

BIOSECURITY ACT 2015

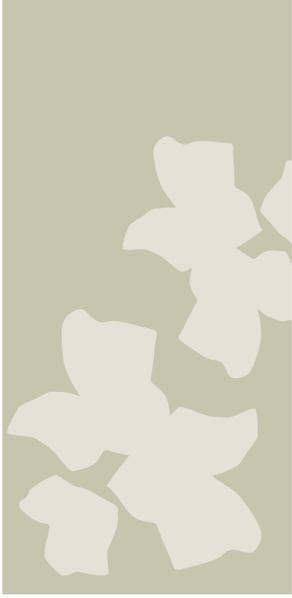
Priority Weeds INFORMATION



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overview

PRIORITY WEEDS in the City of Blue Mountains, are plants that have the potential to pose a biosecurity risk to human health, the economy, the livability of our city and the environment. In NSW, the administration of priority weed control is a State Government responsibility under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. The Act is implemented and enforced by the Local Control Authority (LCA) — Blue Mountains City Council.

These obligations are adhered to through the control of Priority Weeds on public land and the inspection of private land to ensure that owners or occupiers of land carry out Priority Weed control on their land to manage the biosecurity risk.

These programs seek to utilise our limited resources to maximise containment of Priority Weeds in a strategic approach.

Weeds are most commonly spread by water, wind and birds, therefore a great deal of Council's inspection and control work is focussed in the following areas:

- along drainage lines;
- natural creeks; and
- adjacent to bushland reserves.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU RECEIVE A NOTICE

If you have received notification from Council regarding an inspection of your property (under Section 98), feel free to contact Council to arrange a time to suit you, otherwise the inspection will take place between the range of dates given. (See Priority Weed Inspection Process on page 5)

If you're unsure about:

- any details in the notice;
- the location of the weeds on your property; or
- require assistance in preparing a Weed Management Plan

Council will be happy to provide any further information.

Simply call our office on 4780 5343.

HOW TO REMOVE THE WEEDS

The process of weed removal needs careful consideration. If you are intending to control the weeds yourself there are a number of aspects to consider. The use of any herbicides or chemicals must strictly follow the label instructions, and you must not infringe any other environmental legislation. This includes restrictions on spraying in sensitive vegetation areas such as drainage lines and any plant community listed under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. The correct techniques as listed in this information should be followed.

USING A PROFESSIONAL CONTRACTOR

For many people the simplest way of dealing with your Priority Weeds is to employ a professional weed control contractor. Council maintains a list of recommended contractors who have a proven track record of achieving compliance with notices whilst not infringing any other relevant legislation. A list of these companies and their contact details is provided at the end this document.

RIGHT: Some of the Priority Weeds threatening our native bushland in the Blue Mountains.



SCOTCH BROOM



CROFTON WEED



PAMPAS GRASS



BAMBOO



ST JOHN'S WORT



GREY SALLOW



BROAD LEAF PRIVET



SERRATED TUSOCK



TUTSAN



NARROW LEAF PRIVET



AFRICAN OLIVE



CAPE BROOM



GORSE



GREEN CESTRUM



BONESEED



BLACKBERRY



sensitive vegetation

STOP. . . and find out more about your responsibilities towards protecting sensitive vegetation communities on your property. Certain Blue Mountains ecological communities are listed as either *Vulnerable* or *Endangered* under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 1995* (NSW) and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth). These communities contain populations of threatened Blue Mountains flora and fauna.

THESE COMMUNITIES INCLUDE:

COMMUNITY	LISTING NSW	LISTING NATIONALLY	LOCATIONS
BLUE MOUNTAINS SWAMPS	Vulnerable	Endangered	Bell to Woodford
SHALE/SANDSTONE TRANSITION FOREST	Endangered	Endangered	Springwood to Blaxland
BLUE MOUNTAINS SHALE CAP FOREST	Endangered	Critically Endangered	Springwood, Berambing
MONTANE PEATLANDS AND SWAMPS of the Sydney Basin	Endangered	Endangered	Megalong Valley
SYDNEY TURPENTINE IRONBARK FOREST	Endangered	Critically Endangered	Springwood to Lapstone
RIVER-FLAT EUCALYPT FOREST on Coastal Floodplains	Endangered	Not Listed	Valley Heights
SUN VALLEY CABBAGE GUM FOREST	Critically Endangered	Not Listed	Sun Valley
BLUE MOUNTAINS BASALT FOREST of the Sydney Bioregion	Endangered	Endangered	Mt Wilson, Mt Tomah, Berambing

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

It is an offence to harm sensitive vegetation, species, population or their habitat under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (NSW). Therefore, you can only use certain types of control methods when treating weeds in these situations to ensure no damage occurs to the natural environment.

