



Narrabri Shire Council

Management Plan for Spiny Burrgrass

(*Cenchrus incertus* and *Cenchrus longispinus*)

Plan No: SB01/2006

Spiny Burrgrass (*Cenchrus incertus* and *Cenchrus longispinus*) is an objectionable weed with the ability to spread rapidly and develop into dense and widespread infestations. Mature plants cause health problems in livestock and are troublesome to dogs and humans. The burrs injure stock by penetrating the skin of their feet and mouths. It readily contaminates wool and causes immense problems with shearing.

Spiny Burrgrass is an annual grass to 80cm high with several flowering stems produced from a bent or prostrate base. The leaves are smooth, flat and 3-8mm wide with the margins being finely serrated. Flowering occurs during spring and summer. Each plant can produce more than 5,000 burrs, with 1-3 seeds per burr.

In the Narrabri Shire, Spiny Burrgrass is gazetted as a Class 4 noxious weed under Schedule 4 of Weed Control Order 19 (Order 19) made pursuant to section 7 and 8 of the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* (the Act) as amended in 2005. Class 4 noxious weeds are plants that pose a threat to primary production, the environment or human health, are widely distributed in an area to which the order applies and are likely to spread in the area or to another area.

Order 19 also provides that the growth and spread of this plant must be controlled according to the measures specified in a management plan published by the Local Control Authority (LCA). To comply with Order 19, Spiny Burrgrass must be managed in such a way as to minimise the negative impact of the weed on the economy, community or the environment of NSW.

CONTROL MEASURES

Spiny Burrgrass must be managed to reduce numbers and distribution. Areas within 100m of a property boundary must be continuously clear of Spiny Burrgrass.

Owners/occupiers may use either or both of the following control methods:

- a. **Mechanical:** burning checks the growth of Spiny Burrgrass and destroys seed on the plant; however it can have more of a detrimental effect on the associated pasture than on the burrgrass.
- b. **Chemical:** effective treatment with a herbicide registered for the control of Spiny Burrgrass, in the manner specified on the label. Best carried out when the plant is actively growing and before seeding.

NSC Weeds Officers will inspect private and crown land for infestations of Spiny Burrgrass. NSC will also undertake control work with allocated funds on Crown Land and land for which it has responsibility.

Enforcement through court action is an LCA option for non-compliance with Section 12 of the Act by the owner/occupier of private land.

The plan will remain in force until 1 March 2011 and Council may review, vary or revoke this plan in accordance with the Act.

Further information about this plan can be obtained from NSC by phone (02) 6799 6702, fax (02) 6762 4301 or by mail to PO Box 261, Narrabri NSW 2390.

Adopted: 21 November 2006

Revision Date: 1 March 2011

Authorised:

Acting General Manager