

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: 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 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.

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

PO Box 99

MORUYA NSW 2537

☎ 02 4474 1000

✉ council@esc.nsw.gov.au