

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. These technical specifications have been developed with particular reference to the NSW Noxious Weed Act 1993.
- 1.2. Several Key Threatening Process listed under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 refer to the impact of weeds on the environment. This is in recognition that weeds adversely affect threatened species, populations or ecological communities and could cause species, populations or ecological communities that are not threatened to become threatened.
 - Key Threatening Process relevant to weed control in Port Stephens include:
 - Invasion of Native Plant Communities by *Chrysanthemoides monilifera* (Bitou Bush)
 - Invasion of native plant communities by exotic perennial grasses
 - Invasion, establishment and spread of Lantana (*Lantana camara*)
 - Invasion and establishment of exotic vines and scramblers
 - Loss and degradation of native plant and animal habitat by invasion of escaped garden plants, including aquatic plants
 - Invasion of native plant communities by African Olive *Olea europaea* L. subsp. *Cuspidate*.

2. PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- 2.1. The performance criterion for this Technical Specification is that there will be no new noxious weed infestations as a result of development activities.

3. DEFINITIONS

- 3.1. Noxious Weeds are those plants declared as Noxious in the Port Stephens LGA under the Noxious Weed Act 1993.
- 3.2. Hold point: A defined position in the construction stages beyond which work shall not proceed without mandatory verification and acceptance by Council.
- 3.3. Witness Point: A nominated position in the construction stages where the option of attendance may be exercised by Council, after notification of the requirement.

4. MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1. Development in Alligator affected areas should comply with the *Protocols for Working in Alligator Weed Affected Areas* which is available at www.portstephens.nsw.gov.au
- 4.2. Applications for development in a weed affected area must demonstrate how existing infestations will be contained during constructions works and in the ongoing operation of the site.
- 4.3. Control of Noxious Weeds is undertaken in accordance with the Noxious and Environmental Weed Control Handbook – A guide to weed control in non-crop, aquatic and bushland situations 5th Edition, NSW Department of Primary Industries, 2011, or subsequent revisions.
- 4.4. Council may request a Noxious Weed Management Plan be submitted to decrease the risk of the spread of Noxious Weeds. This Plan will contain details on the following:
 - A program of works to treat the weeds on site, including weed controls methods specific to each weed

- Controls to prevent the spread of weeds on machinery used during construction including a disposal and wash down area;
 - A designated area for storage of contaminated spoil generated during construction that is separate from clean material;
 - Certification that any soil, mulch and plants brought onto site is free of weeds and weed seeds; and
 - A site induction for all personnel and visitors that includes weed management practices
 - A monitoring/maintenance program to prevention of the spread of weeds
- 4.5. For each monitoring/maintenance event, a report will be required and include details and evidence of weed treatments and the prevention of the spread of weeds.
- 4.6. The following Hold Points apply to this Technical Specification:
- Provision of a Noxious Weed Management Plan
- 4.7. The following Witness Points apply to this Technical Specification:
- At least one week prior to the commencement of the construction phase in order to inspect the effectiveness of weed control
 - At least one week prior to each monitoring/maintenance event

5. MAINTENANCE AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1. Priority should be given to the effective control of class 1, 2 and 3 Noxious Weeds
- 5.2. Monitoring observations will be recorded in a report format and submitted in digital format.