



LEETON
SHIRE COUNCIL

DRAFT
**LEETON SHIRE BIOSECURITY WEED
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

JULY 2022

DOCUMENT CONTROL

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REVIEW OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document will be reviewed every 4 years or as required in the event of legislative changes or operational requirements.

Any major amendments to the document must be made by way of a Council Resolution. Minor amendments such as corrections to spelling, changes to wording for improved clarity, formatting and updates to the Appendixes may be made without approval from the Council.

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1. Introduction

Located in the Riverina 584km from Sydney, 470km from Melbourne and 371km from Canberra, Leeton is the second largest regional centre in the Western Riverina region outside of Griffith and plays an integral role in value-added agricultural processing, agriculture, education and research, transport and logistics.

Leeton is the birthplace of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area and was purposely built as part of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Scheme. Being 1,167 square kilometres in size, Leeton Shire includes the towns of Yanco and Whitton and the villages of Murrami and Wamoon.

Water is central to Leeton Shire. The Murrumbidgee River and the Ramsar-listed Fivebough and Tuckerbil Wetlands plays an important part in the local ecology. Up to 174 bird species have been recorded at the Wetlands during the warmer months, many of those being migratory birds from the northern hemisphere.

2. Implementation of the Biosecurity Act 2015

On 1 July 2017, the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act) became the primary legislation dealing with weed management in NSW. The Act supersedes the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 and operates on a risk management framework, providing flexibility in the development and implementation of weed management programs at a local level based on the level of risk that a weed poses to the local economy, environment and/or community.

The primary objective of the Act is to provide a framework for the prevention, elimination and minimisation of a wide range of biosecurity risks, including pest animals, diseases, contaminants and weeds. In relation to the management of weeds, the Act aims to prevent the introduction of new weeds into or within the State, to eradicate new incursions quickly and efficiently and to minimise the impact of widespread established weeds.

This plan identifies the **priority weeds** with which Leeton Shire Council maintains an active management and compliance program. It also specifies the extent to which land managers within the Leeton Local Government Area (LGA) must manage these priority weeds in the absence of State legislated requirements. The weeds identified in this plan are priority weeds and funded by the NSW Government.

Widespread weeds such as Patterson's Curse and Silverleaf Night Shade are not included in Council's Biosecurity Weed Management Plan as they are not routinely funded by the government as part of the adopted Regional Weed Action Plan. However, from time to time ad hoc special funding is received for these widespread weeds which Council will deal with as part of its nuisance weeds program.

2.1 Prohibited Matter

Schedule 2 of the Act identifies weeds which are legislated as Prohibited Matter throughout NSW. These weeds are subject to specific restrictions relating to the possession, purchase, sale, movement and other dealings as identified in the Act. A person who becomes aware of the presence of a prohibited weed, or suspects that a prohibited event has occurred, is occurring or is about to occur must immediately notify Council.

2.2 Mandatory Measures

Schedule 3 of the Biosecurity Regulations 2017 (the Regulations) identifies a number of weeds with which mandatory measures apply. The mandatory measures applying to these weeds are detailed in Clause 33 of the Regulations as 'a person must not import into the State or sell' any listed plant.

2.3 General Biosecurity Duty

Many priority weeds within the Leeton Shire are not subject to Prohibited Matter restrictions or to mandatory measures. To ensure that the risk posed by all weeds is prevented, eliminated or minimised, the Act requires land managers to manage all weeds in accordance with their 'General Biosecurity Duty'.

General Biosecurity Duty is referred to in Section 22 of the Act as "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 reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised".

Although the general biosecurity duty applies broadly, there are a number of elements that must be satisfied. These are well defined by NSW Department of Primary Industries at (<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/biosecurity-legislation/general-biosecurity-duty>) as:

Dealing with – the general biosecurity duty only applies to a person who 'deals with' biosecurity matter or a carrier of biosecurity matter. 'Deal with' includes a wide range of activities, which are listed in section 12 of the Act. Some examples of dealing with biosecurity matter are; to keep, possess, grow, breed, move, supply or manufacture biosecurity matter.

Knowledge – a person must know, or ought reasonably to know, that there is or is likely to be a biosecurity risk arising from the biosecurity matter, carrier or 'dealing'. This will be a question of fact and will depend on the circumstances of each situation.

