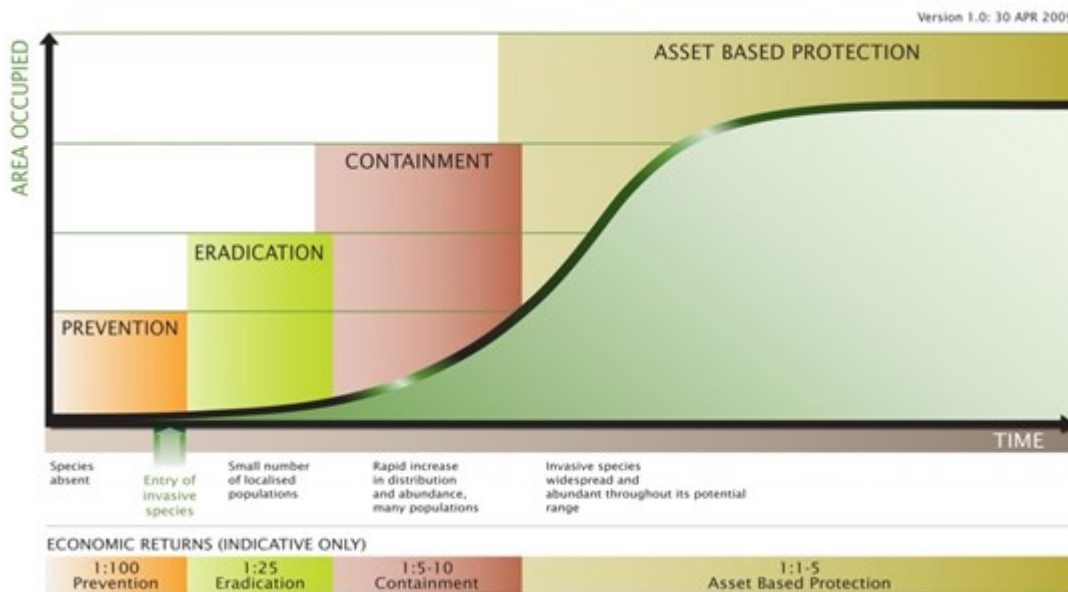
3 Priority weeds within Yass Valley

With the immense diversity in landscape, climate, soil type and land use throughout the Yass Valley Region it is inevitable that weed intensity levels vary widely. With this diversity comes significant variation in the capacity of land managers to reach a common standard in weed control. The Yass Valley Local Weed Action Plan recognises that a ‘one size fits all’ approach to weed management may not achieve efficient resource allocation or satisfactory weed control outcomes in some situations. For this reason, the plan applies risk based methodology to impose weed control requirements on land managers based on the level of risk posed by a weed and the prevalence of the weed at paddock, property and/or landscape scale.

The plan recognises that while a myriad of introduced weeds are present within the region; finite resources restrict works programs to a limited number of particularly high priority weeds. These weeds are ones that have an identified impact on the local economy, environment and/or community.

The generalised weed invasion curve is the foundation of State, Regional and Local plans and strategies. It informs resource allocation and ensures that weed control programs are achievable and cost effective to the community. The invasion curve promotes the preferential allocation of resources at the early stages of invasion where the likelihood of prevention or eradication is greatest. It does not take away from investment into managing established weeds, as these weeds often have significant and long term impacts on community values. The invasion curve prioritises resource allocation into managing established weeds in a strategic manner to protect those community values.

Figure 2. Generalised Invasion Curve



Many weed species considered to be widespread throughout NSW have a very limited distribution within areas of the Yass Valley Region. The objective of this plan is to prioritise resource allocation towards eradicating isolated infestations where possible, and to reducing the impact of the weed where it is not.

Council works with all neighbouring Councils and the ACT and NSW Governments, to implement a strategic approach to the management of priority weeds on public and private land

3.1 The Economic Impact of Weeds

Over 1,650 introduced plant species have become established in NSW. At least 300 of these weeds have had significant environmental impacts, including bitou bush, lantana, blackberry and privet. In many cases weeds form monocultures which displace native species.

Throughout agricultural areas, weeds can out-compete crops and pasture species, resulting in lower economic returns and the need for expensive and ongoing control measures. It is estimated that the cost of weed impacts and weed management to the NSW agriculture sector is around \$1.8 billion per annum (NSW Invasive Species Plan 2018-2021).

3.2 Prevention

The *Biosecurity Act 2015* promotes a principle of shared responsibility. It imposes an obligation on land managers to prevent the introduction of weeds onto land under their management. Land managers, defined by the Act as ‘dealers’ must take all reasonable precautions to prevent the introduction of weeds into the region and onto their land through the introduction of fodder, livestock, vehicles and other weed carriers.

This includes public land managers as the Act is ‘tenure neutral’ – that is, managers of public land such as Local and State Government are subject to the same actions and penalties as private land managers.

3.3 Elimination

This plan imposes strict conditions on all land managers to eliminate isolated infestations of priority weeds at paddock, property and landscape scale. In discharging their duty, land managers or ‘dealers’ must fully and continuously suppress and destroy isolated infestations where it is reasonably practicable to do so in accordance with s16 *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

3.4 Containment and Asset Protection

Many weeds have become naturalised in areas of the Yass Valley, though have not reached their maximum potential. These weeds continue to impact on the Region’s social, economic and environmental health and must be managed with a strong and effective program. This plan aims to contain the spread of priority weeds and to reduce their incidence in affected areas where it is reasonably practicable to do so.

Where infestations are well established and widespread the growth of plants must be controlled in a manner that continuously inhibits the ability of the plants to spread. Plants may spread by sexual (e.g. seeding events) or asexual means (e.g. lateral spread by underground rhizomes) or by a combination of both. Control measures must be implemented which address the specific mechanism(s) of spread for the target plant.

This plan recognises the high cost of control of some established weeds and enables land managers to submit a staged control plan to Council for approval. A staged control plan must provide detailed objectives and suitable timeframes to be approved by Council.

Some localised areas of the Yass Valley contain infestations of priority weeds whereby the weed is the dominant species and to which a reduction in incidence is unlikely in a localised situation with current technologies. In such areas buffers and containment strategies may be imposed by Council to protect priority assets.

Control requirements for priority weeds within the Yass Valley are detailed within Appendices 1-12.