RECOMMENDED METHODS OF CONTROL ARE:

- Scrape and paint
- Cut and paint
- Stem injection

These methods of control are undertaken by directly applying herbicides to weeds to ensure minimal impact to sensitive vegetation communities. They are the only methods of control permitted to be used in these areas. It is an offence under the *Pesticides Act 1999* (NSW) to spray herbicides in Blue Mountains Swamps due to the sensitive nature of the vegetation.

It is recommended that only accredited bush regenerators/ weed control contractors be employed to remove weeds from Blue Mountains Sensitive Vegetation Communities.

If landholders wish to control priority weeds in sensitive vegetation on their land, it is necessary that you use the recommended methods of control listed above. Furthermore, it is suggested that residents consider developing a Weed Management Plan to deal with all weeds in these areas.

For further advice on avoiding damage to Blue Mountains Sensitive Vegetation Communities, please contact Council's Biosecurity Weed Officers or Conservation Weeds Officer who can assist in writing Weed Management Plans and provide additional advice. To arrange a site visit, contact Council's Biosecurity Weed Officers on 4780 5343 or the Community Weeds Officer on 4780 5612.



priority weeds inspections

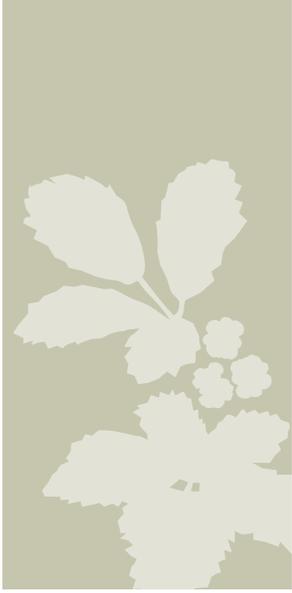
Under Part 3 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* — General Biosecurity

Duty, any person who knows, or ought reasonably to know, the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by biosecurity matter on their land, has a biosecurity duty to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised.

THE PROCESS

Areas are inspected by means of a targeted approach including all land regardless of ownership or tenure.

- All entry to private lands is carried out under Section 98 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.
- Private land owners and occupiers in selected areas will be issued with a Notice of Entry Letter, advising that an inspection of their property will take place in order to identify any Priority Weeds. A range of dates will be provided.
- Upon inspection if any Priority Weeds are identified on your property, a random sample of each weed species will be tagged with pink tape to help you identify them and others that may occur on the property.
- If weeds are identified, you will be issued with a 'Presence of Priority Weeds' letter and asked to undertake weed control voluntarily within a given timeframe which will be identified in the letter. Re-inspection dates will also be provided. The letter will include a list of weeds found and you will be provided with information to assist you in their control.
- If you need assistance in regard to any aspect of the 'Presence of Priority Weeds' letter, please contact Council on 4780 5343.
- If no Priority Weeds are found, you will receive a 'No Weeds Letter'. It is recommended that you regularly check your property for invasive weeds.
- The property will be re-inspected (as mentioned above) and if compliance is met you will receive a 'Letter of Appreciation' from Council.
- Failure to comply with your General Biosecurity Duty obligations under Part 3 of the Act will result in the issuing of a 'Biosecurity Direction' under Section 128. You will be required by law to manage the biosecurity risk by controlling Priority Weeds within a given timeframe and re-inspection dates will be provided.
- Upon re-inspection, if the property is still found to be non-compliant, a 'Show Cause' letter will be issued. At this point you will be charged a non-refundable fee, being for re-inspection of the property to ascertain whether the General Biosecurity Duty has been complied with. You will also have 14 days from the date of the letter to respond as to why weed control has not been undertaken.
- If weed control has not been completed upon re-inspection, Council is obligated to issue a Notice under Section 133 'Taking of required actions and recovery of costs'. This notice incurs a non-refundable administration fee.
- Council will then organise for the required work to be carried out in a timely manner with all associated costs being invoiced to the owner of the property (in addition to the administration fee).
- Any correspondence should be directed to the Bushland Operations Team Leader, BMCC Locked Bag 1005, Katoomba 2780.



council advisory service

If you have been asked to control Priority Weeds on your land and you wish to address the problem yourself but require advice, please contact Council's Bushland Operations Team Leader on 4780 5343.