People who know or ought reasonably to know will generally include people who deal with biosecurity matter or carriers on a regular basis as part of a commercial or recreational activity, and people who work professionally (i.e. 'deal') with a particular type of biosecurity matter or carrier. For these people their general knowledge and expertise would in most cases be sufficient to indicate they know the risks.

'Reasonably practicable' – what is reasonably practicable for the prevention, elimination or minimisation of a biosecurity risk will depend on what was reasonably able to be done at a particular time, taking into account and weighing up all relevant matters. Relevant matters include, the nature and potential impact of the biosecurity risk, the person's level of knowledge of the risk and related actions that could be taken to prevent, eliminate or minimise the risk, and the cost, availability and suitability of these actions. It is not likely to be reasonably practicable if the cost is greatly disproportionate to the risk.

Preventing, eliminating or minimising the biosecurity risk – the risk must be prevented or eliminated if reasonably practicable, otherwise it must be minimised so far as is reasonably practicable.

The general biosecurity duty can apply to more than one person in relation to the same biosecurity risk, for example an owner and a manager may both be responsible for managing a particular biosecurity risk on a property.

3. The Riverina Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022

The Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan (Plan) was developed by the Riverina Regional Weeds Committee on behalf of the Riverina Local Land Services Board. The Riverina Regional Weeds Committee includes representatives from local government, NSW Department of Primary Industries, state government agencies managing crown lands (including the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Forestry Corporation of NSW, Roads and Maritime Services and Department of Industry - Lands), NSW Farmers, Landcare, rural landholders and Riverina Local Land Services.

The Plan sets the priorities for weed management in the Riverina region for five years from 2017. Its intent is to outline strategic actions to guide collaborative weed management, resource allocation and investment in the Riverina region. The Regional plan identifies a number of weed priorities within

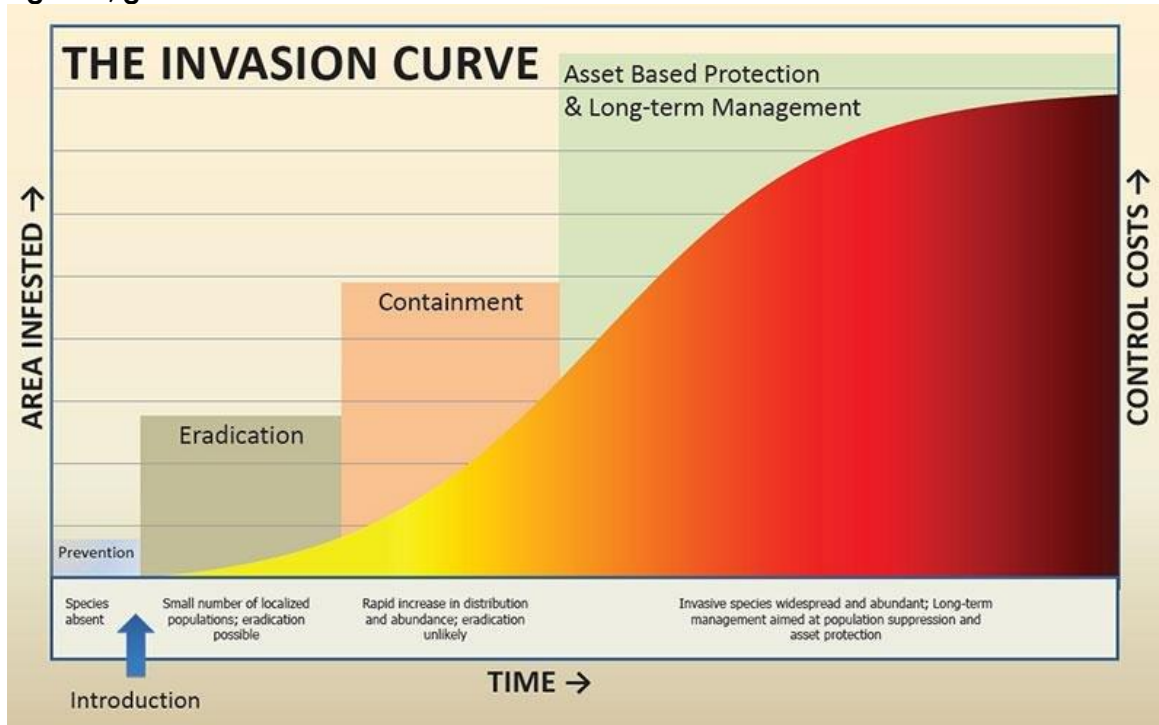
the Riverina and recommends strategic responses to prevent, eliminate or minimise the biosecurity risk associated with each weed. The Leeton Shire Council Local Weed Management Plan adopts the principles and priorities identified within the Regional Plan and further prioritises actions based on local risk, impact and feasibility of control.

