



Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2023-2027

Acknowledgement of Country

Greater Sydney Local Land Services acknowledges we operate in and deliver services throughout Country of First Nations* people in the Greater Sydney region. Greater Sydney Local Land Services recognises First Nations people hold a continuous and deep connection to Country and this in turn holds significance to the broader community.

For First Nations people, Country takes in everything within the physical, cultural and spiritual landscape. It includes landforms, waters, air, trees, rocks, plants, animals, foods, medicines, minerals, the sky and sea as well as sacred places. It includes cultural practice, kinship, knowledge, ceremony, songs, stories and art, as well as spiritual beings, and people: past, present and future.

Greater Sydney Local Land Services recognises and respects Elders and cultural knowledge holders, both past and present, while acknowledging and respecting the unique and diverse enduring cultures and histories of all First Nations people.

Greater Sydney Local Land Services recognises that Caring for Country, the protection and promotion of First Nations cultures, heritage, land management practices and spiritual beliefs are paramount to the relationship with Country and that this benefits the whole community. By supporting self-determined futures and strengthening cultural values for First Nations people, Greater Sydney Local Land Services can contribute towards improved relationships and resilient sustainable communities in the region.

*Please note: the term First Nations people and communities, honours the unique physical and spiritual relationships to Country and acknowledges the diversity of cultural, social, economic and political structures held by the distinct First Nations of this continent.

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Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2023-2027

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Cover image: Cumberland Plain Woodland by Peter Ridgeway.

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for detailed
information on weeds
in your region.**



Acknowledgement of contributors

The Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan was developed by the Greater Sydney Regional Weed Committee on behalf of the Greater Sydney Local Land Services Board for endorsement by the board. The Greater Sydney Local Land Services Board wishes to acknowledge the work of the committee and regional support staff in developing the Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan from Local Land Services and the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing July 2022. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of Local Land Services or the user's independent adviser.

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Greater Sydney Regional Weed Committee Chair's foreword



I am pleased to present the Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan on behalf of Greater Sydney Local Land Services, member councils and stakeholders of the Greater Sydney Regional Weed Committee.

The Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan prioritises weeds into various landscapes and details action plans. It is a document to be used by a wide cross section of the community responsible for land management.

The Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan has been developed through a strategic review of key national, state, regional operational plans and strategies, and NSW legislation including:

- Australian Weeds Strategy
- 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW
- *Local Land Services Act 2013*
- NSW Biosecurity Strategy
- *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015*
- NSW Invasive Species Plan 2023-2025
- Local Land Services State Strategic Plan
- Greater Sydney Local Land Services Local Strategic Plan
- Greater Sydney Local Land Services Natural Resources Management Plan
- 'Country, culture, connections' Greater Sydney Local Land Services Aboriginal Strategic Plan 2022 – 2026

The Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan aims to provide all landholders and stakeholders with the knowledge and tools to make informed decisions in weed management and control, taking into account the limited resources and funds available.

Central to the success of this plan is the need to continue to build ownership by the whole community, taking a regional co-ordinated and co-operative approach with an appreciation by all stakeholders of their responsibilities and contributions to better manage weeds within the Greater Sydney Local Land Services region.

The Greater Sydney Local Land Services region includes the Sydney basin, Blue Mountains, Central Coast and the edge of the Southern Highlands. It covers some of the most intensely urbanised localities in NSW, vast world heritage protected wilderness areas, and expansive coastal waterways. The important natural resources of the region underpin significant economic activity, attract tourism, provide opportunities for recreation and supplies ecosystem services like drinking water for millions of residents.

Navigating the region's complex land usage, rich population diversity and sensitive ecological communities is challenging from a biosecurity perspective. However, it is a challenge we must embrace. Greater Sydney has a strong network of highly enthusiastic, committed, and knowledgeable people who care about the country we live on. We need to continue to harness this passion to achieve the goals of this Plan.

I would like to thank the members of the regional weed committee for their effort and diligence in contributing to this Plan's development and technical content, and for their ongoing commitment to a coordinated approach to managing weeds.

Bob Stacy

Chair

Greater Sydney Regional Weed Committee

Executive summary

Biosecurity protects the economy, environment, and community from the negative impacts of pests, diseases, and weeds. As such, it is vital for the health, wellbeing, and prosperity of the state.

The Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan focuses on managing weeds to improve the region's biosecurity.

This plan details priorities of weed management to protect the Greater Sydney region's environment, economy, and community from the negative impacts of weeds, strengthening the sustainability of the region's natural environment, primary industries, and local communities.

The NSW Biosecurity Strategy, the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015*, state and regional strategies and plans are mutually supportive and inclusive of the Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan and are designed to work dynamically and effectively with Commonwealth biosecurity measures reforming weed, pest, and disease legislation for NSW in a consistent manner.

Together, these strategies and plans at all levels, provide a clear framework for safeguarding primary industries, natural environments, and communities from a vast range of pests, diseases and weeds in a manner that can be implemented more cooperatively, consistently across tenures supporting more effective management across the state.

Three crucial factors in realising the vision of a sustainable and prosperous future across NSW in the area of biosecurity weed management are:

- better understanding of the benefits of community-wide shared responsibility for biosecurity
- cooperative weed management with a tenure-neutral approach across jurisdictional boundaries
- effective and supportive legislation since the implementation of the NSW *Biosecurity Act in 2015*.

The Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan was prepared by the Greater Sydney Regional Weed Committee on behalf of the Greater Sydney Local Land Services Board, in consultation with State Government and Local Land Services staff.

The plan outlines how government, industry and the community will share responsibility and work together to identify, minimise, respond to, and manage weeds.

The plan is applicable to all lands and waters in the Greater Sydney region and focuses on managing weeds that impact:

- animal and plant industries, including agriculture, horticulture, forestry, aquaculture, and recreational fishing in freshwater systems and eco-tourism
- ecological communities and biodiversity, including those in natural urban and peri-urban environments
- human health, livelihood, lifestyle, cultural values, recreation, and landscape amenity
- infrastructure and service industries, including energy, transport, and water supplies.

The plan sets the vision and goals for weed management in the Greater Sydney, and outlines strategies and actions to achieve outcomes based on the principles of shared responsibility, sustainable landscapes, collaborative leadership, cooperative management and resource sharing, and innovation.

1. Intent of Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan

1.1 Introduction and scope

Weeds are a major threat to Australia's natural environment. In 2018, the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions estimated that the total annual cost of weeds in NSW ranged from \$1.67 billion to \$1.9 billion per annum (McLeod, 2018). Impacts on biodiversity and natural environments are harder to quantify, but equally significant.

The Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan intends to prioritise the most important weeds in the region and guide management efforts for how Government, industry and the community can work together to protect the environment, community and economy from the negative impacts of weeds to support positive outcomes for biosecurity and sustainable landscapes.

Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans play an important role in articulating the shared responsibility principle of the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act) and communicating weed control obligations.

As per [s.15 of the Act](#), the Plan prioritises weeds that:

- out-compete other organisms for resources
- cause harm to other organisms through toxicity
- otherwise reduce the productivity of agricultural systems or the value of agricultural products
- damage infrastructure
- reduce the amenity or aesthetic value of premises
- harm or reduce biodiversity.

Shared responsibility

The vision of shared responsibility is: “Government, industry and the people of NSW working together to protect the economy, environment and community from the negative impacts of animal and plant pests, diseases and weeds for the benefit of the people of NSW”.

(NSW Biosecurity Strategy 2013-2021).

The Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan (the Plan):

- is a local strategic plan under the *Local Land Services Act 2013*.
- implements the NSW Biosecurity Strategy and NSW Invasive Species Plan in relation to weeds for the Greater Sydney region.
- has been prepared by the Greater Sydney Regional Weed Committee on behalf of Greater Sydney Local Land Services Board.
- explains how each region will work together to identify, minimise, respond to and manage priority weeds, supporting the idea of a shared responsibility under the biosecurity legislation.

The plan provides information to enable all landholders and stakeholders to effectively discharge their obligations under the Act.

For this reason, the Plan does not include prescriptive measures for landholders and stakeholders to discharge their biosecurity duties. The Plan focuses on the outcomes to be achieved, allowing for different measures to achieve the same outcome.

At the regional level, the Plan focuses on the management of weeds that have been assessed by the Greater Sydney Regional Weed Committee as posing a significant risk of doing these things at the regional scale and having a high feasibility of coordinated control.

To ensure responsibility is shared across government, community and industry, the Plan applies equally to all people and all land in NSW.

1.2 Vision and goals

The Plan's vision is:

Government, agricultural industries and the people of the Greater Sydney region working together to protect the environment, economy and community from the negative impacts of weeds for the benefit of all in the state.

The Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan provides the basis for a co-operative and co-ordinated approach to weed management.

The Plan identifies regional priorities for weed management and outlines how government agencies, community groups and individual landholders will share responsibility and work together across land tenures to prevent, eradicate, contain and manage the impacts of weeds.

The vision, goals and outcomes for this plan align with those of the NSW Invasive Species Plan and the Local Land Services State Strategic Plan.

This aligns with the Local Land Services State Strategic Plan vision of *Vibrant communities in productive healthy landscapes, which delivers on the state outcome of productive and sustainable landscapes*.

The Plan adopts the four goals outlined in the NSW Invasive Species Plan.

Goal 1:

Exclude – prevent the establishment of new invasive species.

Goal 2:

Eradicate or contain – eliminate, or prevent the spread of new invasive species.

Goal 3:

Effectively manage – reduce the impacts of widespread invasive species.

Goal 4:

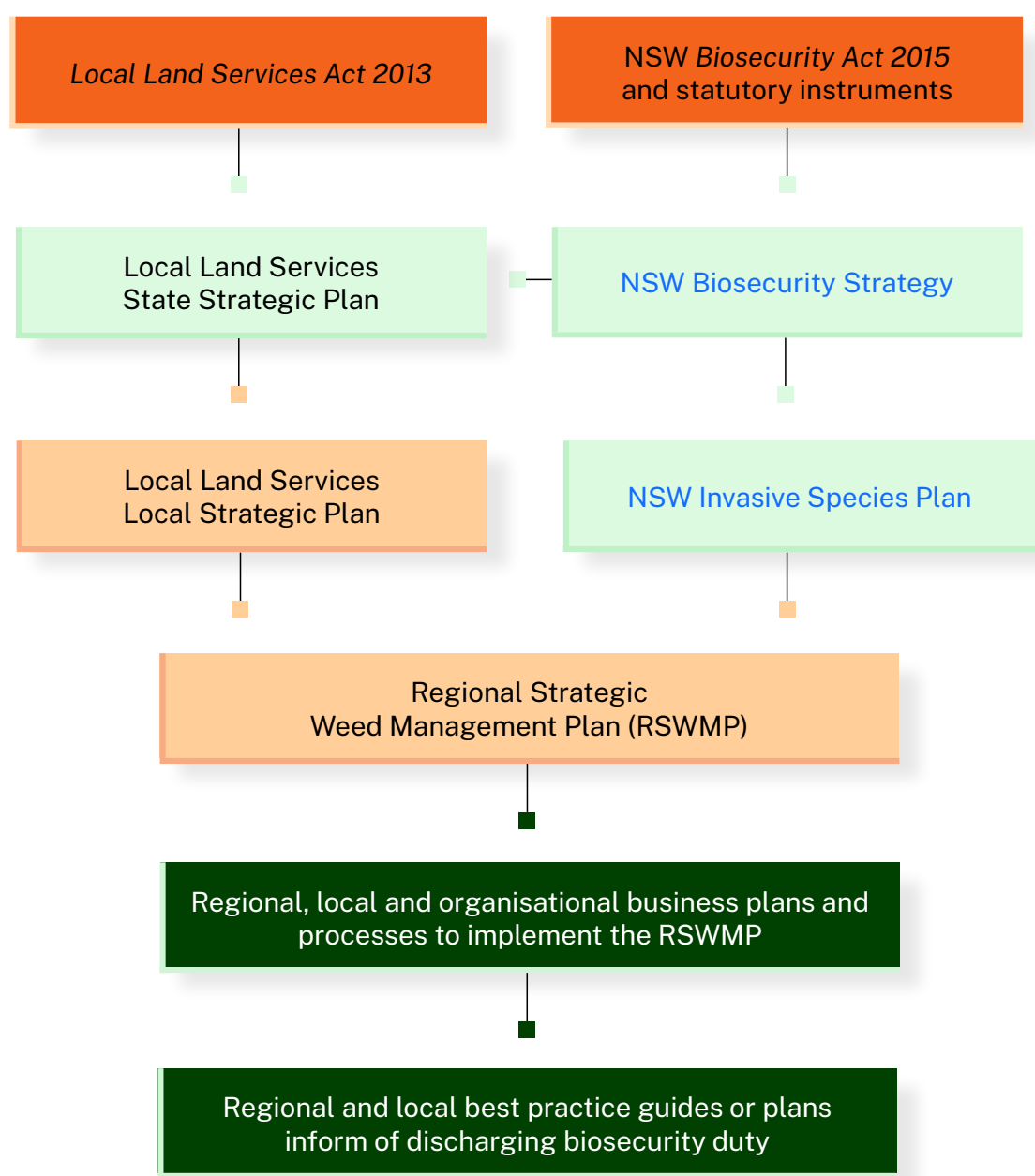
Capacity building – ensure NSW has the ability and commitment to manage invasive species.

2. Policy and planning framework

2.1 Overview of key plans and legislation

The regional weed committee has considered a range of plans and strategies directly relevant to development of this Plan, at national, state and local levels. These are shown in Figure 2.1.

Figure 2.1: Overall planning framework for the Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan.



2.2 NSW Biosecurity Act 2015

The NSW [Biosecurity Act 2015](#) (the Act) is the key legislation directing weed management and the implementation of this plan. This Act is administered by NSW Department of Primary Industries.