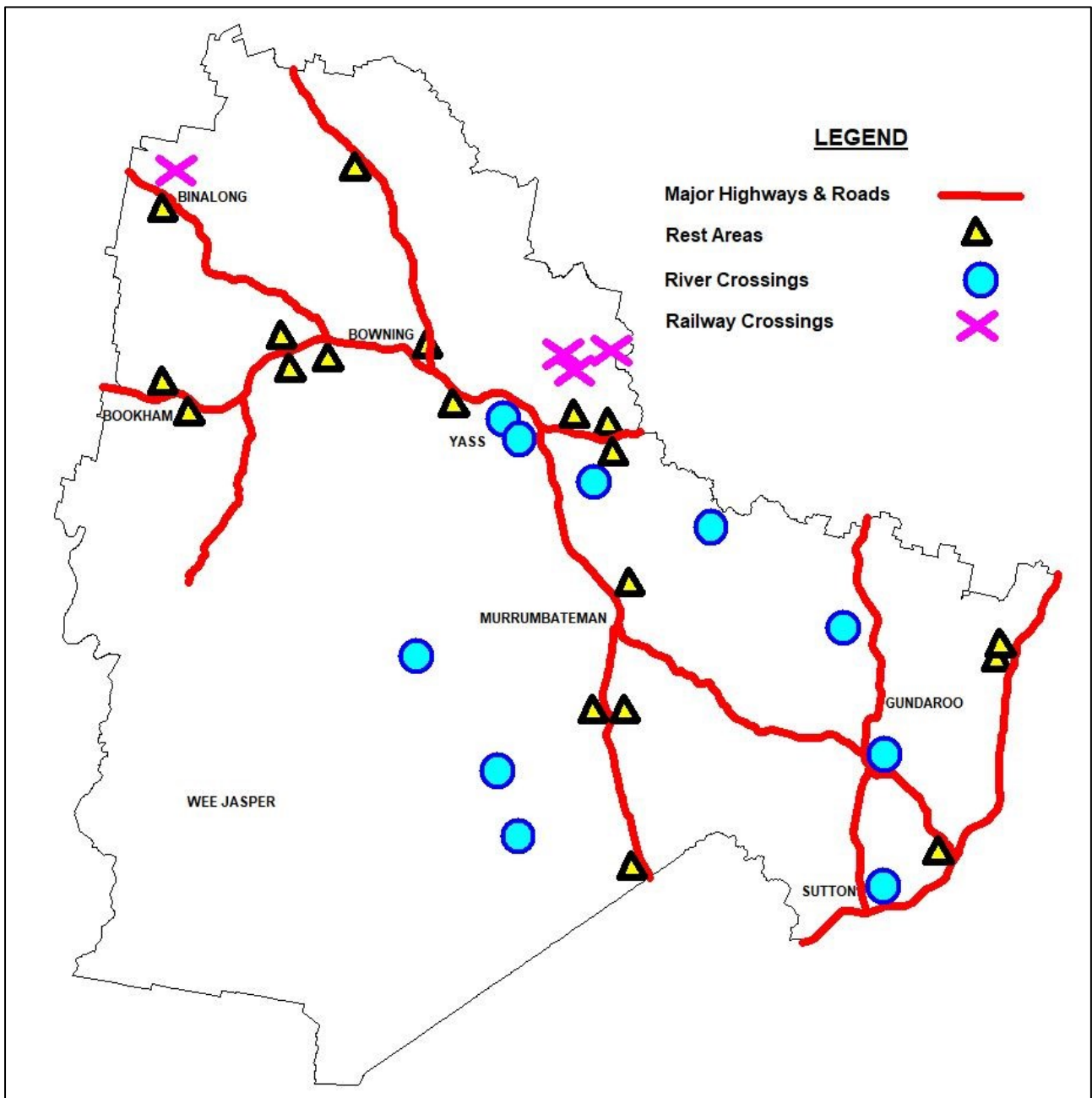
Council has a control program in place for priority weed management of Council owned land.

3.5 Mapping

Assessments have been carried out in the past at a regional level to identify High Risk Pathways for weed introduction and spread in the Yass Valley as part of the broader South East Region. These high risk pathways are identified as key priorities in the *South East Regional Weed Management Plan*.

High Risk Pathways in the Yass Valley LGA are shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3: High Risk Pathways in the Yass Valley



3.6 Education

Education is a key component in the management of Priority Weeds in the Yass Valley. This is identified as a responsibility of Local Control Authorities under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. Education and extension activities reinforce the concept of the General Biosecurity Duty and establish a cooperative approach to local and regional weed management.

Education is carried out in a number of ways including:

- Community meetings
- Field days (including those in partnership with other groups such as Landcare, NSW Farmers and South East Local Land Services)
- Extension work through inspections, providing a face to face service to local landholders
- Media items, including Council's social media platforms

3.7 Weeds Focus Group

Council is committed to establishing a Focus Group for Priority Weed Management. This will assist Council biosecurity and operations staff in setting the annual priorities for weed management in the Yass Valley.

The Focus Group will consist of representatives from stakeholder groups in the community and will provide a pathway for stakeholders to provide input into decision making in relation to weed management activities and overall strategy.

3.8 Impacts of Control on Adjoining Land

Anyone conducting spraying for weed control must be considerate of the adjoining agricultural land uses. Spray drift can have a detrimental effect on adjoining agricultural uses leading to crop and plant damage. Inadequate management of spray drift may result in a fine or requirement to pay compensation.

In Yass Valley activities such as vineyard operations and organic agricultural operations are particularly sensitive.

In these circumstances neighbours should be contacted that spraying is proposed and to suspend spraying if weather conditions are unsuitable.

The Department of Primary Industries has a range of online resources in relation to noxious and environmental weed control including the *Weed Control Handbook* (<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds/weed-control/management-guides/noxious-enviro-weed-control>)

Caution also needs to be exercised when spraying near areas of biodiversity value particularly threatened or endangered vegetation.

Many residents undertake routine maintenance work within road reserves (e.g. mowing nature strips/verge areas). There are no objections to residents undertaking weed control in road verge areas provided reasonable safety precautions are taken.

Residents undertaking weed control in a Council reserve, like the Friends of Yass Gorge, should have an arrangement in place with Council to do so.

4 Plan review

A program of regular reviews will allow the Plan to be adapted and improved as implementation proceeds. Reviews will include the consideration of the priority weeds list at a local level, and will allow removal or addition of species based on local knowledge.

A mid-term review of the Plan will occur in 2022 (Year Two) and a full review in 2024 (Year Four) in line with review of the Regional Plan.

The review of this policy will take account of relevant legislation and State Government policies, best practice guidelines and Council plans and priorities.

5 Appendices

APPENDIX 1 Serrated Tussock

Yass Valley Local Strategic Weed Plan for Serrated Tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*)

Introduction

Serrated Tussock is a **Weed of National Significance**. It is regarded as one of the worst weeds in Australia because of its invasiveness, potential for spread, and economic, environmental and social impacts. Serrated tussock has little to no grazing value because of its high fibre and low protein content. Infestations result in a significant loss in livestock production. Dense infestations may completely dominate pasture; making large areas incapable of supporting livestock. Serrated tussock poses a high risk to the Yass Valley Region's \$78m agricultural industry and unique environment (2010/11 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) - Value of Agricultural Commodities Produce 2010-2011).



