



MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE CONTROL OF

BLACKBERRY

This management plan is published in accordance with Order 19 of the Noxious Weed Act 1993 for the Class 4 declared plants. This plan outlines the legal requirements for the control of **Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*)** by Landholders- Owner/ Occupier within area of Bourke Shire Council.

General Facts on Blackberry

Blackberry thickets can cover large areas and co- exist in forested areas. Thickets commonly harbour vermin (rabbits and foxes). It is an invasive weed which completely dominates the vegetation of an area in a very short period of time.

Blackberry comprises erect, green to reddish/ purple stems and grows hedge-like to 7 metres in height. Stems have numerous curved or straight thorns.

The leaves are dark green on the upper side and lighter green on the under side, and are usually shed in winter.

The flowers of Blackberry are white or pink, and form in small clusters.

The fruit is a berry which changes colour (from green to red to black) as they ripen.

Flowering normally occurs between November and January. Fruit is produced between January and March.

In the **AREA** of Bourke Shire Council, Blackberry is gazetted as a Class 4 noxious weed under Schedule 4 of Weed Control Order 19 (Order 19) made pursuant to sections 7 and 8 of the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* (the Act) as amended in 2005.

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

Order 19 also provides that the growth and spread of this plant must be controlled according to the measures specified in a management plan published by the Local Control Authority (LCA).

To comply with Order 19, Blackberry must be managed in such a way as to minimise the negative impact of the weed on the economy, community or the environment of NSW.

Section 12 obligations under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993

An occupier (other than a public authority or a local control authority) of the land to which a weed control order applies must control noxious weeds on the land as required under the order.

TIMEFRAME OF PLAN

This plan will commence on the 1st July 2011 and run until the 30th June 2016. This plan is to be reviewed in March 2016.

Council reserves the right to review, vary or revoke this plan.

CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS

Owner and occupiers of land must actively control Blackberry to prevent it from spreading, and its numbers and distribution reduced.

Owners / occupiers may use either or both of the following control methods.

Chemical: effective treatment with a herbicide registered for the control of Blackberry, in the manner specified on the product label.

Mechanical: all crown and heavy root material from the Blackberry must be removed.

CONTACT DETAILS / MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Council's Weeds Officer, during normal business hours on 68/308000

Links to other plans: REGIONAL BLACKBERRY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Geoff Wise
General Manager

Date: 20th April 2011