4. Priority Weeds within the Leeton Shire Council

Leeton Shire Council covers some of the best and most productive irrigation and mixed farming country in the Riverina region, the Leeton Shire Council Local Weed Management Plan recognises that a 'one shoe fits all' approach to weed management may not achieve efficient resource allocation or satisfactory weed control outcomes in some situations. For this reason, the plan applies risk-based methodology to impose weed control requirements on land managers based on the level of risk posed by a weed and the prevalence of the weed at paddock, property and/or landscape scale.

The plan recognises that while a myriad of introduced weeds are present within the region; finite resources restrict works programs to a limited number of particularly high priority weeds. These weeds are ones that have an identified impact on the local economy, environment and/or community. The generalised weed invasion curve is the foundation of state, regional and local plans and strategies. It informs resource allocation and ensures that weed control programs are achievable and cost effective to the community. The invasion curve promotes the preferential allocation of resources at the early stages of invasion where the likelihood of prevention or eradication is greatest. It does not take away from investment into managing established weeds, as these weeds often have significant and long-term impacts on community values. The invasion curve prioritises resource allocation into managing established weeds in a strategic manner to protect those community values.

Figure 1, generalised invasion curve.



Many weed species considered to be widespread throughout NSW have a very limited distribution within areas of the Leeton Shire Council. The objective of this plan is to prioritise resource allocation towards eradicating isolated infestations where possible, and to reducing the impact of the weed where it is not.

4.1 Prevention

The *Biosecurity Act 2015* promotes a principle of shared responsibility. It imposes an obligation on land managers to prevent the introduction of weeds onto land under their management. Land managers, defined by the Act as 'dealers' must take all reasonable precautions to prevent the introduction of weeds into the region and onto their land through the introduction of fodder, livestock, vehicles and other weed carriers.

4.2 Elimination

This plan imposes strict conditions on all land managers to eliminate isolated infestations of priority weeds at paddock, property and landscape scale. In discharging their duty, land managers or 'dealers' must fully and continuously suppress and destroy isolated infestations where it is reasonably practicable to do so in accordance with Section 16 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

4.3 Containment and Asset Protection

Many weeds have become naturalised in areas of the Leeton Shire, though have not reached their maximum potential. These weeds continue to impact on the LGA's social, economic and environmental health and must be managed with a strong and effective program. This plan aims to contain the spread of priority weeds and to reduce their incidence in affected areas where it is reasonably practicable to do so.

Where infestations are well established and widespread the growth of plants must be controlled in a manner that continuously inhibits the ability of the plants to spread. Plants may spread by sexual (e.g. seeding events) or asexual means (e.g. lateral spread by underground rhizomes) or by a combination of both. Control measures must be implemented which address the specific mechanism(s) of spread for the target plant.

This plan recognises the high cost of control of some established weeds and enables land managers to submit a staged control plan to Council for approval. A staged control plan must provide detailed objectives and suitable timeframes to be approved by Council.

Some localised areas of the LGA contain infestations of priority weeds whereby the weed is the dominant species and to which a reduction in incidence is unlikely in a localised situation with current technologies. In such areas buffers and containment strategies may be imposed by Council to protect priority assets.

