

Biosecurity - Weed Management

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AUTHORISED BY: Director Invasive Plants and Animals	AUTHORISED DATE: 02/06/2017
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CATEGORY: Operations and Industry	REVIEW DATE: 01/07/2018

1. Purpose

This policy describes how the NSW Government will manage the biosecurity risks and impacts posed by weeds to the economy, environment and community of NSW.

2. Scope

This policy applies to the staff of the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) within the Department of Industry, Local Lands Services (LLS), State Weed Committee, Regional Weed Committees, Local Control Authorities (LCA) and staff who are responsible for enforcing, administering or executing the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act).

3. Roles and Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities of NSW DPI are:

- to provide guidance for local control authorities to undertake functions to manage weeds in NSW
- to determine and describe the roles, functions and obligations of parties within NSW who are responsible for weed management
- to investigate reports or complaints of LCA's and Government Agencies who have not meet their statutory functions and obligations under the Act
- to conduct operational and administrative audits to determine level of compliance with all functions prescribed in the Act are being met
- to conduct formal weed inspections if an LCA has failed to meet their weed control functions, or if the LCA's weed officer is unavailable and the matter is urgent (refer to the Biosecurity Formal Weed Inspection procedure)
- to provide executive support to the State Weed Committee.

The roles and responsibilities of the NSW State Weed Committee are:

- to play the key role in determining weed matters of state significance where State intervention is appropriate and required
- to play a complementary role in providing consistent policy advice to Regional Weed Committees and LCAs.

Note: State determinations on weeds are made for the following reasons:

- the weed is a target for prevention of entry, or
- the weed is a target for eradication, or

- the weed is a part of a broad containment strategy, or
- the weed is under a national management agreement (such as Weeds of National Significance (WoNS), or
- the species is a new, or not previously known or recorded, incursion.

The roles and responsibilities of Local Land Services include:

- establishing and administering a Regional Weed Committee in each LLS region
- endorsing a Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan drafted by the Regional Weed Committee in each region.

The roles and responsibilities of Regional Weed Committees include:

- the development and implementation of Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans which include the process for weed prioritisation
- the review and update of the Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans including evaluation of any additional priority weed species
- analysing regional weed data
- to make recommendations to Local Land Service Boards on weed management
- granting and distribution of regional weed grants.
- to seek and support further partnerships and investments to enhance effective regional weed management
- to foster Integrated Weed Management programs across disciplines and jurisdictions.

The roles and responsibilities of LCA's include:

- the prevention, elimination, minimisation and management of the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by weeds on their own lands
- to develop, implement, co-ordinate and review weed control programs
- to inspect land in connection with LCA weed control functions
- to keep records about the exercise of the LCA functions under the Act
- to report to the Secretary about the exercise of LCA functions under the Act.

4. Outcomes

4.1 Prioritising weed management programs utilising a consistent, robust and systematic process to achieve the greatest benefit in risk management.

- a. The assessment of weeds as a biosecurity risk will be undertaken by the Regional Weed Committees with advice from NSW DPI. Consideration must be given to three key guiding principles:
 1. *Consistency with the NSW Weed Risk Management System* – based on a nationally adopted standard of risk assessment
 2. *Testing against the Biosecurity Threat Decision Tree* – an externality test to determine if the weed warrants government intervention under normal circumstances and the appropriate allocation of costs
 3. *The Program Rationale* – this should demonstrate the link to other planning documents and instruments, resourcing capacity and other investment preferences in the region and, existing management programs.
- b. NSW DPI policy on weed management aligns with international agreements relating to weed risk minimisation
- c. Weed prioritisation is determined by the NSW Weeds Risk Assessment System through the collaboration of state, regional and local committees

- d. Regional planning is implemented through Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans which have flexibility to determine specific measures to reduce risk for priority weeds for regions.

Activities

- NSW DPI will work collaboratively with the NSW State Weed Committee, Local Control Authorities and Regional Weed Committees (4.1a)
- NSW DPI will use the *Biosecurity Threat Decision Tree* to determine if government intervention is required (4.1a)
- NSW DPI complies with National Post-Border Weed Risk Management Protocol (4.1b)
- The NSW Weed Risk Management System will be based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard that is the National Post-Border Weed Risk Management Protocol established within the existing weed management framework (4.1b)(4.1c)
- Weed prioritisation at the state level is determined by NSW DPI. Determinations are based on the comparison of risk scores for invasiveness, impacts, potential distribution, control costs, persistence, current distribution and other influencing factors (such as enterprise risk) to determine the allocation of management resources (4.1c)
- The NSW State Weed Committee will provide consistent policy advice for locally significant weeds which are technically feasible to eradicate or control (4.1c)
- NSW DPI will maintain the *NSW Invasive Species Plan*, focusing on prevention, elimination, minimisation and management of biosecurity risks (4.1d)
- Regional Weed Committees will develop and once approved, LLS will publish Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans (RSWMP) which will identify priority weed lists for their region (4.1d).

4.2 Consistent and effective management of the state-wide collection of weed data for evidence-based decision making

- a) Regional planning and weed data collection is a shared responsibility of state, regional and local entities and will be guided by the NSW DPI “*Weeds Metadata Standard, Collection of State-wide Weed Surveillance and Management Information*” (Weeds Metadata Standard Framework)
- b) The Weeds Metadata Standard Framework establishes standard data protocols and record keeping requirements
- c) NSW weed data collection is transparent, readily available and current
- d) Weed data is used to develop, support and evaluate weed management programs.