The Act provides a framework for the prevention, elimination and minimisation of biosecurity risks posed by:

- biosecurity matter such as weeds
- dealings with biosecurity matter such as weeds
- carriers of biosecurity matter.

It:

- promotes the principle of government, industry and the community sharing responsibility for biosecurity risks (including weeds)
- applies equally to all land in the state, regardless of tenure, and to all people
- is premised on the concept of risk, so that weed management investment and response is appropriate to the risk.

Local control authorities have weed control functions under s.371 of the Act, and must:

- prevent, eliminate, minimise and manage the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by weeds on their lands
- develop, implement, coordinate and review weed control programs
- inspect land in connection with their functions under the Act
- keep records about the exercise of their functions under the Act
- report to the Secretary about the exercise of their functions under the Act.

Local control authorities appoint authorised officers who can exercise the powers available under the Act. This enables the local control authority to deliver these functions.

Local control authority

The council of a local government area is the local control authority for land within that local government area unless the weed control functions for that area have been conferred on a county council or joint organisation (within the meaning of the [Local Government Act 1993](#)) under any other Act. If the weed control functions for an area have been conferred on a county council or joint organisation, the county council or joint organisation is the local control authority for that area.

General biosecurity duty

In keeping with its premise that biosecurity is a shared community, industry and government responsibility, the Act introduces the legally enforceable concept of a **general biosecurity duty**.

Under the Act, **all** people who deal with plants through their commercial, professional, volunteer, recreational or lifestyle activities have a duty to be aware of the impacts the plants they deal with might cause, and must take action to remove or reduce the likelihood of those impacts occurring.

[Section 22 of the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015](#)

Dealings

The definition of “dealings” includes keep, have possession, care, custody or control of, produce, manufacture or supply, import, acquire, buy, sell, swap, dispose of, move, release, use, breed, propagate, grow, raise, feed or culture, experiment with, display, enter into an agreement or other arrangement which another person deals with, agree to deal with, cause or permit a dealing with or anything prescribed by the regulations as a dealing with, or engaging in a dealing with, biosecurity matter or a carrier.

[Section 12 of the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015](#)

Authorised officers are appointed under the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015* by local control authorities. They carry out local control authority functions by exercising the powers and regulatory tools available to them under the Act, and implement compliance programs.

Biosecurity management tools

Table 2.1: Tools available to authorised officers under the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015* and the NSW Biosecurity Regulation 2017 to manage weed risk.

Prohibited matter

It is an offence to deal with any prohibited weed species listed in Schedule 2, Part 1 of the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015*. People have a legally enforceable duty to prevent, eliminate, and minimise the biosecurity risk posed by prohibited matter. People must notify the local control authority about the presence of prohibited matter or suspected prohibited matter.

Control order

Control orders establish control zones and related measures to prevent, eliminate, minimise or manage a biosecurity risk or impact. Species regulated under a control order must be immediately destroyed and the land kept free of that species. Control orders are used to manage weeds under approved eradication programs and last for a maximum duration of five years (or can be renewed for longer-term eradication programs).

Biosecurity zone

Biosecurity zones specify the measures (eradication, destruction or suppression of spread) that must be taken in a defined area to manage the weed. Biosecurity zone regulation is used to manage weeds that pose a medium risk over an extended period where the focus is on eradication and containment and on minimising the risk of spread and impact in the affected area. It is used where different management actions are required in different parts of NSW or to protect a portion of the state from the introduction of a particular biosecurity risk.

Mandatory measures

Mandatory measures require people to take specific actions with respect to certain weeds or carriers of weeds. It is prohibited to sell or import weeds listed in Schedule 3 of the NSW Biosecurity Regulation 2017. It is prohibited to import farm equipment from Queensland into NSW including grain harvesters, comb trailers, bins used for holding grain during harvest operations, augers, vehicles used for transporting grain harvesters, support vehicles for grain harvesters and mineral exploration drilling rigs and vehicles used to transport those rigs. It is prohibited to import into the state new species of vascular plants not currently present in the state.

General biosecurity duty

Any person who deals with a plant that poses a risk of causing an adverse effect on the economy, the environment or the community and who knows, or ought to know about the risk the plant poses, has a legally enforceable duty to prevent, eliminate or minimise the risk of that impact occurring.

Biosecurity direction

An authorised officer may issue a biosecurity direction that directs a person or class of persons to do or to cease doing something, if the officer reasonably believes it is necessary to prevent, eliminate or minimise a biosecurity risk or to prevent, manage or control a biosecurity impact. It is an offence not to comply with a biosecurity direction.

Biosecurity undertaking

A biosecurity undertaking is a written undertaking by a person, that specifies the measures a person agrees to implement to remedy a contravention, likely contravention, or suspected contravention of the Act and a date by which those measures will be implemented by. It is an offence to contravene a biosecurity undertaking.

3. Weed risk assessment and prioritisation

Weeds are regulated under the *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015* according to the risk they pose to the environment, community and economy. Weeds that create the highest level of risk and have the feasibility of being controlled are called priority weeds.

Management action, investment and compliance effort should be directed toward priority weeds. Risk-based decision-making and weed prioritisation ensures that the weeds management response is:

- reasonably practicable
- matched to the degree of risk posed
- flexible and non-prescriptive.

The weed prioritisation process used in this Plan is guided by the principle that managing new weeds earlier rather than later is the most efficient and cost-effective way to protect local communities, environments and industries from the impacts of weeds in the long-term.

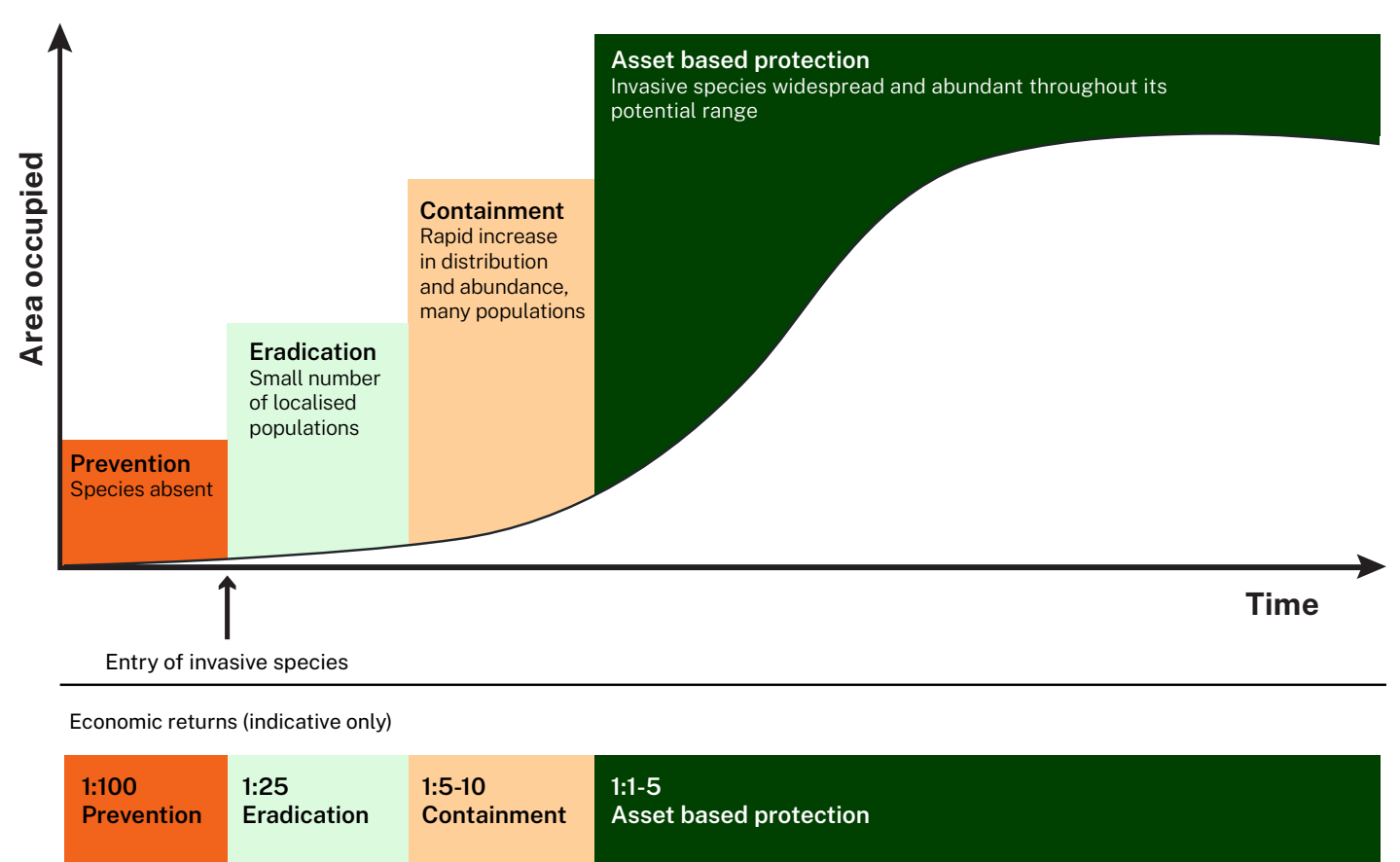
The generalised ‘weed invasion curve’ (Figure 3.1) illustrates the invasion process of weeds from arrival to widespread establishment after research showed that the effort and resources required to control a weed rises with time and area occupied.

The NSW Weed Risk Management system is the decision-support tool that is used to help determine which weeds should be prioritised. The system provides a standard, nationally accepted and transparent process that considers two components for prioritising weeds for management action:

1. weed risk (invasiveness, impacts, potential distribution)
2. feasibility of coordinated control (control costs, persistence, current distribution).

It is applied at different scales. Weeds that receive high scores for both components are prioritised at that scale. Further information on the NSW Weed Risk Management System is available at the [NSW Department of Primary Industries website](#).

Figure 3.1: Generalised weed invasion curve illustrating actions appropriate to each stage and indicative return on investment.



3.1 State priority weeds

State priority weeds have been assessed by NSW Department of Primary Industries as posing a high to medium biosecurity risk to the entire state of NSW and are identified in Table 3.1 below.

Further information on state priority weeds can be found in [Appendix 1.1](#) of this Plan. Specific legal requirements apply to state priority weeds.

State priority weeds are regulated through the following tools as listed in Table 2.1:

- prohibited matter
- control orders
- biosecurity zones
- mandatory measures.

Table 3.1: State priority weeds.

| Common name | Scientific name | Regulatory tool |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| African boxthorn | <i>Lycium ferocissimum</i> | Mandatory Measure prohibits sale within or import into NSW |
| Alligator weed | <i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i> | Alligator Weed Biosecurity Zone applies in some parts of NSW Mandatory Measure prohibits sale within or import into NSW |
| All species of vascular plant | <i>Tracheophyta</i> | Mandatory Measure prohibits import into NSW if the species is not already present in the State |
| Anchored water hyacinth | <i>Eichhornia azurea</i> | Prohibited Matter in NSW |
| Asparagus weeds | <i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i> , <i>A. africanus</i> , <i>A. asparagoides</i> including the western cape form*, <i>A. plumosus</i> , and <i>A. scandens</i> | Mandatory Measure prohibits sale within or import into NSW |
| Athel pine | <i>Tamarix aphylla</i> | Mandatory Measure prohibits sale within or import into NSW |
| Bellyache bush | <i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i> | Mandatory Measure prohibits sale within or import into NSW |
| Bitou bush | <i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i> subsp. <i>Rotundata</i> | Bitou Bush Biosecurity Zone applies in some parts of NSW Mandatory Measure prohibits sale within or import into NSW |
| Blackberry | <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> spp. agg. (except the varieties chester thornless, dirksen thornless, loch ness, silvan, black satin, murrindindi, smooth stem, thornfree and chehalem) | Mandatory Measure prohibits sale within or import into NSW |
| Black knapweed | <i>Centaurea x moncktonii</i> | Prohibited Matter in NSW |
| Boneseed | <i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i> subsp. <i>monilifera</i> | Biosecurity (Boneseed) Control Order 2022 applies in NSW Mandatory Measure prohibits sale within or import into NSW |
| Bridal veil creeper | <i>Asparagus declinatus</i> | Prohibited Matter in NSW |
| Broomrape | <i>Orobancha</i> spp. (all species except the native <i>O. cernua</i> var. <i>australiana</i> and <i>O. minor</i>) | Prohibited Matter in NSW |

