	<b>POLICY NO:</b>	3.4.3 (V2)
	<b>POLICY TITLE:</b>	Noxious Weeds
	<b>DATE ADOPTED:</b>	30/11/2009
	<b>RESOLUTION NO:</b>	593/2009
	<b>SUPERCEDES:</b>	3.4.3
	<b>PROPOSED REVIEW DATE:</b>	November 2012

## Background

The objects of the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 (the Act) are as follows:

- (a) To reduce the negative impact of weeds on the economy, community and environment of this State by establishing control mechanisms to:
  - (i) prevent the establishment in this State of significant new weeds, and
  - (ii) restrict the spread in this State of existing significant weeds, and
  - (iii) reduce the area in this State of existing significant weeds,
- (b) To provide for the monitoring of and reporting on the effectiveness of the management of weeds in this State.

Council have established this policy in furtherance of its responsibilities under the Act.

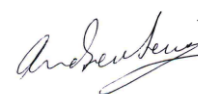
## Council's Primary Objective

The Council's primary objective is to identify and then to eradicate where possible or otherwise contain and control all declared noxious weeds within the Shire. In furtherance of that objective the following principles apply:

1. All owner/occupiers of land are obligated under Section 12 of the Act, to take all reasonable and effective measures to control and eradicate all noxious weeds from land.
2. Continuing weed control along unfenced roads within the Shire is the responsibility of the owner/occupiers whose property abuts those roads. Shared roads are a joint responsibility of the owner/occupier concerned.
3. The obligation of Council is to control weeds on public land and Shire roads, particularly after disturbance from construction and/or maintenance activities within a reasonable period as seasonal conditions permit.
4. As financial resources for noxious weeds control are limited Council will:
  - (a) Maximise owner/occupier co-operation and participation in the effective implementation of weed control programs, and

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- (b) Place greater emphasis on the weeds that are likely to cause the greater economic loss to agricultural production either because of their widespread presence or that has the ability to spread rapidly in the future.

### **Council Management Responsibilities**

The following sets out details of the Council Management responsibilities:

1. To maintain a priority list of noxious plants and to review it regularly.
2. To determine the degree of noxious plant infestations within the Shire, carry out regular inspections of land, and to determine a priority for the eradication or control of such noxious plants.
3. To achieve the adopted objectives with the closest co-operation of effected owner/occupiers in the first instance. Where owner/occupiers refuse to co-operate in relation to reasonable requests to control weed infestations, legal powers may be utilised.
4. To carry out the policy in close liaison with the Department of Industry and Investment, the Livestock Health and Pest Authority and other relevant stakeholders.
5. To eradicate where possible and control noxious plants on Council owned and public lands thereby setting an example to the community.
6. To adopt the Macquarie Valley Weeds Advisory Committee's Regional Weeds Management Plan as a Council Local Weed Control Management Plan.

### **Noxious Weed Control Measures**

1. Council will work to identify, and then to eradicate where possible; or otherwise control and contain all infestations of declared noxious plants in the Shire.
2. Council will work to identify priorities and needs of certain areas with noxious plant problems, and to implement a weed control program as required by these needs. Council plans to annually review and map the infestations of noxious weeds, and the declaration of noxious weeds within the Shire.
3. Council will work to act as a liaison body between owner/occupiers, the Department of Industry and Investment, the Livestock Health and Pest Authority and other relevant organisations and stakeholders with respect to matters relating to noxious weeds, such as chemical and pesticide usage, biological control, safety control and environmental concerns etc.
4. Council will work to increase the level of community awareness of the cost and effects of noxious weed encroachment.
5. Council will work to have an inspection program, identifying needs and progress in suspect areas, and areas which already have weed control programs in place.

