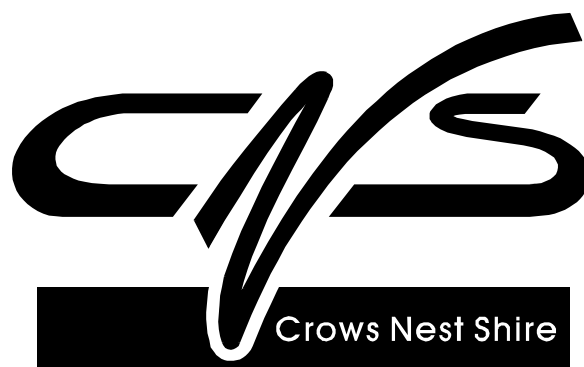




Crows Nest Shire Council

Pest Management Plan

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Crows Nest Shire Council

Pest Management Plan

January 2002 - January 2003

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1. Overview

1.1 Aim

This Pest Management Plan establishes a 12-month program for the control of declared plants, environmental weeds, declared animals and pest animals (including aquatic plants and animals) within Crows Nest Shire. The Pest Management Plan focuses on encouraging and motivating management action, while also detailing how enforcement procedures are to be applied where this approach is necessary.

1.2 Scope

This Pest Management Plan addresses the following:

- Cooperative Measures (refer Section 2);
- Enforcement Measures (refer Section 3);
- Pest Plants (refer Section 4);
- Pest Animals (refer Section 5);
- Management Resources (refer Section 6);
- Notices and Forms (refer Section 7);
- Property Pest Management Plan Procedure (refer Section 8);
- Quarantine Zone Procedure (refer Section 9); and
- Catchment Action Plans (refer Section 10).

1.3 Review and Revision

This Management Plan is to be reviewed at the end of each calendar year to create a new revised Management Plan for the following calendar year.

1.4 Links to Other Plans and Strategies

This Pest Management Plan implements:

- Goal 6.5 of the *Crows Nest Shire Council Corporate Plan*; and
- Actions 1A and 1B of the *Natural Resource Management Strategy for Crows Nest Shire*.

1.5 Working Group Members

The preparation of this Pest Management Plan has been guided by a Working Group comprising:

- (a) Gerard Brennan, Director Technical Services, Crows Nest Shire Council;
- (b) Bruce Boyes, Natural Resource Management Officer, Crows Nest Shire Council;
- (c) David Manning, Land Resources Officer, Crows Nest Shire Council;
- (d) Ray Weis, Stock Routes Supervisor, Crows Nest Shire Council;
- (e) Steven Plant, Natural Resource Management Field Supervisor, Crows Nest Shire Council;
- (f) Nigel Kimball, Natural Resource Management Assistant, Crows Nest Shire Council;
- (g) Peter Hodgson, Land Protection Officer, Department of Natural Resources and Mines;
- (h) Rick Galbraith, Crows Nest Creek Catchment Landcare Group;
- (i) Frank Burgess, Emu Creek Catchment Landcare Group;
- (j) Dougal Johnson, Highfields and Cooby Catchment Landcare Group; and
- (k) Jeff Rayner, Ravensbourne and District Landcare Group.

1.6 Stakeholders

Stakeholders that will be involved in the implementation of this Pest Management Plan include:

- (a) Crows Nest Shire Council;
- (b) Department of Natural Resources and Mines;
- (c) Department of Primary Industries;
- (d) Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service;
- (e) Department of Main Roads;
- (f) Queensland Rail;
- (g) Toowoomba City Council;
- (h) Ergon Energy;
- (i) Powerlink;
- (j) Telstra;
- (k) Emu Creek Catchment Landcare Group;
- (l) Gomaren and Doctors Creek Catchment Landcare Group;
- (m) Crows Nest Creek Catchment Landcare Group;
- (n) Ravensbourne and District Landcare Group; and
- (o) Highfields and Cooby Catchment Landcare Group.

2. Cooperative Measures

This Pest Management Plan emphasises cooperative measures to encourage and motivate management action, while also recognising that enforcement measures will need to be applied in some cases.

2.1 Herbicide Assistance Scheme

Landholders can apply to Council for replacement of herbicide used to control pest plants on the roadsides adjacent to their properties. To be considered for assistance, landholders need to write a letter to Director Technical Services, Crows Nest Shire Council. The letter must outline:

- (a) The area of roadside where the herbicide was used;
- (b) The pest plant species controlled;
- (c) Measures implemented to protect native roadside vegetation and any other significant roadside values;
- (d) Measures implemented to control pest plant species on applicants private property; and
- (e) Measures that will be implemented to protect against re-infestation of the control area.

Following receipt of the above letter, Council's Stock Route Inspector will inspect the area with the applicant to consider the request, decide of the amount of chemical and type of chemical to be reimbursed. The applicant will then be advised in writing to confirm details of the meeting and to advise if approval is granted for the proposal.

Applicant is then required to contact Council upon completion to arrange an inspection of the treated area and to arrange reimbursement of the chemical following this inspection.

2.2 Assistance to Landcare and Catchment Management Groups

The Landcare and Catchment Management Groups in Crows Nest Shire can request assistance from Council to carry out pest management activities on public or private land. Director Technical Services, Crows Nest Shire Council (or delegates) will determine whether assistance will be provided. Landcare and Catchment Management Groups are required to complete and sign an Assistance Agreement (refer Section 7.3) before Council will provide any approved assistance.

Assistance that can be considered includes:

- (a) Labour assistance from Council's Natural Resource Management (NRM) Work Crew;
- (b) Use of herbicide and spray equipment;
- (c) Use of other equipment and materials; and
- (d) Technical advice.

2.3 Education and Awareness

The Crows Nest Shire Natural Resource Management (NRM) Communication, Education and Awareness Working Group will produce pest management educational materials and conduct pest management awareness raising activities. This will include:

- (a) Publication of pest plant and animal identification and control method booklets, brochures, and/or posters;
- (b) Publication of materials that advise against the planting of plants that could become environmental weeds and suggest suitable native alternatives;
- (c) Encouraging nurseries within the Shire to not propagate or sell environmental weeds or plants which have the potential to become environmental weeds;
- (d) Regular news media items in local newspapers and on local radio;
- (e) Property management planning information; and
- (f) Links to, and utilisation of, education and awareness resources at Regional, State and Commonwealth level.

3. Enforcement Measures

3.1 State Government Legislation

The *Rural Lands Protection Act 1985* provides for the control of major pest plants and animals and the management of stock routes throughout Queensland. Landholders, Local Governments, Department of Primary Industries and the Department of Natural Resources and Mines have clearly allocated responsibilities. Under the *Rural Lands Protection Act 1985*, each Local Government is responsible for:

- (a) Ensuring that declared plants and declared animals are controlled within its area - Section 64(a) and on land under its direct control - Section 76 (Appendix 1);
- (b) Preventing the introduction into and spread within its area of declared plants and animals - Section 64(b) (Appendix 1);
- (c) Enforcing relevant provision of the Rural Lands Protection Act - Section 64(c) and Section 81/83 (Appendix 1); and
- (d) Improving and maintaining stock routes and reserves for travelling stock - Section 57/58 (Appendix 1).