| Common name | Scientific name | Regulatory tool |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| Brooms | <i>Genista monspessulana</i> , <i>G. linifolia</i> , <i>Cystisus scoparius</i> | Mandatory Measure prohibits sale within or import into NSW |
| Cabomba | <i>Cabomba caroliniana</i> | Mandatory Measure prohibits sale within or import into NSW |
| Cat's claw creeper | <i>Dolichandra unguis-cati</i> | Mandatory Measure prohibits sale within or import into NSW |
| Chilean needle grass | <i>Nassella neesiana</i> | Mandatory Measure prohibits sale within or import into NSW |
| Chinese violet | <i>Asystasia gangetica</i> subsp. <i>micrantha</i> | Biosecurity (Chinese violet) Control Order 2019 applies in NSW |
| Eurasian water milfoil | <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i> | Prohibited Matter in NSW |
| Fireweed | <i>Senecio madagascariensis</i> | Mandatory Measure prohibits sale within or import into NSW |
| Frogbit / Spongeplant | <i>Limnobium</i> spp. (all species) | Prohibited Matter in NSW |
| Gamba grass | <i>Andropogon gayanus</i> | Prohibited Matter in NSW |
| Gorse | <i>Ulex europaeus</i> | Mandatory Measure prohibits sale within or import into NSW |
| Hawkweed | <i>Hieracium</i> spp. (all species) | Prohibited Matter in NSW |
| Hydrocotyl/Water pennywort | <i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i> | Prohibited Matter in NSW |
| Hymenachne | <i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i> | Mandatory Measure prohibits sale within or import into NSW |
| Karoo acacia | <i>Vachellia karroo</i> (syn. <i>Acacia karroo</i>) | Prohibited Matter in NSW |
| Kochia | <i>Bassia scoparia</i> (excluding subsp. <i>trichophylla</i>) | Prohibited Matter in NSW |
| Koster's curse | <i>Clidemia hirta</i> | Prohibited Matter in NSW |
| Lagarosiphon | <i>Lagarosiphon major</i> | Prohibited Matter in NSW |
| Lantana | <i>Lantana camara</i> | Mandatory Measure prohibits sale within or import into NSW |
| Madeira vine | <i>Anredera cordifolia</i> | Mandatory Measure prohibits sale within or import into NSW |
| Mesquite | <i>Prosopis</i> spp | Mandatory Measure prohibits sale within or import into NSW |
| Mexican feather grass | <i>Nassella tenuissima</i> (syn. <i>Stipa tenuissima</i>) | Prohibited Matter in NSW |
| Miconia | <i>Miconia</i> spp. (all species) | Prohibited Matter in NSW |
| Mikania vine | <i>Mikania micrantha</i> | Prohibited Matter in NSW |
| Mimosa | <i>Mimosa pigra</i> | Prohibited Matter in NSW |

| Common name | Scientific name | Regulatory tool |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Parkinsonia | <i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i> | Biosecurity (Parkinsonia) Control Order 2022 applies in NSW Mandatory Measure prohibits sale within or import into NSW |
| Parthenium weed | <i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i> | Prohibited Matter in NSW Mandatory Measure prohibits parthenium weed carriers from entering NSW from QLD |
| Pond apple | <i>Annona glabra</i> | Prohibited Matter in NSW |
| Prickly acacia | <i>Vachellia nilotica</i> (syn. <i>Acacia nilotica</i>) | Prohibited Matter in NSW |
| Prickly pears | <i>Opuntia</i> spp. (excluding <i>O. ficus-indica</i>), <i>Cylindropuntia</i> spp. and <i>Austrocylindropuntia</i> spp. | Mandatory Measure prohibits sale within or import into NSW |
| Rubber vine | <i>Cryptostegia grandiflora</i> | Prohibited Matter in NSW |
| Sagittaria | <i>Sagittaria platyphylla</i> | Mandatory Measure prohibits sale within or import into NSW |
| Salvinia | <i>Salvinia molesta</i> | Mandatory Measure prohibits sale within or import into NSW |
| Serrated tussock | <i>Nassella trichotoma</i> | Mandatory Measure prohibits sale within or import into NSW |
| Siam weed | <i>Chromolaena odorata</i> | Prohibited Matter in NSW |
| Silver-leaf nightshade | <i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i> | Mandatory Measure prohibits sale within or import into NSW |
| Spotted knapweed | <i>Centaurea stoebe</i> subsp. <i>australis</i> | Prohibited Matter in NSW |
| Tropical soda apple | <i>Solanum viarum</i> | Biosecurity (Tropical Soda Apple) Control Order 2022 applies in NSW Mandatory Measure prohibits sale within or import into NSW |
| Water caltrop | <i>Trapa</i> spp. (all species) | Prohibited Matter in NSW |
| Water hyacinth | <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i> | Water Hyacinth Biosecurity Zone applies in some parts of NSW Mandatory Measure prohibits sale within or import into NSW |
| Water soldier | <i>Stratiotes aloides</i> | Prohibited Matter in NSW |
| Willows | <i>Salix</i> species except <i>S. babylonica</i> , <i>S. X calodendron</i> and <i>S. x reichardtiji</i> (willows except weeping willows, pussy willow and sterile pussy willow) | Mandatory Measure prohibits sale within or import into NSW |
| Witchweed | <i>Striga</i> spp. (except the native <i>S. parviflora</i>) | Prohibited Matter in NSW |
| Yellow burrhead | <i>Limnocharis flava</i> | Prohibited Matter in NSW |

4. Weed management in the region

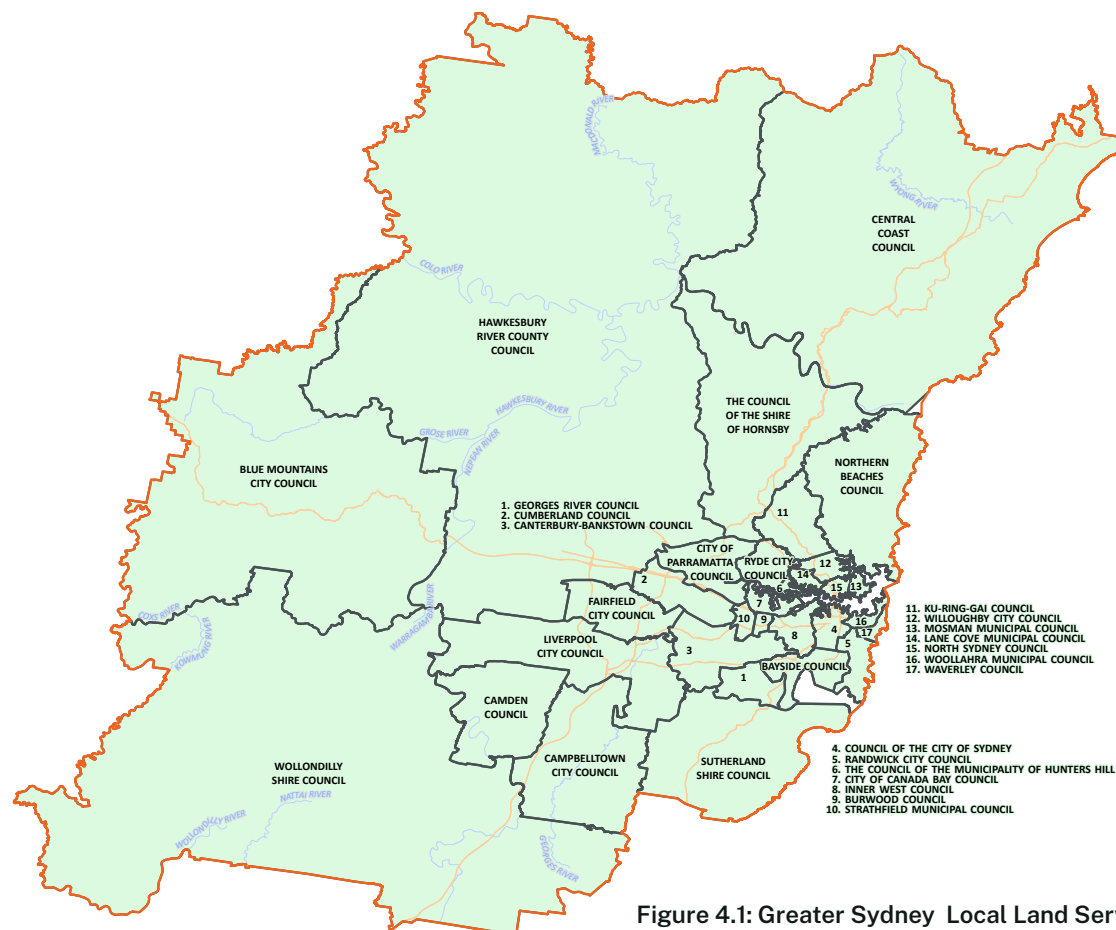


Figure 4.1: Greater Sydney Local Land Services regional map.

4.1 Introduction to region

The Greater Sydney region is diverse, extending from densely urbanised cities and coastal waterways through to rural lands and extensive World Heritage wilderness areas.

It is home to 5.2 million people in an area of 12,474 square kilometres. It is the largest urban area in NSW and is also one of the fastest growing regions in the country, yet it retains outstanding natural values and important productive agricultural industries.

Sydney has a humid subtropical climate. The weather is moderated by proximity to the ocean, and more extreme temperatures are recorded in the inland western suburbs. The Blue Mountains area is more temperate than the rest of the Sydney basin due to its higher altitude.

The region is endowed with abundant natural areas in National Parks and reserves, including Royal National Park, the second oldest National Park in the world, and the million-hectare Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. In fact, National Parks estate accounts for 50 percent of all land in Greater Sydney. Much of the unreserved land has been heavily cleared for rural, urban and other development with big impacts for the diverse ecological communities of Greater Sydney. It is important that the remaining ecological communities are protected from current and future threatening processes, including weeds. Critically endangered ecological communities unique to Greater Sydney include Cumberland Plain Woodland, Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub, Blue Gum High Forest and Shale Sandstone Transition Forest.



38%

Greater Sydney has a diverse social demographic, with 38% of households speaking a language other than English at home.



\$6.3M

Bushcare and Landcare help to fight against weeds with volunteers contributing more than 150,000 hours or \$6.3 million of in-kind environmental work.



70%

Fifty per cent of the region is National Parks estate, and 70% of the region's area is vegetated.



34

There are 34 local government areas and six Local Aboriginal Land Councils in Greater Sydney.

The region's natural features create a spectacular landscape that provides amenity for residents, and is a major tourism draw card. The natural resources of the Greater Sydney area, including the numerous major river systems provide valuable ecological services to local community such as clean drinking water.

The gross value of agriculture in Greater Sydney is valued at \$842 million, with nurseries and the cut-flower industry accounting for \$140 million. The poultry, turf, oyster, horticulture and grazing industries are also important contributors to the region's agricultural output.

Greater Sydney has a relatively large proportion of peri-urban landholders compared to other regions. Nearly half of the region's landholders with properties between 2-20 hectares identify as "lifestyle property holders" and a quarter identify as "hobby farmers". The values and needs of peri-urban landholders are distinct from urban and rural landholders. As such, they require targeted support to manage their land.

Landcare and Bushcare groups represent a large portion of weed management in the region. To illustrate the scale of their work, in the 2019/20, nearly 1000 groups were engaged in Bushcare or Landcare in Greater Sydney. This included 8850 regular volunteers and 4700 one-off volunteers. Altogether, volunteers contributed more than 150,000 hours or \$6.3 million of in-kind environmental work.

The First Nations community in Greater Sydney region is complex and layered, containing the largest population of First Nations people in NSW, if not Australia. This includes local First Nations people from within the region (Traditional Owners) who hold a deep cultural responsibility and obligation to care for their Country. The community in Greater Sydney consists of individuals and families who have historically or recently moved into the area. First Nations peoples within the region continue to hold a physical, cultural and spiritual relationship with Country, and the holistic management of sacred and special places, especially in response to threats, to improve the health of Country is an important priority.

4.2 Key risks to the region

Weeds pose a significant threat to environmental, economic and social values of the Greater Sydney. The most important weed biosecurity risks and pathways for the region are listed below.

- Sydney is a “gateway” for trade and tourism. Sydney Harbour and Botany Bay are working international ports, and Sydney’s international airport handles more than 35 million passenger movements and more than half a million tonnes of freight per year. This extraordinary movement of people and trade carries a strong risk of new plant incursions. Greater Sydney also has an extensive road and rail network and numerous expansive river catchments, which are all high-risk pathways for weeds. These areas require particular attention to avoid long distance spread of weeds.
- Greater Sydney is one of the fastest-growing regions in the Western world and is projected to be home to an additional 1.7 million people by 2036. Continuing development and urbanisation of the region will lead to increased disturbance and degradation of the natural landscape, creating more opportunities for weed invasion and spread.
- There is a vast amount of existing residential land and in turn, a number of gardens with ‘weedy’ ornamental plants that can readily mobilise and become “garden escapees”. The impact of this phenomenon is widely observed in the region due to the sheer amount of urban-bushland interface.
- Greater Sydney is a hub for the floristry, garden and aquarium plant industry. Seventy-five percent of cut-flowers in New South Wales are traded at the Sydney Flower Markets in Flemington. The sale of weeds online (especially aquarium plants and cacti) is also becoming increasingly common. Engagement with sellers can be challenging and whilst many sellers fulfil their obligations under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, some sellers trade illegal plants or do not discharge their biosecurity duty.
- The impact of climate change and extreme weather events in weed management has been devastating to the region and has implications for weed management. Floods, fires, increased temperatures and other climate-related phenomena are creating many opportunities for weeds to spread and increasing variability in their invasiveness. Weed management needs to be foresighted and account for the trends we know about, and remain adaptive for the unpredictable events.



4.3 Priority weeds in the Greater Sydney region

Regional weed assessment and prioritisation process

Application of the NSW weed risk management system provides the management categories and objectives, and the outcomes to demonstrate compliance with the general biosecurity duty developed for the region. The management categories used in the assessment are summarised in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Defining regional weed management categories.

| Management category | Objective | Characteristics of weeds in this category |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| Prevention | To prevent the weed species arriving and establishing in the region. | Weeds currently not found in the region, that pose a significant biosecurity risk and prevention of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is a reasonably practicable objective. |
| Eradication | To permanently remove the species and its propagules from the region OR to destroy infestations to reduce the extent of the weed in the region with the aim of local eradication. | Weeds are present in limited abundance in the region. Elimination of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is a reasonably practicable objective. |
| Containment | To prevent the ongoing spread of the species in all or part of the region. | These weeds are widely distributed in parts of the region. While broad scale elimination is not practicable, minimisation of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is reasonably practicable. |
| Asset protection | To prevent the spread of weeds to key sites/assets of high economic, environmental and social value, or to reduce their impact on these sites if spread has already occurred. | These weeds are widely distributed in some areas of the region. Their spread should be minimised to protect priority regional assets. |

Regional priority weeds have been assessed by regional weed committees as posing a high risk to specific regions of NSW. Greater Sydney regional priority weeds are identified in Table 4.2 with additional further information available in [Appendix 1.2](#) of the Plan.

