



MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE CONTROL OF

RHUS TREE

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 **Rhus Tree (*Toxicodendron succedanea*)** by Landholders- Owner/ Occupier within area of Bourke Shire Council.

General Facts on Rhus Tree

The Rhus Tree is a small deciduous tree up to 8m tall with brilliant coloured autumn foliage that produce both seeds and suckers.

Leaves are bright green above, grayish below during the summer months, changing to brilliant scarlet and crimson in autumn before shedding.

Flowers are creamy white, formed in spring and summer and found in groups among new seasons leaves at the end of branchlets.

The fruit is a papery berry when ripe, hanging in groups from branches during autumn and winter and shedding the following spring.

In the **Area** of Bourke Shire Council, the Rhus Tree is 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 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, the Rhus Tree 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

Rhus Tree should be removed with extreme caution. Contact with the sap is especially dangerous and the risk of contact can be minimized by waiting until after the leaves have fallen, mid- winter, before attempting to remove the plant.

Owner/ occupiers may use either or both of the following control methods:

Chemical: shrubs or trees can be controlled by cutting them down, and painting the stems immediately with a herbicide solution, which will effectively kill the roots and prevents regrowth.

Stem injection with undiluted herbicide is also effective.

Only use herbicides that are registered for Rhus Tree and follow the directions on the product label.

Mechanical: small trees below 2m in height can be pulled or dug out and then disposed of at the local landfill site

CONTACT DETAILS / MORE INFORMATION:

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

Geoff Wise
General Manager

Date: 20th April 2011