

Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority

Obligations and Penalties

Noxious Weeds and You

Weeds have the capacity to substantially reduce agricultural production, and they represent a major form of environmental degradation. For these reasons, the control of noxious weeds assumes a very high priority for the IDNWA.

All land OWNERS and OCCUPIERS have physical, moral and legal obligations to control noxious weeds on their land.

Physical Requirement: Weeds compete for light, nutrients and moisture and therefore they contribute to reductions in plant and animal performance. Heavy infestations of noxious weeds can lead to a dramatic decline in levels of agricultural productivity.

Noxious weeds also have the propensity to invade native grasslands and bushland and, as such, pose a major threat to the environment of this district.

Moral Requirement: All occupiers have a moral obligation as owners and caretakers of land to not only prevent the establishment of noxious weeds, but moreover to stop the spread of weeds from their land onto adjoining lands. This responsibility is obligatory to land ownership.

Legal Requirement: Under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993, land owners and occupiers have a legal requirement to control noxious weeds.

All owners and occupiers of private or public land must be aware of their obligations and responsibilities to control noxious weeds on the land they occupy.

Reasonable and practical control must be undertaken in an effective manner appropriate for each weed and its declaration class.

Penalties for occupiers who fail to control noxious weeds have been increased substantially to a maximum of \$11,000. When the Authority finds it necessary to enter and control weeds on private land the costs incurred will become a charge on the land similar to an unpaid rate. The Authority may also charge the owner and/or occupier for the cost of re-inspection for the purpose of ascertaining if a notice has been complied with.