Regional priority weeds are regulated through the general biosecurity duty (see Appendix 2 for more information of general biosecurity duty) and each weed has a management category. Regional recommended measures are listed for each weed and communicate how landholders and stakeholders in the region should discharge their general biosecurity duty for that weed. Weeds are grouped by regional management category (see Table 4.1).

It is recognised that weed management is an ongoing process, sometimes requiring continued action beyond the life of the current Plan.

Table 4.2: Greater Sydney region priority weeds.

| Common name | Scientific name | Regional management priority |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| African olive | <i>Olea europaea subsp. Cuspidata</i> | Containment |
| Alligator weed | <i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i> | Asset protection |
| Asparagus fern | <i>Asparagus virgatus</i> | Containment |
| Black willow | <i>Salix nigra</i> | Containment |
| Cabomba | <i>Cabomba caroliniana</i> | Asset protection |
| Cat's claw creeper | <i>Dolichandra unguis-cati</i> | Asset protection |
| Chinese knotweed | <i>Persicaria chinensis</i> | Eradication |
| Climbing asparagus | <i>Asparagus africanus</i> | Eradication |
| Coral creeper | <i>Barleria repens</i> | Eradication |
| East Indian hygrophylla | <i>Hygrophylla polysperma</i> | Prevention |
| Giant devil's fig | <i>Solanum chrysotrichum</i> | Eradication |
| Giant rats tail grass | <i>Sporobolus pyramidalis</i> | Prevention |
| Giant reed | <i>Arundo donax</i> | Asset protection |
| Glory lily | <i>Gloriosa superba</i> | Eradication |
| Gorse | <i>Ulex europaeus</i> | Containment |
| Green cestrum | <i>Cestrum parqui</i> | Asset protection |
| Grey sallow | <i>Salix cinerea</i> | Eradication |
| Groundsel bush | <i>Baccharis halimifolia</i> | Eradication |
| Holly-leaved senecio | <i>Senecio glastifolius</i> | Containment |
| Horsetails | <i>Equisetum spp.</i> | Containment |
| Hygrophylla | <i>Hygrophylla costata</i> | Eradication |
| Hymenachne | <i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i> | Prevention |
| Kei apple | <i>Dovyalis caffra</i> | Eradication |
| Kidney leaf mud plantain | <i>Heteranthera reniformis</i> | Eradication |

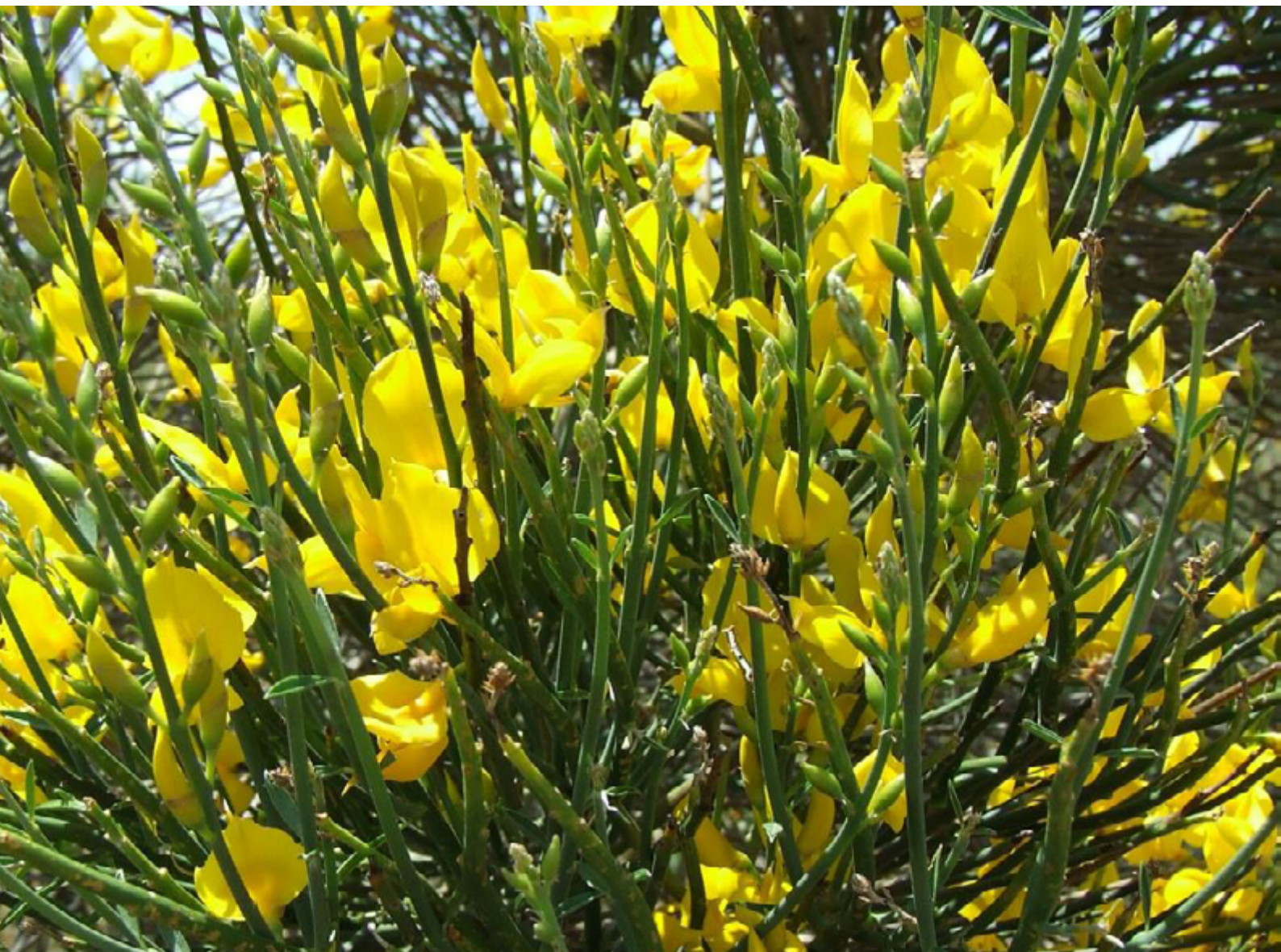
| Common name | Scientific name | Regional management priority |
|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Kudzu | <i>Pueraria lobata</i> | Eradication |
| Leaf cactus | <i>Pereskia aculeata</i> | Eradication |
| Ludwigia | <i>Ludwigia peruviana</i> | Asset protection |
| Ming fern | <i>Asparagus macowanii</i> var. <i>Zuluensis</i> | Eradication |
| Mysore thorn | <i>Caesalpinia decapetala</i> | Prevention |
| Nodding thistle | <i>Carduus nutans</i> | Eradication |
| Pampas grass | <i>Cortaderia species</i> | Asset protection |
| Salvinia | <i>Salvinia molesta</i> | Asset protection |
| Scotch/English Broom | <i>Cytisus scoparius</i> | Asset protection |
| Sea spurge | <i>Euphorbia paralias</i> | Eradication |
| Senegal tea | <i>Gymnocoronis spilanthoides</i> | Containment |
| Serrated tussock | <i>Nassella trichotoma</i> | Containment |
| Sicilian sea lavender | <i>Limonium hyblaum</i> | Eradication |
| Sicklethorn | <i>Asparagus falcatus</i> | Containment |
| Singapore daisy | <i>Sphagneticola trilobata</i> | Asset protection |
| Skunk vine | <i>Paederia foetida</i> | Eradication |
| Spanish broom | <i>Spartium junceum</i> | Prevention |
| Tiger pear | <i>Opuntia aurantiaca</i> | Containment |
| Water hyacinth | <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i> | Asset protection |
| Water lettuce | <i>Pistia stratiotes</i> | Prevention |
| Water poppy | <i>Hydrocleys nymphoides</i> | Containment |
| Water star grass | <i>Heteranthera zosterifolia</i> | Prevention |
| White blackberry / Mysore raspberry | <i>Rubus niveus</i> | Prevention |

4.4 Community involvement

For this Plan to succeed it is essential that all programs and related activities continue to be based on partnerships and collaboration with a wide range of landholders, community members and government stakeholders.

- In Greater Sydney, Landcare and Bushcare groups are the driving force behind an enormous amount of long-term natural area management. In fact, it is in Sydney that the origins of the bush regeneration methods and the Bushcare movement was born due to the Bradley sisters and the Green Bans. National Parks and Wildlife Services and Greater Sydney Local Land Services actively support these groups and their Landcare Coordinators/Bushcare Officers to increase their impact.
- Other non-for-profits and organisations work with the community to achieve positive environmental outcomes such as Riverkeeper groups that bring community together across catchments, targeted conservation groups and community nurseries.
- First Nations peoples in the region maintain a continuous and deep connection to Country and a belief in their ongoing obligation to care for the health and balance of Country, including through addressing threats, such as weeds. Within the region, the Local Aboriginal Land Councils hold a significant amount of land. It is important to recognise that the management of weeds, sits amongst a multitude of social, cultural and economic pressures for First Nations people.
- Local councils regularly engage with the community by providing services aimed at education and compliance with the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. This may include running community workshops, conducting proactive inspection programs and responding to requests for advice on weed control.

Spanish broom, image: Andy Steed.



5. Implementing regional key deliverables

5.1 Overview

A wide range of landholders and stakeholders are involved in weed management in the region. The Plan recognises the roles of all levels of government, industry, community and community organisations and aims to consolidate these efforts through better coordination and communication between organisations and individuals in the region.

This section covers actions required to achieve the goals of the regional plans which have been directly taken from the NSW Invasive Species Plan.

The Plan sits as an enabling plan under the Local Land Services Greater Sydney Local Strategic Plan and will be implemented in collaboration with key stakeholders, the community and Greater Sydney Local Land Services. Collaboration and building capacity of landholders is central to plan implementation.

Goal 1:

Exclude – prevent the establishment of new invasive species.

Goal 2:

Eradicate or contain – eliminate, or prevent the spread of new invasive species.

Goal 3:

Effectively manage – reduce the impacts of widespread invasive species.

Goal 4:

Capacity building – ensure NSW has the ability and commitment to manage invasive species.

5.2 Implementation principles

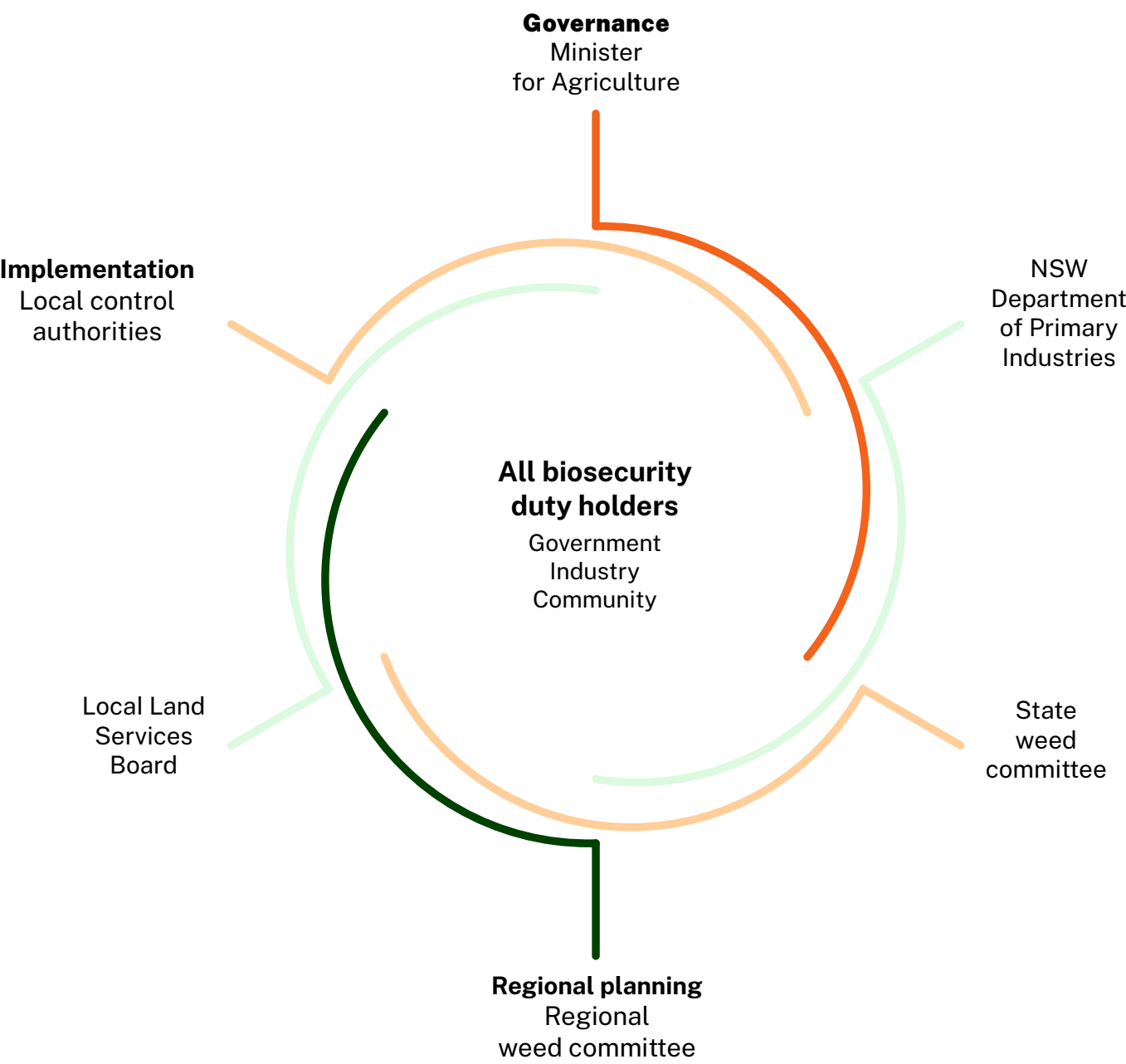
The following principles will be used to guide weed management planning and implementation.