6. Council will work to maintain its spray equipment in a serviceable condition at all times. Any breakages shall be repaired as soon as possible.
7. Council employees will adhere to the guidelines set by the Environmental Protection Authority, at all times, whilst carrying out spraying and control operations including mixing of chemicals, cleaning of equipment, disposal of excess chemicals, etc.
8. Council employees will immediately cease spraying operations where there is a risk to human health or the environment.
9. Council's method of implementing control measures will after the first inspection be in writing advising the owner/occupier of the presence of specific noxious weeds found on their property and setting out a reasonable period of time for control measures to be implemented. Council's Noxious Weeds Officer will also advise of various methods available to control these weeds in writing with adherence to herbicide product label and Material safety Data Sheets.
10. Council's Noxious Weeds Officer is at no time allowed to recommend a particular brand name herbicide/pesticide for control measures.
11. If a subsequent inspection reveals that no control work has been carried out a notice under the Act will be issued.
12. Council's Noxious Weeds Officer will draw up a yearly timetable for property inspections and the spraying of various noxious weeds. This timetable will be flexible so as to allow for seasonal conditions and owner/occupiers reasonable needs.

### **Noxious Weeds Officer**

The role of the Council Noxious Weeds Officer is to implement Council's Policy in relation to noxious weeds eradication and control as follows:

1. To control and eradicate all noxious weeds on Council owned or controlled land.
2. To inspect all public and crown lands in the Shire at least twice per annum and all roads in the Shire at least three times per annum and report regularly to the Manager Environmental Services detailing the overall prevalence of weed control and also in relation to specific matters concerning both roads and public and private land.
3. To create a liaison with all owner/occupiers and encourage their co-operation to control and eradicate weeds initially for their own and secondly for the communities benefit.
4. To advise owner/occupiers of the prevalence of various weeds and identification methods of both initial and follow up control.
5. To provide a weed control and eradication program on a fee for service basis to residents and owner/occupiers of land.

6. To seek in the first instance a spirit of co-operation and at the same time to issue where appropriate, notices detailing weeds to be treated and methods of control.
7. Where preliminary notices have been issued, carry out follow up inspections to observe the degree of co-operation.
8. Where no co-operation has been forthcoming report to the Manager, Environmental Services in order that steps can be taken to initiate the issue of a notice in accordance with Section 18A of the Act.
9. Report details to the Manager Environmental Services of all cases where co-operation has not been obtained and recommend future action and to provide Council from time to time with progress reports in relation to particular properties.
10. To alert the Manager Environmental Services of any significant change in the prevalence of noxious weeds within the Shire particularly in relation to the discovery of potential weed problems.
11. To liaise with officers from relevant government agencies.
12. To keep up to date records of inspections detailing prevalence of weeds on individual properties, the degree of co-operation, follow up procedures of owner/occupiers and record decisions by Council.
13. To work under the direction of the Manager Environmental Services to assist in the keeping of records and the preparation of the annual grant applications to government departments where funding is available, to supplement funding for noxious weed control and inspectorial operations.
14. As necessary and with the express approval of the Manager, Environmental Services, engage additional labour and plant to implement Council's policy and decisions of Council.
15. The Noxious Weeds Officer shall keep abreast of technical and scientific development in the control and eradication of noxious weeds and shall with the concurrence of Manager Environmental Services attend appropriate seminars or other suitable venues with the object of updating skills and knowledge. Every effort shall be made to disseminate information to owner/occupiers throughout the Shire.

**Noxious weeds as proclaimed in the Bourke Shire Council area:**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Category</b>
African Boxthorn	C4
Alligator Weed	C2
Athel Pine	C5
Bathurst/Noogoora/Californian/Cockle Burrs	C4
Cabomba	C5
Columbus Grass	C3
Dodder	C5
Green Cestrum	C3
Harrisia Cactus	C4
Hawkweeds	C1
Horse Tail	C1
Johnson Grass	C3
Karoo Thorn	C1
Kochia	C1
Lagarosiphon	C1
Mesquite	C2
Parkinsonia	C2
Parthenium Weed	C1
Prickly Acacia	C1
Prickly Pears	C4
Rhus Tree	C4
Salvinia	C2
Senegal Tree Plant	C1
Siam Weed	C1
Spiny Burrgrass	C4
Water Hyacinth	C2
Water Lettuce	C1
Willows	C5

**RELATED POLICIES**

There are no related Policies