

## **MANAGEMENT PLAN**

For

### **Nodding Thistle**

(*Carduus nutans*)

#### **BACKGROUND**

**Description:** Nodding Thistle is an erect herb growing 1.5 m, reproducing by seed. Flowers are red, purple or mauve and form in a large drooping head at the end of the branches. Seeds can be dispersed in mud, water, machinery, fodder and agricultural seed. Tests have shown that wind dispersal is limited with this plant. This plant forms dense patches that restrict pasture growth, seriously reducing carrying capacity.

**Declaration:** Nodding Thistle 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 Nodding Thistle, 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 Nodding Thistle. This means to prevent Nodding Thistle 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 Nodding Thistle control.

#### **CONTROL METHODS**

**Chemical:** Nodding Thistle 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 Nodding Thistle is to be hoed, grubbed, ploughed, slashed or otherwise cut, in a manner that prevents the formation and distribution of seed.