- Effective stakeholder collaboration and shared responsibility are essential to effective weed management.
- Behavioural change and increasing community capacity are important to effective weed management.
- Prevention and early intervention are the most effective weed management tools.
- Causes of weed invasion and spread are managed wherever possible, not just the symptoms.
- The biology and ecological requirements of weeds, including mechanisms and pathways for spread are considered in weed management.
- Innovation in weed control and management is encouraged.
- Regular monitoring, evaluation and improvement are incorporated in weed management programs.
- Weed management is an integral part of land management. Land management practices and their timing are critical to the prevention and reduction in spread and impact of weeds.
- Weeds are managed in a strategic and co-ordinated manner across the landscape. Assessing and managing weed risk at a landscape and multi species scale (where appropriate) can lead to significant efficiencies in use of resources and achievement of strategic outcomes.
- The best available science, expertise and tools are utilised in weed management decision making.

5.3 Roles and responsibilities for implementation of the Plan

The following diagram (Figure 5.1) outlines the governance and management role of the state and government organisations collective responsibilities in the development of the Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans, and the implementation roles of stakeholders, the state and local governments in the delivery of the Plan.

Figure 5.1: Roles in weed management.



Landholders (owners and/or occupiers)

All public and private landholders have an important role in the management of weeds in the region, including the development and implementation of management strategies to address the key deliverables.

All public and private landholders are required to know what weeds are or could impact land under their care and control and have reasonable measures in place to mitigate this risk.

Key public land managers in the region include National Parks and Wildlife Services, Transport for NSW, Crown Lands, Water NSW, Sydney Water and Local Government.

Landholders should support implementation of the regional key deliverables by setting a high standard of best practice weed management and collaborating with adjacent landholders to effect tenure neutral weed management.

Local government

Local government supports implementation of the regional key deliverables by:

- engaging local communities, managing public lands and assisting with emergency management.

Local government also makes a significant investment in local and regional weed management.

Local control authorities

Local control authorities, support implementation of the regional key deliverables by:

- enforcing legislated weed management obligations on private and public land
- delivering components of the NSW Weeds Action Program throughout the state
- conducting weed inspections on private and public land
- controlling weeds on lands managed by local government
- reporting and mapping weed incidence across the state
- input into weed strategy and policy
- providing education, training and resources for both the public and for staff.

State government

The NSW Department of Primary Industries is the lead agency for weed management within the NSW Government.

Local Land Services is responsible for coordinating and facilitating weed management at a regional level, through the implementation of regional sub-programs.

NSW Department of Primary Industries

The NSW Department of Primary Industries supports implementation of the regional key deliverables by:

- managing updates and amendments to the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015*
- leading and administering the NSW Weeds Action Program
- managing the NSW Weeds Information Database, which provides information about over 300 weeds for the NSW WeedWise website and app
- managing the weeds extranet, which facilitates information and resource sharing for weeds professionals in NSW and interstate
- providing extension, education and training services
- leading the response to new incursions of state priority weeds and nationally significant weeds
- developing non-regulatory approaches and incentives
- conducting weeds research and collaborating with other researchers
- providing biological control services
- capturing state-wide weeds data through the Biosecurity Information System – Weeds
- resourcing the NSW Department of Primary Industries biosecurity helpline (1800 680 244)
- developing policies and guidelines to support the work of the State Weed Committee.

Local Land Services

Local Land Services support implementation of the regional key deliverables by:

- delivering regional strategic weed management plans
- facilitating and coordinating regional strategic planning
- assisting with education and community outreach programs
- enabling and capacity building with First Nations communities to address and manage weeds on land under their control.

5.4 Regional deliverables

Delivery partners define key regional deliverables and develop and implement processes to address actions. It is recognised that different stakeholders are resourced at different levels and have different priorities in weed management. Consistent collaborative approach for long term weed management is required by all stakeholders.

Investment by all landholders and stakeholders in weed management should align with the goals of the NSW Invasive Species Plan and regional priority weeds.

The below table outlines relevant deliverables that relate to the NSW Invasive Species Plan that are a priority for the Greater Sydney region. State deliverables are included in the [NSW Invasive Species Plan](#).

Note: Weeds Action Program funding enables delivery on many actions listed below. Targets may need to be adjusted to match funding provided. All targets are measured annually unless otherwise specified.

Table 5.1: Relevant regional deliverables that relate to the NSW Invasive Species Plan.

| GOAL 1 - Exclude: prevent the establishment of new invasive species | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| Invasive species plan outcome | Regional strategy | Regional action | Responsibility | Target |
| 1.1 Improved identification and management of high-risk species and pathways | High risk sites, species and pathways are identified and managed | Review weed risk assessments for weeds of concern to the region | Regional weed committee Technical sub-committee | 100% regional WRA's reassessed at mid and end of term review |
| | | New weed risk assessments created as needed | Local control authorities/ other agencies to submit | As required |
| | | Implement the Regional High Risk Pathway Plan | Local control authorities/other agencies and land managers identified in the plan | >5,000 km high-risk pathway inspections >5,000 high-risk site inspections |
| | | Seek feedback from land managers about emerging trends and species at regional weed committee meetings | Local Land Services Department of Primary Industries | >2 regional weed committee meetings held >2 Sydney Weeds Network meetings held |
| | Implement legislation, education and enforcement programs for effective management of high-risk species and pathways | Local control authorities appoint at least one authorised officer | Local control authorities | 100% Local control authorities have at least one authorised officer >34 authorised officers across the region |

GOAL 2 - Eradicate or contain: Eliminate or prevent the spread of invasive species

| Invasive species plan outcome | Regional strategy | Regional action | Responsibility | Target |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| 2.1 Improved rapid response capabilities to eradicate or contain new incursions | Rapid response to new weed incursions | Implement the New Weed Incursion Plan | Local control authorities, regional weed committee, Local Land Services and Department of Primary Industries | <p>Notify Local Land Services and Department of Primary Industries within 48 hours of new weed detection (or 24 hours for Prohibited Matter)</p> <p>Specimen sent to the NSW Botanical Information Service within seven days</p> <p>Delimit and contain infestation</p> <p>Develop weed risk assessment if required</p> <p>Develop management response</p> |
| | Identify changes in distribution of eradication species | Regular mapping of eradication species | Local Land Services | Maps are produced for each eradication species in 2023, 2025 and 2027 |
| | | Communicate incursion status to regional weed committee and Sydney Weeds Network | Local Land Services | >1 regional incursion report per year |

GOAL 2 - Eradicate or contain: Eliminate or prevent the spread of invasive species

| Invasive species plan outcome | Regional strategy | Regional action | Responsibility | Target |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| 2.1 Improved rapid response capabilities to eradicate or contain new incursions | Regional approach to management of eradication and containment level species | Implement the New Weed Incursion Plan | Local Land Services, regional weed committee, local control authorities, other agencies and land managers | <p>Notify Local Land Services within seven days of detecting a prevention, eradication or containment (exclusion zone) weed species</p> <p>Specimen sent to the NSW Botanical Information Service within seven days</p> <p>Delimit and contain infestation</p> <p>Develop management response</p> <p>Establish a Weed Incursion Team for regional eradication species where required</p> |
| | | Produce weed management plans for regional containment species | Local Land Services, regional weed committee | Development of one plan per year |
| | | Prioritise control of weeds identified in this plan as high-risk | Local control authorities, other agencies and land managers | >8000 hectares priority weed control |

GOAL 3 - Effectively manage: reduce the impacts of widespread invasive species

| Invasive species plan outcome | Regional strategy | Regional action | Responsibility | Target |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| 3.2 Improved management effectiveness | Co-operative programs that use integrated management across all tenures | Trial a cross-tenure biocontrol program and roll out more broadly if successful | Local Land Services | >1 trial by 2027 |
| | | Trial a drone surveillance/control activity for a regional priority weed | Local Land Services | >1 trial by 2027 |
| | | Engage First Nations groups and Local Aboriginal Land Councils in weed management and planning | All | >3 engagements (not including regional weed committee meetings) |
| | | Engage with existing Bushcare/Landcare groups to improve management effectiveness | All | >20 partnerships |
| | Promote responsible plant biosecurity practices to industry groups, businesses and consumers | Participate in the Plant Sure Program | Local Land Services, local control authorities, regional weed committee | Attend Plant Sure Committee meetings Produce 50 plant risk assessments for ornamental plants through the Plant Sure Program by 2025 |
| | | Deliver an education campaigns for high-risk industry groups | Local Land Services, local control authorities, regional weed committee | >2 education campaigns conducted by 2027 |
| | | Review current hygiene biosecurity protocols and practices | All | Provide recommendations to the relevant stakeholders for improvements by 2027 |

GOAL 4 - Capacity building: Ensure NSW has the ability and commitment to manage invasive species

| Invasive species plan outcome | Regional strategy | Regional action | Responsibility | Target |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| 4.2 Private landholders and the general community are motivated to support biosecurity at all stages of invasion curve | Educate the community on weeds biosecurity | Two weed biosecurity awareness raising campaigns | Local Land Services, local control authorities, Department of Primary Industries | 2 campaigns delivered by 2027 |
| | | Provide volunteers/ community group members with weeds training | Local control authorities, Local Land Services | >300 community members |
| | Weeds professionals and stakeholders have opportunities to improve their skills | Deliver educational opportunities for weeds officers and Bushcare/ Landcare staff to identify high risk species | Local control authorities, Local Land Services | >3 opportunities by 2027 >50 participants by 2027 |
| | Improve public capacity to report weeds | Trial a public reporting tool/ methodology | Local Land Services, local control authorities, Department of Primary Industries | Development of a reporting tool/methodology |
| 4.4 Improved tools to monitor and manage invasive species | Information about weeds is collected centrally and available for the weeds professionals to access | Weeds officers upload Biosecurity Information System data | Local control authorities | 100% of local control authorities submit biosecurity information system records >15,000 biosecurity information system records in Greater Sydney area |
| | | Maintain the Sydney Weeds App to enable local control authorities to report information to the Biosecurity Information System | Local Land Services | >15 app users |
| | | Weeds professionals have visibility over regional inspection data | Local Land Services | Produce a tool/ integrate function into a mapping tool by 2027 |

Collaborative research and practical application

Regional weed committees will investigate opportunities for collaboration that may include:

- engagement with weed science researchers, community, the aboriginal community, government, and industry to identify current knowledge gaps and to document weed species research priorities
- strengthening partnerships and actively participating in industry, government and university collaboration for weeds research
- maintaining currency of regional and local weed risk assessments
- development of new technologies and innovative approaches to the management of weed risks
- application of biological control programs for priority weeds
- incorporation of research findings into weed management decision-making (this is part of adaptive management).

The Greater Sydney Regional Weed Committee will foster adaptive management and continual improvement in weed management. A mid-term review of this plan will be undertaken at year three (2025) and a full review will be undertaken nearing the end of the five-year term for this plan (2027). Weed risk assessments will be updated as needed from time to time and a particular focus at year three will be on evaluation and review of weeds listed in this plan (Appendix 1).

Tiger pear, image: Jen Schabel.



6. Measuring success and continuous improvement

This section covers how we intend to address and document to what extent goals have been achieved, as well as evaluating performance, and reviewing our activity and focus.

6.1 Measuring performance

A state level monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement (MERI) framework for Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans, has been developed to guide Regional Weeds Committees to measure their success and continuous improvement.

Each Regional Weeds Committee will establish a MERI framework for Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans. This MERI framework will facilitate the review of results against planned immediate, intermediate and long-term outcomes.

Data collection and management is crucial to the adoption of standardised approaches for the region, and for the implementation of MERI procedures.

All stakeholders and member organisations of the regional weed committees are expected to assist with data collections and sharing for the purposes of MERI.

6.2 Performance indicators and reporting

Standardised MERI systems are used to compile and report on the efforts and achievements of stakeholders in contributing to this plan. A [state-wide MERI framework](#) has been developed for annual performance measurement.

Regional weed committees may undertake a more extensive review annually or through the life of the plan.

Performance indicators will be developed against the actions and strategies in section 5, to enable tracking of the progressive impacts of interventions and investment in priorities and will relate to the goals for this plan.

6.3 Plan review

The Greater Sydney Regional Weed Committee will foster adaptive management and continual improvement in weed management.

A mid-term review of this plan will be undertaken at year three (2025) and a full review will be undertaken nearing the end of the five-year term for this plan (2027).

Weed risk assessments will be updated as needed from time to time and a particular focus at year three will be on evaluation and review of weeds listed in this plan ([Appendix 1](#)).

7. List of Acronyms

DPI Department of Primary Industries

MERI Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement

8. Glossary

Best practice: A technique or methodology that, through experience and research, has proven to reliably lead to a desired result. Also see leading practice.

Biodiversity: The variety of all life forms: the different species of plants, animals, fungi, bacteria and other micro-organisms, the genes they contain and the ecosystems (the variety of habitats, biotic communities and ecological processes) of which they form a part.

Biosecurity: Protecting the economy, environment and community from the negative impacts of pests, diseases and weeds.

Country: First Nations people, Country takes in everything within the physical, cultural and spiritual landscape. It includes landforms, waters, air, trees, rocks, plants, animals, foods, medicines, minerals, the sky and sea as well as sacred places. It includes cultural practice, kinship, knowledge, ceremony, songs, stories and art, as well as spiritual beings, and people: past, present and future. For many First Nations / Aboriginal peoples in the Greater Sydney Region Country may refer to a place, landscape or larger area which they have a traditional, cultural and or historical relationship with.