Serrated Tussock is identified as a key threatening process of the endangered ecological community; Natural Temperate Grasslands of the Southern Tablelands (NSW and ACT) because of its ability to dominate native plant communities and displace native plants.

Purpose of this plan

To specify the control measures that a land manager must implement to ensure that his/her General Biosecurity Duty is discharged in relation to Serrated Tussock.

Legal status

The management of invasive weeds in NSW is governed by the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. The Local Control Authority (Yass Valley Council) is responsible for ensuring the prevention, elimination, minimisation and management of the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by invasive weeds. It is also responsible for the development, implementation, coordination and review of invasive weed control programs within its area of jurisdiction. Mandatory Measure (Part 2, Division 8, Clause 33, *Biosecurity Regulation 2017*): A person must not import into the State or sell Serrated Tussock. Any person dealing (eg the owner or occupier of land) with Serrated Tussock must comply with their General Biosecurity Duty.

Biosecurity Act 2015 – General Biosecurity Duty

Any person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier and who knows, or ought reasonably to know, the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by the biosecurity matter, carrier or dealing has a biosecurity duty to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised.

Control Objective

The primary objective of this plan is to reduce the negative impact of Serrated Tussock on the Yass Valley's economic, environmental and social sustainability.

Council requirements

Council has a duty as Local Control Authority to inspect all land in connection with its weed control functions. In achieving this it must ensure the management of the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by weeds within its area of jurisdiction.

Surveillance:

Council inspects private and public lands for the presence of Serrated Tussock infestations on a 6 year cycle. Frequency of inspection increases where isolated infestations occur and in cases of non-compliance; the frequency of which is determined by the level of risk posed by the infestation(s).

Reporting:

Council provides an inspection report to the land owner/occupier following inspection. The report shall indicate the level of infestation, its spatial distribution on the property and the level of weed control required by the owner/occupier. Infestation data is reported to the NSW Biosecurity Information System.

Enforcement:

Council will enforce the control of Serrated Tussock where non-compliance is identified. Enforcement measures may include the issue of a Penalty Infringement Notice, entering the land and controlling infestations at the owner/occupier's expense, or the issue of a court attendance notice. Penalties for non-compliance with the *Biosecurity Act 2015* are significant.

Landowner/occupier requirements

All property managers have a responsibility to prevent, eliminate or minimise adverse effects on the economy, the environment and the community that arise from weeds. Where full control is feasible Council will enforce that requirement. Where widespread and established invasive species have become 'naturalised' in our environment and full control is not deemed feasible by Council it will promote a strategy of minimisation and containment.

Serrated Tussock is a State priority weed subject to mandatory requirements. A person must not import into the State or sell parts of the plant.

Serrated Tussock is a Regional priority weed. The *South East Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 – 2022* specifies that Serrated Tussock must be managed in accordance with a published Local Weed Action Plan.

**Isolated infestations**

Objective: Prevent establishment

Action: Eliminate infestations

Established infestations

Objective: Containment. Reduce incidence in affected areas.

Action: The growth of the plant must be controlled in a manner that continuously inhibits the ability of the plant to reproduce and spread. Infestations may be managed in accordance with a staged control plan approved by Council.

In situations where Council deems this requirement not reasonably practicable in accordance with section 16 *Biosecurity Act 2015*, buffers and containment strategies may be introduced to protect priority assets.

Other restrictions

Land managers must mitigate the risk of introducing this weed to their land.

The plant or parts of the plant are not traded, carried, grown or released into the environment.

APPENDIX 2 Blackberry

Yass Valley Local Strategic Weed Plan for Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus agg*)

Introduction

Blackberry grows vigorously and can infest large areas quickly. First introduced into Australia in the 1930's, it has become naturalised in Australia and infests over 8.8 million hectares from south eastern Queensland to southern Tasmania and across to south western Australia.

As most animals find Blackberry unpalatable it reduces available grazing land and can restrict livestock access to water if growing around waterholes. It can also reduce productivity of land by shading pastures and crops and competing for soil moisture and nutrients.



In 2006 Blackberry was estimated to result in a loss of production and cost of control in excess of \$70 million in Australia.

Blackberry is defined in this plan as *Rubus fruticosus agg.* (except the varieties Chester Thornless, Dirksen Thornless, Loch Ness, Silvan, Black Satin, Murrindindi, Smooth Stem, Thornfree and Chehalem).

Purpose of this plan

To specify the control measures that a landholder must implement to ensure that their General Biosecurity Duty is discharged in relation to Blackberry.

Legal status

The management of invasive weeds in NSW is governed by the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. The Local Control Authority (Yass Valley Council) is responsible for ensuring the prevention, elimination, minimisation and management of the [biosecurity risk](#) posed or likely to be posed by invasive weeds. It is also responsible for the development, implementation, coordination and review of invasive weed control programs within its area of jurisdiction.

Any person dealing (eg the owner or occupier of land) with Blackberry must comply with their General Biosecurity Duty.

Biosecurity Act 2015 – General Biosecurity Duty

Any person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier and who knows, or ought reasonably to know, the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by the biosecurity matter, carrier or dealing has a biosecurity duty to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised.

Control Objective

The primary objective of this plan is to reduce the negative impact of Blackberry on the Yass Valley's economic, environmental and social sustainability.

Council requirements

Council has a duty as Local Control Authority to inspect all land in connection with its weed control functions. In achieving this it must ensure the management of the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by weeds within its area of jurisdiction.

Surveillance

Council inspects private and public lands for the presence of Blackberry infestations on a 6 year cycle. Frequency of inspection increases where isolated infestations occur and in cases of non-compliance; the frequency of which is determined by the level of risk posed by the infestation(s).

Reporting

Council provides an inspection report to the land owner/occupier following inspection. The report shall indicate the level of infestation, its spatial distribution on the property and the level of weed control required by the owner/occupier. Infestation data is reported to the NSW Biosecurity Information System.

Enforcement

Council will enforce the control of Blackberry where breaches are identified. Enforcement measures may include the issue of a penalty infringement notice, entering the land and controlling infestations at the owner/occupier's expense, or the issue of a court attendance notice. Penalties for non-compliance with the *Biosecurity Act 2015* are significant.

Landowner/occupier requirements

All property managers have a responsibility to prevent, eliminate or minimise adverse effects on the economy, the environment and the community that arise from weeds. Where full control is feasible Council will enforce that requirement. Where widespread and established invasive species have become 'naturalised' in our environment and full control is not deemed feasible by Council it will promote a strategy of minimisation and containment.

Blackberry is identified in the *South East Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 – 2022*. The plan specifies that Blackberry must be managed in accordance with a published Local Weed Action Plan.



