

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: 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 20 cm wide with a main root that can grow to a depth of 4 m. Secondary roots grow horizontally from the crown for 30-60 cm, 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 700 mm (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) 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.
- (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
- 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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