

WEED CONTROL PROGRAM

Section 371 (1) b of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*

This Weed Control Program is a Council endorsed document under Section 371 (1) (b) of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and describes how a person must discharge the person's general biosecurity duty for the biosecurity matter (weed) described.

PLANT SPECIES

Common name: African Boxthorn

Scientific name: *Lycium ferossimum*

AREA OF OPERATION

Local government area of Eurobodalla Shire Council.

SPECIES INFORMATION

African Boxthorn is an erect perennial shrub that can grow up to 5m high and 3m across. It is characterised by its woody, thorny growth. The stems are rigid and very branched, and the main stems have spines up to 15cm long. Each smaller spiny branchlet ends in a stout spine.

The leaves are smooth, fleshy and up to 3.5cm long. The plant is drought resistant and in times of stress from lack of moisture or herbicide spraying, can shed its leaves, making it look dead. In some locations plants can be deciduous, losing their leaves in winter.

An aggressive invader of pastures, roadsides, reserves, remnant bushland and waterways, African Boxthorn forms an impenetrable, spiny thicket that inhibits the movement of stock and people. Many insects, including fruit fly, the common house fly and the tomato fly, breed in the fruit of this weed, while rabbits and foxes harbour under the spiny branches.

African Boxthorn is toxic to humans. The berries, leaves, stems and roots are all poisonous and can cause nausea, vomiting, breathing difficulties and unconsciousness.

LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

- (1) Boxthorn is biosecurity matter declared under Schedule 3 of the *Biosecurity Regulation 2017*.
- (2) A person must not import into the State or sell any plant listed in Schedule 3.

WEED RISK ASSESSMENT

Feasibility of control: Very high.

Objective: Contain spread.

COUNCIL CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

- (1) The plant is to be eradicated from the land.
- (2) Land managers must prevent spread from their land.

ENFORCEMENT

A person who fails to discharge the person's general biosecurity duty is guilty of an offence.

In the event that the general biosecurity duty is not discharged, Council may:

- charge a reinspection fee
- issue a penalty notice – refer to *Biosecurity Regulation 2017* (NSW) Schedule 6 - penalty notice offences
- enter the property, perform weed direction works and recoup all costs and expenses incurred.

REVIEW DATE

28 August 2019 or when required.

CONTACT DETAILS

Invasive Species Supervisor – *Biosecurity Act 2015* Authorised Officer

Eurobodalla Shire Council

PO Box 99

MORUYA NSW 2537

☎ 02 4474 1000

✉ council@esc.nsw.gov.au

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PLANT SPECIES

Common name: African Love Grass

Scientific name: *Eragrostis curvula*

AREA OF OPERATION

Local government area of Eurobodalla Shire.

SPECIES INFORMATION

African Lovegrass is a hardy, drought tolerant perennial grass species native to southern Africa, which can grow from 30cm to 120cm tall. It thrives on sandy soils with low fertility, is highly persistent, summer-growing and regarded as a weed due to its low feed quality and acceptance by livestock.

In coastal regions the plant can flower all year, but this occurs predominantly in the warmer months. Seed has an inherent dormancy, which is broken after 5–6 months with some seed remaining viable for up to 17 years.

Seed may be dispersed by grazing animals, slashing, vehicles, water, fodder and short distances by wind. Spread is enhanced by drought conditions and over-grazing. Paddocks with low ground cover are more susceptible to invasion.

African Lovegrass has the potential to become a major weed of agricultural and native grass lands in Eurobodalla Shire.

LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

(1) African Love Grass is biosecurity matter declared under Schedule 3 of the *Biosecurity Regulation 2017*.

(2) A person must not import into the State or sell any plant listed in Schedule 3.

WEED RISK ASSESSMENT

Feasibility of control: Very high.

Objective: Destroy infestations.

COUNCIL CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

(1) All infestations must be destroyed.

(2) Land managers must prevent spread from their land.

ENFORCEMENT

A person who fails to discharge the person's general biosecurity duty is guilty of an offence.

In the event that the general biosecurity duty is not discharged, Council may:

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PLANT SPECIES

Common name: Blackberry

Scientific name: *Rubus fruticosus* agg species

Exempt varieties: Chester Thornless, Dirksen Thornless, Loch Ness, Silvan, Black Satin, Murrindindi, Smooth Stem, Thornfree, Chehalem.