Isolated infestations

Objective: Prevent establishment

Action: Eliminate infestations

Established infestations

Objective: Containment. Reduce incidence in affected areas.

Action: The growth of the plant must be controlled in a manner that continuously inhibits the ability of the plant to reproduce and spread. Infestations may be managed in accordance with a staged control plan approved by Council.

In situations where Council deems this requirement not reasonably practicable in accordance with section 16 *Biosecurity Act 2015*, buffers and containment strategies may be introduced to protect priority assets.

Other restrictions

Land managers must mitigate the risk of introducing this weed to their land.

The plant or parts of the plant must not be traded, carried, grown or released into the environment.

APPENDIX 3 African Lovegrass

Yass Valley Local Strategic Weed Plan for African Lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*)

Introduction

African Lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*) is regarded as one of the most devastating weeds within the Yass Valley region due to its invasiveness, potential for spread, fire risk and economic, environmental and social impacts. African lovegrass has little grazing value due to its low nutritional value and palatability. This results in stock and other wildlife avoiding it unless there is nothing else to eat. Therefore it rapidly replaces more palatable grasses, especially during drought. It also invades native vegetation including grassland, woodland and open forest. African Lovegrass poses a high risk to the Yass Valley region's \$78m agricultural industry and unique environment (2010/11 Australian Bureau of statistics (ABS) – Value of Agricultural Commodities Produce 2010-2011).



African lovegrass is identified as a key threatening process of the endangered ecological community; Natural Temperate Grasslands of the Southern Tablelands (NSW and ACT) because of its ability to dominate native plant communities and displace native plants.

Purpose of this plan

To specify the control measures that a land manager must implement to ensure that his/her General Biosecurity Duty is discharged in relation to African Lovegrass.

Legal status

The management of invasive weeds in NSW is governed by the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. The Local Control Authority (Yass Valley Council) is responsible for ensuring the prevention, elimination, minimisation and management of the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by invasive weeds. It is also responsible for the development, implementation, coordination and review of invasive weed control programs within its area of jurisdiction.

Any person dealing (eg the owner or occupier of land) with African Lovegrass must comply with their General Biosecurity Duty.

Biosecurity Act 2015 – General Biosecurity Duty

Any person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier and who knows, or ought reasonably to know, the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by the biosecurity matter, carrier or dealing has a biosecurity duty to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised.

Control Objective

The primary objective of this plan is to reduce the negative impact of African Lovegrass on the Yass Valley Region's economic, environmental and social sustainability.

Council requirements

Council has a duty as Local Control Authority to inspect all land in connection with its weed control functions. In achieving this it must ensure the management of the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by weeds within its area of jurisdiction.

Surveillance

Council inspects private and public lands for the presence of African Lovegrass infestations on a 6 year cycle. Frequency of inspection increases where isolated infestations occur and in cases of non-compliance; the frequency of which is determined by the level of risk posed by the infestation(s).

Reporting

Council provides an inspection report to the landowner/occupier following inspection. The report shall indicate the level of infestation, its spatial distribution on the property and the level of weed control required by the owner/occupier. Infestation data is reported to the NSW Biosecurity Information System.

Enforcement

Council will enforce the control of African lovegrass where non-compliance is identified. Enforcement measures may include the issue of a penalty infringement notice, entering the land and controlling infestations at the owner/occupier's expense, or the issue of a court attendance notice. Penalties for non-compliance with the *Biosecurity Act 2015* are significant.

Landowner/occupier requirements

All property managers have a responsibility to prevent, eliminate or minimise adverse effects on the economy, the environment and the community that arise from weeds. Where full control is feasible Council will enforce that requirement. Where widespread and established invasive species have become 'naturalised' in our environment and full control is not deemed feasible by Council it will promote a strategy of minimisation and containment.

African Lovegrass is identified in the *South East Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 – 2022*. The plan specifies that African Lovegrass must be managed in accordance with a published Local Weed Action Plan.



Isolated infestations

Objective: Prevent establishment

Action: Eliminate infestations

Established infestations

Objective: Containment. Reduce incidence in affected areas.

Action: The growth of the plant must be controlled in a manner that continuously inhibits the ability of the plant to reproduce and spread. Infestations may be managed in accordance with a staged control plan approved by Council.

In situations where Council deems this requirement not reasonably practicable in accordance with section 16 *Biosecurity Act 2015*, buffers and containment strategies may be introduced to protect priority assets.

Other restrictions

Land managers must mitigate the risk of introducing this weed to their land.

The plant or parts of the plant must not be traded, carried, grown or released into the environment.

APPENDIX 4 Chilean Needle Grass

Yass Valley Local Strategic Weed Plan for Chilean Needle Grass (*Nassella neesiana*)

Introduction

Chilean needle grass is closely related to serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*). It invades both introduced and native grasslands of south-eastern Australia. It is relatively unpalatable and reduces productivity by displacing more desirable pasture species. Heavy infestations can decrease productivity by as much as 50% during summer. The sharp seedhead of Chilean Needle Grass causes injury to stock and downgrades wool, skins and hides.



Chilean Needle Grass germinates in autumn and spring and at other times of the year given adequate moisture and temperature. Seed heads emerge during late spring and when mature have a very distinctive purplish colour. The individual seeds are very sharp at the apex. By late February, most of the seed has been shed from the plant and can be found on the ground. Generally seeds are spread by attachment to animals or machinery.

Purpose of this plan

To specify the control measures that a landholder must implement to ensure that his/her General Biosecurity Duty is discharged in relation to Chilean Needle Grass

Legal status

The management of invasive weeds in NSW is governed by the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. The Local Control Authority (Yass Valley Council) is responsible for ensuring the prevention, elimination, minimisation and management of the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by invasive weeds. It is also responsible for the development, implementation, coordination and review of invasive weed control programs within its area of jurisdiction.

Any person dealing (eg the owner or occupier of land) with Chilean Needle Grass must comply with their General Biosecurity Duty.

Biosecurity Act 2015 – General Biosecurity Duty

Any person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier and who knows, or ought reasonably to know, the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by the biosecurity matter, carrier or dealing has a biosecurity duty to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised.

Control Objective

The primary objective of this plan is to reduce the negative impact of Chilean Needle Grass on the Yass Valley Region's economic, environmental and social sustainability.

Council requirements

Council has a duty as Local Control Authority to inspect all land in connection with its weed control functions. In achieving this it must ensure the management of the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by weeds within its area of jurisdiction.

Surveillance

Council inspects private and public lands for the presence of Chilean needle grass infestations. Land upon which Chilean Needle Grass has been identified is inspected biennially. Frequency of inspection increases in cases of non-compliance; the frequency of which is determined by the level of risk posed by the infestation(s).

