



Local Weed Control Plan Johnson & Columbus Grass

Castlereagh Macquarie County Council Local Noxious Weed Control Plan for Johnson Grass and Columbus Grass (*Sorghum halepense* and *Sorghum x alnum*).

PLAN PERIOD (not to exceed 5 years)

Starting date: 2016

Completion date: 2021

Note: The control measures listed in this control plan may be altered by Council at any time.

AREA OF OPERATION

The following local control authorities are covered by this plan:

- Warrumbungle Shire Council
- Warren Shire Council
- Walgett Shire Council
- Coonamble Shire Council
- Gilgandra Shire Council

LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY SITUATION

Current Declaration:

Johnson Grass and Columbus Grass are Class 4 noxious weeds in the Castlereagh Macquarie County Council Local Control Area. Class 4 noxious weeds are plants that pose a threat to primary production, the environment or human health, are widely distributed in an area to which the order applies and are likely to spread in the area or to another area.

Obligations (Section 12 from the Noxious Weeds Act 1993) - Private occupiers of land must control noxious weeds on land:

An occupier (other than a public authority or a local control authority) of land to which a weed control order applies must control noxious weeds on the land as required under the order.

Maximum penalty: *40 penalty units*

Note: If an occupier fails to comply with obligations under a weed control order, those obligations may be enforced against the owner of the land as well as the occupier by a weed control notice issued under section 18.

CONTROL MEASURES

Prescribed Control Measures as per Order 19 Noxious Weeds Act 1993:

The growth and spread of the weed must be controlled to the extent specified by the Local Control Authority in the following control measures.

Control of Johnson & Columbus Grass:

1. Prevent the spread and growth of the weed by treating all plants prior to seeding. Control methods which may be used:

- Application of a registered herbicide, as per label instructions.

Note: The implementation of a pasture improvement program should be undertaken to discourage the weed growth.

2. The plant must be prevented from growing within 5 metres of a property boundary or watercourse.

3. Occupiers of land may submit a written noxious weed management plan to Council's Noxious Weeds Officers for approval.

This control plan is published in accordance with Order 19 of the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 for the Class 4 declared plants. The plan outlines the legal requirements for the control of Johnson & Columbus Grass by private occupiers of land in the Castlereagh Macquarie County Council local control area.

PLAN ENDORSEMENT

Signed:



Position: **General Manager**

Date: *22.8.16*