WE CAN ASSIST LAND OWNERS WITH:

- Advice and training on safe and effective weed control methods
- Advice on herbicide selection
- Advice on controlling weeds in sensitive vegetation communities
- Tailored Weed Management Plans for individual sites
- Identification of weeds
- Legislative requirements
- Maps
- Contractors

Council's Community Weeds Officer can also assist with some of the above as well as loans of tools and the supply of herbicide to Landcare groups eradicating weeds on private land. The Community Weeds Officer can be contacted on 4780 5612.

For further information on the identification of Priority Weeds within the Blue Mountains go to:
<http://www.weedsbluemountains.org.au/identity-weeds>

BELOW: Clearing weeds from around urban wetlands helps protect the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.





weed control methods

Under Part 3 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* — General Biosecurity Duty, any person who knows, or ought reasonably to know, the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by biosecurity matter on their land, has a biosecurity duty to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised.

CONTROL OF WOODY WEEDS

Examples of woody weeds include: Lantana, Scotch Broom, Cotoneaster and Himalayan Honeysuckle

Cut and paint — for small to medium sized woody weeds. Make a horizontal cut as close to the ground as possible with secateurs or loppers and immediately apply concentrated Glyphosate to the exposed stump surface. Do not allow the surface to get covered with soil.

Cut crown — for the treatment of Blackberry. Scrape back the earth around the base of each plant until the rhizome (where the canes emerge from) is exposed. Using a pair of secateurs or loppers, cut through the rhizome at the widest point and apply concentrated Glyphosate immediately.

Stem injection — at the base of the tree, drill holes at a 45 degree angle into the sapwood at 5cm intervals. Inject chemical into the holes immediately. (This is a cheaper alternative to treat large woody weeds where assets are not at risk)

Frilling or chipping — make a cut into the sapwood with a chisel or axe. Fill each hole/cut with herbicide immediately. Repeat the process at 3cm intervals around the tree.

Considerations — plants should be healthy and actively growing. Deciduous plants should be treated in spring and autumn when leaves are fully formed. For multi-stemmed plants, inject or chip below the lowest branch or treat each stem individually. Herbicide must be injected immediately as plant cells close within 30 seconds and the translocation of herbicide ceases.

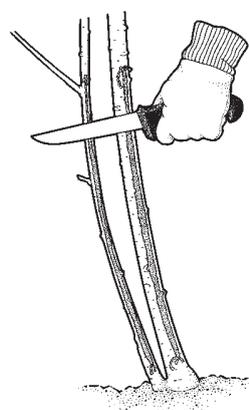
Safety precautions — read the label before opening the container and follow the instructions. Wear protective clothing as directed on the label and wash hands after use and before eating.



PAINTING A STUMP



STEM INJECTION



SCRAPE AND PAINT

CONTROL OF SMALL HAND-PULLABLE PLANTS

Examples of these include: Crofton Weed and woody weed seedlings.

Hand removal — Gently remove any seeds or fruits and carefully place into a bag. Grasp stem at ground level. Rock Plant backwards and forwards to loosen roots and pull out gently. Carefully tap the roots to dislodge any soil. Replace disturbed soil and pat down.

Considerations — Leave weeds so that roots do not make contact with soil eg. On a rock – a small amount of debris can be hung in a tree or removed from the site. Vary your body position to avoid fatigue when using hand removal continuously.

CONTROL OF VINES AND SCRAMBLERS

Examples of vines include: Blackberry, Balloon Vine, Morning glory, Honeysuckle, Cape Ivy, Jasmine, Madeira Vine.

Hand removal — Take hold of one runner and gently pull it along the ground towards you. Check points of resistance where fibrous roots grow from the nodes. Cut roots with a knife or dig out with a trowel and continue to follow the runner. The major root systems need to be removed manually or scrape/cut and painted with herbicide. Bag any reproductive parts.

Scrape and paint — With a knife, scrape up to one metre of the stem to reach the layer below the bark/outer layer. Immediately apply herbicide along the length of the scrape.

Considerations — A maximum of half the stem diameter should be scraped. Do not ring bark. Larger Stems (>1cm) should have two scrapes opposite each other. Aerial tubers on Madeira Vine should die with the plant when stem scraping is used. Those that fall from the plant in the scraping process need to be bagged. Vines can be left hanging in trees after treatment.

