



UHWA General Biosecurity Duty Control Guideline

This guideline outlines the degree of control required by both private and public occupiers of land in the area of operation of the Upper Hunter Weeds Authority (UHWA) to fulfil their General Biosecurity Duty (GBD) in regards to UHWA's priority invasive plants. The area of operation of the UHWA consists of the local government areas of the Upper Hunter, Muswellbrook and Singleton Shire Councils.

1.1 Objectives of Biosecurity Act 2015.

The primary object of this Act is to provide a framework for the prevention, elimination and minimisation of biosecurity risks posed by biosecurity matter, dealing with biosecurity matter, carriers and potential carriers, and other activities that involve biosecurity matter, carriers or potential carriers.

1.2 General Biosecurity Duty

Any person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier and who knows, or ought reasonably to know, the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by the biosecurity matter, carrier or dealing has a biosecurity duty to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised.

Although a GBD exists for all priority invasive plants, some also have also have State Mandatory Measures Regulations and/or Regional Recommended Measures pertaining to them. These can be found if applicable at the NSW DPI Weedwise website <http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/>.

1.3 UHWA Priority Weeds

This guideline generally pertains to the invasive plants listed on the Authority's Website <http://uhwa.org.au/index.php/weed-biosecurity>. However, the Authority's Authorised Officers may direct landholders to control other plant species not listed in line with this guideline, if these plants are determined to be a biosecurity risk in the situation they are growing. Specific control measures including registered herbicides and their associated rates can be found <http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/>.

For further information regarding these guidelines contact your District Authority Biosecurity Officer. Contact details can be found at <http://uhwa.org.au/index.php/contact>.

2.0 Prescribed GBD Control Measures

The growth and spread of priority plants **must** be controlled to the extent specified in the following control measures.

2.1 All priority plants within 50 metres of any property boundary or recognised watercourse must be prevented from producing viable seed by either using a registered herbicide as per label and/or mechanically removed (see Note 1).

2.2 On properties where infestations cover an area exceeding 10% of property area, infestations must be reduced by 20% annually. Control measures which may be used are:

- The application of a registered herbicide as per label, or
- Mechanic removal (see Note 1), or
- The introduction of perennial grasses and a grazing management program, together with the use of a biological control agent. Occupiers using this method are required to submit a copy of their control plan to Council for approval.

2.3 On properties where infestations cover an area of less than 10% of property area:

- All plants must be prevented from producing viable seed by either using a registered herbicide as per label, or
- Mechanic means such as slashing or hand pulling (see Note 1).

2.4 Occupiers of land may submit an invasive plant management plan to Council for approval.

Note 1: Occupiers who use mechanical removal as a method of control must collect and dispose of all plant material by burying it below 30 cm in a pit dug for the purpose.