

Weed Control Management Plan for: Water lettuce

Botanical Name: *Pistia stratiotes*

Common Names: Water lettuce

Northern Tablelands Regional Priority Weeds Objective - **ERADICATION**

These weeds are present in limited distribution and abundance. Elimination of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is a reasonably practicable objective.

General Biosecurity Duty

All plants are regulated with a **general biosecurity duty** to prevent, eliminate or minimise any biosecurity risk they may pose. Any person who deals with any plant, who knows (or ought to know) of any biosecurity risk, has a duty to ensure the risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised, so far as is reasonably practicable.

Regional Recommended Measure:

Outcomes to demonstrate compliance with GBD

- The plant should be eradicated from the land and the land kept free of the plant.
- Land managers should mitigate the risk of new weeds being introduced to their land.
- The plant should not be bought, sold, grown, carried or released into the environment.
- Notify local control authority if found.
- **Mandatory Measure** (Division 8, Clause 33 Biosecurity Regulation 2017) A person must not import into the State or sell.



Water Lettuce: is a free floating aquatic plant with the potential to quickly spread and form a dense mat that can cover an entire body of water.

Under favourable conditions, water lettuce will produce abundant growth, expand rapidly and form obstructive mats. These large dense floating mats can have negative impacts on native aquatic plants and animals. Water lettuce is a perennial plant that reproduces vegetatively and from seed.

Each plant produces a number of stolons, with each producing a new rosette or daughter plant at its end. Each daughter plant will then form its own stolons, enabling the plant to increase rapidly.

Once shed, the seeds will float on the water before sinking to the bottom. They germinate in early summer once temperatures rise above 20°C and then float to the surface as seedlings.

Penalty for not complying with the general biosecurity duty or a direction issued under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

The maximum penalty is:

- in the case of an individual—\$220,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$55,000 for each day the offence continues, or
- in the case of a corporation—\$440,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$110,000 for each day the offence continues.

The maximum penalty for an offence that is committed negligently is:

- in the case of an individual—\$1,100,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$137,500 for each day the offence continues, or
- in the case of a corporation—\$2,200,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further penalty of \$275,000 for each day the offence continues.

Linkage to Plans/Strategies

- Northern Tablelands Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022
- NSW Biosecurity Strategy 2013-2021
- NSW Biosecurity Act 2015
- *Pesticides Act 1999* and Pesticide Regulation 2017



Download the weedwise app for detailed information on priority weeds in our area.

For Further Information:

New England Weeds Authority

129 Rusden St

Armidale NSW 2350

PH: (02) 6770 3602 www.newa.com.au

or

NSW DPI Weedwise: <http://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/>

or

Northern Tablelands Local Land Services:

<https://northerntablelands.lis.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity>

References

- *NSW DPI Website /Weedwise/ Noxious and Environmental Weed Control Handbook 6th Edition.*

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared by the Northern Tablelands Regional Weed Committee and Local Government Control Authorities in good faith and on the basis of best available information. Users of this document must obtain their own specific advice and conduct their own investigations and assessments of their individual circumstances.