AREA OF OPERATION

Local government area of Eurobodalla Shire.

SPECIES INFORMATION

Blackberries are perennial, semi-deciduous, scrambling shrubs with tangled, prickly stems that form impenetrable thickets several metres high. The root system is the perennial part of the plant. It comprises a woody crown that can grow up to 20cm wide with a main root that can grow to a depth of 4m. Secondary roots grow horizontally from the crown for 30-60cm, then grow down and shoot thin roots in all directions.

Blackberry is mostly restricted to areas with temperate climates (warm summers, cool winters) with an annual rainfall of at least 700mm (regardless of altitude), but plants can grow in lower rainfall areas when other environmental conditions are favourable (such as along the banks of watercourses).

All blackberries can reproduce both vegetatively and by seed. At the end of the blackberry season, there may be up to 13,000 seeds/m² under a blackberry bush. Where the tips of the canes touch the ground, roots may sprout in autumn and become new plants. Blackberries can also produce sucker plants and can reproduce from root fragments and other plant parts, and as such, mowing and slashing can greatly exacerbate the problem, creating hundreds of new plants across a paddock.

LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

(1) Blackberry is biosecurity matter declared under Schedule 3 of the *Biosecurity Regulation 2017*.

(2) A person must not import into the State or sell any plant listed in Schedule 3.

WEED RISK ASSESSMENT

Feasibility of control: Very high.

Objective: Destroy infestations.

COUNCIL CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

- (1) The plant is to be eradicated from the land.
- (2) Slashing is not a control method.
- (3) Blackberry must not be grown for commercial trade or for personal use.
- (4) The plant must not be propagated or distributed.

ENFORCEMENT

A person who fails to discharge the person's general biosecurity duty is guilty of an offence.

In the event that the general biosecurity duty is not discharged, Council may:

- charge a reinspection fee
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PLANT SPECIES

Common name: Cat's Claw Creeper

Scientific name: *Macfadyena unguis-cati*

AREA OF OPERATION

Local government area of Eurobodalla Shire.

SPECIES INFORMATION

Cat's Claw Creeper was introduced to Australia as a garden plant and has escaped to become a major weed of native forests and riparian areas in eastern Australia. Its climbing woody stems (lianas) cling to tree trunks, enabling it to grow into the forest canopy. Cat's Claw Creeper competes with native plants by forming a dense above-ground mat and numerous underground reproductive tubers.

In native rainforests it can overtop and kill mature trees, opening up the canopy for light-loving weeds. It produces abundant seeds with papery wings that aid dispersal, particularly by water and wind. Established plants can also reproduce vegetatively from tubers and creeping stems.

Cat's Claw Creeper invades riparian zones and sub-tropical and tropical rainforests. These include littoral rainforest and river flat eucalypt forest on coastal floodplains listed as endangered ecological communities in NSW. The ends of the tendrils have stiff tips that form hooks (like cats' claws) that aid in climbing.

Cat's Claw Creeper is rarely found in Eurobodalla Shire and all infestations pose an enormous threat to the native vegetation in Eurobodalla Shire.

LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

(1) Cat's Claw Creeper is biosecurity matter declared under Schedule 3 of the *Biosecurity Regulation 2017*.

(2) A person must not import into the State or sell any plant listed in Schedule 3.

WEED RISK ASSESSMENT

Feasibility of control: Very high.

Objective: Eradication.

COUNCIL CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

(1) The plant is to be eradicated from the land.

- (2) Land managers must prevent spread from their land.
- (3) Land managers must notify Council if the plant is found on the land.
- (4) The plant must not be grown, propagated or distributed.

ENFORCEMENT

A person who fails to discharge the person's general biosecurity duty is guilty of an offence.

In the event that the general biosecurity duty is not discharged, Council may:

- charge a reinspection fee
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PLANT SPECIES

Common name: Chilean Needle Grass

Scientific name: *Nasella neesiana*

AREA OF OPERATION

Local government area of Eurobodalla Shire.

SPECIES INFORMATION

Chilean Needle Grass affects both sown pasture and native grasslands of south-eastern Australia. It is relatively unpalatable and reduces farm productivity by displacing more desirable pasture species. Heavy infestations can decrease productivity by as much as 50% during summer. It also causes injury to stock and downgrades wool, skins and hides with its long, sharp seeds.

