



## Narrabri Shire Council

### Management Plan for Blackberry

(*Rubus fruticosus* aggregate species)

**Plan No:** BL01/2006

Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*) thickets can cover large areas and co-exist in forested areas. Thickets commonly harbor vermin. It is an invasive weed which completely dominates the vegetation of an area in a very short time.

Blackberry comprises erect, green to redish/purple stems and grows hedge-like to 7m in height. Stems have numerous curved or straight prickles. The leaves are dark green on the upper side and lighter green on the underside and are usually shed in winter. The flowers are white or pink and form in small clusters. The fruit is a berry which changes colour (from green to red to black) as they ripen. Flowering usually occurs between November and January. Fruit is produced between January to March.

In the Narrabri Shire, Blackberry is gazetted as a Class 4 noxious weed under Schedule 4 of Weed Control Order 19 (Order 19) made pursuant to sections 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, Blackberry 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

Owners and occupiers of land must actively control Blackberry to prevent it from spreading, and its numbers and distribution must be reduced.

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

- a. **Mechanical:** all the crown and heavy root material from the Blackberry must be removed.
- b. **Chemical:** effective treatment with a herbicide registered for the control of Blackberry, in the manner specified on the label.

Narrabri Shire Council (NSC) Weeds Officers will inspect private and crown land for infestations of Blackberry. 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