

Weed Management Responsibilities

Invasive plants and animals have significant detrimental economic, environmental and social impacts in Victoria and are estimated to cost the government and community in excess of \$1 billion per year.

Industry can play a key role in preventing the spread of invasive plants by working in partnership with government and the community. Managing the pathways of spread is one of the most cost effective ways in which industry can reduce the impact of invasive plants on Victoria.

The *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (CaLP Act) contains a number of provisions which govern the control and management of declared noxious weeds, including some of the following sections.

Under section 70A of the Act; a person must not remove a vehicle that is used or intended to be used for carrying, moving or transporting hay, grain, fodder or livestock, machinery or equipment from land on to a road without first taking all reasonable precautions to ensure that the vehicle is free from the seeds of any noxious weed; and any other part of a noxious weed that is capable of growing.

Section 71 (1) states that without a permit from the Secretary a person must not:

- b) Buy or offer to buy; sell or offer to sell, possess for the purposes of sale, or display, plant or propagate, wilfully bring or cause to be brought into Victoria, transport within Victoria; a noxious weed; the seeds of a noxious weed or any part of a noxious weed that is capable of growing whether or not packed or mixed with the seeds of any other plants.
- d) Remove or cause to be removed or sell fodder or grain which contains the seeds or any other part of a noxious weed that is capable of growing.
- e) Sell or hire, or offer to hire, a substance or machinery that is used or intended to be used in primary production and which contains the seeds or any other part of a noxious weed that is capable of growing.
- h) Deposit on land, a noxious weed; or the seeds of a noxious weed that are apparently capable of germinating.

Drivers transporting fodder, grain or livestock are responsible for ensuring their loads do not include any part of a noxious weed capable of growing. Section 83E of the CaLP Act, states that an Authorised Officer may at any time, without a warrant, stop and if necessary, search any vehicle if it's believed on reasonable grounds that 70A (1) has not been complied with. Section 83E (2) states that the Authorised Officer who conducts a search under this section may:



- a) Direct the operator of the vehicle to ensure that the vehicle is free from the seeds of any noxious weeds and any other part of a noxious weed that is capable of growing; or
- b) Take steps to ensure that the vehicle is free from such seeds or any part of a noxious weed.

To find out more about how to control weeds or to learn more on CaLP Act provisions, contact the DPI Customer Service Centre on 136 186 or visit www.dpi.vic.gov.au/weeds