



Trading as:

NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY

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MANAGEMENT PLAN

for

BLACKBERRY

(*Rubus fruticosus* aggregate species)

BACKGROUND

Description: Blackberry is an erect shrub, growing in thickets, with numerous curved or straight prickles 3 to 12mm long, which reproduces by seed, root suckering and 'tip rooting' (layering) at the stem tips. Fruit is produced on second-year canes and seed is dispersed primarily by birds and foxes. Blackberry can cover large areas with a dense canopy and has the ability to completely dominate the vegetation of an area.

Declaration: Blackberry 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 Blackberry growing on all land for which it has the responsibility to control weeds under the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*, using herbicides registered for the control of Blackberry.

Owners/Occupiers of land are required to actively control Blackberry to prevent it from spreading, and its numbers and distribution must be reduced.

Owners/Occupiers of infested land are required to control Blackberry using all or any of the following methods:

- (a) **CHEMICAL** – The Blackberry is to be treated with a herbicide registered for the control of Blackberry, in the manner specified on the label;
- (b) **MECHANICAL** – The Blackberry is to be hoed, grubbed or ploughed to remove the crowns, or slashed or otherwise cut;
- (c) **CULTURAL** – The Blackberry is to be grazed with either sheep or goats, to consistently defoliate the plants and control emerging seedlings.