CONTROL OF WEEDS WITH UNDERGROUND REPRODUCTIVE STRUCTURES

Examples are weeds with:

TAP ROOTS —	Catsear, Dandelion
RHIZOMES —	Bamboo, Asparagus Fern, Ginger Plant
BULBS AND CORMS —	Oxalis, Onion Weed, Watsonia, Freesias, Montbretia
TUBERS —	Madeira Vine, Arrow Head Vine

Hand Removal of plants with a tap root — Gently remove and bag seeds or fruit. Push a narrow trowel or knife into the ground next to the taproot. Carefully loosen soil. Repeat this step around the taproot. Grasp stem at ground level, rock plant backwards and forwards and pull gently. Gently tap the roots to dislodge soil. Replace disturbed soil and lightly pat down.

Crowning — Gently remove and bag stems with seed or fruit. Grasp the leaves or stems together so that the base of the plant is visible. Insert, at an angle, a knife or lever, close to the 'crown'. Cut through all the roots around the crown. Remove and bag the crown.

Removal of plants with bulbs, corms or tubers — Move leaf litter away from base of plant. Dig down next to the stem until the bulb or tuber is reached. Remove plant and carefully bag the bulb or tuber.

Herbicide treatment 'stem wiping' — Gently remove any seed or fruit and carefully place into a bag. Using a herbicide applicator, wipe the stems/leaves.

Considerations — Further digging may be required for plants with more than one tuber. Some bulbs may have small bulbils attached or present in the soil around it. These need to be removed. It may be quicker and more effective to dig out the weed. Make sure native plants and seedlings will not be affected. Learn and understand how the herbicide works – for bulb and corm species the most effective time is after flowering and before fruit is set. Have you addressed all safety issues?

Disposal of weed material — Many Priority Weeds can be chipped, such as through Council's Kerbside Chipping Program. However, some weed material should not be chipped, these include:

WILLOWS — chipped material may reshoot
BROOM — flowering or seeding Broom may spread into bushland
ANY PLANT WITH BERRIES including African Olive, Privet, Holly and Cotoneaster

Please dispose of non-chippable Priority Weeds in your green waste bin or at a waste management facility.

herbicide guidelines

ACTIVE CONSTITUENT	PRODUCT NAME
TRICLOPYR	Garlon 600 Hortico: Blackberry/Tree Killer Chemspray: Tree/Blackberry & Woody Weed Killer Hortico Chemspray
METSULFURON METHYL	Brushkiller Brush off
GLYPHOSATE	Roundup Biactive Glyphosate 360 g/L Weedmaster 360

PRIORITY WEED	ACTIVE CONSTITUENT	CONTROL METHOD
BLACKBERRY	Triclopyr Metsulfuron methyl Glyphosate	Spraying Spraying Scrape & Paint / Cut Crown
BONESEED	Metsulfuron methyl Glyphosate	Spraying Cut & Paint
CAPE BROOM	Triclopyr Glyphosate	Spraying Cut & Paint
CROFTON WEED	Glyphosate	Spraying
GIANT REED	Glyphosate	Cut & Paint
GORSE	Triclopyr Glyphosate	Spraying Cut & Paint
GREEN CESTRUM	Glyphosate	Cut & Paint/Scrape & Paint
GREY SALLOW	Glyphosate	Cut & Paint / Stem injection
PAMPAS GRASS	Glyphosate	Cut & Paint / Spraying
PRIVET	Glyphosate	Cut & Paint / Stem injection
RHIZOMATOUS BAMBOO	Glyphosate	Spraying/ Cut & Paint
SCOTCH/ENGLISH BROOM	Triclopyr Glyphosate	Spraying Cut & Paint
ST JOHNS WORT	Glyphosate	Spraying

NB: The table above is designed as a guide only; it is based on information obtained through the NSW Department of Primary Industries (weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au). Council accepts no responsibility for the use or application of any chemicals. Always check the labels and Safety Data Sheets for all chemicals and use only as directed. The chemical brands above are usually available from hardware, nursery and produce retail outlets. Other chemical brands are usually available from rural or agricultural chemical suppliers.

