

## 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: Coolatai Grass

Scientific name: *Hyparrhenia hirta*

#### AREA OF OPERATION

Local government area of Eurobodalla Shire.

#### SPECIES INFORMATION

Coolatai Grass is an invasive drought, fire and herbicide tolerant tussock forming perennial grass. It has become a major invasive species in northern NSW and southern Queensland, dominating pastures over a range of soil types and conditions. It is also one of the few perennial grasses capable of invading undisturbed natural ecosystems, and is a major threat to natural biodiversity in natural areas.

Coolatai Grass readily invades pastures and dominates them, particularly where ground cover is low (less than 70%) due to the grazing regime (set stocking) and low soil fertility. Failure to appropriately manage a Coolatai Grass dominated pasture will see a monoculture of tall rank growth of low digestibility (<40%) and protein (<7%). Sheep production will be poor and cattle will need supplementary nitrogen or protein to be able to utilise the feed.

The threat of this plant invading 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. Coolatai 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, native grasslands and natural bush areas in Eurobodalla Shire.

#### LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

(1) Coolatai 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: Contain spread.

### **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.

### **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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