



POLICY:	HIGH RISK WEEDS POLICY
STATUS:	Final
ADOPTED:	Yes
LATEST VERSION:	9 April 2015
NEXT REVISION:	9 April 2017

1. OBJECTIVE

To provide a framework when dealing with noxious weeds which are high risk in the community.

2. SCOPE

This policy covers all land within the local government areas of Blacktown, Hawkesbury, Penrith and The Hills Shire and includes all noxious weeds listed in Appendix 1.

3. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

All procedures are to comply with the following:

Local Government Act 1993;
Local Government (General) Regulation 2005;
Noxious Weeds Act 1993
Noxious Weeds Regulation 2008.

4. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

Authority for implementation of the Widespread Noxious Weeds Policy is delegated to Council Weed Inspectors in accordance with the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*.

5. HOW ARE WEEDS PRIORITISED?

Plants are scheduled “noxious” when listed in a Weed Control Order by the Minister under the guidance of the *NSW Noxious Weeds Act 1993*. HRCC currently has 121 plants listed as noxious within its jurisdiction. As a local control authority HRCC has the discretion to implement programs of weed management that prioritise resources towards different weed species. The prioritisation is guided by a range of factors including:

1. Legislation, Class 1 or 2 species under *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* must be eradicated.
2. National and State policy and strategy. Such as the NSW Invasive Species Plan (See Figure 1).

3. Weeds of National Significance (WONS)
4. Regional Priorities – Greater Sydney area.
5. Local priorities – Within Council area only.

Figure 1 below illustrates the weed invasion curve and the relationship between the stages of invasion, the level of effective control that could be expected and the likely return.

Council’s resources are prioritized towards activities where the return on investment is highest; that is at the beginning of the invasion curve.

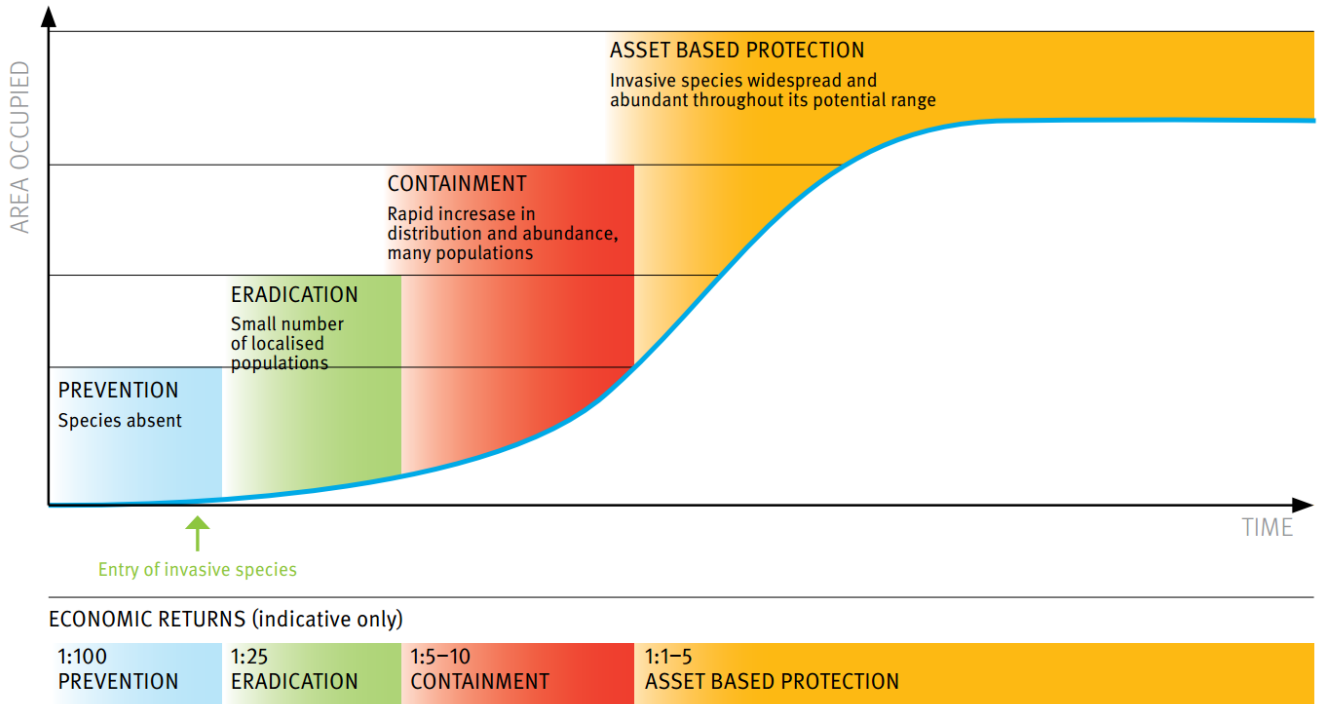


Figure 1: The Weed Invasion Curve (Source: NSW Biosecurity Strategy 2015-2020)

