

## 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 Love Grass

Scientific name: *Eragrostis curvula*

#### AREA OF OPERATION

Local government area of Eurobodalla Shire.

#### SPECIES INFORMATION

African Love Grass 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 Love Grass 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) 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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