Seedlings grow quite slowly but have very high survival rates and can flower in the first season. The adult plant is long-lived and very hardy, surviving both heavy grazing and drought. Chilean Needle Grass is well established on the southern tablelands, southwest slopes of NSW, Canberra and Queanbeyan-Palerang. As such, the threat of this plant invading from the west via machinery, vehicles, stock movement and fodder is high, and landholders must be able to identify the plant and ensure adequate biosecurity measures are in place to prevent the introduction of this grass to the property.

Chilean Needle Grass poses a high threat to the vitality of both modified and native pastures, and as such would be highly detrimental to both grazing-based agriculture and native grasslands in Eurobodalla Shire.

LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

(1) Chilean Needle Grass is biosecurity matter declared under Schedule 3 of the *Biosecurity Regulation 2017*.

(2) A person must not import into the State or sell any plant listed in Schedule 3.

WEED RISK ASSESSMENT

Feasibility of control: Very high.

Objective: Eradication.

COUNCIL CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

- (1) The plant is to be eradicated from the land.
- (2) Land managers must prevent spread from their land.
- (3) Land managers must notify Council if the plant is found on the land.

ENFORCEMENT

A person who fails to discharge the person's general biosecurity duty is guilty of an offence.

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PLANT SPECIES

Common name: Coolatai Grass

Scientific name: *Hyparrhenia hirta*

AREA OF OPERATION

Local government area of Eurobodalla Shire.

SPECIES INFORMATION

Coolatai Grass is an invasive drought, fire and herbicide tolerant tussock-forming perennial grass. It has become a major invasive species in northern NSW and southern Queensland, dominating pastures over a range of soil types and conditions. It is also one of the few perennial grasses capable of invading undisturbed natural ecosystems and is a major threat to natural biodiversity in natural areas.

Coolatai Grass readily invades pastures and dominates them, particularly where ground cover is low (less than 70%) due to the grazing regime (set stocking) and low soil fertility. Failure to appropriately manage a Coolatai Grass dominated pasture will see a monoculture of tall rank growth of low digestibility (<40%) and protein (<7%). Sheep production will be poor and cattle will need supplementary nitrogen or protein to be able to utilise the feed.

The threat of this plant invading via machinery, vehicles, stock movement and fodder is high, and landholders must be able to identify the plant and ensure adequate biosecurity measures are in place to prevent the introduction of this grass to the property. Coolatai Grass poses a high threat to the vitality of both modified and native pastures, and as such would be highly detrimental to both grazing-based agriculture, native grasslands and natural bush areas in Eurobodalla Shire.

LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

(1) Coolatai Grass is biosecurity matter declared under Schedule 3 of the *Biosecurity Regulation 2017*.

(2) A person must not import into the State or sell any plant listed in Schedule 3.

WEED RISK ASSESSMENT

Feasibility of control: Very high.

Objective: Contain spread.

COUNCIL CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

- (1) The plant is to be eradicated from the land.
- (2) Land managers must prevent spread from their land.
- (3) Land managers must notify Council if the plant is found on the land.

ENFORCEMENT

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PLANT SPECIES

Common name: Crofton Weed

Scientific name: *Ageratina adenophora*

AREA OF OPERATION

Local government area of Eurobodalla Shire.

SPECIES INFORMATION

Once established, seedlings tolerate shade and grow rapidly. In this way, small infestations of Crofton Weed rapidly increase in size unless controlled.

Horses may preferentially graze the plant even when ample feed is available. Access to Crofton Weed for as little as eight weeks can cause sickness. If horses are not removed from infested areas, death from respiratory failure is the eventual result, with affected horses often suddenly collapsing and dying during work. Treatment of Crofton Weed poisoning is unlikely to reverse the damage, so early detection of poisoning and removal from the weed infestation is essential. If you suspect poisoning, seek veterinary advice. Poisoned horses may never again be capable of work.

Crofton Weed reduces the ecological value of bush land, lowers crop yields and reduces the carrying capacity of grazing land. The weed spread rapidly during the 1940s and 1950s and it was reported that in some areas dairy farmers and banana growers abandoned their holdings.

The threat of this plant invading via machinery, vehicles, stock movement and fodder is high, and landholders must be able to identify the plant and ensure adequate biosecurity measures are in place to prevent the introduction of this grass to the property. Crofton Weed poses a high threat to the vitality of both modified and native pastures in productive wetter areas, and as such would be highly detrimental to both grazing-based agriculture and to riparian areas and other suitable natural areas in Eurobodalla Shire.

LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

Any person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier and who knows, or ought reasonably to know, the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by the biosecurity matter, carrier or dealing, has a biosecurity duty to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised.

WEED RISK ASSESSMENT

Feasibility of control: Very high.

Objective: Contain spread.

COUNCIL CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

- (1) The plant is to be eradicated from the land.
- (2) Land managers must prevent spread from their land.
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ENFORCEMENT

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PLANT SPECIES

Common name: Dwarf Broom; Hedge Broom

Scientific name(s): *Cytisus racemosus nana*; *Genista x spachiana*

AREA OF OPERATION

Local government area of Eurobodalla Shire.

SPECIES INFORMATION

Brooms are perennial leguminous shrubs in the fabaceae (pea family), which have numerous, flexible, broom-like young branches that give rise to their common name. They commonly grow to 2–3m tall, but can grow to 3–6m. All Brooms have bright yellow flowers, produce hard-coated seeds in pea-like pods and have seeds that are light brown to very dark, almost black, around 2.5–3mm long, with an edible growth on the end of the seed (called an aril) that is attractive to ants.

Brooms have invaded over one million hectares of Australia and have naturalised in many other parts of the world. Seeds are naturally dispersed from the plant by explosive pods that can flick seeds up to 3m, though the majority of the seed lands within 1m of the parent plant. Once on the ground, seeds are readily moved long distances by water, humans or animals. Mature broom plants can produce thousands of seeds each year, and these seeds can remain dormant in the soil for 30 years or more before germinating.

Brooms invade native vegetation, forestry and pastoral systems in Australia where they cause significant environmental and economic impacts. Brooms establish rapidly after disturbance such as fire, grazing or forestry harvesting, but can also invade relatively undisturbed areas. Dwarf/Hedge Broom is a cultivar of a Broom species that is known to be invasive in other parts of Australia, and as such, is a potential threat to the biodiversity and agriculture of Eurobodalla Shire.

LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

Any person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier and who knows, or ought reasonably to know, the biosecurity risk posed, or likely to be posed, by the biosecurity matter, carrier or dealing, has a biosecurity duty to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised.

WEED RISK ASSESSMENT

Feasibility of control: Very high.

Objective: Destroy infestations.

WEED RISK ASSESSMENT

Feasibility of control: Very high.

Objective: Eradication.

COUNCIL CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

- (1) The plant is to be eradicated from the land.
- (2) Land managers must prevent spread from their land.
- (3) The plant must not be sold, propagated or distributed.

ENFORCEMENT

A person who fails to discharge the person's general biosecurity duty is guilty of an offence.

In the event that the general biosecurity duty is not discharged, Council may:

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PLANT SPECIES

Common name: Gorse/Furze

Scientific name: *Ulex europaeus*

AREA OF OPERATION

Local Government Area of Eurobodalla Shire.

SPECIES INFORMATION

Gorse is regarded as one of the worst weeds in Australia because of its invasiveness, potential for spread and economic and environmental impacts.

A mature infestation can produce up to 6 million seeds per ha each year. The seeds have a hard, water-resistant coating which allows them to remain dormant in the soil for up to 30 years. In pastoral areas it provides shelter for pests such as rabbits, increases the risk of bushfires because of its flammability, reduces access by forming dense thickets and dramatically reduces stocking rates.

Gorse has rendered many hectares of land in the midlands of Tasmania useless for grazing where it is estimated to cost approximately \$1 million per annum in lost production, and it has the potential to become a major weed of both agriculture and natural areas in Eurobodalla Shire.

LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

(1) Gorse is biosecurity matter declared under Schedule 3 of the *Biosecurity Regulation 2017*.

(2) A person must not import into the State or sell any plant listed in Schedule 3.

WEED RISK ASSESSMENT

Feasibility of control: Very high.

Objective: Eradication.

COUNCIL CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

(1) All plants must be eradicated from the land.

(2) Land managers must prevent spread from their land.

ENFORCEMENT

A person who fails to discharge the person's general biosecurity duty is guilty of an offence.

In the event that the general biosecurity duty is not discharged, Council may:

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PLANT SPECIES

Common name: Sharp/Spiny Rush

Scientific name: *Juncus acutus*

AREA OF OPERATION

Local government area of Eurobodalla Shire.