6. HIGH RISK WEEDS

Using the criteria set out above, HRCC has developed a list of “high risk” weeds which take precedence in our control and inspection operations. Weeds listed “widespread” and are controlled in accordance with Section 8 – Action on Widespread Weeds. The weed lists are within Appendix 1 of this policy.

If a plant is listed in Appendix 1 as “high risk”, the Weed Inspector can enforce control within the limitations of the Act. In the case of a high risk weed not being scheduled noxious, the Weed Inspector cannot enforce control.

7. WEEDS ALONG PRIVATE PROPERTY BOUNDARIES

Council staff will not become involved in any dispute of a pure civil nature.

If HRCC staff are requested to inspect a property boundary shared by two or more private property owners that includes noxious weeds then a property record will be generated for both properties. If the weed species is considered to be a high risk

weed, then enforcement of the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* will proceed as normal. If the weed species is considered to be widespread, the HRCC staff member will not proceed with enforcement under the Act. However, the inspector may pass on educational information and direct guidance to assist with control. They will also be informed of their options for redress under this policy.

8. ACTION ON WIDESPREAD WEEDS

HRCC will enforce the Act and/or control widespread weeds if, in the opinion of the inspector, one or more of the following conditions are met. The weeds are:

- Noxious with a listing of appropriate class.
- A threat to public safety as a result of the weed.
- A proven health impact on a person directly adjoining the land. Proof would be written notice from a practicing health professional.
- The works are listed in the Annual HRCC Operational Plan or the precinct has been prioritised in consultation with a member Council.
- A direct impact on an asset. This would include a private or public (approved) building, public infrastructure, agricultural, heritage or biodiversity conservation area.
- Blocking a drainage area required for flood mitigation.

9. REDRESS

If a landowner disagrees with a Weed Inspectors judgment of a situation they should in the first instance write to the General Manager (HRCC, PO Box 6021, South Windsor, 2756 or gm@hrcc.nsw.gov.au) and state the issue and circumstance.

For disputes between property owners the preferred option is to contact NSW Community Justice Centre (<http://www.cjc.nsw.gov.au>) for free advice and mediation. Taking a neighbor to court should always be a last resort.

10. OTHER WEEDS

If a weed is not listed in Appendix 1, it is not considered to warrant the priority attention and resources of the County Council.

11. POLICY REVIEW

Appendix 1 will be reviewed annually as part of the development of the HRCC Operational Plan. The policy will be reviewed every two years.

Appendix 1

REG= Regional Priority High Risk Weed (non-noxious)

LOC= Local Priority High Risk Weed (non-noxious)

P1= Part 1 of Control Class 3

P2= Part 2 of Control Class 3

HIGH RISK WEEDS		
Common name	Scientific name	Declaration WCO30
African Olive	<i>Olea europaea</i> subspecies <i>cuspidata</i>	4/REG outside containment line only
Anchored water hyacinth	<i>Eichhornia azurea</i>	1
Angel's Trumpet	<i>Maurandya</i> <i>barclayana</i>	REG
Bitou Bush	<i>Chrysanthemoides</i> <i>monilifera</i> subspecies <i>rotundata</i>	2
Black knapweed	<i>Centaurea</i> <i>xmoncktonii</i>	1
Black willow	<i>Salix nigra</i>	2
Boneseed	<i>Chrysanthemoides</i> <i>monilifera</i> subspecies <i>monilifera</i>	1
Bridal veil creeper	<i>Asparagus</i> <i>declinatus</i> (syn. <i>Asparagus crispus</i> , <i>Myrsiphyllum</i> <i>declinatum</i>)	1
Broad-leaf pepper tree	<i>Schinus</i> <i>terebinthifolius</i>	2
Broomrapes	<i>Orobanche species</i> except the native <i>O.</i> <i>cernua</i> variety <i>australiana</i> and <i>O.</i> <i>minor</i>	1
Cabomba	<i>Cabomba</i> <i>caroliniana</i>	REG
Cat's claw creeper	<i>Dolichandra unguis-</i> <i>cati</i>	4/REG
Chilean Needle Grass	<i>Nassella neesiana</i>	REG
Chinese Celtis/ Chinese Hackberry	<i>Celtis sinensis</i>	REG
Chinese violet	<i>Asystasia gangetica</i> subspecies <i>micrantha</i>	1

