



Narrabri Shire Council Management Plan for Pampas Grass (*Cortaderia* species)

Plan No: PG01/2006

Pampas Grass (*Cortaderia* species) can survive in most types of habitat in south eastern Australia. It is able to form dense monocultures, completely changing the vegetation structure of the communities it is invading. Plants are capable of producing hundred of thousands of fertile seed. Seed is dispersed by wind and can travel up to 25km. In summer, the dense tufts of dead leaves are a fire hazard.

Pampas Grass has rough and grayish leaves to 1m long. Large fluffy flowers are produced from late summer to winter on a long (3m to 5m) spike that overall has a soft-white or pink feathery appearance. The edges of the leaf blades of Pampas Grass are extremely sharp and can inflict serious cuts if brushed against.

In the Narrabri Shire, Pampas Grass 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, Pampas Grass 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

Pampas Grass must be stopped from seeding and must be managed to reduce its numbers and distribution.

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

- a. **Mechanical:** grubbing out is an effective method of controlling the plant. Plants must be left upside down with the roots exposed to die.
- b. **Chemical:** using a brush-cutter, reduce the clump to a 1 to 1.5m high stump. Clear away debris so that cut leaves are exposed and treat immediately with a herbicide registered for the control of Pampas Grass, in the manner specified on the label.

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