SPECIES INFORMATION

Juncus acutus is a robust tussock that grows to about 1.5m high and has about the same spread. The flowering stems and leaves are round in cross-section and have a sharply pointed tip that is painful to touch with the hand.

Growing primarily in wet soil, in areas which are occasionally but not permanently under water, *Juncus acutus* will grow in both freshwater and saline situations, and will take over pasture, cause lameness and other needle stick type injuries in animals and people from the sharp spines, and prevent access to waterways and other assets.

Juncus acutus is spread by seed in water or contaminated soil, in mud on vehicles, machinery and boats. The clumps also spread gradually by underground rhizomes. The plant presents a high threat to both fresh and salt water wetlands, riparian zones and low lying pasture areas of Eurobodalla Shire.

LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

Any person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier and who knows, or ought reasonably to know, the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by the biosecurity matter, carrier or dealing, has a biosecurity duty to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised.

WEED RISK ASSESSMENT

Feasibility of control: Very high.

Objective: Contain spread.

COUNCIL CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

- (1) Eradicate the weed, or if that is not practicable, destroy as much of the weed as is practicable and suppress the spread of any remaining weed.
- (2) Slashing is not a control method.

ENFORCEMENT

A person who fails to discharge the person's general biosecurity duty is guilty of an offence.

In the event that the general biosecurity duty is not discharged, Council may:

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PLANT SPECIES

Common name: Lantana

Scientific name: *Lantana camara* and *Lantana montevidensis*

AREA OF OPERATION

Local government area of Eurobodalla Shire.

SPECIES INFORMATION

Lantana is one of Australia's most debilitating invasive weeds. It is recognised as a Weed of National Significance (WONS) because of its impacts on primary industries, conservation and biodiversity and the extent of its distribution. Eurobodalla Shire Council contains the most southerly infestations of Lantana in Australia, and as such, control with the intention of eradication is important.

Lantana poisoning in cattle is quite common and causes major economic losses. Most cases of poisoning occur in animals newly introduced into areas where toxic forms of Lantana are already growing. Lantana is also highly toxic to humans and can cause serious illness and death. All parts of the plant, particularly the green berries, are poisonous if ingested, causing vomiting, diarrhoea, muscular weakness and respiratory distress. The plant is also a skin and eye irritant.

Lantana is a serious invader of disturbed ecosystems, agricultural land and natural bush. Lantana can restrict access in bushland and riverbanks and also reduce the overall visual amenity of an area. The total cost of controlling Lantana in agricultural and non-agricultural areas has been conservatively estimated at more than \$22 million per annum.

LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

(1) Lantana is biosecurity matter declared under Schedule 3 of the *Biosecurity Regulation 2017*.

(2) A person must not import into the State or sell any plant listed in Schedule 3.

WEED RISK ASSESSMENT

Feasibility of control: Very high.

Objective: Destroy infestations.

COUNCIL CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

- (1) Eradicate the weed, or if that is not practicable, destroy as much of the weed as is practicable and suppress the spread of any remaining weed.
- (2) Land managers must prevent spread from their land to high priority sites including, but not limited to, waterways, endangered ecological communities and rainforests.
- (3) The plant must not be sold, propagated or distributed.

ENFORCEMENT

A person who fails to discharge the person's general biosecurity duty is guilty of an offence.

In the event that the general biosecurity duty is not discharged, Council may:

- charge a reinspection fee
- issue a penalty notice – refer to *Biosecurity Regulation 2017* (NSW) Schedule 6 - penalty notice offences
- enter the property, perform weed direction works and recoup all costs and expenses incurred.

REVIEW DATE

28 August 2019 or when required.

CONTACT DETAILS

Invasive Species Supervisor – *Biosecurity Act 2015* Authorised Officer

Eurobodalla Shire Council

PO Box 99

Moruya, NSW 2537

☎ 02 4474 1000

✉ council@esc.nsw.gov.au

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PLANT SPECIES

Common name: Madeira Vine

Scientific name: *Anredera cordifolia*

AREA OF OPERATION

Local government area of Eurobodalla Shire.

SPECIES INFORMATION

Madeira Vine was introduced from South America and has since become a serious weed in NSW. This plant rarely produces viable seed and mainly spreads via large numbers of aerial tubers that are produced along the stems. These are also spread shorter distances after falling off stems high in the canopy (by gravity), and fragments that end up in waterways are easily transported to new locations. Madeira Vine also spreads vegetatively by tuberous roots and creeping underground stems (rhizomes).