In meeting their responsibilities, each Local Government is expected to:

- (a) Control declared plants and animals from land under its direct control;
- (b) Inspect private property to determine the presence of declared plants and animals;
- (c) Provide advice to landholders on appropriate pest control options;
- (d) Carry out procedures to ensure control of declared pests on private property;
- (e) Conserve the natural fodder on stock routes and associated reserves;
- (f) Maintain watering facilities; and
- (g) Control the movement of travelling stock.

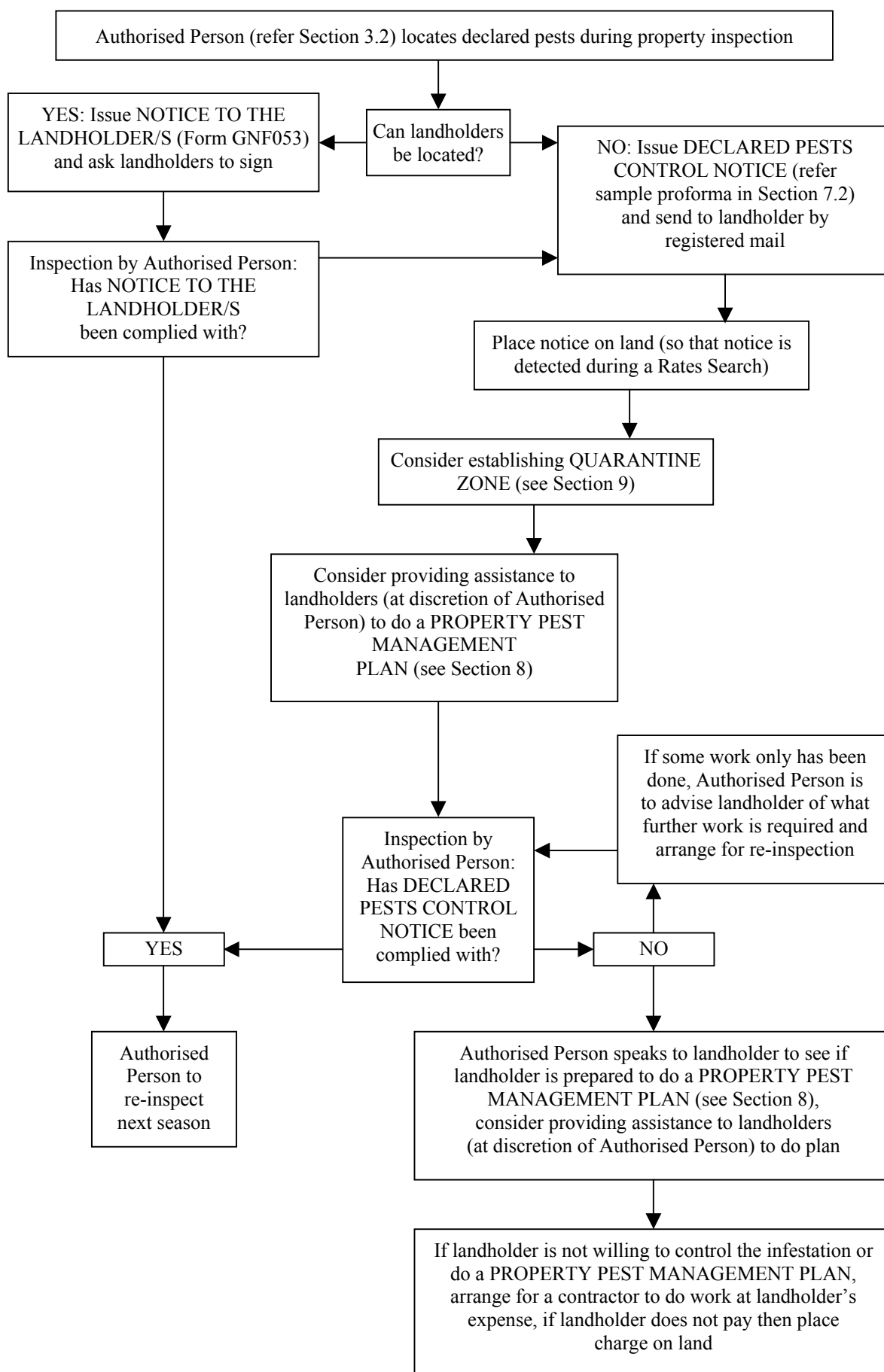
3.2 Authorised Persons

The Crows Nest Shire Council Director Technical Services (DTS) and Stock Routes Supervisor (SRS) are officers duly appointed under Section 68 of the *Rural Lands Protection Act 1985* and the *Local Government Act 1993* as an authorised person. This is necessary for the purpose of inspecting land for the presence of declared plants and animals. If requested by a landholder, an authorised person should produce a written appointment.

3.3 Declared Pests Enforcement Procedure

The Declared Pests Enforcement Procedure is shown in the Enforcement Procedure Flowchart on the next page.

Enforcement Procedure Flowchart



3.4 Notices and Procedures

Notices and procedures relating to the Enforcement Procedure are located in the following Sections:

- (a) NOTICE TO THE LANDHOLDER/S (Form GNFO53) - Section 7.1.
- (b) DECLARED PESTS CONTROL NOTICE - Section 7.2.
- (c) PROPERTY PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN procedure - Section 8.
- (d) QUARANTINE ZONE procedure - Section 9.

4. Pest Plants

This section lists declared plants and environmental weeds within Crows Nest Shire. The following matters are identified for each declared plant or environmental weed:

- (a) Declaration Status (for explanation refer Section 4.2);
- (b) Control Priority Level (for explanation refer Section 4.3); and
- (c) Control Codes (for explanation refer Section 4.4).

Management actions are identified in the Catchment Action Plans (refer Section 8).

4.1 List of Declared Plants and Environmental Weeds

Plants	Declaration Status (Section 4.2)	Control Priority Level (Section 4.3)	Control Codes (Section 4.4)	Comments
African Boxthorn (<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>)	P3	Eradication	A	Area of infestation in Shire has been significantly reduced.
African Lovegrass (<i>Eragrostis curvular</i>)	Env. Weed	Reduction	D, E, F	Spread on roadsides to be addressed by Code of Practice for Council Activities.
Alligator Weed (<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>)	P1 & P2	Prevention, Eradication	A	Not currently present in Shire.
Annual Ragweed (<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>)	P3	Eradication	A	Health risk to humans.
Asparagus Fern (<i>Asparagus</i> spp., <i>Protasparagus</i> spp.)	Env. Weed	Reduction	D, E, F	Health risk to cattle.
Bathurst Burr (<i>Xanthium spinosum</i>)	P3	Reduction	D, E, F	
Blue Heliotrope (<i>Heliotropum amplexicaule</i>)	Env. Weed	Containment, Reduction	D, E, F	Spread on roadsides to be addressed by Code of Practice for Council Activities.
Broad Leaf Pepperina (<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>)	Env. Weed	Reduction	D, F	Undesirable garden plant - community education required.
Camphor Laurel (<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>)	Env. Weed	Reduction	D, E, F	Undesirable garden or street tree plant - community education required.
Castor Oil Plant (<i>Ricinus communis</i>)	Env. Weed	Reduction	D, E, F	
Cats Claw Creeper (<i>Macfadyena unguis-cati</i>)	Env. Weed	Reduction	D, E, F	Undesirable garden plant - community education required.

