



Narrabri Shire Council Management Plan for Prickly Pear

(*Cylindroputina* & *Opuntia* except *O. ficus-indica*)

Including: Tiger and Rope Pears (*Opuntia* species)

Plan No: PP01/2006

Prickly Pear is the common term for many cactus species which can form dense impenetrable thickets at the exclusion of productive pasture. It causes management difficulties for livestock handling, humans, and their working dogs.

The stems of the plant are dark-green to purple in colour and the leaves are small, scale-like and produced beneath the areoles on young segments only. The petals of the flowers are yellow and the fruit is red with purple mottling. All new plants result from detached segments of the plants. Roots are formed from one or more of the areoles on the segment surface in contact with the soil and new segments are produced from some of the areoles on the upper surface.

In the Narrabri Shire, Prickly Pear 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, Prickly Pear 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

Prickly Pear, including Rope Pear and Tiger Pear, must be managed to reduce its numbers and distribution and must be continuously infested with biological control agents.

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

- a. **Mechanical:** all plant material should be disposed of in a manner not to allow re-establishment.
- b. **Cultural:** the biological agents *Cactoblastis* and various cochineal insects should be placed on or in close proximity to healthy plants and encouraged to establish.
- c. **Chemical:** effective treatment with a herbicide registered for the control of Prickly Pear, in the manner specified on the label.

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