

Project details

Riverina Weeds Action Program

Exclude - High Risk Pathways - Kochia scoparia

Performance overview

Our High Risk Pathways and Sites Management Plan was developed for the Riverina Weeds Action Program. The purpose of this plan is to define and identify high risk (HR) pathways and sites; prevent new weeds from establishing in the Riverina through surveillance of these areas; and reduce existing weeds from spreading via HR pathways.

In May 2015 a concerned resident notified Wagga Wagga City Council (WWCC) Weed Officer of *Kochia scoparia* (*K. scoparia*) being advertised for sale on a local Facebook page.

K. scoparia is a **State Prohibited Weed** in NSW. It is also **prohibited entry** into Australia (Condition C10686).

Activities completed

- WWCC Weed Officer contacted Bland Shire Council (BSC) Weed Officer as the pickup location was in Barmedman (Bland Shire).
- BSC seized approximately 4,000 *K. scoparia* seeds (4 packets) from a cooperative Barmedman resident.
- Further investigation identified approximately 10,000 seeds had been purchased online from China on the 27th March 2015 and imported as *K. scoparia*.
- The goods were received within 2 weeks and subsequently advertised for sale on a local Facebook page. No seed had been sold. The resident burnt the other seed when informed of its status by a third party.
- Seized *K. scoparia* seeds handed over to Australian Government Department of Agriculture 16/6/15 and destroyed as biosecurity waste.

Outcomes

- Entire infestation captured before it hit the ground!
- Establishment of State Prohibited weed prevented.



Further information

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Images: **Top (BSC)** – one of the 4 packets of Kochia seed seized; **Middle top** – Facebook post selling the Kochia seed; **Middle bottom** – Transaction history of Australian purchase on the Chinese Website; **Bottom left (BSC)** Noel Bradford, Department of Agriculture (right) receiving imported Kochia seed that was apprehended by BSC Noxious Weeds Control Officer Grahame McCubbin. **Bottom right (BSC)** – seized material: Great catch by Riverina Weeds Officers!