Plants	Declaration Status (Section 4.2)	Control Priority Level (Section 4.3)	Control Codes (Section 4.4)	Comments
Chinese Celtis (<i>Celtis sinensis</i>)	Env. Weed	Reduction	D, E, F	Undesirable garden or street tree plant - community education required.
Creeping Lantana (<i>Lantana montevidensis</i>)	Env. Weed	Reduction	D, E, F	Undesirable garden or nursery sale plant - community education required.
Fireweed (<i>Senecio madagascariensis</i>)	P2	Prevention, Eradication	A	
Giant Rats Tail Grass (<i>Sporobolus pyramidalis</i> and <i>Sporobolus natalensis</i>)	P2	Eradication, Containment	A, C	Quarantine zones established for Anduramba and Blackbutt infestations.
Green Cestrum (<i>Cestrum parqui</i>)	P3	Eradication	A	Poisonous to stock, difficult to kill.
Groundsel Bush (<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>)	P3	Reduction	D, E, F	
Harrisia Cactus (<i>Eriocereus species</i>)	P3	Prevention, Eradication	A	Not currently present in Shire.
Honey Locust Tree (<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> - all varieties)	P2	Eradication	A	Requires vigilance to ensure that species is not sold in nurseries, markets etc.
Lantana (<i>Lantana camara</i>)	Env. Weed	Reduction, Prevention	D, E, F, G, H	Prevent re-infestation of catchments where totally eradicated
Madeira Vine (<i>Anredera cordifolia</i>)	Env. Weed	Eradication	A	Best eradicated now - if infestations are allowed to increase they will become extremely difficult to control.
Mexican Poppy (<i>Argemone mexicana</i>)	Shire Declared	Reduction	D, E, F	
Morning Glory (<i>Ipomoea indica</i>)	Env. Weed	Reduction	D	Undesirable garden plant - community education required.
Mother-of-millions (<i>Bryophyllum tubiflorum</i>)	P4	Reduction	D, E, F, G	Biological control agents are expected to be released during 2002.
Noogoora Burr (<i>Xanthium pugnans</i>)	P3	Reduction	D, E, F	

Plants	Declaration Status (Section 4.2)	Control Priority Level (Section 4.3)	Control Codes (Section 4.4)	Comments
Parthenium (<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>)	P2	Prevention, Eradication	A	Isolated infestations have occurred in the Shire. Vigilance required for imported pasture seed, fodder, livestock, travelling harvest machinery, etc.
Prickly Pears (<i>Opuntia</i> species - excluding Tiger Pear, Tree Pear and <i>O. ficus-indica</i> Indian Fig)	P3	Reduction	D, E, F	Are effectively controlled by biological agent (<i>Cactoblastis</i>).
Privet (<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i> and <i>Ligustrum sinense</i>)	Shire Declared	Reduction, Prevention	D, E, F, G	Prevent spread into catchments where not currently present.
Russian Napweed (<i>Carthamos lanatus</i>)	Shire Declared	Prevention, Eradication	A	Not currently present in Shire.
Saffron Thistle (<i>Cathamus ianatus</i>)	P3	Eradication	A	
Salvinia (<i>Salvinia molesta</i>)	P2	Eradication	A	Requires vigilance and education to ensure that species is not sold or used in fish tanks or ponds.
Siam Weed (<i>Chromolaena odorata</i>)	P1 & P2	Prevention, Eradication	A	Not currently present in Shire.
St. John's Wort (<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>)	Env. Weed	Eradication	A	
Thornapples (<i>Datura ferox</i> , <i>D. meteloides</i> , <i>D. tatula</i> , <i>D. stramonium</i>)	P3	Reduction	D, E, F	
Tiger Pear (<i>Opuntia aurantiaca</i>)	P3	Reduction	D, F	
Tree of Heaven (<i>Alianthus altissima</i>)	Env. Weed	Reduction	D, E, F	
Tree Pear (<i>Opuntia tomentosa</i>)	P3	Reduction	D, E, F, G	
Water Hyacinth (<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>)	P2	Eradication	A	
Water Lettuce (<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>)	P2	Eradication	A	
Whisky Grass (<i>Andropogon virginicus</i>)	Env. Weed	Reduction	D, E	Spread on roadsides to be addressed by Code of Practice for Council Activities.
White Moth Plant (<i>Araujia sericifera</i>)	Env. Weed	Reduction	D	

4.2 Declaration Status

Legislative categorisation of pest plants is as follows:

P1 Declaration	Plants whose introduction into the State is PROHIBITED.
P2 Declaration	Plants that are to be DESTROYED throughout the State or relevant parts thereof.
P3 Declaration	Plants whose numbers and/or distribution are to be REDUCED throughout the State or the relevant parts thereof.
P4 Declaration	Plants that are to be PREVENTED FROM SPREADING from the places in which they occur in the State or the relevant parts thereof.
P5 Declaration	Plants that should be controlled only on land under the control of a Government Department or Local Government.
Shire Declared	Plants declared under Local Government Local Law.
Env. Weed	Plants which are invading the natural or rural environment but are not currently declared by the Rural Lands Protection Board.

4.3 Control Priority Level

The significance of pest plants to the Shire may be assessed as follows:

Prevention	Use of all means at Council's disposal to prevent the introduction and establishment of pest plants currently not present in the Shire.
Containment	Use of all means at Council and stakeholders disposal to prevent the spread of pest plants from areas of infestation.
Reduction	Use of all means at Council and stakeholders disposal to decrease the extent and impact of pest plant infestations.
Eradication	Use of all means at Council and stakeholders disposal to destroy pest plant infestations.

4.4 Control Codes

Control Codes allocated to major plant pest species are as follows:

- A** Total eradication.
- B** Isolated population eradication.
- C** Containment.
- D** Control on private land.
- E** Control on roadsides.
- F** Control in reserves and on other public lands.
- G** Integrated management.
- H** Biological control.

4.5 Action plan priority declared weeds

African Boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*)

Distribution:	Particularly prevalent in western portions of Shire
Impact:	Invasive plant that forms dense thickets if left uncontrolled.
Status:	P3 declared plant that is to be totally eradicated from the Shire

Goal: To eradicate African Boxthorn from the Shire within 5 years

Action Plan:

Activity	Responsible party	When	How
Map extent of boxthorn infestations	SRS & LCG	Major infestations by June 2002. ongoing	Property visits Advice from LCGs Assistance from ET
Control of boxthorn on public lands	SRS	Autumn when actively growing. Control is dependent on seasonal conditions	Cut stump, basal bark or foliar spray with approved chemicals
Promotion of landholder control on private lands. Ensure awareness of landholder responsibility to control boxthorn under the Lands Protection Act and Local Government Laws	SRS & LCG	Minimum of twice a year, eg. March & September	One on one meetings with landholders. Weeds field days Attendance of Landcare meetings Article in Council newsletter
Inspection of private land and advice provided to landholders of current recommended control practices	SRS	As infestations are identified	Property visits
Assist landholders to develop property pest management plans for Boxthorn control	SRS & NRMO	As requested by landholders	Property visits by Council Officers or meet at Administration Centre
Conduct follow-up inspection of infestations	SRS	3 monthly	Property visits
Issue notices to landholders who have not implemented control programs	SRS	Ongoing	Hand deliver or send by Certified Mail

SRS – Stock Routes Supervisor, NRMO – Natural Resource management Officer, LCG – Landcare & Catchment Groups, ET – Environmental Trainees.