Reporting

Council provides an inspection report to the land owner/occupier following inspection. The report shall indicate the level of infestation, its spatial distribution on the property and the level of weed control required by the owner/occupier. Infestation data is reported to the NSW Biosecurity Information System.

Enforcement

Council will enforce the control of Chilean Needle Grass where non-compliance is identified. Enforcement measures may include the issue of a Penalty Infringement Notice, entering the land and controlling infestations at the owner/occupier's expense, or the issue of a court attendance notice. Penalties for non-compliance with the *Biosecurity Act 2015* are significant.

Landowner/occupier requirements

All property managers have a responsibility to prevent, eliminate or minimise adverse effects on the economy, the environment and the community that arise from weeds. Where full control is feasible Council will enforce that requirement. Where widespread and established invasive species have become 'naturalised' in our environment and full control is not deemed feasible by Council it will promote a strategy of minimisation and containment.

Chilean needle grass is identified in the *South East Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 – 2022*. The plan specifies that Chilean Needle Grass must be managed in accordance with a published Local Weed Control Plan.



Isolated infestations

Objective: Prevent establishment

Action: Eliminate infestations

Established infestations

Objective: Containment. Reduce incidence in affected areas.

Action: The growth of the plant must be controlled in a manner that continuously inhibits the ability of the plant to reproduce and spread. Infestations may be managed in accordance with a staged control plan approved by Council.

In situations where Council deems this requirement not reasonably practicable in accordance with section 16 *Biosecurity Act 2015*, buffers and containment strategies may be introduced to protect priority assets.

Other restrictions

Land managers must mitigate the risk of introducing this weed to their land.

The plant or parts of the plant must not be traded, carried, grown or released into the environment.

APPENDIX 5 Gorse

Yass Valley Local Strategic Weed Plan for Gorse (*Ulex Europaeus*)

Introduction

Gorse is a dense, spiny shrub to 4m high with hairy ribbed stems. Seedlings are not spiny and have leaves composed of three leaflets, but these are replaced by grooved spines up to 30 mm long on mature plants. The seed of the plant is generally spread by birds and on the coats of native and introduced animals. Gorse thrives in poor growing areas and in drought conditions. It is sometimes found on very rocky soils, where many species cannot thrive.



Because of its prickly nature and ability to form dense stands, Gorse makes movement within infested paddocks difficult and reduces carrying capacity in agricultural situations. It provides cover for feral animals such as rabbits and foxes. It also invades forested areas, replacing native understorey plants and it burns rapidly, creating a fire hazard.

Purpose of this plan

To specify the control measures that a landholder must implement to ensure that their General Biosecurity Duty is discharged in relation to Gorse.

Legal status

The management of invasive weeds in NSW is governed by the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. The Local Control Authority (Yass Valley Council) is responsible for ensuring the prevention, elimination, minimisation and management of the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by invasive weeds. It is also responsible for the development, implementation, coordination and review of invasive weed control programs within its area of jurisdiction.

Mandatory Measure (Part 2, Division 8, Clause 33, *Biosecurity Regulation 2017*): A person must not import into the state or sell Gorse.

Any person dealing (eg the owner or occupier of land) with Gorse must comply with their General Biosecurity Duty.

Biosecurity Act 2015 – General Biosecurity Duty

Any person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier and who knows, or ought reasonably to know, the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by the biosecurity matter, carrier or dealing has a biosecurity duty to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised.

Control Objective

The primary objective of this plan is to reduce the negative impact of Gorse on the Yass Valley's economic, environmental and social sustainability.

Council requirements

Council has a duty as Local Control Authority to inspect all land in connection with its weed control functions. In achieving this it must ensure the management of the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by weeds within its area of jurisdiction.

Surveillance

Council inspects private and public lands for the presence of Gorse infestations. Land upon which Gorse has been identified is inspected annually. Frequency of inspection increases in cases of non-compliance.

Reporting

Council will provide an inspection report to the land owner/occupier following inspection. The report shall indicate the level of infestation, its spatial distribution on the property and control requirements. Infestation data is reported to the NSW Biosecurity Information System.

Enforcement

Council will enforce the control of Gorse where non-compliance is identified. Enforcement measures may include the issue of a penalty infringement notice, entering the land and controlling infestations at the owner/occupier's expense, or the issue of a court attendance notice. Penalties for non-compliance with the *Biosecurity Act 2015* are significant.

Landowner/occupier requirements

All property managers have a responsibility to prevent, eliminate or minimise any adverse effects on the economy, the environment or the community that arise from weeds. Where full control is feasible Council will enforce that requirement. Where widespread and established invasive species have become 'naturalised' in our environment and full control is not deemed feasible by Council it will promote a strategy of minimisation and containment.

Gorse is a State priority weed subject to mandatory requirements. A person must not import into the State or sell parts of the plant.



Gorse is a Regional priority weed. The *South East Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 – 2022* specifies that the Yass Valley is situated within a Regional Exclusion Zone. Within this zone, the control objective is to eradicate Gorse from the land, or if that is not practicable then as much of the plant as is practicable is destroyed and the spread of remaining plant is suppressed.

Gorse has a very limited distribution within the Yass Valley. The control objective is to eradicate Gorse infestations.

All infestations

- Objective:** Eradication
- Action:** Eliminate infestations
- Minimise and contain (if full control is not deemed feasible)

Other restrictions

Land managers must mitigate the risk of introducing this weed to their land.

The plant or parts of the plant are not traded, carried, grown or released into the environment.

APPENDIX 6 Coolatai Grass

Yass Valley Local Strategic Weed Plan for Coolatai Grass (*Hyparrhenia hirta*)

Introduction

Coolatai Grass is an invasive drought, fire and herbicide tolerant tussock forming perennial grass. It has become a major invasive species in northern New South Wales and Southern Queensland, dominating pastures over a range of soil types and conditions. More recently infestations have emerged in southern NSW and the ACT.

Coolatai Grass is a competitive, perennial grass capable of invading undisturbed natural ecosystems and is a major threat to natural biodiversity in stock routes, nature reserves, roadsides and National Parks. Livestock do poorly on Coolatai Grass dominated pastures in the absence of a high input management regime.

**Purpose of this plan**

To specify the control measures that a landholder must implement to ensure that their General Biosecurity Duty is discharged in relation to Coolatai Grass.

Legal status

The management of invasive weeds in NSW is governed by the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. The Local Control Authority (Yass Valley Council) is responsible for ensuring the prevention, elimination, minimisation and management of the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by invasive weeds. It is also responsible for the development, implementation, coordination and review of invasive weed control programs within its area of jurisdiction.

Any person dealing (eg the owner or occupier of land) with Coolatai Grass must comply with his or her General Biosecurity Duty.