Climbing Asparagus	<i>Asparagus africanus</i> (syn. <i>Protasparagus africanus</i>)	2
Climbing asparagus fern	<i>Asparagus africanus</i> (syn. <i>Protasparagus africanus</i>)	2
Coolatai Grass	<i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i>	REG
Corky Passionflower	<i>Passiflora suberosa</i>	REG
Eurasian water milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	1
Frogbit/Spongeplant	<i>Limnobium laevigatum</i> and <i>L. spongia</i>	1
Green cestrum	<i>Cestrum parqui</i>	3 P2/REG
Grey sallow	<i>Salix cinerea</i>	2
Hawkweed	<i>Hieracium species</i>	1
Horsetail	<i>Equisetum species</i>	1
Hydrocotyl/Water pennywort	<i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i>	1
Hygrophila	<i>Hygrophila costata</i>	2
Hymenachne	<i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i> and hybrids	1
Japanese Knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	REG
Karoo thorn	<i>Vachellia karroo</i>	1
Kei Apple	<i>Dovyalis caffra</i>	REG
Kidney Leaf mud plantain / Heteranthera	<i>Heteranthera reniformis</i>	1
Kochia	<i>Bassia scoparia</i> except <i>B. scoparia</i> subspecies <i>trichophylla</i>	1
Kosters curse/Clidemia	<i>Clidemia hirta</i>	1
Kudzu	<i>Pueraria lobata</i>	2
Lagarosiphon	<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>	1
Leafy Elodea	<i>Egeria densa</i>	REG
Long Leaf Willow Primrose	<i>Ludwigia longifolia</i>	REG
Mexican feather grass	<i>Nassella tenuissima</i>	1
Miconia	<i>Miconia species</i>	1
Mikania vine	<i>Mikania micrantha</i>	1
Mimosa	<i>Mimosa pigra</i>	1
Ming (Pompom/Zig zag) asparagus fern	<i>Asparagus macowaniivar. zuluensis</i> (syn. <i>A. retrofractus</i>)	2
Monkey Comb	<i>Pithecoctenium cynanchoides</i>	REG
Mysore Thorn	<i>Caesalpinia decapetala</i>	REG

Paper mulberry	<i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i>	2
Parthenium weed	<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>	1
Pond apple	<i>Annona glabra</i>	1
Prickly acacia	<i>Vachellia nilotica</i>	1
Primrose Willow / Water Primrose	<i>Ludwigia peruviana</i>	REG
Rhus tree	<i>Toxicodendron succedaneum</i> (syn. <i>Toxicodendron succedanea</i> , <i>Rhus succedanea</i>)	4/LOC
Rubbervine	<i>Cryptostegia grandiflora</i>	1
Salvinia	<i>Salvinia molesta</i>	3 P2/REG
Senegal tea plant	<i>Gymnocoronis spilanthoides</i>	1
Serrated tussock	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>	3 P1/LOC
Siam weed	<i>Chromolaena odorata</i>	1
Sicklethorn	<i>Asparagus falcatus</i>	2
Spotted knapweed	<i>Centaurea stoebe</i> subspecies <i>micranthos</i>	1
Tropical soda apple	<i>Solanum viarum</i>	1
Water caltrop	<i>Trapa species</i>	1
Water lettuce	<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	1
Water soldier	<i>Stratiotes aloides</i>	1
Wild Onion / Asphodelus	<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>	REG
Witchweed	<i>Striga species</i> except the native <i>Striga parviflora</i>	1
Yellow burrhead	<i>Limnocharis flava</i>	1

