



Trading as:

# NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY

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## MANAGEMENT PLAN

for

### CHILEAN NEEDLE GRASS

(*Nassella neesiana*)

#### BACKGROUND

**Description:** Chilean Needle Grass (CNG) is a highly invasive perennial tussock forming grass which grows in clumps to 1 m high. The flowering seed-heads are a distinctive purplish colour, with the long awns (tails) of the seed being plainly visible. CNG can be identified by a ring of hairs (corona) where the awn joins the seed-head. In addition to the seeds in the panicle, stem-seeds are also produced at the nodes and bases of flowering stems. The sharp-pointed seeds are very effectively spread by attaching to machinery, clothing and livestock, and to some extent by flood water. CNG has become a dominant weed of many fertile soils, particularly those, but by no means exclusively, of basaltic origin.

**Declaration:** Chilean Needle Grass is classified as a Class 4 noxious weed 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).
- The plant may not be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed.

#### CONTROL MEASURES

The New England Weeds Authority will control Chilean Needle Grass growing on 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 Chilean Needle Grass to prevent it from spreading to adjoining properties and/or areas that are free of Chilean Needle Grass.

Owners/Occupiers of infested land that adjoins properties and/or areas that are free of Chilean Needle Grass, are required to maintain a ten (10) metre buffer zone along boundaries, watercourses and roadways, free of seed bearing Chilean Needle Grass, in the following manner:

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