Biosecurity Act 2015 – General Biosecurity Duty

Any person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier and who knows, or ought reasonably to know, the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by the biosecurity matter, carrier or dealing has a biosecurity duty to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised.

Control Objective

The primary objective of this plan is to reduce the negative impact of Coolatai Grass on the Yass Valley's economic, environmental and social sustainability.

Council requirements

Council has a duty as Local Control Authority to inspect all land in connection with its weed control functions. In achieving this it must ensure the management of the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by weeds within its area of jurisdiction.

Surveillance

Council inspects private and public lands for the presence of Coolatai Grass infestations. Land upon which Gorse has been identified is inspected biannually. Frequency of inspection increases in cases of non-compliance. Coolatai Grass is a newly emerged weed within the Yass Valley and is extremely limited in its current distribution.

Reporting

Council provides an inspection report to the land owner/occupier following inspection. The report shall indicate the level of infestation, its spatial distribution on the property and the level of weed control required by the owner/occupier. Infestation data is reported to the NSW Biosecurity Information System.

Enforcement

Council will enforce the control of Coolatai Grass where non-compliance is identified. Enforcement measures may include the issue of a penalty infringement notice, entering the land and controlling infestations at the owner/occupier's expense, or the issue of a court attendance notice. Penalties for non-compliance with the *Biosecurity Act 2015* are significant.

Landowner/occupier requirements

All property managers have a responsibility to prevent, eliminate or minimise adverse effects on the economy, the environment and the community that arise from weeds. Where full control is feasible Council will enforce that requirement. Where widespread and established invasive species have become 'naturalised' in our environment and full control is not deemed feasible by Council it will promote a strategy of minimisation and containment.

Coolatai Grass is identified in the *South East Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 – 2022*. The plan specifies that Yass Valley Council is situated within the exclusion zone for this weed. Coolatai Grass is to be eradicated from the land, or if that is not practicable then as much of the plant as is practicable is destroyed and the spread of any remaining plant is suppressed.

Coolatai Grass has a very limited distribution within the Yass Valley. The control objective is to eradicate all infestations.



Isolated infestations

Objective: Prevent establishment

Action: Eliminate infestations

Minimise and contain (if full control is not deemed feasible)

Other restrictions

Land managers must mitigate the risk of introducing this weed to their land.

The plant or parts of the plant must not be traded, carried, grown or released into the environment.

APPENDIX 7 Sweet Briar

Yass Valley Local Strategic Weed Plan for Sweet Briar (*Rosa rubiginosa*)

Introduction

Sweet Briar can reduce the carrying capacity of land, harbour rabbits, restrict vehicle access and restrict stock movements, especially where it occurs in clumps or patches.

Sweet Briar is spread mainly by birds or animals eating the fruit and distributing the viable seeds. Fruit and seeds can also be spread by run-off in steep country along creeks and streams. Seeds can remain viable in the soil for up to 4 years. Root pieces and disturbed crowns of Sweet Briar can also produce new growth or suckers.

Sweet Briar is an erect perennial shrub, commonly growing 1.5 to 2m high but can be up to 3m high.

Sweet Briar typically invades unimproved grasslands and disturbed bushland. It can grow in most soil types.



Purpose of this plan

To specify the control measures that a landholder must implement to ensure that their General Biosecurity Duty is discharged in relation to Sweet Briar.

Legal status

The management of invasive weeds in NSW is governed by the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. The Local Control Authority (Yass Valley Council) is responsible for ensuring the prevention, elimination, minimisation and management of the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by invasive weeds. It is also responsible for the development, implementation, coordination and review of invasive weed control programs within its area of jurisdiction.

Any person dealing (eg the owner or occupier of land) with Sweet Briar must comply with his or her General Biosecurity Duty.

Biosecurity Act 2015 – General Biosecurity Duty

Any person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier and who knows, or ought reasonably to know, the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by the biosecurity matter, carrier or dealing has a biosecurity duty to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised.

Control Objective

The primary objective of this plan is to reduce the negative impact of Sweet Briar on the Yass Valley's economic, environmental and social sustainability.

Council requirements

Council has a duty as Local Control Authority to inspect all land in connection with its weed control functions. In achieving this it must ensure the management of the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by weeds within its area of jurisdiction.

Surveillance

Council inspects private and public lands for the presence of Sweet Briar infestations on a 6 year cycle. Frequency of inspection increases where isolated infestations occur and in cases of non-compliance; the frequency of which is determined by the level of risk posed by the infestation(s).

Reporting

Council provides an inspection report to the land owner/occupier following inspection. The report shall indicate the level of infestation, its spatial distribution on the property and the level of weed control required by the owner/occupier. Infestation data is reported to the NSW Biosecurity Information System.

Enforcement

Council will enforce the control of Sweet Briar where breaches are identified. Enforcement measures may include the issue of a penalty infringement notice, entering the land and controlling infestations at the owner/occupier's expense, or the issue of a court attendance notice. Penalties for non-compliance with the *Biosecurity Act 2015* are significant.

Landowner/occupier requirements

All property managers have a responsibility to prevent, eliminate or minimise adverse effects on the economy, the environment and the community that arise from weeds. Where full control is feasible Council will enforce that requirement. Where widespread and established invasive species have become 'naturalised' in our environment and full control is not deemed feasible by Council it will promote a strategy of minimisation and containment.



Isolated infestations

Objective: Prevent establishment

Action: Eliminate infestations

Established infestations

Objective: Containment. Reduce incidence in affected areas.

Action: The growth of the plant must be controlled in a manner that continuously inhibits the ability of the plant to reproduce and spread. Infestations may be managed in accordance with a staged control plan approved by Council.

In situations where Council deems this requirement not reasonably practicable in accordance with section 16 *Biosecurity Act 2015*, buffers and containment strategies may be introduced to protect priority assets.

Other restrictions

Land managers must mitigate the risk of introducing this weed to their land.

The plant or parts of the plant must not be traded, carried, grown or released into the environment.

APPENDIX 8 Bathurst Burrs

Yass Valley Local Strategic Weed Plan for Bathurst Burr (*Xanthium spinosum*)



Introduction

Bathurst Burr was included in the list of 71 weed species that were nominated by State & Territory Governments for assessment as Weeds of National Significance (WONS). Following an assessment process, Bathurst Burr was not included as one of the species that make up the list of WONS, however it remains a weed of potential natural significance.

Bathurst Burr is a significant weed of crops and also regularly invades pastures, roadsides, watercourses and waste areas.

Bathurst Burrs are an important cause of vegetable contamination of wool and thus reducing its overall economic value. Seedlings are poisonous to livestock, especially pigs and horses.

Some people may develop dermatitis after contact with the plant. (Parsons & Cuthburton 1992)

Bathurst Burr also invades lowland grassland and grassy woodland, riparian vegetation, fresh water wetland and rock out crop vegetation.

