

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: 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 cat's 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 of Eurobodalla.

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 must be destroyed.

(2) The landholder must prevent spread from their land.

- (3) The landholder or occupier 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
- 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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