Annual Control Program:

Activity:	Chemical control of Boxthorn on Shire roads and reserves.
Timing:	Best results achieved with vigorous plant growth associated with good seasonal conditions, often in autumn. Basal bark treatment suited to less favourable conditions.
Method:	Overall spray with glyphosate. Basal spray with Diesel/Access, Diesel/Starane, Diesel/Garlon.
Duration:	Annual program required to control regrowth and seedlings. Ongoing work conducted as seasonal conditions permit. Basal bark treatment allowing wider treatment window.

Giant Rats Tail Grass - *Sporobolus pyramidalis* & *Sporobolus natalensis*

Distribution:	Scattered infestations in northern half of Shire
Impact:	Highly invasive plant of pastures that has the potential to significantly reduce stock carrying capacity.
Status:	P2 declared plant that is to be destroyed and totally eradicated from the Shire

Goal 1: To contain and prevent the spread of Giant Rats Tail Grass within Crow's Nest Shire.

Goal 2: To eradicate Giant Rats Tail Grass from the Shire within 3 years

Action Plan:

Activity	Responsible party	When	How
Map extent of GRT infestations	SRS & LCG	All known infestations by June 2002	Property visits Advice from LCGs Assistance from ET
Establish quarantine zones around GRT infestations	SRS & WO	Immediately infestation identified	Signage of area Letters to affected & adjoining landholders Notify Council staff & public utility operators
Proactively seek to identify new infestations of GRT	SRS & LCG	September 2002 to April 2003	Property visits Advice from LCGs Landholder meetings
Control of GRT on public lands	SRS	3 weekly during growing season Sept - March	Visit all known sites, especially after rain. Spray or grub out plants
Promotion of landholder control on private lands. Ensure awareness of landholder responsibility to control GRT under the Lands Protection Act and Local Government Laws	SRS & LCG	Minimum of twice a year, eg. September & February. At beginning of and mid way through growing season	One on one meetings with landholders. Weeds field days Attendance of Landcare meetings Article in Council newsletter Provide Fact sheets at Shire Administration Centre.
Inspection of private land and advise landholders of current recommended control practices	SRS	As infestations are identified then 3 weekly during growing season. Emphasis during growing season	Property visits on a regular basis (3 monthly during growing season or after rainfall events)

Assist landholders to develop property pest management plans for GRT control	SRS & NRMO	As requested by landholders	Property visits by Council Officers or meet at Administration Centre
Conduct follow-up inspection of infestations	SRS	Inspections every 3 weeks from September 2002 to April 2003	Property visits 3 weekly during active growing season
Issue notices to landholders who have not implemented control programs	SRS	High priority through growing season September to April & ongoing	Hand deliver or send by Certified Mail

WO – Works Overseer, SRS – Stock Routes Supervisor, NRMO – Natural Resource management Officer, LCG – Landcare & Catchment Groups, ET – Environmental Trainees.

Annual Control Program:

Activity:	Control of GRT on road reserves and public lands – either chemical or physical removal
Timing:	Best results achieved in active growing season September to March. Must be monitored every 2 to 3 weeks.
Method:	Overall spray with Taskfore ®, Tussock ® or spot spray with Glyphosate. Alternatively on private lands provide strong competition for GRT by establishing forage crops or vigorous pasture.
Duration:	Throughout growing season, particularly from September through to April. Continue to monitor sites for at least five years after last plants destroyed.

Mother of Millions (*Bryophyllyn spp*)

Distribution:	Scattered infestations occur throughout the Shire. Some major infestations in western areas of the Shire. Primarily an escapee from gardens and old dumps.
Impact:	Very invasive weed capable of total pasture infestation in woodlands areas, road reserves and areas where seed or plantlets are disseminated. Very poisonous to cattle.
Declaration Status:	P4 Plants that are to be prevented from spreading through containment and reduction. Control on private land, roadsides, reserves and other public lands through integrated management
Comments:	Requires a catchment based approach along streams, waterways and roads to achieve effective control.

Goal: To contain, minimise and prevent the further spread of Mother of Millions within the Shire through working with landholders to implement an integrated control program

Action Plan:

Activity	Responsible party	When	How
Map extent of Mother of Millions infestations within the Shire	SRS & LCG	Major infestations already mapped with remainder by Oct 2002	Property visits Advice from LCGs & community Assistance from ET
Control of Mother of Millions on public lands	SRS	March 2002 to September 2003	Chemical control
Promotion of landholder control on private lands. Ensure awareness of landholder responsibility to control Mother of Millions under the Lands Protection Act and Local Government Laws	SRS & LCG	Minimum of twice a year, especially while plants are flowering	One on one meetings with landholders. Weeds field days Attendance of Landcare meetings Article in Council newsletter Emphasis to be placed on the timeliness of control programs.
Inspection of private land and advise landholders of current recommended control practices	SRS	As infestations are identified especially during winter & spring months when plants are flowering	Property visits

Assist landholders to develop property pest management plans for Mother of Millions control	SRS & NRMO	As requested by landholders	Property visits by Council Officers or meet at Administration Centre
Conduct follow-up inspection of infestations	SRS	3 monthly	Property visits
Issue notices to landholders who have not implemented control programs	SRS	Ongoing – particular emphasis on when plants are visible and susceptible to control	Hand deliver or send by Certified Mail

SRS – Stock Routes Supervisor, NRMO – Natural Resource management Officer, LCG – Landcare & Catchment Groups, ET – Environmental Trainees.

Annual Control Program:

Activity:	Containment and control of Mother of Millions on public and private lands.
Timing:	Chemical treatment can be conducted year round, however plants are more easily found whilst flowering through late autumn, winter and early spring months.
Method:	Chemical - overall blanket spraying within a small droplet spectrum (spray mist) utilizing a variety of chemistry incorporating liberal use of surfactant. Spray at least one metre outside the area of obvious plant growth. Good results are currently being achieved with Starane/Ally, AF300, Brushoff and Roundup/Oust. Fire can be an effective form of control where adequate fuel load is present.
Duration:	Spray all known major infestations during 2002. Follow up control on an ongoing basis as seasonal conditions permit.