Madeira Vine is most problematic in moist forests, rainforest margins and riparian zones (banks of watercourses) where it can establish under an intact canopy and quickly engulf native species. The growth rate is fast and the plant can grow up to 6m in a growing season. This vine can totally envelop the canopy layer and smother the ground layer of invaded habitats. This habit reduces light penetration, eventually killing the plants underneath and preventing the germination and regeneration of native plants.

The weight of dense infestations can bring down trees in the canopy layer and eventually destroy natural areas. Madeira Vine is also poisonous and suspected of poisoning livestock. Additionally, its sap is a skin irritant and care should be taken when manually removing infestations.

LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

Any person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier and who knows, or ought reasonably to know, the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by the biosecurity matter, carrier or dealing, has a biosecurity duty to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised.

WEED RISK ASSESSMENT

Feasibility of control: Very high.

Objective: Monitor and protect high priority sites.

COUNCIL CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

- (1) Eradicate the weed, or if that is not practicable, destroy as much of the weed as is practicable and suppress the spread of any remaining weed.
- (2) Land managers must prevent spread from their land to high priority sites including, but not limited to, waterways, endangered ecological communities and rainforests.
- (3) The plant must not be sold, propagated or distributed.

ENFORCEMENT

A person who fails to discharge the person's general biosecurity duty is guilty of an offence.

In the event that the general biosecurity duty is not discharged, Council may:

- charge a reinspection fee
- issue a penalty notice – refer to *Biosecurity Regulation 2017* (NSW) Schedule 6 - penalty notice offences
- enter the property, perform weed direction works and recoup all costs and expenses incurred.

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PLANT SPECIES

Common name: Pampas Grass

Scientific name: *Cortaderia selloana*, *Cortaderia jubata*, *Cortaderia richardii*

AREA OF OPERATION

Local Government area of Eurobodalla Shire.

SPECIES INFORMATION

Pampas Grass is a robust, long-lived perennial plant. It generally takes the form of a large tussock, approximately 1–1.5m across, with attractive, plumed flower heads carried on tall stems. Once established, the plant is very competitive, restricting the establishment of native trees and can become a fire hazard and harbour vermin.

Individual plants have the ability to produce vast quantities of windborne seed (up to 100,000 per flower head), which can infest areas within a 25km radius. In many cases, garden plants are the seed source for infestations. Pampas Grasses also have the ability to reproduce from rhizomes (underground stems).

Established plants have a large root system up to 3.5m deep and the tussock produces large quantities of flammable material. It is very competitive with other more desirable plants, and aggressively outcompetes other plants to form a highly flammable monoculture.

LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

Any person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier and who knows, or ought reasonably to know, the biosecurity risk posed, or likely to be posed, by the biosecurity matter, carrier or dealing, has a biosecurity duty to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised.

WEED RISK ASSESSMENT

Feasibility of control: Very high.

Objective: Destroy infestations.

COUNCIL CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

- (1) All plants must be destroyed.
- (2) Land managers must prevent spread from their land.

(3) The plant, including any part(s) of the plant, must not be sold, propagated or distributed.

ENFORCEMENT

A person who fails to discharge the person's general biosecurity duty is guilty of an offence.

In the event that the general biosecurity duty is not discharged, Council may:

- charge a reinspection fee
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PLANT SPECIES

Common name: Prickly Pear

Scientific name: All *Opuntia* species, excepting *Opuntia ficus-indica*

AREA OF OPERATION

Local government area of Eurobodalla Shire.

SPECIES INFORMATION

Native to the Americas, Prickly Pear is a spiny, drought-resistant succulent that rapidly invades pastures and natural areas and overwhelms other vegetation. Prickly Pear spreads by seed or vegetatively by segments which root where they contact the ground.

The plant invaded large areas of northern NSW and central Queensland in the early 1900s and infested some 25,000,000 hectares. Several biological controls were introduced, namely Cactoblastis Moth and Cochineal Beetle, which brought most infestations under control. However, the threat of reinfestation where these biological controls are not as effective, such as the Deua River, mean that landholders in Eurobodalla Shire must remain vigilant with regards to control of this genus.

LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

- (1) Prickly Pear is biosecurity matter declared under Schedule 3 of the *Biosecurity Regulation 2017*.
- (2) A person must not import into the State or sell any plant listed in Schedule 3.

