

## Noxious weeds legislation: 2. What do the changes to the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 mean to you?

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### Introduction

The amended Noxious Weeds Act 1993 came into force in March 2006. Changes in the legislation resulted in a more strategic approach to weed management across the state. Existing declared noxious weeds have been placed into weed control classes and their declaration status will be reviewed every five years. Future reviewed weed declarations will be subject to public consultation.

### New weed control Classes and their control objectives

#### **Class 1, State Prohibited Weeds**

Plants that pose a potentially serious threat to primary production or the environment and are not present in the State or are present only to a limited extent. The control objective is to prevent the introduction and establishment of those plants in NSW.

#### **Class 2, Regionally Prohibited Weeds**

Plants that pose a potentially serious threat to primary production or the environment of an area of the state and are not present in the area or present to a limited extent. The control objective is to prevent the introduction and establishment of those plants in parts of NSW.

#### **Class 3, Regionally Controlled Weeds**

Plants that pose a potentially serious threat to primary production or the environment of an area of the state, and are not widely distributed in the area and are likely to spread in the area or to another area. The control objective is to reduce the area and the impact of these plants in parts of NSW.

#### **Class 4, Locally Controlled Weeds**

Plants that pose a potentially serious threat to primary production, the environment or human health are widely distributed in that area and are likely to spread in the area or to another area. The control objective is to minimise the negative impact of those plants on the economy, community or environment of NSW.

#### **Class 5, Restricted Plants**

Plants that are likely, by their sale or the sale of their seeds or movement within the State or area of the State, spread in the state or outside the State. The objective here is to prevent the introduction and spread of these plants within NSW or to another state or jurisdiction.

### Local response to changes to the Noxious Weeds Act 1993

The local governments of the Riverina, through the Eastern and Western Riverina Noxious Weeds Advisory Groups, are already coming to grips with the need to allocate resources strategically for weed management. They have developed a system that objectively prioritises weeds into categories that reflect the new weed control classes. This will assist the allocation of resources for weed management to achieve greatest benefit. Following on from this, the weed advisory groups are forming partnerships with Catchment Management Authorities and consulting widely with the general public and other stakeholders to develop catchment-wide weed strategies.

### Land holder responsibilities

Briefly, under the revised legislation for Class 1 and 2 weeds, landholders will be required to eradicate the weed from their land and keep the land free of that weed. Class 3 weeds will require landholders to continuously suppress and destroy the weed and there may be restriction on the sale, propagation and movement of the plant. Requirements for Class 4 weeds will vary throughout the state and between local government areas. Their control will vary according to the measures specified in a management plan published by Councils. Class 5 weeds cannot be moved or spread throughout the state or interstate. This has implication for fodder that contains noxious weeds, because sale of this fodder is an offence under the legislation.

## Further information

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