



Narrabri Shire Council Management Plan for Cockleburr (*Xanthium italicum*)

Plan No: CL01/2006

Cockleburr (*Xanthium italicum*) is an annual herb growing to 60-100cm high. It is found in cultivated paddocks, and is abundant after flooding or summer rain. It grows successfully on a wide range of soil types. Cockleburr is a major problem to livestock because: it competes with palatable plants; seedlings are toxic to stock; and, burrs reduce wool values and make shearing hazardous.

Mature plants grow to 100cm in height and its stems are 'rough' to touch. Male flowers are found at the ends of branches. Female flowers are found lower on a branch. The female flowers develop into woody, spiny burrs which are oval shaped, brown, hairy and covered in hooked spines. The plant generally germinates from late winter to late summer and usually flowers in February or March. The burrs contain two seeds, one larger than the other.

In the Narrabri Shire, Cockleburr 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, Cockleburr 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

Cockleburr must be actively managed as to ensure seeds do not spread to neighbouring properties.

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

- a. **Mechanical:** small infestations can be hoed and ploughed out or removed by hand. If mature seed is present, it should be collected and burnt.
- b. **Chemical:** effective treatment with a herbicide registered for the control of Cockleburr, in the manner specified on the label. This treatment should be undertaken when the plant is actively growing and before the seed matures.

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