Purpose of this plan

To specify the control measures that a landholder must implement to ensure that their General Biosecurity Duty is discharged in relation to Bathurst Burr.

Legal status

The management of invasive weeds in NSW is governed by the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. The Local Control Authority (Yass Valley Council) is responsible for ensuring the prevention, elimination, minimisation and management of the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by invasive weeds. It is also responsible for the development, implementation, coordination and review of invasive weed control programs within its area of jurisdiction.

Any person dealing (eg the owner or occupier of land) with Bathurst Burr must comply with their General Biosecurity Duty.

Biosecurity Act 2015 – General Biosecurity Duty

Any person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier and who knows, or ought reasonably to know, the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by the biosecurity matter, carrier or dealing has a biosecurity duty to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised.

Control Objective

The primary objective of this plan is to reduce the negative impact of Bathurst Burr on the Yass Valley's economic, environmental and social sustainability.

Council requirements

Council has a duty as Local Control Authority to inspect all land in connection with its weed control functions. In achieving this it must ensure the management of the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by weeds within its area of jurisdiction.

Surveillance

Council inspects private and public lands for the presence of Bathurst Burr infestations on a 6 year cycle. Frequency of inspection increases where isolated infestations occur and in cases of non-compliance; the frequency of which is determined by the level of risk posed by the infestation(s).

Reporting

Council provides an inspection report to the land owner/occupier following inspection. The report shall indicate the level of infestation, its spatial distribution on the property and the level of weed control required by the owner/occupier. Infestation data is reported to the NSW Biosecurity Information System.

Enforcement

Council will enforce the control of Bathurst Burr where non-compliance is identified. Enforcement measures may include the issue of a penalty infringement notice, entering the land and controlling infestations at the owner/occupier's expense, or the issue of a court attendance notice. Penalties for non-compliance with the *Biosecurity Act 2015* are significant.



Landowner/occupier requirements

All property managers have a responsibility to prevent, eliminate or minimise adverse effects on the economy, the environment and the community that arise from weeds. Where full control is feasible Council will enforce that requirement. Where widespread and established invasive species have become 'naturalised' in our environment and full control is not deemed feasible by Council it will promote a strategy of minimisation and containment.

Isolated infestations

Objective: Prevent establishment

Action: Eliminate infestations

Established infestations

Objective: Containment. Reduce incidence in affected areas.

Action: The growth of the plant must be controlled in a manner that continuously inhibits the ability of the plant to reproduce and spread. Infestations may be managed in accordance with a staged control plan approved by Council.

In situations where Council deems this requirement not reasonably practicable in accordance with section 16 *Biosecurity Act 2015*, buffers and containment strategies may be introduced to protect priority assets.

Other restrictions

Land managers must mitigate the risk of introducing this weed to their land.

The plant or parts of the plant must not be traded, carried, grown or released into the environment.

APPENDIX 9 Scotch/English Broom

Yass Valley Local Strategic Weed Plan for Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)

Introduction

Scotch/English Broom is a very competitive, evergreen shrub. It forms a dense thicket which can restrict access and create harbour for feral animals such as rabbits, foxes and feral pigs. It is a potential fire hazard; increasing fire frequency and intensity.

Scotch/English Broom is toxic to humans if ingested and will cause discomfort and irritation, but is not life-threatening. The seeds and leaves are poisonous and can cause high blood pressure and nausea if ingested.

Scotch/English Broom often invades river banks, roadsides and other disturbed areas. It will also invade pastures and native vegetation.



Purpose of this plan

To specify the control measures that a landholder must implement to ensure that their General Biosecurity Duty is discharged in relation to Scotch/English Broom

Legal status

The management of invasive weeds in NSW is governed by the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. The Local Control Authority (Yass Valley Council) is responsible for ensuring the prevention, elimination, minimisation and management of the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by invasive weeds. It is also responsible for the development, implementation, coordination and review of invasive weed control programs within its area of jurisdiction.

Any person dealing (eg the owner or occupier of land) with Scotch/English Broom must comply with his or her General Biosecurity Duty.

Biosecurity Act 2015 – General Biosecurity Duty

Any person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier and who knows, or ought reasonably to know, the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by the biosecurity matter, carrier or dealing has a biosecurity duty to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised.

Control Objective

The primary objective of this plan is to reduce the negative impact of Scotch/English Broom on the Yass Valley's economic, environmental and social sustainability.

Council requirements

Council has a duty as Local Control Authority to inspect all land in connection with its weed control functions. In achieving this it must ensure the management of the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by weeds within its area of jurisdiction.

Surveillance

Council inspects private and public lands for the presence of Scotch/English Broom infestations on a 6 year cycle. Frequency of inspection increases where isolated infestations occur or in cases of non-compliance; the frequency of which is determined by the level of risk posed by the infestation(s).

Reporting

Council provides an inspection report to the land owner/occupier following inspection. The report shall indicate the level of infestation, its spatial distribution on the property and the level of weed control required by the owner/occupier. Infestation data is reported to the NSW Biosecurity Information System.

Enforcement

Council will enforce the control of Scotch/English Broom where breaches are identified. Enforcement measures may include the issue of a penalty infringement notice, entering the land and controlling infestations at the owner/occupier's expense, or the issue of a court attendance notice. Penalties for non-compliance with the *Biosecurity Act 2015* are significant.

Landowner/occupier requirements

All property managers have a responsibility to prevent, eliminate or minimise adverse effects on the economy, the environment and the community that arise from weeds. Where full control is feasible Council will enforce that requirement. Where widespread and established invasive species have become 'naturalised' in our environment and full control is not deemed feasible by Council it will promote a strategy of minimisation and containment.

Scotch/English Broom is identified in the *South East Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 – 2022*. The plan specifies that Scotch/English Broom must be managed in accordance with a published Local Weed Action Plan.



Isolated infestations

Objective: Prevent establishment

Action: Eliminate infestations

Established infestations

Objective: Containment. Reduce incidence in affected areas.

Action: The growth of the plant must be controlled in a manner that continuously inhibits the ability of the plant to spread. Infestations may be managed in accordance with a staged control plan approved by Council.

In situations where Council deems this requirement not reasonably practicable in accordance with section 16 *Biosecurity Act 2015*, buffers and containment strategies may be introduced to protect priority assets.

Other restrictions

Land managers must mitigate the risk of introducing this weed to their land.

The plant or parts of the plant are not traded, carried, grown or released into the environment.

APPENDIX 10 Fireweed

Yass Valley Local Strategic Weed Plan for Fireweed (*Senecio Madagascariensis*)

Introduction

Fireweed is an annual herb to about 30cm high, usually with 13-petalled flowers and bright green, slightly fleshy leaves which may be toothed, lobed or smooth-edged. Fireweed contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids. All parts of the plant and all stages of growth are toxic to livestock. Hay, silage or grain that is contaminated with fireweed plants or their seeds can also be toxic.



