

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 up to 1 m tall. 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 awns join the seed heads. The sharp pointed seed heads are 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.

Declaration: Chilean Needle Grass is classified as a Class 4 noxious weed in the Tamworth Regional Council area.

Under the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* as amended:

- The control objective of Class 4 noxious weeds is that they must be managed in such a manner 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 Tamworth Regional Council.
- The plant may not be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed.

CONTROL MEASURES

Tamworth Regional Council will control Chilean Needle Grass, on lands 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. This means to prevent Chilean Needle Grass from spreading and to reduce the numbers of infestations and their density. All or any of the following control methods must be used to achieve Chilean Needle Grass control.

CONTROL METHODS

Chemical: Chilean Needle Grass is to be treated with a registered herbicide developed for this purpose. The product is to be used according to the product label. Remove livestock from treated plants to avoid poisoning occurring and burn the area.

Mechanical: Chilean Needle Grass is to be hoed, grubbed, ploughed or slashed in a manner that prevents the formation and distribution of seed.