TABLE 1: Weeds Subject to a Leeton Shire Council Local Management Program

Weed name	Description
St John's Wort (<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>)	<p>St John's Wort is a hardy, perennial plant which can rapidly invade and dominate native and introduced pastures, roadsides, open woodlands and conservation areas. Its aggressive nature and ability to reproduce by seeding and by lateral growth from underground rhizomes enables it to spread rapidly.</p> <p>St John's Wort plants contain a poisonous substance, hypericin, which is toxic to livestock. Hypericin causes photosensitisation, with bare skin or white-haired areas becoming reddened, itchy and blistered. Irritation can be intense and accompanied by restlessness, loss of condition, convulsions, blindness and eventually death.</p>
Blackberry (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg)	<p>Blackberry grows vigorously and can infest large areas quickly. First introduced into Australia in the 1930's, it has become naturalised in Australia and infests over 8.8 million hectares from south eastern Queensland to southern Tasmania and across to south western Australia.</p> <p>As most animals find Blackberry unpalatable it reduces available grazing land and can restrict livestock access to water if growing around waterholes. It can also reduce productivity of land by shading pastures and crops and competing for soil moisture and nutrients.</p> <p>In 2006 Blackberry was estimated to result in a loss of production and cost of control in excess of \$70 million in Australia. Blackberry is defined in this plan as <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. (except the varieties Chester Thornless, Dirksen Thornless, Loch Ness, Silvan, Black Satin, Murrindindi, Smooth Stem, Thornfree and Chehalem).</p>
African Boxthorn (<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>)	<p>African boxthorn is a woody, thorny shrub that can grow up to 5 m high and 3 m wide. Young plants grow quickly. Plants sometimes drop their leaves and appear dead during drought or in winter.</p> <p>African boxthorn grows across NSW. It is most common on well drained soils of the western slopes and plains. It was brought to Australia from South Africa in the mid-1800s as a hedge plant. It has spread from around old homesteads and urban areas.</p> <p>African boxthorn is drought tolerant and grows in temperate, subtropical and semi-arid regions. It can grow on all soil types, though it grows best on well-drained, sandier soils along dry creek beds.</p>
Bathurst Burr (<i>Xanthium spinosum</i>)	<p>Bathurst burr is amongst the most common and economically serious weeds in Australian agriculture. The burrs readily adhere to the wool of sheep. Wool contaminated by Bathurst burrs represents a substantial cost as additionally processing is required to separate the burrs. Bathurst burrs are also a significant weed of summer crops and horticultural crops.</p> <p>Bathurst burr is an annual weed which grows through the summer months in warm and temperate regions of the world. It has naturalised in New South Wales and currently ranges from the coast to the western plains. Bathurst burr was one of the first plants declared noxious in NSW in 1907.</p> <p>Bathurst burr is a compact annual, summer growing herb. Stems produce many groups of 3-pronged, stiff, yellowish spines at the base of each leaf or branch. Leaves are dark green with prominent white veins, lighter underneath due to a covering of fine hairs. Leaves are divided into three irregular lobes. Burrs are 1 to</p>

Weed name	Description
	1.5 cm long, covered in numerous hooked spines.
Athel Pine (<i>Tamarix aphylla</i>)	<p>Athel pine is one of the worst weeds in Australia because of its invasiveness, potential for spread, and economic and environmental impacts.</p> <p>Athel pine forms dense stands along inland rivers. It consumes water more quickly than native plants, thereby reducing the number and quality of watering holes. It concentrates salt, which is excreted by its leaves. This makes the ground beneath athel pines more salty and excludes native pasture grasses and other salt-sensitive plants.</p> <p>It can change river flow patterns and cause overland flooding and bank erosion. Because they are drought tolerant and fire resistant, athel pines decrease the frequency of fires and alter vegetation structure.</p> <p>Infestations reduce the cultural and aesthetic value of affected land and may impact on tourism in the region.</p> <p>There are several other <i>Tamarix</i> species, all commonly known as tamarisks, that are weeds in Australia.</p>
Blue Heliotrope (<i>Heliotropium amplexicaule</i>)	<p>Blue heliotrope is extremely drought-hardy, which increases its ability to persist and spread, and has made it a major agricultural weed in NSW. Blue heliotrope competes with desirable pasture plants and causes toxicity to stock. It is widespread and adaptable to a wide range of soil and climate types. It occupies more than 110 000 hectares in NSW.</p> <p>Blue heliotrope contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PAs). These PAs are also found in common heliotrope (<i>Heliotropium europaeum</i>). The amount of PAs in blue heliotrope is much higher than in common heliotrope.</p> <p>Heliotrope is not very palatable to livestock, and consequently tends to be avoided; however, some individuals continue to eat it indiscriminately. Heliotrope will be eaten if no other feed is available.</p> <p>Continual ingestion by livestock of large amounts of heliotrope plants (either fresh or dried), or of their seeds as contaminants in stock feed, can cause liver damage and reduced productivity (see Table 1). In order of susceptibility, horses, pigs, cattle, sheep and goats can all be affected, with horses being the most susceptible.</p> <p>All affected livestock species may become jaundiced and experience varying degrees of photosensitisation.</p>
Bridal Creeper (<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>)	<p>Bridal Creeper entered the country as a garden plant and is now a major weed of bushland in southern Australia, where its climbing stems and foliage smother native plants.</p> <p>It forms a thick mat of underground tubers which impedes the root growth of other plants and often prevents seedling establishment.</p> <p>Leeton Shires rare native plants, including orchids, are threatened with extinction by bridal creeper.</p>
Buffalo Burr (<i>Solanum rostratum</i>)	<p>Buffalo burr is a native from Canada to central Mexico and was first recorded as a weed in Australia in 1904. It invades disturbed areas and overgrazed land and may injure stock, causes fault in wool and can be a problem in cereal crops. The plant is poisonous, however is seldom eaten because of its prickly nature.</p>