Customer: Any land manager within the state or region, irrespective of whether they are private or public land managers, ratepayers or non-ratepayers.

Emergency management: Management related to preparedness, response and recovery for actual or imminent animal pest and disease and plant pest and disease emergencies, natural disasters and other emergencies impacting on primary production or animal health and safety.

Landholders: means a person who is the owner of land or who, whether by reason of ownership or otherwise, is in lawful occupation or possession, or has lawful management or control, of land.

Stakeholders: Organisations that collaborate and partner with Local Land Services directly to support customer service delivery, including community and industry groups, not-for-profits, non-government organisations, Landcare, research institutions, state and local government and private sector providers.

Weed: Plants (foreign to the region) that are unwanted in a given situation and which usually have detectable negative economic, environmental or social impacts.

Weed Action Program: The New South Wales (NSW) Weeds Action Program is a NSW Government initiative to reduce the impact of weeds through implementation of the NSW Invasive Species Plan and the NSW Biosecurity Strategy.

9. References

McLeod, R. (2018). Annual Costs of Weeds in Australia. Retrieved from <https://invasives.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Cost-of-weeds-report.pdf>

Appendices

Appendix 1: Priority weeds for the Greater Sydney Local Land Services region

This appendix identifies state priority weed species (A1.1) as set by NSW Department of Primary Industries and regionally determined priorities (A1.2) as determined by the Greater Sydney Regional Weed Committee.

The *Biosecurity Act 2015* and Biosecurity Regulation 2017 provide specific legal requirements for state priority weeds (A1.1) and high-risk activities. For each state priority weed, the management priority, and specific requirements for its management (as stated in the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and regulations) is included. State priority weeds are regulated as prohibited matter, or under biosecurity zones, or control orders, or have mandatory measures that apply.

A1.2 identifies regionally prioritised weeds and the outcomes that demonstrate compliance with the general biosecurity duty. Recommended measures for these weeds are provided in the NSW Department of Primary Industries website and mobile based application NSW WeedWise, as practical advice on achieving these outcomes.

A1.1 State priority weeds

State priority weed category – PREVENTION:

The following weeds have not established self-sustaining populations in NSW and pose a significant biosecurity risk to the state. Prohibiting these weeds from the state to prevent the biosecurity risk posed is a reasonably practical objective.

| Common name | Scientific name | Biosecurity Act requirements and strategic response in the region |
|---|---------------------|--|
| All species of vascular plant Tracheophyta | <i>Tracheophyta</i> | <i>Mandatory Measure (Division 8, Clause 34)</i> Duty to notify on importation of plants into the state: (1) A person must not import into the State a species of vascular plant (Tracheophyta) if the species is not currently present in the State unless the person has, at least 20 working days before the plant is imported into the state, notified the species of plant and its proposed location within the State. (2) The notification is to be given to the Secretary and is to be given in accordance with Part 6. (3) A species of plant is taken not to be present in the state if the National Herbarium of New South Wales does not show it as being present in the state. Note. See http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au |

State priority weed category – PREVENTION:

The following weeds have not established self-sustaining populations in NSW and pose a significant biosecurity risk to the state. Prohibiting these weeds from the state to prevent the biosecurity risk posed is a reasonably practical objective.

| Common name | Scientific name | Biosecurity Act requirements and strategic response in the region |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Anchored water hyacinth | <i>Eichhornia azurea</i> | <p>Prohibited Matter (Part 4, <i>Biosecurity Act</i>, 2015)</p> <p>A person who deals with any biosecurity matter that is Prohibited Matter throughout the State is guilty of an offence.</p> <p>A person has a biosecurity duty to ensure that so far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk posed by prohibited matter is prevented, eliminated or minimised.</p> <p>A person who becomes aware of, or suspects, that a prohibited matter event has occurred, is occurring or is about to occur has a biosecurity duty to immediately notify the local control authority about the prohibited matter event.</p> <p>Regional strategic response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement quarantine and/or hygiene protocols. • Undertake high risk sites and pathways analysis to identify potential introduction areas and preventative options. • Trigger rapid response protocol. |
| Black knapweed | <i>Centaurea x moncktonii</i> | |
| Bridal veil creeper | <i>Asparagus declinatus</i> | |
| Broomrape | Orobanche spp. (all species except the native <i>O. cernua</i> var. <i>australiana</i> and <i>O. minor</i>) | |
| Eurasian water milfoil | <i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i> | |
| Frogbit / Spongeplant | <i>Limnobium</i> spp. (all species) | |
| Gamba grass | <i>Andropogon gayanus</i> | |
| Hawkweed | <i>Hieracium</i> spp. (all species) | |
| Hydrocotyl/ Water pennywort | <i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i> | |
| Karoo acacia | <i>Vachellia karroo</i> (syn. <i>Acacia karroo</i>) | |
| Kochia | <i>Bassia scoparia</i> (excluding subsp. <i>trichophylla</i>) | |

State priority weed category – PREVENTION:

The following weeds have not established self-sustaining populations in NSW and pose a significant biosecurity risk to the state. Prohibiting these weeds from the state to prevent the biosecurity risk posed is a reasonably practical objective.

| Common name | Scientific name | Biosecurity Act requirements and strategic response in the region |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Koster's curse | <i>Clidemia hirta</i> | <p>Prohibited Matter (Part 4, <i>Biosecurity Act</i>, 2015)</p> <p>A person who deals with any biosecurity matter that is Prohibited Matter throughout the State is guilty of an offence.</p> <p>A person has a biosecurity duty to ensure that so far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk posed by prohibited matter is prevented, eliminated or minimised.</p> <p>A person who becomes aware of, or suspects, that a prohibited matter event has occurred, is occurring or is about to occur has a biosecurity duty to immediately notify the local control authority about the prohibited matter event.</p> <p>Regional strategic response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement quarantine and/or hygiene protocols • Undertake high risk sites and pathways analysis to identify potential introduction areas and preventative options. • Trigger rapid response protocol. |
| Lagarosiphon | <i>Lagarosiphon major</i> | |
| Mexican feather grass | <i>Nassella tenuissima</i> (syn. <i>Stipa tenuissima</i>) | |
| Miconia | <i>Miconia</i> spp. (all species) | |
| Mikania vine | <i>Mikania micrantha</i> | |
| Mimosa | <i>Mimosa pigra</i> | |
| Pond apple | <i>Annona glabra</i> | |
| Prickly acacia | <i>Vachellia nilotica</i> (syn. <i>Acacia nilotica</i>) | |
| Rubber vine | <i>Cryptostegia grandiflora</i> | |
| Siam weed | <i>Chromolaena odorata</i> | |
| Spotted knapweed | <i>Centaurea stoebe</i> subsp. <i>australis</i> | |
| Water caltrop | <i>Trapa</i> spp. (all species) | |
| Water soldier | <i>Stratiotes aloides</i> | |
| Witchweed | <i>Striga</i> spp. (except the native <i>S. parviflora</i>) | |
| Yellow burrhead | <i>Limnocharis flava</i> | |

State priority weed category – PREVENTION:

The following weeds have not established self-sustaining populations in NSW and pose a significant biosecurity risk to the state. Prohibiting these weeds from the state to prevent the biosecurity risk posed is a reasonably practical objective.

| Common name | Scientific name | Biosecurity Act requirements and strategic response in the region |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Parthenium weed | <i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i> | <p>Prohibited Matter (Part 4, <i>Biosecurity Act</i>, 2015)</p> <p>A person who deals with any biosecurity matter that is Prohibited Matter throughout the state is guilty of an offence.</p> <p>A person has a biosecurity duty to ensure that so far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk posed by prohibited matter is prevented, eliminated or minimised.</p> <p>A person who becomes aware of, or suspects, that a prohibited matter event has occurred, is occurring or is about to occur has a biosecurity duty to immediately notify the local control authority about the prohibited matter event.</p> <p>Mandatory Measure (Division 8, Clause 35, <i>Biosecurity Regulation</i>, 2017) - parthenium weed carriers – machinery and equipment</p> <p>(1) This clause applies to the following equipment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> grain harvesters (including the comb or front) comb trailers (including the comb or front) bins used for holding grain during harvest operations augers or similar equipment used for moving grain vehicles used for transporting grain harvesters vehicles used as support vehicles with grain harvesters and that have been driven in paddocks during harvest operations mineral exploration drilling rigs and vehicles used for transporting those rigs <p>(2) A person must not import into the State from Queensland any equipment to which this clause applies.</p> |

State priority weed category – ERADICATION:

The following weeds are present in limited distribution and abundance and pose a medium to high biosecurity risk to NSW. The measures established under the control orders are necessary to prevent, eliminate, minimise or manage the biosecurity risk or biosecurity impact.

| Common name | Scientific name | Biosecurity Act requirements and strategic response in the region |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Boneseed | <i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera subsp. monilifera</i> | <p>The boneseed control zone is the whole of NSW</p> <p>The parkinsonia control zone is the whole of NSW</p> <p>The tropical soda apple control zone is the whole of NSW</p> <p>Control measure - owners and occupiers of land</p> <p>(1) The owner or occupier of land in the control zone on which there is a new infestation of boneseed, parkinsonia or tropical soda apple must notify the local control authority for that land as soon as practicable of the following information:</p> <p>(a) the person's full name and contact details, including a telephone number</p> <p>(b) the address of the land, including the lot and deposited plan number and the property identification code for the land (if these are known)</p> <p>(c) any other information that is requested by the local control authority.</p> <p>(2) The owner or occupier of the land must ensure that the land is kept free of boneseed, parkinsonia or tropical soda apple by immediately destroying all boneseed, parkinsonia or tropical soda apple on the land. This requirement applies to any new infestation as well as any subsequent generations of boneseed, parkinsonia or tropical soda apple on that land.</p> <p>(3) The owner or occupier does not need to comply with subclause (1) if they know that notification of the new infestation on the land has already been given to the local control authority of that land.</p> <p>Control measure – persons dealing with carriers</p> <p>A person who deals with a carrier of boneseed, parkinsonia or tropical soda apple must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the carrier is not moved from the land with any boneseed, parkinsonia or tropical soda apple on it, attached to it, or contained in it, before the carrier is moved from the land.</p> |
| Parkinsonia | <i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i> | |
| Tropical soda apple | <i>Solanum viarum</i> | |

State priority weed category – ERADICATION:

The following weeds are present in limited distribution and abundance and pose a medium to high biosecurity risk to NSW. The measures established under the control orders are necessary to prevent, eliminate, minimise or manage the biosecurity risk or biosecurity impact.

| Common name | Scientific name | Biosecurity Act requirements and strategic response in the region |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Boneseed | <i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera subsp. monilifera</i> | Control measure – persons moving boneseed, parkinsonia or tropical soda apple and carriers of boneseed, parkinsonia or tropical soda apple (excluding a human) |
| Parkinsonia | <i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i> | (1) A person who moves boneseed, parkinsonia or tropical soda apple or a carrier of boneseed, parkinsonia or tropical soda apple (excluding a human) to another property, must notify the local control authority for that other property as soon as practicable before moving the boneseed, parkinsonia or tropical soda apple of the following information: |
| Tropical soda apple | <i>Solanum viarum</i> | (a) the person's full name and contact details (b) the addresses of the land the boneseed, parkinsonia or tropical soda apple is coming from and going to, including the lot and deposited plan number and the property identification code for the land (if these are known) (2) A person who moves boneseed, parkinsonia or tropical soda apple or a carrier of boneseed, parkinsonia or tropical soda apple (excluding a human) does not need to comply with subclause (1) if they know that notification of the movement has already been given to the local control authority for that other property. Note. Examples of when boneseed, parkinsonia or tropical soda apple or a carrier of boneseed, parkinsonia or tropical soda apple (excluding a human) may need to be moved include, but are not limited to, the movement of vehicles, soil, or livestock as well as movement for disposal. |

State priority weed category – ERADICATION:

The following weeds are present in limited distribution and abundance and pose a medium to high biosecurity risk to NSW. The measures established under the control orders are necessary to prevent, eliminate, minimise or manage the biosecurity risk or biosecurity impact.

| Common name | Scientific name | Biosecurity Act requirements and strategic response in the region |
|----------------|--|---|
| Chinese violet | <i>Asystasia gangetica</i> <i>subspecies. Micrantha</i> | <p>Control order – (Chinese Violet Control Zone)</p> <p>1. Control measures for owners and occupiers of land</p> <p>Pursuant to section 62(1)(b) of the Act, an owner or occupier of land in the Chinese violet Control Zone on which there is Chinese violet must:</p> <p>(a) notify the local control authority for the area if the Chinese violet is part of a new infestation of Chinese violet on the land:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) as soon as practicable after becoming aware of the new infestation ii) verbally or in writing iii) giving the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the person's full name and contact number (2) the location of the Chinese violet, including the property identification code for the land (if this is known) (3) any other information reasonably requested by the local control authority <p>(b) destroy all Chinese violet on the land, including fruit</p> <p>(c) ensure that subsequent generations of Chinese violet are destroyed</p> <p>(d) that the land is kept free of Chinese violet</p> <p>(e) The owner or occupier does not need to comply with (a) above if they know that notification of the infestation on the land has already been given to the local control authority for the area.</p> |

State priority weed category – ERADICATION:

The following weeds are present in limited distribution and abundance and pose a medium to high biosecurity risk to NSW. The measures established under the control orders are necessary to prevent, eliminate, minimise or manage the biosecurity risk or biosecurity impact.

