

1.0 COVER PAGE



REGIONAL WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

1.1 PLAN TITLE: **Scotch/English Broom**

1.2 PLAN PROPONENTS

Regional weed advisory committee: Macquarie Valley Weeds Advisory Committee

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Signature: Chairman: Date:

1.3 NAME OF PLANT(S)

WONS n

Botanical name: *Cytisus scoparius* Common name: English Broom
Scotch Broom

1.4 PLAN PERIOD (not to exceed five years)

Starting date: 01/07/2008

Completion date: 30/06/20013

1.5 AREA OF OPERATION :

All Local Control Authorities (LCA's) and Rural Lands Protection Boards (RLPB's) of the Macquarie Valley Weeds Advisory Committee.

1.6 AIM

To successfully manage Scotch/English Broom in the Macquarie Valley.

1.7 OBJECTIVES

1.7.1 Considerably reduce impacts of existing weeds

1.7.2 Prevent new weed problems

1.7.3 Improve coordination and cooperation

1.7.4 Raise awareness of weeds issues within region

2.0 STAKEHOLDERS

2.1 SIGNATORIES

Participating Councils (LCA's):

- Cabonne Council
- Mid West Regional Council
- Orange City Council
- Wellington Council

Participating County Council:

- Upper Macquarie County Council

Participating Rural Lands Protection Boards:

- Bourke
- Brewarrina
- Central Tablelands
- Coonabarabran
- Coonamble
- Dubbo
- Molong
- Moree
- Mudgee
- Narrabri
- Nyngan
- Walgett

2.2 OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

- NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI)
- State Forests
- NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) – National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)
- Department of Lands
- Catchment Management Authorities (CMA's)
- Regional Landcare Coordinators
- Aboriginal Lands Councils
- Service providers – Country Energy, Telstra, Australian Rail Track Corp (ARTC)

3.0 BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

3.1 PLAN JUSTIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM

English/Scotch Broom has the potential to become entrenched in natural bushland areas in the moderate to high rainfall areas of central NSW. It has become a serious weed in parts of New South Wales where it has densely infested native bushland on the tablelands, in particular an estimated 10 000 ha at Barrington Tops.

English/Scotch Broom seeds freely and seedlings establish readily on disturbed sites. Once established, English/Scotch Broom makes native vegetation more susceptible to fire because of its flammability and the intense heat with which it burns. It also fixes nitrogen in the soil and dominates the vegetation of an area, smothering large shrubs and preventing the re-establishment of native species. It can quickly colonize areas previously cleared of blackberry and other weeds.

English/Scotch broom in this region is at a rare and isolated level however has major potential to colonise areas in the region.

3.2 THE 'DO NOTHING' OPTION

If English/Scotch Broom was ignored the implications would be significant leading to:

- The destruction of indigenous flora and fauna regimes
- The decimation of environmental and natural recreational areas
- The colonization with English/Scotch Broom of grazing areas adjacent to the above areas

3.3 DISTRIBUTION OF INFESTATIONS

English/Scotch Broom occurs along roadsides, on neglected pastures and other disturbed sites like old mine areas at rare and isolated levels. In the plan region, on both private and Council lands, rare and isolated infestations of Broom occur in the Mount Canobolas and Cadia areas of Cabonne and Orange City Council whilst in the Mid Western Regional Council area Broom occurs in the southern areas. There are no marginal or core infestations in the plan area.

3.4 WEED BIOLOGY

English/Scotch Broom is an erect woody perennial shrub up to 3m high with brownish green, ridged stems. Leaves of 3 leaflets, sometimes 1 on young growth, often falling off. Bright yellow pea flowers but various cultivars have different flower colours; fruit pods are flat and brown or black.

Seeds germinate in both autumn and spring, growing slowly at first and not flowering until at least 2 years old. Young plants can tolerate up to 90% shade. Flowering occurs from October to December, and the fruit pods ripen through the summer, bursting open on hot days to eject the seeds several metres. Leaves are shed during the summer and the plant remains leafless much of the year. Plants are believed to live 10 to 15 years.

3.5 METHOD AND RATE OF SPREAD

English/Scotch Broom is spread solely from seeds that are ejected from fruit pods in summer. The seeds are further spread on machinery, animals, agricultural produce and soil movement. Earth moving equipment such as graders are also responsible for spreading seeds.

3.6 SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Physical - single bushes can be grubbed out. Small bushes can be slashed and dense patches could be bulldozed, with disc cultivation over 2 years.

Pasture improvement – would cover bare ground preventing the seedlings from becoming established. Livestock would readily graze these seedlings.

Biological agents – have failed to be a viable and effective option in Australia.

Chemical application – there are effective, user friendly and affordable chemicals registered for controlling this weed.