Weed name	Description
	<p>Buffalo burr is a hairy, prickly annual herb up to 1 m tall. The greyish leaves are deeply divided, up to 10 cm long and 8 cm wide. Flowers are bright yellow, up to 4 cm in diameter and mostly present in summer. The fruit is 1 cm in diameter and very prickly.</p> <p>Seed is mostly spread as a contaminant of grain crops. The prickly calyx which grasps the fruit can stick to wool and bags and can float on water. The old plants can snap off and blow around as tumble-weeds.</p>
<p>Cape Tulips (<i>Moraea</i> sp.)</p>	<p>Cape tulips are invasive weeds of pastures and cereal crops. They quickly infest pastures, crops, roadsides, native grasslands, bushlands and disturbed areas.</p> <p>All parts of the plant, fresh and dry, are toxic to grazing livestock. Symptoms of poisoning include loss of appetite, scouring, weakness, blindness, stiffness or paralysis of hind legs and in severe cases death. Animals most at risk of poisoning are stock put into heavily infested pastures, with no previous exposure to the weed.</p> <p>Animals can learn to avoid the plant by selectively grazing more palatable grasses and herbage. Although this only allows Cape tulip to flourish and eventually dominate the pasture.</p> <p>Cape tulips are also highly toxic to humans, capable of causing serious illness or death. All parts of the plant are poisonous when ingested, causing acute vomiting and diarrhoea, possibly leading to paralysis.</p>
<p>Devils Claw (<i>Proboscidea louisianica</i>) (purple flowered)</p>	<p>This plant is known to infest pastures reducing carrying capacities. The woody seed capsules cause injury to stock, and may restrict feeding if lodged on the face, leading to eventual death from starvation. The capsules also attach to hooves causing lameness, and to wool reducing quality.</p> <p>An annual herb growing to 50 cm tall covered with sticky hairs. Leaves are rounded or heart shaped, 10–16 cm long and 14–25 cm wide. Flowers are trumpet-shaped, creamy-white to mauve or purple with dark purple and orange markings. Flowers are present summer to autumn.</p> <p>The woody capsule is 8–10 cm long and 1–2 cm wide with two woody horns that are 10–25 cm long.</p> <p>Devil's Claw purple-flowered is native to America.</p>
<p>Devils Claw (<i>Ibicella lutea</i>) (yellow flowered)</p>	<p>Infestations of Devil's Claw yellow flowered occur in isolated patches, often on roadsides and around stock camps. The leaves have an unpleasant odour and are not eaten by stock. Plants compete with summer crops. The seed pods can injure livestock.</p> <p>Devil's Claw yellow flowered is a low-growing annual plant to 50 centimetres high and spreading to 1.5 metres wide. It has large round or kidney-shaped leaves. The yellow trumpet-shaped flowers have purple spots inside the throat. Flowering is in late summer and autumn. The woody seed capsules open into pairs of curved horns (10 centimetres long).</p> <p>Devil's Claw yellow flowered is native to America.</p>
<p>Galvanised Burr (<i>Sclerolaena birchii</i>)</p>	<p>Galvanised burr is a native plant of the Chenopodiaceae family, which includes other roly-poly plants, saltbushes and crumbweeds. It is regarded as a weed because it is generally not eaten by livestock, it contaminates wool, and it competes with plants that do provide feed.</p>