Parthenium – *Parthenium hysterophorus*

Distribution:	Isolated infestations within the Shire. Ongoing monitoring is being undertaken of known sites.
Impact:	Very invasive weed capable of total pasture infestation. Can have major impacts on human health.
Declaration Status:	P2 declared plant that is to be destroyed and totally eradicated from the Shire

Goal: To prevent the establishment of Parthenium in the Crow's Nest Shire

Action Plan:

Activity	Responsible party	When	How
Monitor known Parthenium sites	SRS	Every 3 weeks during growing season, eg. September to May	Property visits
Promote and maintain community awareness of Parthenium	SRS & LCG	Minimum of twice a year, eg. September & February especially while plants are flowering.	One on one meetings with landholders. Weeds field days Attendance of Landcare meetings Article in Council newsletter
Conduct follow-up inspection of infestations	SRS	3 weekly during flowering season	Property visits
Issue notices to landholders who have not implemented control programs	SRS	Special emphasis during flowering & seeding period. Ongoing	Hand deliver or send by Certified Mail

SRS – Stock Routes Supervisor, NRMO – Natural Resource management Officer, LCG – Landcare & Catchment Groups,
ET – Environmental Trainees.

Annual Control Program:

Activity:	Monitor roadsides for establishment of Parthenium, especially during flowering season.
Timing:	Chemical treatment or physical removal of plants can be conducted year round, however plants are more easily found whilst flowering from the late spring to autumn.
Method:	Chemical spray - overall blanket spraying within a small droplet spectrum
Duration:	Ongoing throughout growing season, especially from September to April

Tree Pear - *Opuntia spp.*

Distribution:	Occurs widely throughout entire Shire
Impact:	Vigorous invader of pasture and woodland and capable of developing into thick stands.
Declaration Status:	P3 Plants that are to be contained and reduced in number. Control on private land, roadsides, reserves and other public lands through integrated management
Comments:	Easily controlled with chemicals and time.

Goal: To contain and reduce extent of Tree Pear infestations throughout the Shire.

Action Plan:

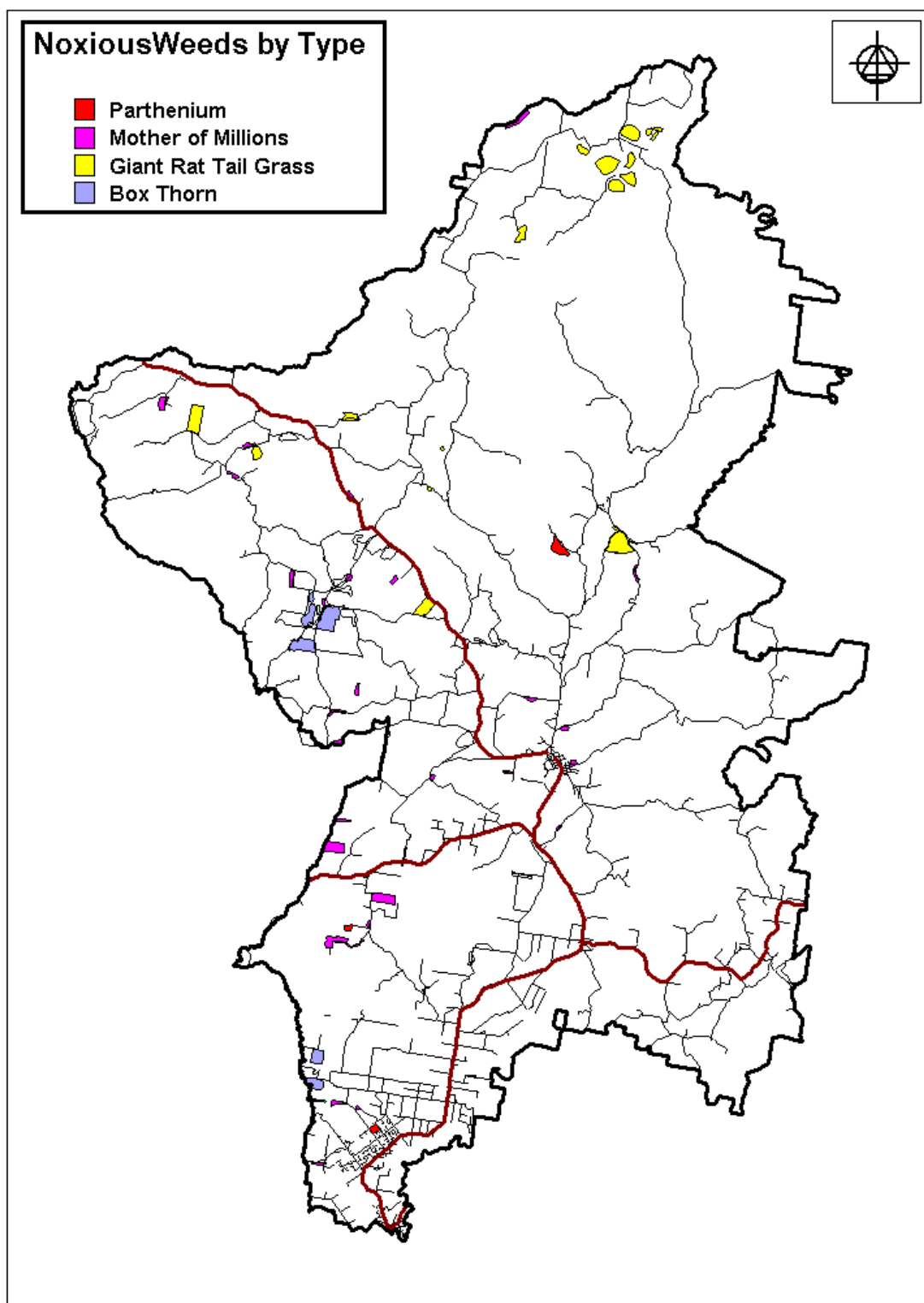
Activity	Responsible party	When	How
Map extent of Tree Pear infestations	SRS & LCG	Major infestations by October 2002 & minor infestations ongoing	Property visits Advice from LCGs Assistance from ET
Control of Tree Pear on public lands	SRS	Year round	Chemical control
Promotion of landholder control on private lands. Ensure awareness of landholder responsibility to control Tree Pear under the Lands Protection Act and Local Government Laws	SRS & LCG	Minimum of twice a year, eg. March & September	One on one meetings with landholders. Weeds field days Attendance of Landcare meetings Article in Council newsletter
Inspection of private land and advice provided to landholders of current recommended control practices	SRS	As infestations are identified	Property visits
Assist landholders to develop property pest management plans for Boxthorn control	SRS & NRMO	As requested by landholders	Property visits by Council Officers or meet at Administration Centre
Conduct follow-up inspection of infestations	SRS	3 monthly	Property visits

Issue notices to landholders who have not implemented control programs	SRS	Ongoing	Hand deliver or send by Certified Mail
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SRS – Stock Routes Supervisor, NRMO – Natural Resource management Officer, LCG – Landcare & Catchment Groups, ET – Environmental Trainees.

