

## REGIONAL WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

1.1 PLAN TITLE: **Green Cestrum**

1.2 PLAN PROPONENTS

Regional weed advisory committee: Macquarie Valley Weeds Advisory Committee

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Signature: Chairman: ..... Date: .....

1.3 NAME OF PLANT(S)

WONS n

Botanical name: *Cestrum parqui*

Common name: Green Cestrum

1.4 PLAN PERIOD (not to exceed five years)

Starting date: 01/07/2008

Completion date: 30/06/2013

1.5 AREA OF OPERATION

All Local Control Authorities (LCA's) and Rural Lands Protection Boards (RLPB's) of the Macquarie Valley Weeds Advisory Committee.

1.6 AIM

To successfully manage Green Cestrum in the Macquarie Valley.

1.7 OBJECTIVES

1.7.1 Considerably reduce impacts of existing weeds

1.7.2 Prevent new weed problems

1.7.3 Improve coordination and cooperation

1.7.4 Raise awareness of weeds issues within region

## **2.0 STAKEHOLDERS**

### **2.1 SIGNATORIES**

Participating Councils (LCA's):

- Bogan Shire Council
- Bourke Shire Council
- Brewarrina Shire Council
- Cabonne Council
- Cobar Shire Council
- Dubbo City Council
- Mid Western Regional Council
- Narromine Shire Council
- Orange City Council
- Parkes Shire Council
- Unincorporated area of Western Division
- Wellington Council

Participating County Council:

- Castlereagh Macquarie County Council
- Upper Macquarie County Council

Participating Rural Lands Protection Boards:

- Bourke
- Brewarrina
- Central Tablelands
- Coonabarabran
- Dubbo
- Molong
- Moree
- Mudgee
- Narrabri
- Nyngan
- Walgett

### **2.2 OTHER STAKEHOLDERS**

- NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI)
- State Forests
- NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) – National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)
- Department of Lands
- Catchment Management Authorities (CMA's)
- Regional Landcare Coordinators
- Aboriginal Lands Councils
- Service providers – Country Energy, Telstra, Australian Rail Track Corp (ARTC)

## **3.0 BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION**

### **3.1 PLAN JUSTIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM**

Green Cestrum has spread to all of the listed LCA's through its use as a garden ornamental. It is an "old fashioned" garden plant and most likely to be found in older gardens in our cities and towns. The berries are attractive to birds which rapidly spread the weed, particularly to creek lines and riparian areas. The plant is also spread through indiscriminate dumping of garden waste and cuttings in Reserves.

Green Cestrum is an extremely vigorous plant and if left unattended on alluvial soils can readily out-compete most other vegetation. It is toxic to stock and humans, and once consumed little can be done to save the animal(s) involved. The control of Green Cestrum is very important to graziers throughout the region who are generally active in controlling this plant for this reason.

The species is still present in many of our towns and cities and is reinfesting grazing land, roadsides and reserves through bird-spread seed. Ongoing control of these new infestations

alongside an aggressive reduction campaign is necessary to protect both agriculture and human health.

### 3.2 THE 'DO NOTHING' OPTION

If nothing is done to control this weed it will continue to spread from urban environments to rural reserves, TSR's and agricultural land. Untreated infestations will:

- Make TSR's unusable by stock
- Will remove previously productive land from grazing
- And will pose a serious public health threat due to the toxic nature of the plant to humans as well as stock.

Green Cestrum infestations on private land will continue to be treated by knowledgeable and conscientious landholders and will be ignored by less astute/motivated individuals further adding to the seed source for reinfestation of treated lands.

If this plan is unfunded Green Cestrum will expand both its range and its density within its current range and future treatment programs will become substantially more expensive and difficult.

### 3.3 DISTRIBUTION OF INFESTATIONS

Currently marginal infestations exist around Narromine, Gulargambone, Coonamble, Mudgee, Dubbo and Merrygoen.

Rare and isolated infestations occur throughout Narromine, Wellington, Dubbo, Warren, Nyngan, Cabonne, Bogan and Brewarrina Shires and in all RLPB areas.

Individual plants (ie in gardens) exist throughout the Region providing the species the potential to spread into all rivers and floodplains within the Region.

### 3.4 WEED BIOLOGY

Green Cestrum is a perennial shrub, 1-2m, with large shiny green leaves. The leaves have a distinctive stench when crushed. Flowering occurs from late spring to autumn, with yellow flowers also giving off a distinctive smell. Berries are shiny black and egg-shaped, and are produced during summer and autumn. These berries produce a substantial number of bird-spread seed and are also readily spread via cultivation or cutting. Seedlings are generally two years old before they start reproducing.

Green Cestrum is vigorous and can form monocultures if left untreated. Staggered germination and reinfestation require comprehensive monitoring of treated areas to maintain their weed free status.

### 3.5 METHOD AND RATE OF SPREAD

Green Cestrum spreads principally through seed distributed by birds. A prolifically fruiting plant, Cestrum produces attractive berries over a long season, filling potential voids in the availability of food for frugivorous birds. This increases its likelihood for effective distribution. Illegal dumping of garden waste (including Cestrum cuttings) will distribute the weed (principally into bushland reserves and TSR's) as will unacceptable hygiene on farm machinery (particularly contractor machinery moving from property to property).

### 3.6 SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Green Cestrum requires extremely careful management to reduce the risk of suckering from disturbance of the extensive shallow root system. Cultivation has the potential to exacerbate the problem through distribution across a paddock of propagule material.

