

MANAGEMENT PLAN

For

Scotch/Stemless/Illyrian/Taurian thistles

(*Onopordum* species)

BACKGROUND

Description: The *Onopordum* species are annual/biennial herbs growing up to 2 m tall. Thistles are dispersed by attaching to wool, clothing, contaminated hay, wind, and they will remain viable after passing through animals and birds. Each plant produces up to 20,000 seeds and they will germinate at any time and thrive in high nitrogen soils. These plants can damage animal's mouths and eyes, and contribute to vegetable faults in wool. New pastures can easily be overrun by high germinated seeds.

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

CONTROL METHODS

Chemical: The *Onopordum* 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: Young plants can be ploughed in if they are completely turned under. Goats will graze on flowering plants and can reduce seed production. Pasture management is required for long term control.