

# The Northern Tablelands Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 - 2022



Local Land  
Services  
Northern Tablelands

## Weed Control Management Plan for: Water Hyacinth

**Botanical Name:** Eichhornia crassipes

**Common Names:** Water hyacinth

### Northern Tablelands Regional Priority Weeds Objective - PREVENTION

These weeds are currently not found in the region, pose significant biosecurity risk and prevention of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is a reasonably practicable objective.

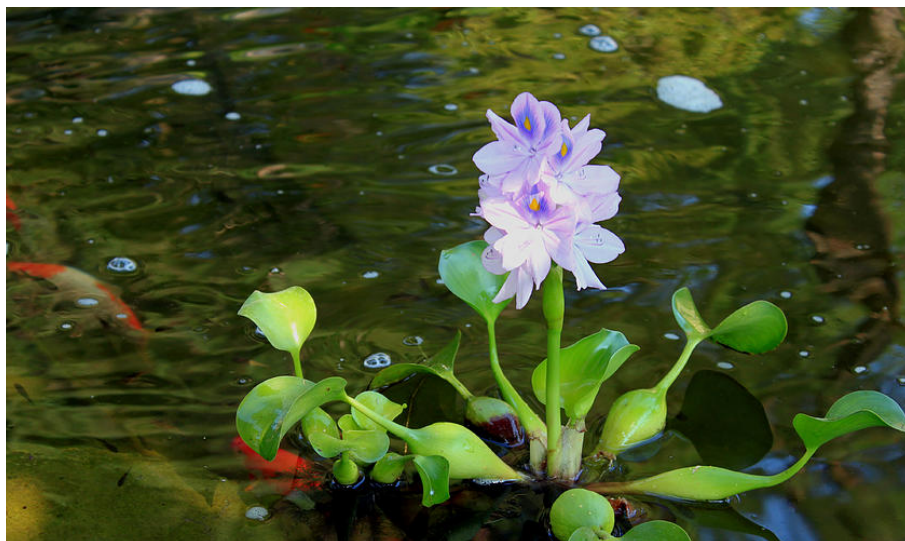
### General Biosecurity Duty

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.



**Water hyacinth** is one of the world's worst aquatic weeds. It infests rivers, dams, lakes and irrigation channels on every continent except Antarctica. It devastates aquatic environments and costs billions of dollars every year in control costs and economic losses. Water hyacinth will rapidly take over an entire waterway. Under favourable conditions it can double its mass every 5 days, forming new plants on the ends of stolons. It also grows from seed which can remain viable for 20 years or longer. This enormous reproductive capacity causes annual reinfestation from seed and rapid coverage of previously treated areas, making ongoing control necessary.

Water hyacinth is a free-floating perennial water plant that forms large, dense mats on the water surface. Each plant consists of several broad, leathery leaves, spongy inflated petioles (leaf stalks), a crown and a mass of fine, hairy roots. Water hyacinth shows considerable variation in both leaf and flower form.

### **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:**

Inverell Shire Council  
144 Otho Street  
Inverell NSW 2360  
PH: (02) 6728 8200 <http://inverell.nsw.gov.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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.