



**Narrabri Shire Council**  
**Management Plan for Blue Heliotrope**  
*(Heliotropium amplexicaule)*

**Plan No:** BH01/2006

Blue Heliotrope (*Heliotropium amplexicaule*) is a summer growing, prostrate perennial herb and infests over 110,000 ha in New South Wales. It contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids that can be fatal to livestock. Blue heliotrope out competes many pasture grasses.

The leaves of Blue Heliotrope are alternate, dull green, soft and tapered at both ends. The plant flowers during the spring, summer, and autumn with flowers growing in dense clusters along one side of a coiled stalk. The flowers are bluish-purple with yellow centres. Blue Heliotrope has a strong, slender tap root from which, a network of fine roots extend.

In the Narrabri Shire, Blue Heliotrope 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, Blue Heliotrope 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**

Blue Heliotrope must be actively managed to reduce population size and distribution. Areas within 100m of a property boundary must be free of Blue Heliotrope.

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

- a. **Mechanical:** young, isolated plants must be physically removed to prevent seeding and spreading.
- b. **Chemical:** effective treatment with a herbicide registered for the control of Blue Heliotrope, in the manner specified on the label. Can be controlled with herbicide any time of the year when actively growing, except winter months. The treatment should be undertaken before seed is set as seeds are dispersed by birds.

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