

APPENDIX 6

Fireweed



Snowy Monaro Regional Council Local Management Plan for Fireweed (*Senecio Madagascariensis*)

Introduction

Fireweed is an annual herb to about 30cm high, usually with 13 petalled flowers and bright green, slightly fleshy leaves which may be toothed, lobed or smooth-edged. Fireweed contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids. All parts of the plant and all stages of growth are toxic to livestock. Hay, silage or grain that is contaminated with fireweed plants or their seeds can also be toxic.

Fireweed is very invasive and capable of growing and seeding year round under favourable climatic conditions. Young seedlings are frost sensitive; however mature plants are known to survive for short periods in dense snow cover. Seedlings grow very quickly, with flowering commencing within 6-10 weeks after germination.



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 Fireweed

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 Fireweed 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 Fireweed 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 Fireweed infestations. Land upon which Fireweed has been identified is inspected biennially. Frequency of inspection increases 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 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 Fireweed 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.

Fireweed is a Regional priority weed. The South East Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 – 2022 specifies that the Snowy Monaro Region is situated within a regional exclusion zone.

Within this zone, the control objective is to eradicate Fireweed from the land, or if that is not practicable then as much of the plant as is practicable is destroyed and the spread of remaining plant is suppressed.



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.

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.