



Trading as:

NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY

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MANAGEMENT PLAN

for

Patersons Curse, Vipers Bugloss & Italian Bugloss

(*Echium* species)

BACKGROUND

Description:

Paterson's Curse (*Echium plantagineum*) is a native of the Mediterranean and western European regions. It is an erect, coarsely-haired, multi-branched annual herb, commonly 30-60cm high. Flowers are generally purple and reproduction is by seed.

Vipers Bugloss (*Echium vulgare*) is native to Europe and Asia Minor. It is an erect coarsely-haired annual herb, occasionally biennial, usually less branched than Paterson's Curse with narrower and much rougher leaves. Flowers are similar in form to Paterson's Curse, are often more blue, and appear several weeks later in the season. Reproduction is by seed, which is often introduced through contaminated hay or grain.

Both of the above species can form dense infestations excluding other vegetation.

Italian Bugloss (*Echium italicum*) is now rare in New South Wales and is distinguished from the above *Echium* species by its pink or white flowers.

Declaration: *Echium* species are classified as Class 4 noxious weeds in the New England Weeds Authority Area.

Under the *Noxious Weeds Act of 1993* as amended:

- The control objective of Class 4 noxious weeds is that they must be managed in such a way as to 'minimise the negative impact of the weed on the economy, community or the environment of New South Wales'.
- The growth and spread of the plant must be controlled according to the measures specified in a Management Plan published by the Local Control Authority (in this case the New England Weeds Authority).

CONTROL MEASURES

The New England Weeds Authority will control *Echium* species growing on all land for which it has the responsibility to control weeds under the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*.

Owners/Occupiers of land are required to actively control *Echium* species to prevent them from spreading, and their numbers and distribution must be reduced.

Owners/Occupiers of infested land are required to control *Echium* species in the following manner:

- (a) **CHEMICAL** – The *Echium* species is to be treated with a herbicide registered for the control of *Echium* species, in the manner specified on the label, to prevent the formation and distribution of seed; OR
- (b) **MECHANICAL** – The *Echium* species is to be hoed, grubbed, ploughed, slashed, or otherwise cut, in a manner that prevents the formation and distribution of seed.