WEED RISK ASSESSMENT

Feasibility of control: Very high.

Objective: Destroy infestations.

COUNCIL CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

- (1) All infestations must be destroyed.
- (2) Land managers must prevent spread from their land.
- (3) The plant, including part(s) of the plant, must not be propagated or distributed.

ENFORCEMENT

A person who fails to discharge the person's general biosecurity duty is guilty of an offence.

In the event that the general biosecurity duty is not discharged, Council may:

- charge a reinspection fee
- issue a penalty notice – refer to *Biosecurity Regulation 2017* (NSW) Schedule 6 - penalty notice offences
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PLANT SPECIES

Common name: Salvinia

Scientific name: *Salvinia molesta*

AREA OF OPERATION

Local government area of Eurobodalla Shire.

SPECIES INFORMATION

Salvinia is an aquatic fern which floats on the water surface. It can be found in fresh water bodies such as farm dams and lagoons, and on river floodplains, rivers and creeks. Still or slow flowing water is preferred.

Salvinia blankets the water surface reducing light levels, temperature and oxygen in the water below. This has profound effects on communities of native plants and animals in the water. It also interferes with animal access for drinking water, human access for swimming and boating, reduces water quality and blocks pumps.

Dumping of aquarium or ornamental pond plants is often the means of spread for aquatic weeds. *Salvinia molesta* is a sterile hybrid and only reproduces vegetatively from broken-off pieces, or whole plants being moved on boats or fishing equipment, or washed from one water body to another in floods.

LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

(1) *Salvinia molesta* is biosecurity matter declared under Schedule 3 of the *Biosecurity Regulation 2017*.

(2) A person must not import into the State or sell any plant listed in Schedule 3.

WEED RISK ASSESSMENT

Feasibility of control: Very high.

Objective: Monitor and protect priority sites.

COUNCIL CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

(1) Eradicate the weed, or if that is not practicable, destroy as much of the weed as is practicable and suppress the spread of any remaining weed.

(2) Land managers must prevent spread from their land to high priority sites including, but not limited to, potable water sources, water bodies used for irrigation, water bodies that are used for aquatic recreation and water bodies containing endangered ecological communities and/or threatened species.

(3) The plant must not be propagated or distributed.

ENFORCEMENT

A person who fails to discharge the person's general biosecurity duty is guilty of an offence.

In the event that the general biosecurity duty is not discharged, Council may:

- charge a reinspection fee
- issue a penalty notice – refer to *Biosecurity Regulation 2017* (NSW) Schedule 6 - penalty notice offences
- enter the property, perform weed direction works and recoup all costs and expenses incurred.

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PLANT SPECIES

Common name(s): Scotch Broom, Montpellier/Cape Broom, Flax Leaf Broom

Scientific name(s): *Cytisus scoparius*, *Genista monspessulana*, *Genista linifolia*

AREA OF OPERATION

Local government area of Eurobodalla Shire.

SPECIES INFORMATION

Brooms are perennial leguminous shrubs in the fabaceae (pea family), which have numerous, flexible, broom-like young branches that give rise to their common name. They commonly grow to 2–3m tall, but can grow to 3–6m. All Brooms have bright yellow flowers, produce hard-coated seeds in pea-like pods and have seeds that are light brown to very dark, almost black, around 2.5–3mm long, with an edible growth on the end of the seed (called an aril) that is attractive to ants.

Brooms have invaded over one million hectares of Australia and have naturalised in many other parts of the world, including North and South America, Asia, and New Zealand. Seeds are naturally dispersed from the plant by explosive pods that can flick seeds up to 3m, though the majority of the seed lands within 1m of the parent plant. Once on the ground, seeds are readily moved long distances by water, humans or animals.

Mature Broom plants can produce thousands of seeds each year and these seeds can remain dormant in the soil for 30 years or more before germinating.

Brooms invade native vegetation, forestry and pastoral systems in Australia, where they cause significant environmental and economic impacts. Brooms establish rapidly after disturbance such as fire, grazing or forestry harvesting, but can also invade relatively undisturbed areas.

LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

(1) Scotch Broom, Montpellier/Cape Broom, Flax Leaf Broom are biosecurity matter declared under Schedule 3 of the *Biosecurity Regulation 2017*.

(2) A person must not import into the State or sell any plant listed in Schedule 3.

