



Local Weed Control Plan

1.1 PLAN TITLE: Moree Plains Shire Council Local Noxious Weed Control Plan for **Prickly Pear** (*Opuntia spp*)

PLAN PERIOD

Starting date: 2010 **Completion date:** 2012

Note: The control measures listed in this control plan may be altered by Council at any time.

2.0 LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY SITUATION

2.1 Current Declaration

Prickly Pear is a Class 4 noxious weed in the Moree Plains Shire Council Local Control Area.

Class Characteristics

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.

2.2 Section 12 Obligations (from the Noxious Weeds Act 1993)

Private occupiers of land must control noxious weeds on land.

An occupier (other than a public authority or a local control authority) of land to which a weed control order applies must control noxious weeds on the land as required under the order.

Maximum penalty: 40 penalty units

Note: If an occupier fails to comply with obligations under a weed control order, those obligations may be enforced against the owner of the land as well as the occupier by a weed control notice issued under section 18.

2.3 Prescribed Control Measures as per Order 19 Noxious Weeds Act 1993

The growth and spread of the weed must be controlled to the extent specified by the Local Control Authority in the following control measures.

2.4 Control of Prickly Pear

1. Prevent the spread and growth of the weed by treating all plants prior to flowering and seeding. The following control methods may be used:

- The application of a registered herbicide, as per label instructions. Treat when plants are actively growing
- Physical/mechanical removal. Repeated cultivation,
- Biocontrol, in the form of cactoblastis or cochineal are effective for large areas of pear.

2. The plant **must** be prevented from growing within 5 metres of a property boundary or watercourse.

3. Occupiers of land may be required to submit a written noxious weed management plan to Council's Noxious Weeds Officer for approval.

Advice on current control options tailored to individual situations may be obtained by contacting Council's Noxious Weeds Officer on 02 67 573222

This control plan is published in accordance with Order 19 of the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 for the Class 4 declared plants. The plan outlines the legal requirements for the control of **Prickly Pear** by private occupiers of land in the Moree Plains Shire Council local control area.

3. PLAN ENDORSEMENT

Signed:

Position: GENERAL MANAGER Date: / /