| Common name | Scientific name | Biosecurity Act requirements and strategic response in the region |
|----------------|--|--|
| Chinese violet | <i>Asystasia gangetica</i> <i>subspecies. Micrantha</i> | 2. Control measures for persons dealing with carriers Pursuant to section 62(1)(b) of the Act, a person who deals with a carrier of Chinese violet in the Chinese violet Control Zone, in circumstances where the person knows or ought reasonably to know of the presence of Chinese violet on the land or in or on the carrier, must: a) ensure that Chinese violet (including any seed and propagules) is not moved from the land b) immediately notify the local control authority for the area: i) as soon as practicable after becoming aware of the presence of Chinese violet ii) verbally or in writing iii) giving the following: (1) the person's full name and contact number (2) the location of the Chinese violet, including the property identification code for the land (if this is known) iv) any other information reasonably requested by the local control authority. c) The person who deals with a carrier of Chinese violet does not need to comply with (b) above if they know that notification of the infestation on the land has already been given to the local control authority for the area. |

State priority weed category – ERADICATION AND/OR CONTAINMENT:

The following weeds pose a medium to high biosecurity risk to NSW and vary in distribution and abundance in different parts of the state. The principal object of a biosecurity zone regulation is to provide for the long term management of a biosecurity risk or biosecurity impact.

| Species | Land area where requirements apply | Biosecurity Act requirements and strategic response in the region |
|---|---|--|
| Alligator weed <i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i> | A biosecurity zone, to be known as the Alligator Weed Biosecurity Zone, is established for all land within the state except land in the following regions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Greater Sydney b) Hunter (but only in respect of land in the local government area of City of Lake Macquarie, City of Maitland, City of Newcastle or Port Stephens). | Alligator Weed Biosecurity Zone (Biosecurity Regulation 2017 - Part 5, Division 2) An owner or occupier of land in the Alligator Weed Biosecurity Zone on which there is the weed <i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i> (alligator weed) must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) if the weed is part of a new infestation of the weed on the land, notify the local control authority for the land as soon as practicable in accordance with Part 6 (b) eradicate the weed or if that is not practicable destroy as much of the weed as is practicable and suppress the spread of any remaining weed. Mandatory Measure (Division 8, Clause 33, Biosecurity Regulation 2017) A person must not import into the state or sell. |
| Bitou bush <i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera subsp. rotundata</i> | A biosecurity zone, to be known as the Bitou bush Biosecurity Zone, is established for all land within the state except land within 10 kilometres of the mean high water mark of the Pacific Ocean between Cape Byron in the north and Point Perpendicular in the south. | Bitou Bush Biosecurity Zone (Biosecurity Regulation 2016 - Part 5, Division 3) An owner or occupier of land in the Bitou Bush Biosecurity Zone on which there is the weed <i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera subsp. rotundata</i> (bitou bush) must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) if the weed is part of a new infestation of the weed on the land, notify the local control authority for the land as soon as practicable in accordance with Part 6 (b) eradicate the weed or if that is not practicable destroy as much of the weed as is practicable and suppress the spread of any remaining weed. Mandatory Measure (Division 8, Clause 33, Biosecurity Regulation 2017) A person must not import into the state or sell. Regional strategic response: Implement Bitou Bush State Strategic Plan |

State priority weed category – ERADICATION AND/OR CONTAINMENT:

The following weeds pose a medium to high biosecurity risk to NSW and vary in distribution and abundance in different parts of the state. The principal object of a biosecurity zone regulation is to provide for the long term management of a biosecurity risk or biosecurity impact.

| Species | Land area where requirements apply | Biosecurity Act requirements and strategic response in the region |
|---|---|--|
| Water hyacinth <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i> | <p>A biosecurity zone, to be known as the Water Hyacinth Biosecurity Zone, is established for all land within the State except land in the following regions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Greater Sydney or North Coast (b) North West (but only land in those regions that is in the local government area of Moree plains) (c) Hunter (but only land in that region that is in the local government area of City of Cessnock, City of Lake Macquarie, Mid-Coast, City of Maitland, City of Newcastle or Port Stephens) (d) South East (but only land in that region that is in the local government area of Eurobodalla, Kiama, City of Shellharbour, City of Shoalhaven or City of Wollongong). | <p>Water Hyacinth Biosecurity Zone (Biosecurity Regulation 2017 - Part 5, Division 4)</p> <p>An owner or occupier of land in the Water Hyacinth Biosecurity Zone on which there is the weed <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i> (water hyacinth) must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) if the weed is part of a new infestation of the weed on the land, notify the local control authority for the land as soon as practicable in accordance with Part 6 (b) eradicate the weed, or if that is not practicable destroy as much of the weed as is practicable and suppress the spread of any remaining weed. <p>Mandatory Measure (Division 8, Clause 33, Biosecurity Regulation 2017):</p> <p>A person must not import into the State or sell.</p> <p>Regional strategic response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement quarantine and/or hygiene protocols. • Targeted management of priority assets. • Promote best practice weed management principles to landholders. • Land managers reduce the impact on priority assets. |

State priority weed category – CONTAINMENT AND/OR ASSET PROTECTION:

These weeds are widely distributed in some areas of the state. As Weeds of National Significance, their further spread through trade should be minimised to protect priority assets.

| Common name | Scientific name | Biosecurity Act requirements and strategic response in the region |
|----------------------|---|--|
| African boxthorn | <i>Lycium ferocissimum</i> | Mandatory Measure (Division 8, Clause 33, Biosecurity Regulation 2017): A person must not import into the State or sell. |
| Asparagus weeds | <i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i> , <i>A. africanus</i> , <i>A. asparagoides</i> including the Western Cape form*, <i>A. densiflorus</i> , <i>A. plumosus</i> , and <i>A. scandens</i> | |
| Athel pine | <i>Tamarix aphylla</i> | |
| Bellyache bush | <i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i> | |
| Blackberry | <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> spp. agg. (except the varieties Chester Thornless, Dirksen Thornless, Loch Ness, Silvan, Black Satin, Murrindindi, Smooth Stem, Thornfree and Chehalem) | |
| Brooms | <i>Genista monspessulana</i> , <i>G. linifolia</i> , <i>Cystisus scoparius</i> | |
| Cabomba | <i>Cabomba caroliniana</i> | |
| Cat's claw creeper | <i>Dolichandra unguis-cati</i> | |
| Chilean needle grass | <i>Nassella neesiana</i> | |

State priority weed category – CONTAINMENT AND/OR ASSET PROTECTION:

These weeds are widely distributed in some areas of the state. As Weeds of National Significance, their further spread through trade should be minimised to protect priority assets.

| Common name | Scientific name | Biosecurity Act requirements and strategic response in the region |
|------------------------|---|--|
| Fireweed | <i>Senecio madagascariensis</i> | Mandatory Measure (Division 8, Clause 33, Biosecurity Regulation 2017): A person must not import into the State or sell. |
| Gorse | <i>Ulex europaeus</i> | |
| Hymenachne | <i>Hymenachne amplexicaulis</i> | |
| Lantana | <i>Lantana camara</i> | |
| Madeira vine | <i>Anredera cordifolia</i> | |
| Mesquite | <i>Prosopis spp.</i> | |
| Prickly pears | <i>Opuntia spp. (excluding O. ficus-indica), Cyllindropuntia spp. and Austrocylindropuntia spp.</i> | |
| Sagittaria | <i>Sagittaria platyphylla</i> | |
| Salvinia | <i>Salvinia molesta</i> | |
| Serrated tussock | <i>Nassella trichotoma</i> | |
| Silver-leaf nightshade | <i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i> | |
| Willows | <i>Salix species except S. babylonica, S. X calodendron and S. x reichardtiji (willows except weeping willows, pussy willow and sterile pussy willow)</i> | |

A1.2 Regional priority weeds

Regional priority weed category – PREVENTION (whole of region):

The following weeds are currently not found in the region, pose significant biosecurity risk and prevention of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is a reasonably practical objective.

East Indian hygrophylla - *Hygrophila polysperma*
 Giant rats tail grass - *Sporobolus pyramidalis*
 Hymenachne - *Hymenachne amplexicaulis*
 Mysore thorn - *Caesalpinia decapetala*

Spanish broom - *Spartium junceum*
 Water lettuce - *Pistia stratiotes*
 Water star grass - *Heteranthera zosterifolia*
 White blackberry / Mysore raspberry - *Rubus niveus*

Outcomes to demonstrate compliance with general biosecurity duty

Land managers should mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land.
 Land managers should eradicate the plant from the land and keep the land free of the plant.
 A person should not deal with the plant, where dealings include but are not limited to buying, selling, growing, moving, carrying or releasing the plant.
 Notify local control authority if found.

Strategic response in the Greater Sydney region

Implement quarantine and/or hygiene protocols
 Undertake high risk sites and pathways analysis to identify potential introduction areas and preventative options
 Implement [New Weed Incursion Plan](#) if detected

Regional priority weed category – ERADICATION (whole of region):

The following weeds are present in limited distribution and abundance in some parts of the region. Elimination of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is a reasonably practical objective.

Chinese knotweed - *Persicaria chinensis*

Climbing asparagus - *Asparagus africanus**

Coral creeper - *Barleria repens*

Giant devil's fig - *Solanum chrysotrichum*

Glory lily - *Gloriosa superba*

Grey sallow - *Salix cinerea**

Groundsel bush - *Baccharis halimifolia*

Holly-leaved senecio - *Senecio glastifolius*

Hygrophila - *Hygrophila costata*

Kei apple - *Dovyalis caffra*

Kidney leaf mud plantain - *Heteranthera reniformis*

Kudzu - *Pueraria lobata*

Leaf cactus - *Pereskia aculeata*

Ming fern - *Asparagus macowanii* var. *zuluensis*

Nodding thistle - *Carduus nutans*

Sea spurge - *Euphorbia paralias*

Sicilian sea lavender - *Limonium hyblaeum*

Skunk vine - *Paederia foetida*

*The following legislative requirement also applies: Mandatory Measure (Division 8, Clause 33, Biosecurity Regulation, 2017): A person must not move, import into the State or sell.

Outcomes to demonstrate compliance with general biosecurity duty

Land managers should mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land.

Land managers should eradicate the plant from the land and keep the land free of the plant.

A person should not deal with the plant, where dealings include but are not limited to buying, selling, growing, keeping, moving, carrying or releasing the plant

Notify local control authority if found.

Strategic response in the Greater Sydney region

Manage in accordance with [New Weed Incursion Plan](#).

Mapping and surveillance to locate all infestations.

Implement quarantine and/or hygiene protocols.

Destruction of all infestations where feasible.

Regional priority weed category – CONTAINMENT:

These weeds are widely distributed in the region. While broad scale elimination is not practicable, minimisation of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is reasonably practicable.

African olive - *Olea europaea subsp. Cuspidata*

| Land area where requirements apply | Outcomes to demonstrate compliance with general biosecurity duty | Strategic response in the Greater Sydney region |
|--|---|--|
| An exclusion zone is established for all lands in the Blue Mountains City Council local government area and lands to the west of the Nepean River in the City of Penrith local government area. The rest of the region is classified as the core infestation area. | <p>Whole of region:</p> <p>Land managers should mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land.</p> <p>Within exclusion zone:</p> <p>Land managers should eradicate the plant from the land and keep the land free of the plant.</p> <p>A person should not deal with the plant, where dealings include but are not limited to buying, selling, growing, moving, carrying or releasing the plant.</p> <p>Notify local control authority if found.</p> <p>Within core infestation area:</p> <p>Land managers should mitigate spread of the plant from their land.</p> <p>A person should not buy, sell, move, carry or release the plant into the environment.</p> | <p>Whole of region:</p> <p>Promote best practice principles to landholders, including a range of control techniques for integrated weed management</p> <p>Implement quarantine and/or hygiene protocols.</p> <p>Monitor change in distribution</p> <p>Within exclusion zone:</p> <p>Destroy all infestations and continuously suppress thereafter</p> <p>Within core infestation area:</p> <p>Destroy and continuously suppress infestations where feasible</p> <p>Targeted management of priority assets</p> |

Regional priority weed category – CONTAINMENT:

These weeds are widely distributed in the region. While broad scale elimination is not practicable, minimisation of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is reasonably practicable.

Asparagus fern - *Asparagus virgatus*

| Land area where requirements apply | Outcomes to demonstrate compliance with general biosecurity duty | Strategic response in the Greater Sydney region |
|---|---|--|
| Central Coast Council area is classified as the core infestation area. An exclusion zone is established for the rest of the region. | <p>Whole of region:</p> <p>Land managers should mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land.</p> <p>Within exclusion zone:</p> <p>Land managers should eradicate the plant from the land and keep the land free of the plant.</p> <p>A person should not deal with the plant, where dealings include but are not limited to buying, selling, growing, moving, carrying or releasing the plant.</p> <p>Notify local control authority if found.</p> <p>Within core infestation area:</p> <p>Land managers should mitigate spread of the plant from their land.</p> <p>A person should not buy, sell, move, carry or release the plant into the environment.</p> | <p>Whole of region:</p> <p>Promote best practice principles to landholders, including a range of control techniques for integrated weed management</p> <p>Implement quarantine and/or hygiene protocols.</p> <p>Monitor change in distribution</p> <p>Within exclusion zone:</p> <p>Destroy all infestations and continuously suppress thereafter</p> <p>Within core infestation area:</p> <p>Destroy and continuously suppress infestations where feasible</p> <p>Targeted management of priority assets</p> |

Regional priority weed category – CONTAINMENT:

These weeds are widely distributed in the region. While broad scale elimination is not practicable, minimisation of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is reasonably practicable.

