

Control and Eradication of Weeds

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Adoption Date: | 02/10/1984 |
| Amendment Date: | 19/10/2004, 20/11/2007, 28/07/2009, 14/10/2014, 21/02/2017, 01/08/2022 |
| Minute Number: | MIN84.2702, MIN04.1322, MIN07.1645, MIN09.973, D14/268923, MIN17.95, MIN22.511 |
| Review Date: | 01/12/2024 |
| Directorate: | City Development |
| Record Number: | POL22/22 |

1. Purpose

Shoalhaven City Council's objective is to prevent, eliminate or minimise Priority Weeds within the Local Government Area (LGA).

2. Statement

The presence of weeds is a risk to the environment and agricultural lands. They have a cumulative impact on natural areas (terrestrial and aquatic) by predominantly displacing native vegetation and decreasing biodiversity values, as well as attracting pest animals. Weeds can damage crops, increase susceptibility to land degradation and can reduce farm productivity.

Priority Weeds are those that create the highest level of risk in accordance with the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act). These are broken up into State, Regional and Local Priority Weeds species for the Shoalhaven LGA (Priority Weeds for the Southeast) and can be found on the NSW Department of Primary Industries – NSW Weedwise website:
<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/WeedBiosecurities?Areald=114>

Council is responsible for the control of priority weeds on Council owned and managed land.

Council is also required under the Act to ensure that private landowners and occupiers within the LGA are meeting their obligations under the Act to control priority weeds on privately owned land.

3. Provisions

- a. Council's Policy is to progressively reduce priority weeds in a responsive, strategic, and ongoing way. To achieve this Council shall –
 - i. Provide adequate resources for the effective management of all matters relating to the control and eradication of priority weeds through the appointment of appropriately authorised officers under the Act. .
 - ii. Set an example to landholders by controlling or eradicating all priority weeds growing on all land under the control of Council.
 - iii. Carry out regular property inspections throughout the LGA to determine the degree of priority weed infestation with a strategic focus on high-risk weeds in order to seek compliance with the Act from owners/occupiers
 - iv. Keep accurate records and maps detailing the type and extent of infestation of priority weeds within the LGA.
 - v. Aim to assist, educate, and advise landowners on the type of Priority Weeds present and the best method of control.
 - vi. Liaise with landowners to achieve maximum co-operation in implementing weed control programs on private land.

- vii. Council shall enforce the provisions of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* for the control of priority 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 priority 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 programs in any areas. This shall be undertaken by strictly following the specimen label and Safety Data Sheets for the nominated herbicide.
- 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 programs. This shall be undertaken by strictly following the specimen label and Safety Data Sheets for the nominated herbicide
- xii. 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.
- xiii. Encourage good public relations with private landowners, through appropriate community stakeholder engagement programs.
- xiv. Keep the public aware of all matters relating to priority weed control by presenting displays at relevant exhibitions and making available media releases concerning priority weed control.
- xv. Advise the Weeds Advisory Committee on the declaration of priority weeds within the LGA and any other matter pertaining to the control of priority weeds.
- xvi. Liaise with the Department of Primary Industries about establishing field trials, holding exhibitions and presenting results of trials to landowners.
- xvii. Communicate with herbicide 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.
- xviii. Make available information pamphlets outlining Priority Weeds, new information obtained in relation to effective control strategies and the methods of implementing this Policy.
- xix. Investigate means of alleviating financial hardship on landowners in relation to priority weed eradication.
- xx. Make representations through its local members of Parliament for significantly increased grants that will assist to control priority weeds.

4. Implementation

The City Development Directorate has responsibility for implementing this policy.

5. Review

The City Development Directorate will review this policy within one year of the election of every new Council.