Weed name	Description
	<p>Galvanised burr is not usually eaten by stock because of its spiny burrs. Dense infestations occur periodically, causing concern to graziers. The most serious impact caused by galvanised burr is that it reduces wool values by causing vegetable fault.</p> <p>Spines that become detached from the burrs are problematic for wool-processing as they can become aligned with the wool fibres in spun yarn. Galvanised burr is only one of many species that can cause this type of fault in wool.</p> <p>The spines and burrs are a considerable nuisance to shearers, stock and working dogs. At times when shearers are in high demand, they may choose to avoid shearing where sheep are carrying large numbers of burrs. Dense infestations also impede stock movement and block cultivation machinery.</p>
<p>Golden Dodder (<i>Cuscuta campestris</i>)</p>	<p>Golden dodder is a leafless, parasitic plant that removes nutrients, reduces yield and even kills its host plant. It is a threat to lucerne, vegetables, many broadleaf crops, pastures and seed crops. Seed, fodder or hay contaminated with dodder seed is banned from sale in NSW. Golden dodder is the weediest of all the dodder species that occur in Australia.</p> <p>Contact with the host plant is by suckers, called haustoria. The dodder stems twine around the host, branching to form a tangled mass which can spread from the initial host to adjacent plants. The haustoria penetrate the tissues of the host plant and remove nutrients, thereby reducing crop or pasture yields, preventing host development and even killing it.</p> <p>High levels of dodder in fodder are toxic to cattle and horses. Poisoning can occur if horses and cattle are fed contaminated hay for several weeks. Problems are usually only experienced when dodder makes up about 50% of the contents of the hay. Affected animals typically suffer from abdominal pain and diarrhoea, and can also experience weight loss. On some occasions liver damage may occur, and can be associated with haemorrhages throughout the body and secondary brain damage. The brain damage makes the affected animal's behaviour erratic and unpredictable. It will be inclined to stagger about and wander aimlessly before it eventually lies down, becomes comatose or convulsive, and dies.</p>
<p>Green Cestrum (<i>Cestrum parqui</i>)</p>	<p>Green cestrum is a shrub that grows 2–3 m high. It usually has many light-green, brittle stems. It sometimes grows into thickets. Established plants lose most of their leaves during winter and produce new growth in spring.</p> <p>Green cestrum can cause 'sudden death' in livestock. Animals that appeared healthy 24 hours before will be found dead for no clear reason. Animals that have eaten green cestrum might die in a few hours or be sick for a few days before they die.</p> <p>All parts of the plant are poisonous. Even though it is not very palatable animals may eat it when other feed is scarce. Recently sprayed, wilting plants are more palatable than healthy plants and can potentially cause more deaths.</p> <p>Remove stock away from paddocks when controlling green cestrum. Do not return stock until the leaf material has disintegrated or been removed.</p>
<p>Harrisia Cactus (<i>Harrisia Sp.</i>)</p>	<p>Harrisia cacti grow in semi-arid scrublands with summer rainfall. They prefer fertile clay soils and are common in acacia-wooded grasslands such as the brigalow forests.</p>

Weed name	Description
	<p>Harrisia cacti were originally introduced to Australia as ornamental plants.</p> <p>Harrisia cacti are difficult to control as they produce thousands of viable seeds and have fleshy storage tubers. They form impenetrable thickets.</p>
Horehound (Marrubium vulgare)	<p>Horehound commonly occurs throughout Australia along fence lines, road sides, channel banks, around buildings, sheep camps and neglected areas.</p> <p>Horehound infestations are extremely hardy once established, preventing desirable species from growing. The seed capsules cling to wool and clothing and may cause considerable matting of sheep fleeces.</p> <p>Horehound is a bushy perennial plant, 30 to 80cm high, with deeply crinkled leaves.</p>
Indian Fig (Opuntia ficus-indica)	<p>Indian fig was brought into Australia from South America almost 200 year ago. The plant has never caused any problems to rural production. It spreads slowly and is easily eradicated.</p> <p>Indian fig can grow up to 7 m tall. The pads are bluish-green with no or very few short spines. The yellow flowers are present in late spring-summer. The fruit is egg-shaped to oval with a depressed top. Ripe fruit may be yellow, orange, red or purple, depending on cultivar.</p>
Prickly Pear (Opuntia Sp.)	<p>The most commonly known members of the opuntoid cacti group referred to generally as prickly pears, <i>Opuntia</i> species were first introduced into Australia with the first fleet, via Brazil, to establish a cochineal dye industry. By 1920 <i>Opuntia stricta</i> had infested 23,000,000 hectares in NSW and Queensland. Half of the infested area was so densely covered it was useless for production and was abandoned by its owners.</p> <p><i>Opuntia</i> species have been declared Weeds of National Significance in Australia.</p>
Prickly Pear (Cylindropuntia Sp.)	<p><i>Cylindropuntia</i> species are native to south western USA, Mexico and the West Indies. They are large succulent perennials with the potential to encroach on rangelands and native vegetation in the drier parts of the state. Many of the species have easily detachable segments which aids their ability to spread.</p> <p><i>Cylindropuntia</i> species are part of the group of opuntoid cacti that are Weeds of National Significance in Australia, and a number of individual species are problematic in NSW.</p>
Johnson Grass (Sorghum halapense)	<p>Johnson grass, is a plant in the grass family, Poaceae, native to Asia and northern Africa. The plant has been introduced to all continents except Antarctica, and most larger islands and archipelagos. It reproduces by rhizomes and seeds.</p> <p>This species occurs in crop fields, pastures, abandoned fields, rights-of-way, forest edges, and along streambanks. It thrives in open, disturbed, rich, bottom ground, particularly in cultivated fields.</p>

