



BIOSECURITY - WEEDS POLICY

Policy No:	ENG-DES-009
Adopted by Council:	17/12/2019
Minute No:	08.12.19
Re-Adopted by Council:	19 July 2022
Minute No:	05.07.22
Review Date:	December 2024
Responsible Director:	Director Engineering
Functional Area:	Engineering Services

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PART 1 – AUTHORITY TO ACT

The council of a local government area is the local control authority for land within that local government area.

PART 2 – FUNCTIONS OF LOCAL CONTROL AUTHORITY

A local control authority has the following functions under NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015 No 24* (hereinafter called “Act”), in relation to the land for which it is the local control authority:

- a) The prevention, elimination, minimisation and management of the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by weeds,
- b) To develop, implement, co-ordinate and review weed control programs,
- c) To inspect land in connection with its weed control functions,
- d) To keep records about the exercise of the local control authority’s functions under this Act,
- e) To report to the Secretary about the exercise of the local control authority’s functions under this Act.

PART 3 – WEED MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES

Weed management categories at the regional and local scale.

Category	Objective	Description of weeds in this category
Prevention	To prevent the weed species arriving and establishing in the Council area.	High-risk (highly invasive and high threat) weeds that have a high likelihood of arriving in the area because of their potential distribution and/or an existing high-risk pathway. These species are not known to be present in the area currently.
Eradication	To permanently remove the species and its propagules from the area OR to destroy infestations to reduce the extent of the weed in the area or a part of it within the aim of local eradication.	Very high-risk weeds with a very high feasibility of coordinated control. These species are present in the area to a limited extent only and the risk of re-invasion is either minimal or can be easily managed.
		Or weeds that have a very high or high-risk and very high or high feasibility of coordinated control. These species have a limited extent in part of the area and the risk of re-invasion in that part of the area is either minimal or can be easily managed.

Category	Objective	Description of weeds in this category
Containment	To prevent the ongoing spread of the species in all or part of the area.	These weeds have a limited distribution in the area. Local and regional containment strategies aim to prevent the spread of the weed from an invaded part of the area (core infestation), and/or exclude the weed from an uninvaded part of the area (exclusion zone).
Asset Protection	To prevent the spread of the species to key sites/assets of high economic environmental and or social value or to reduce impact on these values if spread has occurred.	

PART 4 – RESOURCES

4.1 Financial

Council will submit a 5-year program to Department of Primary Industries (DPI) for approval and funding over the 5-year period of the plan. This funding is supplied as an annual grant administered by the Riverina Local Lands Service and is in addition to resources allocated from the Junee Shire budget.

Financial resources for weeds control are limited so Council will:

- i) Aim to obtain maximum landholders co-operation and participation in the effective implementation of the weed control program through the coordination program.
- ii) Place greater emphasis on those weeds that are threatening weeds recently established or are invasive weeds in rare and isolated infestations.

4.2 Staff

i. Weeds Advisory

Council is a member of the Riverina Eastern Noxious Weeds Authority (RENWA). RENWA is a cooperative arrangement between Junee, Coolamon and Temora Shires to facilitate efficient and cost-effective weed management across the three local government areas.

RENWA staff are responsible for fulfilling Council's statutory requirements under the *Biosecurity Act 2015 No 24*.

RENWA's responsibilities are:

- To adhere to Council's invasive weeds policy and weeds strategy.
- To apply for, manage and maintain records of any relevant available grant funding.
- To report regularly to Council and maintain such records as to provide public and legislative accountability for Council's actions and activities dealing with Weeds.

Through RENWA, Council is committed to:

- a) Inspect all properties within the Council area with a view to locate, map and encourage control of weeds infestations by the relevant Land Manager.
- b) Advise all land managers of their responsibilities under the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015*.
- c) Enforce the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015 No 24* as required.
- d) Inform and educate land managers and the community as to identifying invasive and emerging weeds within the Shire and those weeds that are close to and threatening the Shire.
- e) To liaise and cooperate with Federal, State and Regional Organisations and Authorities involved in invasive weeds management.
- f) The reduction of existing invasive weeds infestations and the prevention or limiting of establishment of new invasive weeds within the Shire.
- g) To plan and manage the operational control of invasive weeds on Council controlled lands.

ii. Other Staff

RENWA employs contract staff to carry out control activities. Contractors are required to carry all relevant insurances and certificates –

- Public liability
- Workers compensation
- Registered/permitted equipment
- Current relevant pesticide usage certification.

Operations contractors are required to use on Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority registered and approved products. All products are to be applied strictly according to label recommendations and all pesticide usage regulation and legislation is to be adhered to.

iii. Contractors

Where required, contractors may be engaged to assist in control programs during peak control periods. Contractors will be engaged under Council's Specification for Plant and Equipment Hire.

4.3 Work Methods

Inspections - Notices – Records

Property inspections will be carried out properly appointed Biosecurity Officers carrying identity cards.

- a) Council will issue notices of Intent to Inspect to property owners/managers prior to carrying out general private property weeds inspections.
- b) Inspections may be carried out without the land owner/ manager being on site
- c) Any issues requiring action on the part of the land owner/manager will be explained to the land owner/manager by a Council appointed Biosecurity officer
- d) Each property inspection will have an electronic record created for that inspection

PART 5 – TECHNICAL ADVICE

RENWA's Biosecurity Officer -Weeds can assist by advising landholders of methods of treatment to suite each infestation (eg: cultivation, pasture or chemical means). Staff being in regular contact with the DPI regarding latest recommended control measures, however the property owner will be advised the information provided for general information only and any landholder should not act on anything without considering, and if necessary, seeking appropriate specialist advice.

PART 6 – WEED CONTROL PROGRAM

The weeds control program within Junee Shire area will operate with reference to regional priorities, (Riverina Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022) and local priorities that protect the environmental, business and social values of the Junee Shire rate payers and residents.

Council will liaise with other local control authorities to ensure effective control of invasive weeds on areas of common interest such as boundaries and shared catchments.

PART 7 – HERBICIDES

- a) The selection of herbicides for invasive weed control will give first consideration to operator and environmental safety.
- b) Recommendations will be taken from NSW DPI WeedWise web site or app.
- c) Volatile herbicide formulations will not be used in anything other than emergency situations requiring immediate action.

PART 8 – REVIEW

The policy may be reviewed at any time but unless otherwise requested at least every two years from date of adoption.

Version Control and Change History

Version	Date	Action
V1.0	17/12/2019	Adoption of Policy
V2.0	19/07/2022	Re-Adopted of Policy