3.7 KEY LAND MANAGERS

- LCA's
- RLPB's
- Landholders
- National Parks
- State Forests
- Department of Lands
- Service providers – Country Energy, ARTC
- RTA

4.0 LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY SITUATION

4.1 CURRENT DECLARATION

Class 4: The growth and spread of the plant must be controlled according to the measures specified in a management plan published by the local control authority	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cabonne Council• Mid Western Regional Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Orange City Council• Upper Macquarie County Council

4.2 DECLARATION CHANGES

No alterations to the existing declaration are anticipated.

5.0 CONSIDERATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

5.1 FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO CARRY OUT THE PLAN

The majority of the financial support for this plan will be provided as part of LCA/RLPB weed control programs. Further support will be sought through DPI's group project funding program. Any other funding source deemed relevant by MVWAC will also be explored.

5.2 LINKS TO OTHER STRATEGIES

- Australian Weed Strategy
- NSW Invasive Species Plan (currently in draft form)
- MVWAC Regional Weed Strategy
- Catchment Action Plans

5.3 BARRIERS AND CONTINGENCIES

Barriers

- The nursery industry selling similar species of English Broom
- Adjacent land use – vineyards, organic or chemically sensitive crops place restrictions on any proposed control program
- Spray contractors unwilling to apply chemical near sensitive areas.
- Lack of follow-up work – resulting in a less effective control program.
- Dispersal mechanisms – spread of seeds by animals, soil and equipment.
- Inaccessibility - rough country, locked gates, absentee landholders
- Lack of biological agents – effective enough to be of use to occupiers of land
- Difficult/absentee landholders – will not support the plan, will not carry out control work.
- Seed bank – existing seed bank will continue to germinate after initial treatments

Contingencies

- Drought – the continuation of the drought will make the enforcement of the Act difficult, and make the application of any herbicides less effective.
- Lack of funding – not enough money to complete the plan's objectives.
- Similar species and hybridization of species.

6.0 ACTION PLAN

Objective	Action	Performance indicator	By whom
1.7.1 Considerably reduce impacts of existing weeds	All public lands to be inspected annually	100% of all roadsides, reserves and Travelling Stock Routes (TSR's) inspected.	LCA weed officers & RLPB rangers
	Control methods to be carried out on all infestations on LCA & RLPB lands as seasonal conditions allow	Existing infestations on LCA/RLPB lands reduced by 90%	LCA weed officers & RLPB rangers
	All private properties identified as having infestations are to be inspected annually and regulatory action taken as required	100% of identified properties inspected Existing rare and isolated infestations on private lands reduced by 70%	Landholders & LCA weed officers

1.7.2 Prevent new weed problems	Inspect for Scotch/English Broom as part of routine property inspection program	Scotch/English Broom is included in the inspection routine	LCA weed officers & RLPB rangers
	Aspects of the rapid response program to be implemented when a new infestation is discovered	100% of located new infestations recorded and mapped 100% of new infestations treated 100% of new infestations to be monitored and follow-up treatment programs implemented	Landholders, LCA weed officers & RLPB rangers
	All infestations to be contained to prevent new weed problems	Buffer zones established around sites known to be infested	Landholders, LCA weed officers & RLPB rangers
1.7.3 Improve coordination and cooperation	All infestations to be recorded and mapped	Maps produced and updated regularly Data recording standards adhered to	LCA weed officers & RLPB rangers
	Plan implementation to be monitored and reviewed	Review process (as outlined in section 7.0) carried out	RPO, LCA weed officers & RLPB rangers
	Actively seek partnerships with other weed management agencies	Partnerships developed where necessary	RPO, LCA weed officers & RLPB rangers
	Develop on-ground management plans with neighbouring landholders, LCA's and RLPB's	Plans of management entered into and partnerships developed with neighbouring landholders, LCA's and RLPB's	LCA weed officers & RLPB rangers
1.7.4 Raise awareness of weeds issues within region	Scotch/English Broom to be part of a regional weeds awareness program	Advertisements on television Field days held Displays at local shows attended by Weed Officers Weed pamphlets distributed to landholders during property inspections Weed Calendars distributed by LCA's and RLPB's	DPI, RPO, LCA weed officers & RLPB rangers

7.0 MONITOR AND REVIEW

There will be an annual review of the Scotch/English Broom Regional Management Plan to ensure the performance indicators are realistic and are being met. Member LCA/RLPB's weed officers and rangers will participate in the review process. This would include discussions on increases or decreases of range, new incursions, successful management strategies, expectations and results.

8.0 BENEFITS

The benefits of the successful implementation of this Regional English/Scotch Broom Management Plan would include:

- Reduced loss of biodiversity in natural bushland areas
- Minimize the spread of English/Scotch Broom to adjacent grazing areas.
- Improved recreational activities in natural bushland areas.

9.0 RESOURCES

- Auld, BA and Medd, RW, 1987, "*Weeds*", Inkata Press, Melbourne, Sydney.
- Parsons, WT and Cuthbertson, EG, (1992), "*Noxious Weeds of Australia*", Inkata Press, Melbourne, Sydney.
- Blood, Kate, (2001), "*Environmental Weeds*", Bloomings Books, Melbourne.