WEED RISK ASSESSMENT

Feasibility of control: Very high.

Objective: Eradication.

COUNCIL CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

- (1) The plant is to be eradicated from the land.
- (2) Land managers must prevent spread from their land.

ENFORCEMENT

A person who fails to discharge the person's general biosecurity duty is guilty of an offence.

In the event that the general biosecurity duty is not discharged, Council may:

- charge a reinspection fee
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PLANT SPECIES

Common name: Serrated Tussock
Scientific name: *Nasella trichotoma*

AREA OF OPERATION

Local government area of Eurobodalla Shire .

SPECIES INFORMATION

Serrated Tussock is a tussock grass (about 0.5m) with very fine bright green leaves. Older leaves and whole Tussocks in winter have a characteristic bleached appearance. Long, branched seed heads weep over to the ground around the Tussock. The tiny straw coloured, awn-less seeds are enclosed in reddish purple glumes, giving the whole plant the appearance of a large pink cushion when flowering.

Serrated Tussock is most invasive in over-grazed pasture in dry areas, but it will readily invade any sort of grassy vegetation, and even spread into forest adjacent to infested pasture. It can build up to high density eliminating most other plants. Individual plants are long-lived and seed remains viable in soil for more than 13 years. Dense stands produce a serious fire hazard.

Serrated Tussock's fibre content is so high that stock are unable to digest it, and animals forced to graze it may eventually starve to death. It therefore reduces stock carrying capacity of pasture, as well as being one of the worst potential environmental weeds of remnant grassy native vegetation of farming areas.

The entire seed head snaps off and blows around like a tumbleweed to collect against fences and other obstructions. It is very light and can be carried many kilometres by the wind. Seed can also stick to clothing and animals and is spread in manure of stock feeding on infested pasture, in contaminated hay and in mud on vehicles.

LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

(1) Serrated Tussock is biosecurity matter declared under Schedule 3 of the *Biosecurity Regulation 2017*.

(2) A person must not import into the State or sell any plant listed in Schedule 3.

WEED RISK ASSESSMENT

Feasibility of control: Very high.

Objective: Destroy infestations.

COUNCIL CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

- (1) The plant is to be eradicated from the land.
- (2) The landholder must prevent spread from their land.
- (2) Slashing is not a control method.

ENFORCEMENT

A person who fails to discharge the person's general biosecurity duty is guilty of an offence.

In the event that the general biosecurity duty is not discharged, Council may:

- charge a reinspection fee
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PLANT SPECIES

Common name: St John's Wort

Scientific name: *Hypericum perforatum*

AREA OF OPERATION

Local government area of Eurobodalla Shire.

SPECIES INFORMATION

An erect branched perennial herb, with small light green to blue-green leaves arranged in opposite pairs. If the leaves are held up to the light, fine translucent oil dots can be seen in them. Yellow flowers also have the oil dots and appear in mid-summer, and the plant dies back to the rootstock over winter and does not begin growing again until early summer.

At some times of year, the growth habit of non-flowering stems may be prostrate and ground-hugging. The seeds are in papery capsules which dry to dark brown; found in pasture and on road verges, generally in drier parts of the region. St John's Wort is more common on the tablelands and slopes where it is a major weed of grazing land, and is a serious environmental weed of remnant grassy native vegetation.

The plant is poisonous to stock, dry or fresh, causing photo-sensitisation in pale coloured animals. The faces and mouths become itchy and raw, preventing feeding.

Seed sticks to animals or vehicles or is spread in contaminated soil. It can be introduced in contaminated hay or chaff.

Each plant also spreads via underground runners. These can be chopped up and spread during cultivation. Seed is long-lived in the soil and each mature plant produces up to 30,000 seeds per season.

LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

(1) St John's Wort is biosecurity matter declared under Schedule 3 of the *Biosecurity Regulation 2017*.

(2) A person must not import into the State or sell any plant listed in Schedule 3.

WEED RISK ASSESSMENT

Feasibility of control: Very high.

Objective: Destroy infestations.

COUNCIL CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

- (1) The plant is to be eradicated from the land.
- (2) Slashing is not a control method.
- (3) The plant must not be grown, propagated or distributed.

ENFORCEMENT

A person who fails to discharge the person's general biosecurity duty is guilty of an offence.

In the event that the general biosecurity duty is not discharged, Council may:

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