



## **MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE CONTROL OF**

### **PRICKLY PEAR & DEVIL'S ROPE PEAR**

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 **Prickly Pear (*Opuntia species*)** and **Devil's Rope Pear (*Cylindropuntia imbricata*)** by Landholders- Owner/ Occupier within area of Bourke Shire Council.

#### **General Facts on Prickly Pear**

Prickly Pear is the common name for many cactus species which can form dense impenetrable thickets at the exclusion of productive pastures. It causes management difficulties for livestock handling, humans, and their working dogs.

The stems of the plant are dark green to purple in colour and the leaves are small, scale-like and produced beneath the areoles on young segments only. The petals of the flowers are yellow and the fruit is red with purple mottling.

All new plants result from detached segments of the plants. Roots are formed from one or more of the areoles on the segment surface in contact with the soil and new segments are produced from some of the areoles on the upper surface.

#### **General Facts on Devil's Rope Pear**

This cactus is commonly called "rope pear" because of its rope like appearance. The plant grows to a height of 2-3 metres. It is made up of strong, woody segments- the outer segments (and fruit pods) break off easily to form new plants. The plant has thorns, 2-3 cms long, enclosed in yellow sheaths. Rope pear produces very attractive purple flowers. The main growing for the plant is in October each year.

In the **Area** of Bourke Shire Council, Prickly Pear and Devil's Rope Pear are gazetted as a Class 4 noxious weed under Schedule 4 of Weed Control Order 19 (Order 19) made pursuant to section 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, Prickly Pear and Devil's Rope Pear 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 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011 and run until the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016. This plan is to be reviewed in March 2016. Council reserves the right to review, vary or revoke this plan.

## **CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS**

Owners/ occupiers may use any of the following control methods:

**Chemical:** effective treatment with a herbicide registered for the control of Prickly Pear and or Devil's Rope Pear, in the manner specified on the product label.

**Mechanical:** all plant material should be removed, and disposed of in a manner, so as not to allow re-establishment.

**Biological:** the biological agents Cactoblastis and Cochineal insects, should be placed on, or as near as possible to healthy plants, to encourage establishment of colonies.

**Please note:** Cochineal for Prickly Pear won't work on Devil's Rope Pear and vice versa.

### **.CONTACT DETAILS / MORE INFORMATION:**

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

**Links to other plans:** REGIONAL PEAR SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN

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Date: 20<sup>th</sup> April 2011