

APPENDIX 4

Gorse

Snowy Monaro Regional Council Local Management Plan for Gorse (*Ulex Europaeus*)

Introduction

Gorse is a dense, spiny shrub to 4m high with hairy ribbed stems. Seedlings are not spiny and have leaves composed of three leaflets, but these are replaced by grooved spines up to 30 mm long on mature plants. The seed of the plant is generally spread by birds and on the coats of native and introduced animals. Gorse thrives in poor growing areas and in drought conditions. It is sometimes found on very rocky soils, where many species cannot thrive.



Because of its prickly nature and ability to form dense stands, Gorse makes movement within infested paddocks difficult and reduces carrying capacity in agricultural situations. It provides cover for feral animals such as rabbits and foxes. It also invades forested areas, replacing native understorey plants and it burns rapidly, creating a fire hazard.

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 Gorse.

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.

Mandatory Measure (Part 2, Division 8, Clause 33, *Biosecurity Regulation 2017*): A person must not import into the state or sell Gorse.

Any person dealing (eg the owner or occupier of land) with Gorse 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 Gorse 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 Gorse infestations. Land upon which Gorse has been identified is inspected annually. Frequency of inspection increases in cases of non-compliance.

Reporting Council will provide 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 control requirements. Infestation data is reported to the NSW Biosecurity Information System.

Enforcement Council will enforce the control of Gorse 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 any adverse effects on the economy, the environment or 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.



Gorse is a State priority weed subject to mandatory requirements. A person must not import into the State or sell parts of the plant.

Gorse 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 Gorse 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.

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

All infestations

Objective: Eradication
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 are not traded, carried, grown or released into the environment.