WIDESPREAD WEEDS		
Common Name	Scientific name	Declaration WCO30
African boxthorn	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	4
African feather grass	<i>Cenchrus macrourus</i>	5
African turnip weed	<i>Sisymbrium runcinatum</i>	5
African turnip weed	<i>Sisymbrium thellungii</i>	5
Alligator weed	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	3 P2
Annual ragweed	<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	5
Arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria calycina</i> variety <i>calycina</i>	4
Artichoke thistle	<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	5
Asparagus	<i>Asparagus species</i> except <i>A. officinalis</i> and <i>A. racemosus</i>	4
Athel tree/Athel pine	<i>Tamarix aphylla</i>	5
Bear-skin fescue	<i>Festuca gautieri</i>	5
Bellyache bush	<i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i>	5
Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> <i>aggregate species</i>	4
Bridal creeper	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i> (syn. <i>Myrsiphyllum asparagoides</i> , <i>Asparagus medeoloides</i>)	4
Burr ragweed	<i>Ambrosia confertiflora</i>	5
Cayenne snakeweed	<i>Stachytarpheta cayennensis</i>	5
Chinese celtis	<i>Celtis sinensis</i>	4
Clockweed	<i>Oenothera curtiflora</i>	5
Corn sowthistle	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	5

Dodder	<i>All Cuscuta species except the native species C. australis, C. tasmanica and C. victoriana</i>	5
Espartillo	<i>Amelichloa brachychaeta</i>	5
Espartillo	<i>Amelichloa caudata</i>	5
Fine-bristled burr grass	<i>Cenchrus brownii</i>	5
Fireweed	<i>Senecio madagascariensis</i>	4
Flax-leaf broom	<i>Genista linifolia</i>	4
Fountain grass	<i>Cenchrus setaceus</i>	5
Gallon's curse	<i>Cenchrus biflorus</i>	5
Gamba grass	<i>Andropogon gayanus</i>	5
Giant Parramatta grass	<i>Sporobolus fertilis</i>	3 P2
Giant reed / Elephant grass	<i>Arundo donax</i>	4
Glaucous star thistle	<i>Carthamus glaucus</i>	5
Golden dodder	<i>Cuscuta campestris</i>	4
Golden thistle	<i>Scolymus hispanicus</i>	5
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	3 P2
Ground asparagus	<i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i> (syn. <i>Protasparagus aethiopicus</i>)	4
Groundsel bush	<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	3 P2
Harrisia cactus	<i>Harrisia species</i>	4
Honey locust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	4
Lantana	<i>Lantana species</i>	4
Lippia	<i>Phyla canescens</i>	4
Ludwigia	<i>Ludwigia peruviana</i>	3 P2
Mexican poppy	<i>Argemone mexicana</i>	5
Montpellier/Cape broom	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	3 P1
Mossman River grass	<i>Cenchrus echinatus</i>	5

Mother-of-millions	<i>Bryophyllum daigremontianum</i> ; <i>B. delagoense</i> ; <i>B. xhoughtonii</i> ; <i>B. pinnatum</i> ; <i>B. proliferum</i>	3 P1
Pampas grass	<i>Cortaderia species</i>	3 P1
Paterson's curse, Vipers bugloss, Italian bugloss	<i>Echium plantagineum</i> , <i>E. vulgare</i> and <i>E. italicum</i>	4
Prickly pear	<i>Cylindropuntia species</i>	4
Prickly pear	<i>Opuntia species</i>	4
Privet (Broad-leaf)	<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	4
Privet (Narrow-leaf/Chinese)	<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>	4
Red rice	<i>Oryza rufipogon</i>	5
Rhizomatous bamboo	<i>Phyllostachys species</i>	4
Sagittaria	<i>Sagittaria platyphylla</i>	4
Scotch/English broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i> subspecies <i>scoparius</i>	4
Silver-leaf nightshade	<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i>	4
Smooth-stemmed turnip	<i>Brassica barrelieri</i> subspecies <i>oxyrrhina</i>	5
Soldier thistle	<i>Picnomon acarna</i>	5
St. John's wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	4
Texas blueweed	<i>Helianthus ciliaris</i>	5
Tussock paspalum	<i>Paspalum quadrifarium</i>	4
Water hyacinth	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	3 P2
Willows	<i>Salix species</i> except <i>S. babylonica</i> , <i>S. xreichardtii</i> , <i>S. xcalodendron</i>	5
Yellow bells	<i>Tecoma stans</i>	3 P2
Yellow nutgrass	<i>Cyperus esculentus</i>	5