Fireweed is very invasive and capable of growing and seeding year round under favourable climatic conditions. Young seedlings are frost sensitive; however mature plants are known to survive for short periods in dense snow cover. Seedlings grow very quickly, with flowering commencing within 6-10 weeks after germination.

Purpose of this plan

To specify the control measures that a landholder must implement to ensure that their General Biosecurity Duty is discharged in relation to Fireweed

Legal status

The management of invasive weeds in NSW is governed by the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. The Local Control Authority (Yass Valley Council) is responsible for ensuring the prevention, elimination, minimisation and management of the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by invasive weeds. It is also responsible for the development, implementation, coordination and review of invasive weed control programs within its area of jurisdiction.

Any person dealing (eg the owner or occupier of land) with Fireweed must comply with his or her General Biosecurity Duty.

Biosecurity Act 2015 – General Biosecurity Duty

Any person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier and who knows, or ought reasonably to know, the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by the biosecurity matter, carrier or dealing has a biosecurity duty to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised.

Control Objective

The primary objective of this plan is to reduce the negative impact of Fireweed on the Yass Valley's economic, environmental and social sustainability.

Council requirements

Council has a duty as Local Control Authority to inspect all land in connection with its weed control functions. In achieving this it must ensure the management of the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by weeds within its area of jurisdiction.

Surveillance

Council inspects private and public lands for the presence of Fireweed infestations. Land upon which Fireweed has been identified is inspected biennially. Frequency of inspection increases in cases of non-compliance; the frequency of which is determined by the level of risk posed by the infestation(s).

Reporting

Council provides an inspection report to the land owner/occupier following inspection. The report shall indicate the level of infestation, its spatial distribution on the property and the level of weed control required by the owner/occupier. Infestation data is reported to the NSW Biosecurity Information System.

Enforcement

Council will enforce the control of Fireweed where non-compliance is identified. Enforcement measures may include the issue of a penalty infringement notice, entering the land and controlling infestations at the owner/occupier's expense, or the issue of a court attendance notice. Penalties for non-compliance with the *Biosecurity Act 2015* are significant.

Landowner/occupier requirements

All property managers have a responsibility to prevent, eliminate or minimise adverse effects on the economy, the environment and the community that arise from weeds. Where full control is feasible Council will enforce that requirement. Where widespread and established invasive species have become 'naturalised' in our environment and full control is not deemed feasible by Council it will promote a strategy of minimisation and containment.

Fireweed is a Regional priority weed. The *South East Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 – 2022* specifies that the Yass Valley is situated within a regional exclusion zone.

Within this zone, the control objective is to eradicate Fireweed from the land, or if that is not practicable then as much of the plant as is practicable is destroyed and the spread of remaining plant is suppressed.



Isolated infestations

Objective: Prevent establishment

Action: Eliminate infestations

Minimise and contain (if full control is not deemed feasible).

Other restrictions

Land managers must mitigate the risk of introducing this weed to their land.

The plant or parts of the plant must not be traded, carried, grown or released into the environment.

APPENDIX 11 St Johns Wort

Yass Valley Local Strategic Weed Plan for St Johns Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)

Introduction

St Johns Wort is a hardy, perennial plant which can rapidly invade and dominate native and introduced pastures, roadsides, open woodlands and conservation areas. Its aggressive nature and ability to reproduce by seeding and by lateral growth from underground rhizomes enables it to spread rapidly.

St Johns Wort plants contain a poisonous substance, hypericin, which is toxic to livestock. Hypericin causes photosensitisation, with bare skin or white haired areas becoming reddened, itchy and blistered. Irritation can be intense and accompanied by restlessness, loss of condition, convulsions, blindness and eventually death.



Purpose of this plan

To specify the control measures that a landholder must implement to ensure that their General Biosecurity Duty is discharged in relation to St Johns Wort.

Legal status

The management of invasive weeds in NSW is governed by the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. The Local Control Authority (Yass Valley Council) is responsible for ensuring the prevention, elimination, minimisation and management of the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by invasive weeds. It is also responsible for the development, implementation, coordination and review of invasive weed control programs within its area of jurisdiction.

Any person dealing (eg the owner or occupier of land) with St Johns Wort must comply with his or her General Biosecurity Duty.

Biosecurity Act 2015 – General Biosecurity Duty

Any person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier and who knows, or ought reasonably to know, the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by the biosecurity matter, carrier or dealing has a biosecurity duty to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised.

Control Objective

The primary objective of this plan is to reduce the negative impact of St Johns Wort on the Yass Valley's economic, environmental and social sustainability.

Council requirements

Council has a duty as Local Control Authority to inspect all land in connection with its weed control functions. In achieving this it must ensure the management of the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by weeds within its area of jurisdiction.

Surveillance

Council inspects private and public lands for the presence of St Johns Wort infestations on a 6 year cycle. Frequency of inspection increases where isolated infestations occur and in cases of non-compliance; the frequency of which is determined by the level of risk posed by the infestation(s).

Reporting

Council provides an inspection report to the land owner/occupier following inspection. The report shall indicate the level of infestation, its spatial distribution on the property and the level of control required by the owner/occupier. Infestation data is reported to the NSW Biosecurity Information System.

Enforcement

Council will enforce the control of St Johns Wort where non-compliance is identified. Enforcement measures may include the issue of a penalty infringement notice, entering the land and controlling infestations at the owner/occupier's expense, or the issue of a court attendance notice. Penalties for non-compliance with the *Biosecurity Act 2015* are significant.

Landowner/occupier requirements

All property managers have a responsibility to prevent, eliminate or minimise adverse effects on the economy, the environment and the community that arise from weeds. Where full control is feasible Council will enforce that requirement. Where widespread and established invasive species have become 'naturalised' in our environment and full control is not deemed feasible by Council it will promote a strategy of minimisation and containment.

St Johns Wort is identified within the *South East Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 – 2022*. The plan specifies that St Johns Wort is subject to a Local Weed Control program. Council's Local Weed Action Plan imposes the following requirements:

Isolated infestations

Objective: Prevent establishment

Action: Eliminate infestations

Established infestations

Objective: Containment. Reduce incidence in affected areas.

Action: The growth of the plant must be controlled in a manner that continuously inhibits the ability of the plant to reproduce and spread. Infestations may be managed in accordance with a staged control plan approved by Council.

In situations where Council deems this requirement not reasonably practicable in accordance with section 16 *Biosecurity Act 2015*, buffers and containment strategies may be introduced to protect priority assets.

Other restrictions

Land managers must mitigate the risk of introducing this weed to their land.

The plant or parts of the plant are not traded, carried, grown or released into the environment.