Black willow - *Salix nigra**

| Land area where requirements apply | Outcomes to demonstrate compliance with general biosecurity duty | Strategic response in the Greater Sydney region |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Hornsby Shire Council, Hawkesbury City Council, Sutherland Shire Council, City of Canterbury Bankstown and Central Coast Council areas are classified as the core infestation area.</p> <p>An exclusion zone is established for the rest of the region.</p> <p>*The following legislative requirement also applies: Mandatory Measure (Division 8, Clause 33): A person must not move, import into the State or sell.</p> | <p>Whole of region:</p> <p>Land managers should mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land.</p> <p>Within exclusion zone:</p> <p>Land managers should eradicate the plant from the land and keep the land free of the plant.</p> <p>A person should not deal with the plant, where dealings include but are not limited to buying, selling, growing, moving, carrying or releasing the plant.</p> <p>Notify local control authority if found.</p> <p>Within core infestation area:</p> <p>Land managers should mitigate spread of the plant from their land.</p> <p>A person should not buy, sell, move, carry or release the plant into the environment.</p> | <p>Whole of region:</p> <p>Promote best practice principles to landholders, including a range of control techniques for integrated weed management</p> <p>Implement quarantine and/or hygiene protocols.</p> <p>Monitor change in distribution</p> <p>Within exclusion zone:</p> <p>Destroy all infestations and continuously suppress thereafter</p> <p>Within core infestation area:</p> <p>Destroy and continuously suppress infestations where feasible</p> <p>Targeted management of priority assets</p> |

Regional priority weed category – CONTAINMENT:

These weeds are widely distributed in the region. While broad scale elimination is not practicable, minimisation of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is reasonably practicable.

Gorse - *Ulex europaeus**

| Land area where requirements apply | Outcomes to demonstrate compliance with general biosecurity duty | Strategic response in the Greater Sydney region |
|--|---|--|
| <p>An exclusion zone is established for the Blue Mountains City Council area. The rest of the region is classified as the core infestation area.</p> <p>*The following legislative requirement also applies: Mandatory Measure (Division 8, Clause 33): A person must not move, import into the State or sell.</p> | <p>Whole of region:</p> <p>Land managers should mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land.</p> <p>Within exclusion zone:</p> <p>Land managers should eradicate the plant from the land and keep the land free of the plant.</p> <p>A person should not deal with the plant, where dealings include but are not limited to buying, selling, growing, moving, carrying or releasing the plant.</p> <p>Notify local control authority if found.</p> <p>Within core infestation area:</p> <p>Land managers should mitigate spread of the plant from their land.</p> <p>A person should not buy, sell, move, carry or release the plant into the environment.</p> | <p>Whole of region:</p> <p>Promote best practice principles to landholders, including a range of control techniques for integrated weed management</p> <p>Implement quarantine and/or hygiene protocols.</p> <p>Monitor change in distribution</p> <p>Within exclusion zone:</p> <p>Destroy all infestations and continuously suppress thereafter</p> <p>Within core infestation area:</p> <p>Destroy and continuously suppress infestations where feasible</p> <p>Targeted management of priority assets</p> |

Regional priority weed category – CONTAINMENT:

These weeds are widely distributed in the region. While broad scale elimination is not practicable, minimisation of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is reasonably practicable.

Horsetails - *Equisetum spp.*

| Land area where requirements apply | Outcomes to demonstrate compliance with general biosecurity duty | Strategic response in the Greater Sydney region |
|--|---|--|
| The Northern Beaches Council area is classified as the core infestation area. An exclusion zone is established for the rest of the region. | <p>Whole of region:</p> <p>Land managers should mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land.</p> <p>Within exclusion zone:</p> <p>Land managers should eradicate the plant from the land and keep the land free of the plant.</p> <p>A person should not deal with the plant, where dealings include but are not limited to buying, selling, growing, moving, carrying or releasing the plant.</p> <p>Notify local control authority if found.</p> <p>Within core infestation area:</p> <p>Land managers should mitigate spread of the plant from their land.</p> <p>A person should not buy, sell, move, carry or release the plant into the environment.</p> | <p>Whole of region:</p> <p>Promote best practice principles to landholders, including a range of control techniques for integrated weed management</p> <p>Implement quarantine and/or hygiene protocols.</p> <p>Monitor change in distribution</p> <p>Within exclusion zone:</p> <p>Destroy all infestations and continuously suppress thereafter</p> <p>Within core infestation area:</p> <p>Destroy and continuously suppress infestations where feasible</p> <p>Targeted management of priority assets</p> |

Regional priority weed category – CONTAINMENT:

These weeds are widely distributed in the region. While broad scale elimination is not practicable, minimisation of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is reasonably practicable.

Senegal tea - *Gymnocoronis spilanthoides*

| Land area where requirements apply | Outcomes to demonstrate compliance with general biosecurity duty | Strategic response in the Greater Sydney region |
|---|---|--|
| Central Coast Council area, Royal National Park and the Hawkesbury Nepean River and its tributaries are classified as the core infestation area. An exclusion zone is established for the rest of the region. | <p>Whole of region:</p> <p>Land managers should mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land.</p> <p>Within exclusion zone:</p> <p>Land managers should eradicate the plant from the land and keep the land free of the plant.</p> <p>A person should not deal with the plant, where dealings include but are not limited to buying, selling, growing, moving, carrying or releasing the plant.</p> <p>Notify local control authority if found.</p> <p>Within core infestation area:</p> <p>Land managers should mitigate spread of the plant from their land.</p> <p>A person should not buy, sell, move, carry or release the plant into the environment.</p> | <p>Whole of region:</p> <p>Promote best practice principles to landholders, including a range of control techniques for integrated weed management</p> <p>Implement quarantine and/or hygiene protocols.</p> <p>Monitor change in distribution</p> <p>Within exclusion zone:</p> <p>Destroy all infestations and continuously suppress thereafter</p> <p>Within core infestation area:</p> <p>Destroy and continuously suppress infestations where feasible</p> <p>Targeted management of priority assets</p> |

Regional priority weed category – CONTAINMENT:

These weeds are widely distributed in the region. While broad scale elimination is not practicable, minimisation of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is reasonably practicable.

Serrated tussock - *Nassella trichotoma**

| Land area where requirements apply | Outcomes to demonstrate compliance with general biosecurity duty | Strategic response in the Greater Sydney region |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Wollondilly Shire Council and Camden Council areas are classified as the core infestation area. An exclusion zone is established for the rest of the region.</p> <p>*The following legislative requirement also applies: Mandatory Measure (Division 8, Clause 33): A person must not move, import into the State or sell.</p> | <p>Whole of region:</p> <p>Land managers should mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land.</p> <p>Within exclusion zone:</p> <p>Land managers should eradicate the plant from the land and keep the land free of the plant.</p> <p>A person should not deal with the plant, where dealings include but are not limited to buying, selling, growing, moving, carrying or releasing the plant.</p> <p>Notify local control authority if found.</p> <p>Within core infestation area:</p> <p>Land managers should mitigate spread of the plant from their land.</p> <p>A person should not buy, sell, move, carry or release the plant into the environment.</p> | <p>Whole of region:</p> <p>Promote best practice principles to landholders, including a range of control techniques for integrated weed management</p> <p>Implement quarantine and/or hygiene protocols.</p> <p>Monitor change in distribution</p> <p>Within exclusion zone:</p> <p>Destroy all infestations and continuously suppress thereafter</p> <p>Within core infestation area:</p> <p>Destroy and continuously suppress infestations where feasible</p> <p>Targeted management of priority assets</p> |

Regional priority weed category – CONTAINMENT:

These weeds are widely distributed in the region. While broad scale elimination is not practicable, minimisation of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is reasonably practicable.

Sicklethorn - *Asparagus falcatus*

| Land area where requirements apply | Outcomes to demonstrate compliance with general biosecurity duty | Strategic response in the Greater Sydney region |
|--|---|--|
| Central Coast Council is classified as the core infestation area. An exclusion zone is established for the rest of the region. | <p>Whole of region:</p> <p>Land managers should mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land.</p> <p>Within exclusion zone:</p> <p>Land managers should eradicate the plant from the land and keep the land free of the plant.</p> <p>A person should not deal with the plant, where dealings include but are not limited to buying, selling, growing, moving, carrying or releasing the plant.</p> <p>Notify local control authority if found.</p> <p>Within core infestation area:</p> <p>Land managers should mitigate spread of the plant from their land.</p> <p>A person should not buy, sell, move, carry or release the plant into the environment.</p> | <p>Whole of region:</p> <p>Promote best practice principles to landholders, including a range of control techniques for integrated weed management</p> <p>Implement quarantine and/or hygiene protocols.</p> <p>Monitor change in distribution</p> <p>Within exclusion zone:</p> <p>Destroy all infestations and continuously suppress thereafter</p> <p>Within core infestation area:</p> <p>Destroy and continuously suppress infestations where feasible</p> <p>Targeted management of priority assets</p> |

Regional priority weed category – CONTAINMENT:

These weeds are widely distributed in the region. While broad scale elimination is not practicable, minimisation of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is reasonably practicable.

Tiger pear - *Opuntia aurantiaca**

| Land area where requirements apply | Outcomes to demonstrate compliance with general biosecurity duty | Strategic response in the Greater Sydney region |
|--|---|--|
| <p>City of Blacktown and Wollondilly Shire Council are classified as the core infestation area. An exclusion zone is established for the rest of the region.</p> <p>*The following legislative requirement also applies: Mandatory Measure (Division 8, Clause 33): A person must not move, import into the State or sell.</p> | <p>Whole of region:</p> <p>Land managers should mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land.</p> <p>Within exclusion zone:</p> <p>Land managers should eradicate the plant from the land and keep the land free of the plant.</p> <p>A person should not deal with the plant, where dealings include but are not limited to buying, selling, growing, moving, carrying or releasing the plant.</p> <p>Notify local control authority if found.</p> <p>Within core infestation area:</p> <p>Land managers should mitigate spread of the plant from their land.</p> <p>A person should not buy, sell, move, carry or release the plant into the environment.</p> | <p>Whole of region:</p> <p>Promote best practice principles to landholders, including a range of control techniques for integrated weed management</p> <p>Implement quarantine and/or hygiene protocols.</p> <p>Monitor change in distribution</p> <p>Within exclusion zone:</p> <p>Destroy all infestations and continuously suppress thereafter</p> <p>Within core infestation area:</p> <p>Destroy and continuously suppress infestations where feasible</p> <p>Targeted management of priority assets</p> |

Regional priority weed category – CONTAINMENT:

These weeds are widely distributed in the region. While broad scale elimination is not practicable, minimisation of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is reasonably practicable.

Water poppy - *Hydrocleys nymphoides*

| Land area where requirements apply | Outcomes to demonstrate compliance with general biosecurity duty | Strategic response in the Greater Sydney region |
|--|---|--|
| Hacking River Catchment is classified as the core infestation area. An exclusion zone is established for the rest of the region. | <p>Whole of region:</p> <p>Land managers should mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land.</p> <p>Within exclusion zone:</p> <p>Land managers should eradicate the plant from the land and keep the land free of the plant.</p> <p>A person should not deal with the plant, where dealings include but are not limited to buying, selling, growing, moving, carrying or releasing the plant.</p> <p>Notify local control authority if found.</p> <p>Within core infestation area:</p> <p>Land managers should mitigate spread of the plant from their land.</p> <p>A person should not buy, sell, move, carry or release the plant into the environment.</p> | <p>Whole of region:</p> <p>Promote best practice principles to landholders, including a range of control techniques for integrated weed management</p> <p>Implement quarantine and/or hygiene protocols.</p> <p>Monitor change in distribution</p> <p>Within exclusion zone:</p> <p>Destroy all infestations and continuously suppress thereafter</p> <p>Within core infestation area:</p> <p>Destroy and continuously suppress infestations where feasible</p> <p>Targeted management of priority assets</p> |

Regional priority weed category – ASSET PROTECTION:

These weeds are widely distributed across the region. Their spread should be minimised to protect priority assets

Alligator weed - *Alternanthera philoxeroides*

Cat's claw creeper - *Dolichandra unguis-cati**

Cabomba - *Cabomba caroliniana**,**

Giant reed - *Arundo donax*

Green cestrum - *Cestrum parqui*

Ludwigia - *Ludwigia peruviana***

Pampas grass - *Cortaderia species*

Scotch/English Broom - *Cytisus scoparius**

Salvinia - *Salvinia molesta*

Singapore daisy - *Sphagneticola trilobata*

Water hyacinth - *Eichhornia crassipes**

*The following legislative requirement also applies: Mandatory Measure (Division 8, Clause 33): A person must not move, import into the State or sell.

**Notify local control authority if found.

Outcomes to demonstrate compliance with general biosecurity duty

Land managers should mitigate the risk of the plant being introduced to their land.
Land managers should mitigate spread of the plant from their land.
A person should not buy, sell, move, carry or release the plant into the environment.

Strategic response in the Greater Sydney region

Implement quarantine and/or hygiene protocols.
Targeted management of priority assets
Promote best practice weed management principles to landholders.
Land managers reduce the impact on priority assets

Appendix 2: General biosecurity duty

Section 22 of the Act (Biosecurity duty – dealing with biosecurity matter and carriers) states:

“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.”

In many cases, the general biosecurity duty will focus on desired outcomes rather than prescribe exactly what a person must do. For example, with respect to weeds, the general biosecurity duty would require a land manager to reduce the impact of weeds found on their property from spreading onto neighbouring properties.

In many cases, a land manager will discharge their general biosecurity duty by simply stopping the spread of weeds from their land, by creating a weed-free buffer zone.

In other cases, where a measurable degradation of land occurs as a result of poorly managed weeds, a regulation called a mandatory measure may be in place that will require the land manager to suppress and destroy a particular weed species.

This approach recognises that in most circumstances, the person with the general biosecurity duty is best placed to decide what is reasonably practicable in the circumstances to prevent, eliminate or minimise the particular biosecurity risk, and should have the flexibility to make this decision.

This approach of flexibility in decision-making provides opportunities for innovative and novel ways to emerge to manage a biosecurity risk and, as a result, achieve a discharge of the biosecurity duty.

(Source: EM Train, 'Introduction to legislation and the Biosecurity Act 2015' module)

Giant devil's fig, image: Paul Marynissen.