Manual control is possible in small infestations but the extensive root system may mean extensive suckering. Ongoing efforts are required to ensure eradication using this technique.

Herbicide control is by far the most common and effective control mechanism. All LCA’s listed in this Plan currently control the plant using herbicides and will continue to do so under this proposal. A range of herbicides are approved for use on this plant along with a range of treatment methods. This Plan does not propose to prescribe treatment methods to the LCA’s

**3.7 KEY LAND MANAGERS**

- LCA’s
- RLPB’s
- Landholders
- National Parks
- State Forests
- Department of Lands
- Service providers – Country Energy, ARTC
- RTA

**4.0 LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY SITUATION**

**4.1 CURRENT DECLARATION**

<p>Green Cestrum (<i>Cestrum parqui</i>) is currently declared as a class 3 noxious weed. The plant must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bogan Shire Council</li> <li>• Bourke Shire Council</li> <li>• Brewarrina Shire Council</li> <li>• Cabonne Council</li> <li>• Castlereagh Macquarie County Council</li> <li>• Cobar Shire Council</li> <li>• Dubbo City Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid Western Regional Council</li> <li>• Narromine Shire Council</li> <li>• Orange City Council</li> <li>• Parkes Shire Council</li> <li>• Upper Macquarie County Council</li> <li>• Unincorporated area of Western Division</li> <li>• Wellington Council</li> </ul>

**4.2 DECLARATION CHANGES**

No alteration to existing declaration is anticipated.

**5.0 CONSIDERATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

**5.1 FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO CARRY OUT THE PLAN]**

The majority of the financial support for this plan will be provided as part of LCA/RLPB weed control programs. Further support will be sought through DPI’s group project funding program. Any other funding source deemed relevant by MVWAC will also be explored.

**5.2 LINKS TO OTHER STRATEGIES**

- Australian Weed Strategy
- NSW Invasive Species Plan
- MVWAC Regional Weed Strategy
- Catchment Action Plans

**5.3 BARRIERS AND CONTINGENCIES**

Barriers:

- Lack of identification skills of managers – it is sometimes incorrectly identified as Deadly Nightshade

- Lack of knowledge of control techniques
- Lack of public awareness in the Central West
- Lack of resources for carrying out control

Contingencies:

- Continuation of drought conditions
- Floods – seed could easily be spread by a flood event when the drought breaks

## 6.0 ACTION PLAN

Objective	Action	Performance indicator	By whom
1.7.1 Considerably reduce impacts of existing weeds	All public lands to be inspected annually	100% of all roadsides, reserves and Travelling Stock Routes (TSR's) inspected.	LCA weed officers & RLPB rangers
	Control methods to be carried out on all infestations on LCA & RLPB lands as seasonal conditions allow	Existing infestations on LCA/RLPB lands reduced by 50%	LCA weed officers & RLPB rangers
	All private properties identified as having infestations are to be inspected annually and regulatory action taken as required	100% of identified properties inspected Existing marginal infestations on private lands reduced by 40% Existing rare and isolated infestations on private lands reduced by 50%	Landholders & LCA weed officers
1.7.2 Prevent new weed problems	Inspect for Green Cestrum as part of routine property inspection program	Green Cestrum is included in the inspection routine	LCA weed officers & RLPB rangers
	Aspects of the rapid response program to be implemented when a new infestation is discovered	100% of located new infestations recorded and mapped 100% of new infestations treated 100% of new infestations to be monitored and follow-up treatment programs implemented	Landholders, LCA weed officers & RLPB rangers
	All infestations to be contained to prevent new weed problems	Buffer zones established around sites known to be infested	Landholders, LCA weed officers & RLPB rangers
1.7.3 Improve coordination and cooperation	All infestations to be recorded and mapped	Maps produced and updated regularly Data recording standards adhered to	LCA weed officers & RLPB rangers
	Plan implementation to be monitored and reviewed	Review process (as outlined in section 7.0) carried out	RPO, LCA weed officers & RLPB rangers

	Actively seek partnerships with other weed management agencies	Partnerships developed where necessary	RPO, LCA weed officers & RLPB rangers
	Develop on-ground management plans with neighbouring landholders, LCA's and RLPB's	Plans of management entered into and partnerships developed with neighbouring landholders, LCA's and RLPB's	LCA weed officers & RLPB rangers
1.7.4 Raise awareness of weeds issues within region	Green Cestrum to be part of a regional weeds awareness program	Advertisements on television Field days held Displays at local shows attended by Weed Officers Weed pamphlets distributed to landholders during property inspections Weed Calendars distributed by LCA's and RLPB's	DPI, RPO, LCA weed officers & RLPB rangers

## 7.0 MONITOR AND REVIEW

There will be an annual review of the Green Cestrum Regional Management Plan to ensure the performance indicators are realistic and are being met. Member LCA/RLPB's weed officers and rangers will participate in the review process. This would include discussions on increases or decreases of range, new incursions, successful management strategies, expectations and results.

## 8.0 BENEFITS

The benefits for controlling Green Cestrum in the Macquarie Valley include:

- Prevention of decreases in primary production due to stock losses
- Public health benefits due to the high toxicity of Green Cestrum to humans as well as animals
- Restoration of native biodiversity in infested riparian habitats
- Restoration of desired species in infested agricultural zones

## 9.0 RESOURCES

- Muyt, A. 2001 "*Bush Invaders of South Australia*" R.G and F.J Richardson, Victoria
- Auld, B.A, and Medd, R.W. 1992 "*Weeds*" Inkata Press, Victoria
- Green cestrum (Agfact P7.6.44)