



Photos supplied by:

Bob Ward, Darrell Fabar, Martin Ratcliff, Debbie
Kalish and Fairfield City Council staff

Weed management and Biosecurity

begins in your backyard



Administration Centre
86 Avoca Road, Wakeley NSW 2176
Monday to Friday - 8:30am - 5:00pm

Postal address:
PO Box 21
Fairfield NSW 1860

Email: environment@fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au

For more information on this initiative, contact
Fairfield City Council on 9725 0222 or
www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au

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What is biosecurity?

Biosecurity includes the protection of farming land and native plant communities from Priority Weeds.

What is a Priority Weed?

Priority Weeds used to be known as Noxious Weeds.

Priority Weeds impact upon neighbouring properties and surrounding bushland by excluding and competing with native plants, pasture crops and gardens.

The plants can be spread by birds, wind, machinery, stock feed and storm water.

What does it mean for me?

If you notice Priority Weeds coming up on your property, you will need to control them as soon as possible to prevent them from spreading to other properties or native bushland.



Why does this affect me?

From 1 July 2017 the NSW State Government replaced the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* with the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. Under the Noxious Weeds Act all landowners had, a responsibility to control noxious weeds on their property.

Under the Biosecurity Act, the responsibility is to manage the 'Biosecurity Risk' posed or likely to be posed by Priority Weeds, which is known as the "General Biosecurity Duty".

The term "Noxious Weed" is not used; these are now known as "Priority Weeds" or "Biosecurity Matter".

Should I be worried?

There is no need to worry. Council has a process for inspecting properties for Priority Weeds.

If your property is inspected and Priority Weeds are found, you will be given advice on how to treat them.

Can I ignore it?

No. If you are the owner or occupier of land within New South Wales, you have a duty to control Priority Weeds on that land to manage the Biosecurity Risk.

What changes will I see on any weeds notice?

Council will maintain the current process for issuing weed control notices.

The main differences will be the terminology used and that notices will be issued under the Biosecurity Act.

They will be known as "Presence of Weeds" notification letters or if the property manager fails to remove the biosecurity risk, the order will be known as a "Biosecurity Direction".

