

## 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: Prickly Pear

Scientific name: All *Opuntia species*, *excepting Opuntia ficus-indica*

#### AREA OF OPERATION

Local government area of Eurobodalla Shire.

#### SPECIES INFORMATION

Native to the Americas, Prickly Pear is a spiny, drought-resistant succulent that rapidly invades pastures and natural areas and overwhelms other vegetation. Prickly Pear spreads by seed or vegetatively by segments which root where they contact the ground. The plant invaded large areas of northern NSW and central Queensland in the early 1900s and was infesting some 25,000,000 hectares. Several biological controls were introduced, namely Cactoblastis Moth and Cochineal Beetle, which brought most infestations under control, however, the threat of reinfestation where these biological controls are not as effective, such as the Deua River, mean that landholders in Eurobodalla Shire must remain vigilant with regards to control of this genus.

#### LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

(1) Prickly Pear 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) The plant, including part(s) of 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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