Notes relating to the status and control measures for all weeds identified in Table 1 above.

- **Purpose of Leeton Shire Council Local Management Plan**

To specify the control measures that a landholder must implement to ensure that his/her General Biosecurity Duty is discharged in relation to any of the above weeds.

- **Legal status**

The management of invasive weeds in NSW is governed by the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. The Local Control Authority (Leeton Shire Council) is responsible for ensuring the prevention, elimination, minimisation and management of the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by invasive weeds. It is also responsible for the development, implementation, co-ordination and review of invasive weed control programs within its area of jurisdiction.

Any person dealing (e.g. the owner or occupier of land) with any of the above weeds must comply with his or her General Biosecurity Duty.

- **Biosecurity Act 2015 – General Biosecurity Duty** - 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.

- **Control Objective**

The primary objective of this plan is to reduce the negative impact of any of the above weeds on the Leeton LGA's economic, environmental and social sustainability.

- **Council requirements**

Leeton Shire Council has a duty as Local Control Authority to inspect all land in connection with its weed control functions. In achieving this it must ensure the management of the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by weeds within its area of jurisdiction.

- **Surveillance**

Council inspects private and public lands on a 5-year cycle. Frequency of inspection increases where isolated infestations of a priority weed occur and in cases of non-compliance; the frequency of which is determined by the level of risk posed by the infestation(s).

- **Reporting**

Council provides an inspection report to the landowner/occupier following inspection. The report shall indicate the level of infestation, its spatial distribution on the property and the level of control required by the owner/occupier. Infestation data is reported to the NSW Biosecurity Information System.

- **Enforcement**

Council will enforce the control of any of the above weeds where non-compliance is identified. Enforcement measures may include the issue of a penalty infringement notice, entering the land and controlling infestations at the owner/occupier's expense, or the issue of a court attendance notice. Penalties for non-compliance with the *Biosecurity Act 2015* are significant.

- **Landowner/occupier requirements**

All property managers have a responsibility to prevent, eliminate or minimise adverse effects on the economy, the environment and the community that arise from weeds. Where full control is feasible Council will enforce that requirement. Where widespread and established invasive species have become "naturalised" in our environment and full control is not deemed feasible by Council it will promote a strategy of minimisation and containment.

All weeds above have been identified within the Riverina Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 – 2022.

The plan specifies that all the weeds above are subject to a local management program. Leeton Shire Council's local management program imposes the following requirements:

Isolated infestations

Objective: Prevent establishment

Action: Eliminate infestations

Established infestations

Objective: Containment - Reduce incidence in affected areas.

The growth of the plant must be controlled in a manner that continuously inhibits the ability of the plant to spread. Infestations may be managed in accordance with a staged control plan approved by Council. In situations where Council deems this requirement not reasonably practicable in accordance with Section 16 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, buffers and containment strategies may be introduced to protect priority assets.

Other restrictions

Land managers must mitigate the risk of introducing this weed to their land. The plant or parts of the plant are not traded, carried, grown or released into the environment.