Activities

- The State Weed Committee will play an active role in monitoring state-wide weed data which will be used for planning and reporting (4.2a)
- NSW DPI will provide technical and administrative advice to Regional Weed Committees and LCAs to ensure effective data collection (4.2a)
- NSW DPI will administer a state-wide Biosecurity Information System (BIS) to collate weed data to ensure weed data is easily accessible (4.2b)(4.2c)

- Regional Weed Committees will collate weed data and prepare weed base maps for the use of LCAs; this data will meet the NSW Weeds Metadata Standard (4.2a)(4.2b)(4.2c)
- LCAs will collect data using the guidelines outlined in NSW Weeds Action Program (WAP) to upload to the BIS and comply with the Weeds Metadata Standard Framework (4.2a)(4.2b)(4.2c)
- Ground truthed data from BIS will be used to develop regional base maps (4.2b)(4.2c)(4.2d).

4.3 Allocation of State weed funding will be conducted in a consistent, transparent and effective manner.

- a) The NSW Weeds Action Program guides allocation of state funding for weed grants
- b) High priority state projects for funding under WAP will be developed collaboratively between state agencies and /or Regional Weed Committees using the NSW Invasive Species Plan as a basis
- c) Projects seeking regional funding under the WAP will be developed collaboratively within each region by NSW DPI, LLS and LCAs, using the *NSW Invasive Species Plan* and the *Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan*. NSW DPI will assess funding requests under the WAP and make recommendations to the Minister for Primary Industries for approval.

Activities

- NSW DPI and the State Weed Committee will make recommendations to the Minister regarding WAP funding using a risk-based and strategic model to determine the funding for each region (4.3a)(4.3b)(4.3c)
- Funding deeds will be prepared and signed by the proponents and duly signed by the Minister for Primary Industries or his delegate (4.3a)
- Regional Weed Committees will be responsible for managing deed allocations for weed project management and reporting to NSW DPI (4.3a)(4.3b).

4.4 Stakeholders are empowered to implement best weed biosecurity management practices to minimise the incidence and impact of weeds in NSW

- a) Stakeholders are aware of their general biosecurity duty and that weed management is a shared responsibility
- b) Stakeholders are aware of the need to promptly notify high risk weeds that have a notification requirement
- c) Stakeholders are aware of the potential entry pathways for the most likely invasive weeds that can impact their industries
- d) Industries implement biosecurity plans and standard operating procedures to mitigate weed risks
- e) Stakeholders are aware of Integrated Weed Management practices and land management practices that contribute to managing weed risk
- f) Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans will provide weed management guidance to stakeholders.

Activities

- NSW DPI, LLSs and LCA's will collaboratively develop advisory material to inform stakeholders of their duty to notify the presence or suspected presence of high risk weeds (4.4a)(4.4b)
- NSW DPI, LCAs and LLS will provide advice and advisory material about the general biosecurity duty and the measures to prevent, eliminate or minimise the risk of weeds (4.4a)(4.4b)(4.4c)
- NSW DPI, LCAs and LLS will encourage and assist stakeholders to develop farm biosecurity plans for their enterprises (4.4d)
- LLS will integrate weed management advice and considerations into their routine natural resource management and agronomic projects and processes (4.4e).

5. Related Procedures

Weeds Metadata Standard, Collection of State-wide Weed Surveillance and Management Information
NSW Weeds Action Program Allocation Standard
NSW Weeds Compliance Standard
Weed module - NSW Biosecurity Information System
Regional weed planning tool - NSW Biosecurity Information System
NSW Biosecurity Information System Business Rules
Procedure - Biosecurity Collection, use and disclosure of information

6. Definitions and acronyms

BIS: NSW Biosecurity Information System

DPI: Department of Primary Industries

LCA: Local Control Authorities

LLS: Local Land Services

WAP: NSW Weeds Action Program

7. Legislation

Biosecurity Act 2015

Biosecurity Regulation 2017

Local Land Services Act 2013

Local Government Act 1993

Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998

8. Other Related Documents

- Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans
- Management of Weeds Pests and Disease, Regional Weed Committees, Frequently Asked Questions
- NSW Weeds Action Program Guidelines 2015-2020
- NSW Weeds Action Program Assessment Criteria
- NSW Weeds Action Program Submission Form
- NSW Weeds Action Program Funding Deed
- NSW Invasive Species Plan

- Biosecurity Threat Decision Tree Regional Strategic Weed Management Strategies
- National Post-Border Weed Risk Management Protocol
- NSW DPI Weedwise - <http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/>
- Policy - Biosecurity Collection, use and disclosure of information
- Policy -Records Management (IND-I-177)
- Policy - Information Security (IND-I-197)
- Policy - Classified Information (IND-I-196)
- Policy -Government Information (Public Access) (IND-I-178)
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9. Revision history

Version	Date issued	Notes	By
1.0	01/07/2017	New policy developed in response to the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> .	Manager Invasive Species Program
1.1	19/06/2017	Amendments to include requirements subject to Section 387 of the Act, the collection, use and disclosure of information. Amendment to authorisation date	Senior Policy Officer Policy Legislation Performance & Consultation

10. Contact

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