Annual Control Program:

Activity:	Chemical control of Tree Pear on Shire roads and reserves.
Timing:	Best results achieved with vigorous plant growth. Can be treated under adverse seasonal conditions.
Method:	Variety of methods including stem injection with undiluted Roundup CT, basal spray with Diesel/Access or overall spray with Amitrol
Duration:	Ongoing program throughout year



Map 1: Location of major infestations of declared plants in Crow's Nest Shire

5. Pest Animals

This section lists declared animals and other pest animals within Crows Nest Shire. The following matters are identified for each declared animal and other pest animal:

- (a) Declaration Status (for explanation refer Section 5.2); and
- (b) Control Priority Level (for explanation refer Section 5.3).

Management actions are identified in the Catchment Action Plans (refer Section 8).

5.1 List of Declared Animals and Other Pest Animals

Animals	Declaration Status (Section 5.2)	Control Priority Level (Section 5.3)	Comments
Cane Toad (<i>Bufo marinus</i>)	Env. Pest	Reduction (where possible)	
Carp (<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>)	Env. Pest	Reduction (where possible)	
Feral Cat (<i>Felis catus</i>)	Env. Pest	Reduction (where possible)	Better management of Council and private dumps is needed.
Feral Deer (Red Deer - <i>Cervus elaphus</i>)	Env. Pest	Reduction (where possible)	
Feral Pig (<i>Sus scrofa</i>)	A1, A2, A6	Reduction, Containment, Eradication	
Fox (<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>)	A1, A2, A3	Reduction, Containment, Eradication	Better management of Council and private dumps is needed.
Hare (<i>Lepus europaeus</i>)	A1, A2, A3	Prevention, Containment, Eradication	
Indian Myna (<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>)	Env. Pest	Reduction (where possible)	
Rabbit (<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>)	A1, A2, A3	Prevention, Containment, Eradication	
Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>)	Env. Pest	Reduction (where possible)	
Wild Dog/Dingo (<i>Canis familiaris</i>)	A1, A3, A5	Reduction, Containment	Coordinated baiting program twice a year. Bounty paid for scalps.

5.2 Declaration Status

Legislative categorisation of pest animals is as follows:

A1 Declaration	INTRODUCTION of these animals is PROHIBITED.
A2 Declaration	NON-NATIVE animals that must be DESTROYED.
A3 Declaration	KEEPING and SELLING is PROHIBITED.
A4 Declaration	INTRODUCTION subject to PRESCRIBED CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS.
A5 Declaration	Numbers to be REDUCED AND KEPT UNDER RESTRICTION.
A6 Declaration	KEEPING AND SELLING is subject PRESCRIBED CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS.
A7 Declaration	Native animals that require a MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.
A8 Declaration	PLAGUE SPECIES (locusts only).
Shire Declared	Animals declared under Local Government Local Law.
Env. Pest	Animals which are invading the natural or rural environment but are not currently declared by the Rural Lands Protection Board.

5.3 Control Priority Level

The significance of pest plants to the Shire may be assessed as follows:

Prevention	Use of all means at Council's disposal to prevent the introduction and establishment of pest animals currently not present in the Shire.
Containment	Use of all means at Council and stakeholders disposal to prevent the spread of pest animals from areas of infestation.
Reduction	Use of all means at Council and stakeholders disposal to decrease the extent and impact of pest animal infestations.
Eradication	Use of all means at Council and stakeholders disposal to destroy pest animal infestations.

5.4 Action plan priority declared animals

Wild Dog/Dingo - *Canis familiaris*

Distribution:	Populations of wild dogs / dingoes occur throughout the whole shire
Impact:	Can have significant impact on livestock operations
Declaration Status:	A1, A3, &A5 declared animal whose numbers are to be reduced and kept under restriction.

Goal: To contain and reduce numbers of wild dogs and dingoes in the Crow's Nest Shire to acceptable levels

Action Plan:

Activity	Responsible party	When	How
Monitor wild dog & dingo numbers	SRS	Throughout year but especially prior to breeding season(s)	Liaison with landholders
Promote and maintain community awareness of wild dogs & dingoes	SRS	Minimum of twice a year eg. Early autumn & spring, especially prior to breeding season	Displays at Council offices, articles in Council newsletter and local paper.
Coordinated Shire wide wild dog /dingo baiting campaign	SRS	May and September	Promote campaign, link with DNR & M coordinated activities throughout region. Provide baits for landholders. Provide training for landholders as required
Baiting of individual properties	SRS	As requested by landholders	Provision of baits and advice

SRS – Stock Routes Supervisor.

Annual Control Program:

Activity:	Coordinated baiting campaign to control / reduce numbers of wild dogs / dingoes within Crow's Nest Shire.
Timing:	Major baiting campaign to be held in May prior to breeding season with a supplementary program in spring (eg. September)
Method:	Supply of suitable baits to landholders subject to stringent guidelines
Duration:	Ongoing program that is to be conducted in a coordinated manner until wild dog / dingo numbers reach acceptable levels

6. Management Resources

6.1 Council Resources

Crows Nest Shire Council is committing the following resources to pest management activities:

- (a) Stock Routes Supervisor - full-time;
- (b) Vehicle and Quik Spray unit used by Stock Routes Supervisor - full time;
- (c) Natural Resource Management (NRM) Field Supervisor - approx. ¼ time;
- (d) Natural Resource Management (NRM) Work Crew - approx. ¼ time;
- (e) Natural Resource Management (NRM) Truck and Quik Spray unit - approx. ¼ time;
- (f) Natural Resource Management Officer - as required.
- (g) Older style slip-on spray unit (available for hire); and
- (h) Maps, information and technical advice.

Council will seek State Government funding for an additional Quik Spray unit to assist the implementation of this Pest Management Plan.

6.2 Landcare and Catchment Management Group Resources

The Landcare and Catchment Management Groups in Crows Nest Shire are committing the following resources to pest management activities:

- (a) Emu Creek Catchment Landcare Group - Quik Spray unit, work crew, 2 vehicles for work crew, Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) funding program for landholders, provision of technical advice;
- (b) Crows Nest Creek Catchment Landcare Group - Quik Spray unit, Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) funding program for landholders, provision of technical advice; and
- (c) Ravensbourne and District Landcare Group - Quik Spray unit and provision of technical advice.


7. Notices and Forms

Section 7.1 - Notice to the Landholder/s (Form GNFO53)

Section 7.2 - Declared Pests Control Notice

Section 7.3 - Assistance Agreement Form

7.1 Notice to the Landholder/s (Form GNFO53)



Crows Nest Shire Council
Emu Creek Road
Crows Nest, 4355.
Ph. (07) 4698 1155
FX. (07) 4698 1717
www.Cnnet.com.au

CROWS NEST SHIRE COUNCIL

NOTICE TO THE LANDHOLDER/S

This notice was received by _____

On _____

Signature of recipient _____

Name _____

Property Address _____

Property Description _____

Council has noticed that your property contains a Declared Plant (as indicated) during an inspection undertaken on the _____

Parthenium		Groundsel		Box Thorn		Honey Locust	
Fireweed		Bathurst Burr		Tree Pear		Saffron Thistle	
Mother of Millions		Giant Rats Tail Grass		Noogoora Burr		Other -	

Brief description of Location _____

You are hereby required to inspect your land for the presence of the above indicated weed and destroy any plants found.

Council invests around \$100,000 each year eradicating and controlling the spread of noxious and environmental plants in order to protect the productivity of agricultural land in the Shire (including your property).

