

## **MANAGEMENT PLAN**

For

### **Golden Dodder**

(*Cuscata species*)

#### **BACKGROUND**

**Description:** The *Cuscata* species are annual, leafless flowering plants living as parasites on host plants attached by suckers. They are reliant on the host plant for nutrients, therefore reducing the yield of the crop. The flowers are bell shaped, white, cream or pink in clusters along the stems. Dodder is spread by harvesting with the host crop, flooding and can pass through animals in a viable state. Seeds have a hard covering and can remain in the soil for up to 5 years.

**Declaration:** The *Cuscata* species are 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 the *Cuscata* species 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 the *Cuscata* species. This means to prevent the *Cuscata* species 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 *Cuscata* species control.

#### **CONTROL METHODS**

**Chemical:** The *Cuscata* species is to be treated with a registered herbicide developed for this purpose. The product is to be used according to the product label.

**Mechanical:** The *Cuscata* species is to be burnt with a hot fire. Contact the local fire service for further advice.