



Narrabri Shire Council Management Plan for *Harrisia Cactus* (*Eriocereus martinii*)

Plan No: HC01/2006

Harrisia Cactus (*Eriocereus martinii*) is an invasive plant which will choke out other pasture species. It grows in thickets to 2m in height (which are impenetrable to stock). Left uncontrolled it can render pasture land unsuitable for grazing.

Harrisia Cactus plants have spiny, fleshy stems which are jointed and form tangled mats about 0.5m high. The large funnel shaped flowers are located at the end of the stems, and pink (with a tinge of white) coloured. The flowers open at night. It has round bright red fruits which each containing 400-1000 small black seeds. Fruit and seeds are eaten and distributed by birds. Seeds germinate after rain.

In the Narrabri Shire, *Harrisia Cactus* 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, *Harrisia Cactus* 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

The presence of this plant should be notified to Narrabri Shire Council within 7 days of detection. Infestations must be continuously suppressed and destroyed.

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

- a. **Mechanical:** for small areas, pull up plants with tongs and burn the plants. The fleshy root system must also be completely removed. The roots may extend 50cm underground. Do not leave any root segments in the ground, as these will re-establish as new plants.
- b. **Chemical:** effective treatment with a herbicide registered for the control of *Harrisia Cactus*, in the manner specified on the label. Can be sprayed most times of the year (except winter months), when the plants are actively growing.

Narrabri Shire Council (NSC) Weeds Officers will inspect private and crown land for infestations of *Harrisia Cactus*. 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
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Authorised:
Acting General Manager