Under the *Rural Lands Protection Act 1985 (Section 81)*, you are required to eradicate _____ by the _____

You are also responsible to undertake treatment of any reinfestation of this Declared Plant. If you do not take action, Council has the responsibility to issue a *Declared Plants Control Notice* on the affected property to ensure action is taken.

Most Declared Plants are not native to Australia and as such have no natural enemies, which makes control difficult and expensive. Declared Plants are usually noxious, and have the potential to harm or distress livestock and humans. These weeds commonly multiply rapidly and in a very short time will dominate normally good land, causing financial loss in two ways - firstly in the cost of eradication and secondly with the loss of productivity.

It is far cheaper and easier to avoid the effects of these plants by early detection and eradication.

This notice comes into effect on the _____

.....

Signature of Authorised Person

.....

Authorised Person's Name

Comments:

Crows Nest Shire Council

GNFO53
07/01

7.2 Declared Pests Control Notice

Rural Lands Protection Act 1985 – 1991
(Section 81)

Declared Pests Control Notice

No. [INSERT NO.]/2002

To: [INSERT LANDHOLDER NAME]

of: [INSERT LANDHOLDER ADDRESS LINE 1]
[INSERT LANDHOLDER ADDRESS LINE 2]

being the Owner of the land described as [INSERT LOT ON PLAN AND PARISH].

I, Gerard John Brennan, being a duly *Authorised Person* of the Crows Nest Shire Council and for the purposes of the *Act*, hereby give notice that after due enquiry of the land, I am satisfied that in contravention of Section 80 of the *Act*, you have failed to control the declared pest [INSERT NAME OF PEST SPECIES].

Take Notice that pursuant to the provisions of Section 81 of the *Rural Lands Protection Act 1985–1991*, you are required to destroy all [INSERT NAME OF PEST SPECIES] on land as described above.

In accordance with Section 81 of the *Act* I hereby direct you to develop, in consultation with the Crows Nest Shire Council, and commence implementing an agreed, written program of [INSERT BRIEF DETAILS OF PROGRAM] on the balance of the land. You are required to commence implementation of an approved program on or before the [INSERT DATE].

I also give notice that an Authorised Person may enter onto the above described land at any reasonable time, and without further notice, to monitor compliance with this Declared Pests Control Notice.

Failure to comply with this Notice could result in Council having to initiate action for authorised officers to enter upon the land for the purpose of carrying out the requirements of this Notice. Should such action be necessary, then the owner of the said land would be held responsible for any expenses incurred by Council.

The expenses incurred under such circumstances (including any accrued interest) will be and remain a charge upon the land until paid, and may be recovered by Council in any Court of competent jurisdiction.

This Notice comes into effect on [INSERT DATE] and must be complied with by [INSERT DATE].

.....

[INSERT DATE]

Signature of Authorised Person

Date

GERARD JOHN BRENNAN

DIRECTOR TECHNICAL SERVICES

Authorised Person Name

Title

7.3 Assistance Agreement Form

Crows Nest Shire Council Pest Management Assistance Agreement

Name of group to which assistance is being provided			
Details of group contact person			
Name			
Address			
		Postcode	
Phone		Fax	

Details of assistance is being provided

Signed on behalf of Crows Nest Shire Council: _____
 Name: _____
 Date: _____

Signed on behalf of _____ Group: _____
 Name: _____
 Date: _____

8. Property Pest Management Plan Procedure

The Property Pest Management Plan facilitates the planned and staged treatment of Declared Pests while assuring Council that required control levels will be achieved (refer to Section 3.3).

8.1 Preparation of a Property Pest Management Plan

When preparing a Property Pest Management Plan, Council must address the following matters:

- (a) The Property Pest Management Plan is to be prepared in consultation with the landholder, who must agree to abide by it. Representatives of the Department of Natural Resources & Mines, the Department of Primary Industries, and other relevant State Government agencies may also be consulted during the preparation of a Property Pest Management Plan.
- (b) Prior to preparing a Property Pest Management Plan, it is essential that both Council and the landholder gain a basic understanding of the biology of the pest species, and a basic understanding of the application of this biology in the context of the land uses and the climatic situation on the particular property.
- (c) A Property Pest Management Plan should desirably be prepared as a component of a holistic overall property management plan addressing the full range of land use and management issues e.g. sustainable production, biodiversity conservation, soil conservation etc.
- (d) Adequate information must be provided to the landholder.

8.2 Contents of a Property Pest Management Plan

A Property Pest Management Plan must contain:

- (a) Landholder and property details.
- (b) Name or names of the pest species that are the focus of the Property Pest Management Plan.
- (c) A basic description of the biology of the pest species, and a description of the application of this biology in the context of the land uses and the climatic situation on the particular property. For pest plants, the basic biology description will include flowering time(s), seeding time(s) and the time(s) when the plant is susceptible to control measures. For pest animals, the basic biology description will include reproduction time(s) and the time(s) when the species is susceptible to control measures.
- (d) Identification of the critical period, which is the time at which the pest species will propagate or seed or reproduce, be poisonous to stock or people, or pose some other risk. It is the period in the life cycle of the species that should not be allowed to occur, e.g. Groundsel Bush should not be allowed to flower and seed in April.
- (e) The cut-off period for the destruction of the pest species, which will be eight (8) weeks prior to the critical period. This time is to allow Council to arrange for a contractor to carry out control actions if the owner does not comply with the Property Pest Management Plan.

- (f) Desired outcomes for control or management of the pest species.
- (g) Treatment and/or control measures. The Property Pest Management Plan may specify staged treatment of different sections of the property by specific dates.
- (h) Completion dates for treatment.
- (i) Measures to control property access and use in order to prevent the spread of the pest species. These measures should desirably include signage on all access points to the property, with the signs to carry the following wording:
“WARNING, [PEST SPECIES NAME] Management Area, Access and Works Restrictions Apply, Contact [LANDHOLDER’S NAME AND PHONE NUMBER] for more information”.
- (j) Land use and management practices, as applicable.

9. Quarantine Zone Procedure

Quarantine Zones are a mechanism used to assist the containment of serious pest plant or pest animal infestations. The Quarantine Zone procedure comprises:

- (a) Identification of Quarantine Zone;
- (b) Declaration of Quarantine Zone; and
- (c) Management of Quarantine Zone.

9.1 Identification of Quarantine Zone

The geographic area to be covered by the Quarantine Zone is to be identified following an analysis of:

- (a) The biology of the pest species;
- (b) The extent of the infestation (geographic area covered);
- (c) Any activities occurring within the vicinity of the infestation that could contribute to the spread of the infestation, e.g. vehicle use of roads, infrastructure maintenance, agricultural activities;
- (d) Expert/stakeholder advice (e.g. advice of officers from Department of Natural Resources & Mines, the Department of Primary Industries, and other relevant State Government agencies);
- (e) Suitable buffer areas; and
- (f) Any other relevant matter.

