



Department of  
Primary Industries and  
Regional Development

## Shire of Murray Compliance Report 2017–18

### The case for joint responsibility in the control of Narrow leaf cotton bush (*Gomphocarpus fruticosus*)



**Christine Comer, Senior Compliance Inspector**  
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development  
March 2018

# Shire of Murray Compliance Report - Narrow leaf cotton bush (*Gomphocarpus fruticosus*)

## Table of contents

1. Summary .....	2
2. Shire of Murray .....	2
3. Results of cotton bush action .....	4
4. Absentee landowners .....	5
5. Recommendations .....	5
Appendix 1 .....	6
Appendix 2 .....	7

## 1. Summary

### **100% of properties inspected were voluntary compliant.**

A partnership of joint compliance on narrow leaf cotton bush (cotton bush) within the Shire of Murray was implemented for first time during the 2017 – 18 cotton bush season. Compliance actions are summarised below.

Shire of Murray cotton bush compliance partnership with DPIRD.

- 3 cotton bush action areas identified by the Shire of Murray Coordinator Environment Services.
- 14 properties identified as having cotton bush present were inspected by the DPIRD Senior Compliance Inspector with support from the Shire of Murray delegated ranger.
- 2 Pest Control Notices (PCN) issued.
- Both properties complied with the PCN so no remedial action was undertaken.
- 14% of properties inspected received a PCN

## 2. Shire of Murray

The partnership between the Shire of Murray and DPIRD to improve declared pest control was implemented for the first time in 2017 – 18. The Shire of Murray delegated one ranger to the program, Mr Adrian Eppen. It was estimated that the ranger's time commitment totalled five days over the course of five months. This partnership began with training and surveillance in October and concluded with final inspections in February. All inspections were conducted by the DPIRD senior compliance inspector with support from the shire delegated ranger.

Formalisation of this partnership between DPIRD and Shire of Murray is yet to be finalised.

Fourteen properties were identified by the Shire of Murray and DPIRD as having cotton bush present. The identification of properties with cotton bush present was achieved via information provided by the Shire of Murray's Coordinator Environment Services, parks and garden staff, rangers and reports from the community. Additional information was provided by the Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group and DPIRD. All official BAM Act inspections were carried out from October to February.

Two PCNs were issued. In both cases, these notices were issued after multiple attempts were made to engage with the landowners and their voluntary compliance had not occurred. Following the issue of the two PCNs, both landowners undertook voluntary compliance in implementing control actions for cotton bush acceptable to the requirements.

No remedial action was required.

### 3. Results of cotton bush action



Photo 1 - Daudson Road before action



Photo 2 - Daudson Road after action



Photo 3 - Ridgeview Drive before spraying



Photo 4 - Ridgeview Drive after spraying



Photo 5 - Ridgeview Drive before spraying



Photo 6 - Ridgeview Drive after spraying

## 4. Absentee landowners

Absentee landowners consumed the greatest portion of enforced compliance in this process.

Absentee landowners provided the greatest challenge to DPIRD and the shire in terms of making and maintaining contact during the compliance process.

Data collected for this report indicates that absentee landownership is not only a significant barrier to compliance, but that absentee landowners are the greatest source of non-compliance. Biosecurity group and shire feedback indicates that absentee landowner properties cause the greatest amount of frustration to the community, shire and particularly, neighbouring properties.

## 5. Recommendations

1. The Shire of Murray partnership be formalised through The Case for Joint Responsibility memorandum by the end of March 2018.
2. That a report is provided to the Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group based on the information detailed in this report.
3. That a report is provided to the CEOs of the shires of Serpentine-Jarrahdale, Waroona and Harvey and City of Mandurah based on the information detailed in this report.



Photo 7 - Cotton bush spraying in the Shire of Murray

## **Appendix 1**

### **1. Properties inspected in the Shire of Murray**

1. Lot 73
2. Lot 54
3. 166
4. Lot 111
5. Lot 110
6. Pinjarra Industrial Park
7. Alcoa
8. Alcoa
9. Alcoa
10. Alcoa
11. Water Corp Ireland Grove.
12. 212
13. 223

### **2. Properties issued a Pest Control Notice**

1. Lot 73
2. Lot 54

### **3. Properties subject to remedial action by the Director General**

100% voluntary compliance achieved. No remedial action conducted.

## Appendix 2

**100% of properties inspected for cotton bush in the Shire of Murray had absentee ownership.**

Table 1 - Landownership details of properties inspected

Property inspected	Compliance	Ownership
Lot 73	PCN issued	Absentee owner
Lot 54	PCN issued	Absentee owner
166	Compliant	Leased farmland – overseas owner
Lot 111	Compliant	Absentee owner
Lot 110	Compliant	Absentee owner
37	Compliant	Vacant land
LandCorp Pinjarra Industrial Park	Compliant	LandCorp managed
Alcoa Alcoa Alcoa Alcoa	Compliant	Alcoa managed land
Water Corp Ireland Grove.	Compliant	Water Corp managed
212	Compliant	Leased small landholding – local owner
223	Compliant	Leased small landholding – local owner