
CONTROL AND ERADICATION OF NOXIOUS WEEDS

Policy Number: POL16/244 • **Adopted:** 2/10/1984 • **Amended:** 19/10/2004, 20/11/2007, 28/07/2009, 14/10/2014, 21/02/2017 • **Minute Number:** MIN84.2702, MIN04.1322, MIN07.1645, MIN09.973, D14/268923, MIN17.95 • **Files:** 31165E • **Produced By:** Planning, Environment & Development Group • **Review Date:** 1/12/2020

1. PURPOSE

Shoalhaven City Council's objective is to control or eradicate all noxious weeds within the City area.

2. STATEMENT

This policy statement is based on Council Minute 84.2702 of 2nd October 1984. Council amended the policy by Minute 04.1322 of 19th October 2004. Refer to the report to Policy and Planning Committee (TRIM reference D04/95253) for details of amendments.

Council is responsible for noxious weed control on –

- i. All roadside areas,
- ii. Council owned land,
- iii. Land under the control of Council,
- iv. Crown Land on behalf of the State Government subject to available funds.

Council is also required under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 to ensure that private landowners and Occupiers within the City area are taking reasonable and effective measures to control noxious weeds on privately owned land.

3. PROVISIONS

- a. Council's Policy is to progressively reduce noxious weeds growing on these areas. To achieve this Council shall –
 - i. Provide adequate resources for the effective management of all matters relating to the control and eradication of noxious weeds within the City area within its budget capacity.
 - ii. Set an example to land holders by controlling or eradicating all noxious weeds growing on all land under the control of Council.
 - iii. Carry out regular property inspections throughout the City area to determine the degree of noxious weed infestation.

- iv. Keep accurate records and maps detailing the type and extent of infestation of noxious weeds within the City area.
- v. Aim to assist and advise landowners on the type of weeds present and the best method of control.
- vi. *Liaise with land owners to achieve maximum co-operation in implementing weed control programmes on private land.*
- vii. Council shall enforce the provisions of the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 for the Control of Noxious Weeds on Private Land.
- viii. Keep abreast of modern control methods and chemicals available for control of weeds by having staff members attend conferences and field days, lectures etc., which deal with the control of noxious weeds.
- ix. Ensure the health and the safety of Council's staff and all members of the public are considered when purchasing spraying equipment and herbicide and before implementing spraying programmes in any areas.
- x. Notify the public prior to spray operations in accordance with Council's Pesticide Use Notification Plan.
- xi. Consider the protection of the environment before implementing spraying programmes.
- xii. Make available for private hire Council's spraying units on a full cost recovery contractual basis to encourage landowners and occupiers to carry out noxious weed eradication on their land.
- xiii. Maintain Council's spraying plant and equipment to a high standard and ensure that all spraying operations are carried out in a safe and efficient manner.
- xiv. Encourage good public relations with private landowners, concerned Rural Groups and Community Associations throughout the City area.
- xv. Keep the public aware of all matters relating to noxious weed control by presenting displays at local Shows and Field Days, and making available news releases and articles concerning noxious weed control to local newspapers, radio stations and other media outlets.
- xvi. Advise the Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee on the declaration of noxious weeds within the City and any other matter pertaining to the control of noxious weeds.
- xvii. Liaise with the Department of Primary Industries and its Officers with regards to establishing field trials, holding Field Days and presenting results of trials to land owners.
- xviii. Communicate with chemical and spray equipment manufacturers to ensure that manufacturers are aware of Council requirements for sprays and spraying equipment and to ensure that Council is aware of the latest chemicals and application techniques available.

- xix. Make available an information pamphlet to all ratepayers outlining Council's Noxious Weeds Policy and the methods of implementing this Policy.
- xx. Investigate means of alleviating financial hardship on landowners in relation to noxious weeds eradication.
- xxi. Make representations through its local members of Parliament for significantly increased grants that will assist to control noxious weeds.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

The Planning, Environment & Development Group has responsibility for implementing this policy.

5. REVIEW

The Planning, Environment & Development Group will review this policy within one year of the election of every new Council.

6. APPLICATION OF ESD PRINCIPLES

Encouraging sustainable pasture growth in agricultural areas.

Encouraging biodiversity and natural habitats.

Protecting aquatic environments and riparian areas from weed infestation.

Reducing the undesirable health related impacts of some noxious weeds.