9.2 Declaration of Quarantine Zone

Once the Quarantine Zone has been identified, it will be Declared as follows:

- (a) The Quarantine Zone will be mapped on the Crows Nest Shire Council GIS system; and
- (b) Advice letters, relevant fact sheets and information, and a map of the Quarantine Zone will be sent to every landholder within and adjoining the Quarantine Zone.

The Quarantine Zone Declaration is to be reviewed on or before the expiry of a twelve-month period from the date of Declaration.

9.3 Management of Quarantine Zone

Once the Quarantine Zone has been Declared, it will be managed as follows:

- (a) Signage will be erected on each road access point to the Quarantine Zone. The signs are to carry the following wording: "WARNING, [PEST SPECIES NAME] Quarantine Zone, Access and Works Restrictions Apply, Contact Crows Nest Shire Council on 4698 1155 for more information";
- (b) All relevant service providers, Council staff and others who may travel through or conduct activities within the Quarantine Zone area will be sent advice letters, relevant fact sheets and information, and a map of the Quarantine Zone;

- (c) Where relevant, the provision and use of wash down facilities will be required to prevent pest plant seed spread through machinery, equipment, vehicles, and implements;
- (d) Where relevant, the use of Voluntary Vendor Declarations will be encouraged to prevent pest plant seed spread through machinery, equipment, vehicles, implements, sand, gravel, soil, rock, turf, mulch, forest products etc.; and
- (e) The effectiveness of the Quarantine Zone will be monitored and corrective action will be taken as required.

10. Catchment Action Plans

10.1 Landcare and Catchment Group Action Plans

Where practical this Pest Management Plan will be implemented in conjunction with Catchment Action Plans for each of the five Landcare and Catchment Management Groups operating in the Shire. These groups are:

- Emu Creek Catchment Group;
- Gomaren Doctors Creek Catchment Group;
- Crows Nest Creek Catchment Group;
- Ravensbourne and District Landcare Group; and
- Highfields and Cooby Creek Catchment Group.

10.2 Working relationship

Crow's Nest Shire will work closely with Landcare and Catchment Groups to achieve effective pest management throughout the Shire in a coordinated and strategic manner. Each Landcare and Catchment group has identified priority pest species for their area of coverage. Crow's Nest Shire will support Group activities where appropriate with devolved grant funds, technical support, advice and work crews.

10.3 Identified Catchment priority pest species

Emu Creek Catchment

Priority Pest Plants

Species	Comments
Giant Rats Tail Grass	High priority weed. Work with landholders to contain and eradicate from private and public lands
Privet	Contain and control in a strategic manner.
Cats Claw Creeper	Need to identify effective methods of control and promote to landholders in the area.
Boxthorn	Significant amount of work undertaken to date. Continue to eradicate from catchment area.
Velvety Tree Pear	Enforce control on affected properties
African Lovegrass	Raise landholder awareness of weed potential of Lovegrass and strategies for management and control

Priority Pest Animals

Species	Comments
Wild dogs, Dingoes	Coordinated control / baiting program. Needs to be ongoing
Rabbits	Small infestations occur throughout catchment. Control program required before rabbits permanently establish
Feral cats	Some impact on wildlife in area.
Feral pigs	Infestations occur throughout catchment. Plan for control / management program
Deer	Concern that deer could spread weeds especially Giant Rats Tail Grass

Gomaren and Doctors Creek

Species	Comments
Tree Pear	Widespread throughout catchment
Mother of Millions	Significant localized infestations that are causing concern
Boxthorn	Scattered infestations throughout catchment area
Lippia (Condamine Couch)	Emerging problem along creeks and waterways in the catchment
Lantana	Many landholders are making an effort to control lantana
Foxtail Grass	Beginning to emerge as a problem in some areas.

Priority Pest Animals

Species	Comments
Wild dogs	Difficult to bait due proximity to other dwellings and town
Foxes	Particularly prevalent around the town area
Feral cats	Prevalent throughout entire catchment area

Crows Nest CreekPriority Pest Plants

Species	Comments
Lantana	Continue control program in Upper Pinelands district
Privet	Control infestations strategically starting in the head of the catchment
Tree Pear	Treatment needs to be effective. Enforce control on affected properties
Cats Claw Creeper	Need to identify effective methods of control and promote to landholders in the area. Raise community awareness of weed problem.
Madeira Vine	Identify infestations. Control and eradicate. Raise community awareness of weed problem.

Priority Pest Animals

Species	Comments
Wild dogs	Better control of town dogs.
Cats	Community education of impact of cats on wildlife. Investigate potential for trapping / control of cats in area.

Ravensbourne & DistrictPriority Pest Plants

Species	Comments
Lantana	Significant woody weed throughout district that is continuing to expand area of infestation
Privet	Particularly prevalent along Hampton Esk Road and beginning to take hold on waterways in the area
White Moth Vine	Increasing throughout area
Groundsel	Needs to be continually monitored for
Madeira Vine	Current minor infestations. Potential for it to become a major weed in the area, especially in rainforests and scrubs.

Priority Pest Animals

Species	Comments
Wild dogs	Common throughout area
Cane toads	Have had an impact on some native fauna
Feral cats	Common throughout area
Deer	Create a nuisance in some areas

Highfields and Cooby CatchmentPriority Pest Plants

Species	Comments
Tree of heaven	Raise awareness. Control on roadsides
African Lovegrass	Tackle in a strategic manner
Privet	Significant infestations. Tackle strategically. Requires financial support.
Lantana	Significant infestations. Tackle strategically. Requires financial support.
Velvety Tree Pear	More work required by Council and Landholders to control
Vine weeds – Asparagus fern, Madeira Vine & Cats Claw Creeper	Common on red soil areas. Requires strategic long term plan for control
Water weeds	Raise community awareness

Priority Pest Animals

Species	Comments
Wild dogs, dingoes & foxes	Coordinated control / baiting program. Needs to be ongoing. More information required on numbers of pest animals.
Cats	Regular trapping of dumps Registration of cats required
Feral birds – Indian Mynah, Starlings	Raise community awareness. Identify methods of control & management

11. Land Protection Budget 2001/2002

11.1 Pest plant control budget

Precept to Queensland Government	\$22 400
Labour - including oncosts (Stock Routes Supervisor & NRM Officer)	\$48 000
Vehicle costs	\$8 000
Chemicals etc	\$8 000
Plant operating costs (Quik Spray)	\$3 800
Miscellaneous	\$1 500
Total pest plant cost	\$91 700

11.2 Pest animal control budget

Labour - including oncosts (Stock Routes Supervisor)	\$6 800
Vehicle costs	\$2 000
Baiting costs	\$3 800
Scalp bounty	\$300
Total pest animal control budget	\$12 900

11.3 Landcare Group Funds

Emu Creek, Crow's Nest Creek and Gomaren Doctors Creek Landcare and Catchment Groups have accessed funding through the Natural Heritage Trust program. Some funds are available to landholders for controlling pest species on their properties. Natural Heritage Trust guidelines control the way in which these funds are spent on natural resource management issues. Funds available for landholders to access for on farm projects addressing NRM issues are in the order of:

Emu Creek Catchment Group	\$300,000
Crow's Nest Creek Catchment Group	\$10,000
Doctors Gomaren Creek Group	\$200,000