contractors

SPECIALIST WEED CONTROL CONTRACTORS FOR BUSHLAND/CREEKLINE AREAS

COMPANY	CONTACT NAME	POSTAL ADDRESS	PHONE/EMAIL
Apunga Ecological Management	Dave Le Breton	5 Cheero Point Rd Cheero Point 2083	M: 0401466807 or 0423221549 dave@apunga.com.au
Ridgetop Restorations	Paul Buckingham	392 Macquarie Rd Springwood 2777	M: 0411 519 452
The Bush Doctor (NSW)	Shane Grundy	PO Box 694 Springwood 2777	T: 4751 3180 M: 0414 287 437 david@bushdoctor.com.au
The Good Bush People	Hugh Paterson	PO Box 319 Springwood 2777	T: 4751 2303 M: 0427 512 303 hugh@gbpbr.com.au
The National Trust of Australia (NSW) Bushland Management Services	Kate Schott	GPO Box 518 Sydney 2001	T: 9258 0132 M: 0416 325 892 F: 9252 1264 kateschott@nationaltrust.com.au
Toolijooa Pty Ltd	Dominic Noonan	Unit 1/ 26-30 Tepko Rd Terrey Hills 2084	M: 0410 611 859 F: 9986 1858 dominic.noonan@toolijooa.com.au

TREE REMOVAL/LOPPING CONTRACTORS

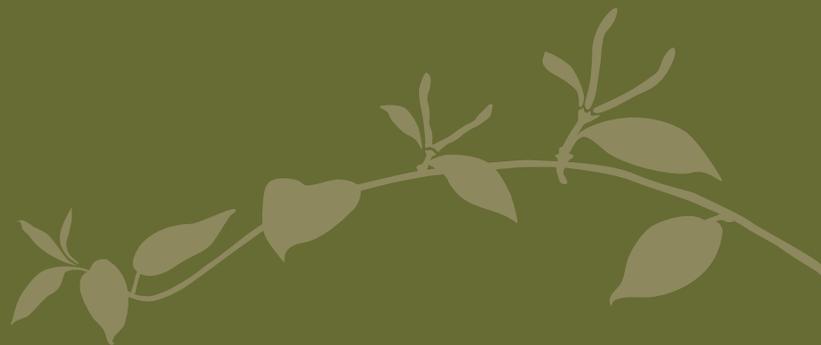
COMPANY	CONTACT NAME	POSTAL ADDRESS	PHONE/EMAIL
Angophora Tree Service	Paul Huxley	1 Rupert St Katoomba 2780	T: 4782 6995 M 0405 423 550
Dare Disabilities	Tony Burke	13-25 Scrivener Lane Springwood 2777	T: 4751 5266 F: 4751 6021 tburke@daredisability.org.au
RVA Contracting	Rob Johnson	PO Box 90 Blackheath 2785	M: 0421 598 457

NB: Council recommends the use of contractors listed above, but does not accept responsibility for any work carried out.

GENERAL WEED CONTROL/SLASHING CONTRACTORS

COMPANY	CONTACT NAME	POSTAL ADDRESS	PHONE/EMAIL
Apunga Ecological Management	Dave Le Breton	5 Cheero Point Rd Cheero Point 2083	M: 0401466807 or 0423221549 dave@apunga.com.au
Angophora Tree Service	Paul Huxley	1 Rupert St Katoomba 2780	T: 4782 6995 M: 0405 423 550
Dare Disability Support	Tony Burke	13-15 Scrivener Lane Springwood 2777	T: 4751 5266 M: 0414 265 826 tony@daredisability.org.au
Ridgetop Restorations	Paul Buckingham	392 Macquarie Rd Springwood 2777	M: 0411 519 452
RVA Contracting	Rob Johnson	PO Box 90 Blackheath 2785	M: 0421 598 457
The Bush Doctor (NSW)	Shane Grundy	PO Box 694 Springwood 2777	T: 47 513 180 M: 0414 287 437 david@bushdoctor.com.au
The Good Bush People	Hugh Paterson	PO Box 319 Springwood 2777	T: 4751 2303 M: 0427 512 303
The National Trust of Australia (NSW) Bushland Management Services	Kate Schott	GPO Box 518 Sydney 2001	T: 9258 0132 M: 0416 325 892 F: 9252 1264 kateschott@nationaltrust.com.au
Toolijooa Pty Ltd	Dominic Noonan	Unit 1/ 26-30 Tepko Rd Terrey Hills 2084	M: 0410 611 859 F: 9986 1858 dominic.noonan@toolijooa.com.au

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KATOOMBA
2-6 Civic Place
Katoomba NSW 2780
Monday to Friday, 8:30am–5:00pm
T: (02) 4780 5000

SPRINGWOOD
104 Macquarie Rd
Springwood NSW 2777
Monday to Friday, 9.00am–5.00pm
T: (02) 4723 5000

POSTAL ADDRESS
Locked Bag 1005
Katoomba NSW 2780
Email: council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au
www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au