



**Catchment Management
Authority**
Hawkesbury-Nepean

Jakki Trenbath
Biodiversity and Vegetation Programs
Regional Operations Group
Office of Environment and Heritage
NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet
59-61 Goulburn Street, Sydney

Our Reference: HN02423
Contact: Adam Hook

20 March 2013

Dear Ms Trenbath

Subject: Listing Yellow Mimosa as a Feral Native Species for the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment.

I am writing in regard to your request for nominating Yellow Mimosa (*Vachellia farnesiana*) as a Feral Native Species within the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment. Under cl.17(2)(b) of the Native Vegetation Regulation the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority (HNCMA) recommend Yellow Mimosa (*Vachellia farnesiana*) be listed as a Feral Native Species for the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment area.

The HNCMA has reviewed the findings of the INS-FNS Change Control Panel report and other information provided by Central West and Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA's and concludes that:

- The Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment is not part of the plants natural range.
- PlantNET (NSW Flora online) indicates the possibility of the plant occurring in the catchment with a record east of Penrith.
- The plant is frequently found forming dense thickets near floodplains and watercourses in areas of northern NSW creating bare ground. If the plant was to establish itself in the catchment it could have an adverse affect on the water quality in the Sydney Catchment area.
- The plant has the capability of becoming a weed in the catchment due to its ability to adapt to various soils and climates.
- Climate change may increase the plants ability to spread into the catchment.
- The plant produces a large amount of palatable seed and can be spread by stock.

The HNCMA suggests the following management conditions:

Vachellia farnesiana can only be cleared within the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority (HNCMA) as a Routine Agricultural Management Activity (RAMA) if all the following management conditions are met.

- Clearing of Yellow Mimosa may be undertaken by clearing of individual plants with no or minimal disturbance to groundcover (e.g., chemical spot treatment), clearing of individual plants with minimal disturbance to groundcover (e.g., grubbing), or by clearing plants at a paddock scale with nil to minimal disturbance to soil and groundcover.

- In environmentally sensitive areas (slopes > 18 degrees, sand dunes or skeletal or rocky soils or in riparian areas) clearing is to be of individual plants with no or minimal disturbance to groundcover. Appropriate methods may include selective herbicide application, manually pulling out plants, and use of hand held equipment and power tools.
- The clearing of Yellow Mimosa does not result in the clearing of native groundcover where the groundcover comprises greater than 50% of indigenous species. Where the groundcover comprises 50% or more of indigenous species of vegetation, Yellow Mimosa plants may only be cleared with a method that has no or minimal disturbance to native groundcover.
- Any approvals required from other authorities have been obtained before the removal of *Vachellia farnesiana* has occurred.

I have asked Adam Hook to assist you should you require further information on this matter. Adam may be contacted by telephone on 0427 203 919.

Yours sincerely



Bernie Bugden
General Manager