

## Biosecurity weeds inspection process

### Introduction

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council is the local control authority for weed control functions for land within the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council local government area

### Intention to Enter letter

Council issues an 'Intention to Enter Premises' letter to inform the owner or occupier that an authorised officer from Council will be undertaking an inspection of the property for investigating, monitoring and enforcing compliance with the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. Owners or occupiers are able to make an appointment to meet the officer during the month specified in the notice.

### What if I don't want anyone from Council coming onto my land?

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, an authorised officer may enter any premises (except residential premises) during reasonable hours.

### What happens if I don't make an appointment?

If no appointment is made then the officer will still undertake an inspection of the property during the month specified in the notice.

### What happens during an inspection of my premises?

Before the officer undertakes the inspection the officer will approach the main residence and knock on the door, if safe to do so (i.e. no dogs or other hazards). They will then introduce themselves to anyone at home.

### During the inspection the officer will

- Inspect the premises for weeds, by either driving or walking over the property whichever is most suitable;
- Map any significant weeds found;
- Take photos of the weeds and their setting;
- Take a sample of a plant for identification purposes, if required;
- Provide key information on how to identify the priority weeds found;
- Provide advice on methods of control of priority weeds found.

### What weeds are inspected for?

All plants that have General Biosecurity Duty under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. In particular, priority weeds listed in the [South East Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022](#), such as Fireweed and Alligator weed that are not established in this area.

### What happens after the inspection?

- The officer will issue a report on the priority weeds, or other plants that pose a high risk that were found during the inspection;
- A Biosecurity Direction may be issued requiring the plant/s to be controlled by a time set by Council, if it is found that the *General Biosecurity Duty* is not being met;
- Factsheets to assist weed management may be provided, otherwise check the NSW [WeedWise](#) website;
- The property will be scheduled for a re-inspection in the coming months or years depending on what weeds were found at the time and how widespread those weeds are within the local area.

### Things to consider prior to the inspection

- If you have unrestrained dogs or other hazards that the officer should be aware of please contact the officer to arrange an inspection time;
- Provide any records of weed control that has been undertaken on the property in the past;
- Ensure property gates are unlocked or keys are provided to the officer prior to the inspection period.

For further information please contact Council's Biosecurity Weeds program on 1300 735 025, specifically asking for the officer named on an Intention to Enter letter.

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