

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 ferossismum*

AREA OF OPERATION

Local government area of Eurobodalla Shire Council.

SPECIES INFORMATION

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

The leaves are smooth, fleshy and up to 3.5 cm 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) Destroy all plants, or if that is not practicable, destroy as many plants as is practicable and stop the spread of any remaining plants from the property in a manner agreed to, or dictated by, Council.

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

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