

APPENDIX 11 Coolatai Grass

Snowy Monaro Regional Council Local Management Plan for Coolatai Grass (*Hyparrhenia hirta*)

Introduction

Coolatai Grass is an invasive drought, fire and herbicide tolerant tussock forming perennial grass. It has become a major invasive species in northern New South Wales and Southern Queensland, dominating pastures over a range of soil types and conditions. More recently infestations have emerged in southern NSW and the ACT.

Coolatai Grass is a competitive, perennial grass capable of invading undisturbed natural ecosystems and is a major threat to natural biodiversity in stock routes, nature reserves, roadsides and National Parks. Livestock do poorly on Coolatai Grass dominated pastures in the absence of a high input management regime.



Purpose of this plan

To specify the control measures that a landholder must implement to ensure that his/her General Biosecurity Duty is discharged in relation to Coolatai Grass.

Legal status

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

Any person dealing (eg the owner or occupier of land) with Coolatai Grass 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 Coolatai Grass on the Snowy Monaro Region's economic, environmental and social sustainability.

Council requirements

Snowy Monaro Regional 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 for the presence of Coolatai Grass infestations. Land upon which Gorse has been identified is inspected biannually. Frequency of inspection increases in cases of non-compliance. Coolatai Grass is a newly emerged weed within the Snowy Monaro Region and is extremely limited in its current distribution.

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

Enforcement Council will enforce the control of Coolatai Grass 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.

Land owner/occupier requirements

All property managers have a responsibility to prevent, eliminate or minimize 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 "naturalized" in our environment and full control is not deemed feasible by Council it will promote a strategy of minimization and containment.

Coolatai Grass is identified in the South East Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 – 2022. The plan specifies that Snowy Monaro Regional Council is situated within the exclusion zone for this weed. Coolatai Grass is to be eradicated from the land, or if that is not practicable then as much of the plant as is practicable is destroyed and the spread of any remaining plant is suppressed.



Coolatai Grass has a very limited distribution within the Snowy Monaro Region. The control objective is to eradicate all infestations.

Isolated infestations

Objective: Prevent establishment
Action: Eliminate infestations

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