



14 March 2013

Ms 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 NSW 2000

Dear Ms Trenbath

Re: Recommendation for listing *Vachellia farnesiana* (Mimosa) as a feral species in the Western Catchment Management Authority area under Clause 17 of the *Native Vegetation Regulation 2005*

The Western CMA recommends listing of *Vachellia farnesiana* (Mimosa) as a feral native plant species in the Western Catchment Management Authority area under Clause 17 of the *Native Vegetation Regulation 2005* as an extension of the recommendations submitted by the Border Rivers Gwydir, Namoi and Central West CMAs. The Western CMA also recommends the removal of *Vachellia farnesiana* (Mimosa) from the INS database for areas where it is listed as a feral native species.

The occurrence of *Vachellia farnesiana* is increasing within the Western Catchment Management Authority area. The species commonly occurs in areas of disturbance or high grazing pressure such as road sides and travelling stock routes suggesting its occurrence and distribution in the Western Catchment Management Authority area is a result of human activity. *Vachellia farnesiana* is outside its natural range in the Western Catchment. Information provided with the Border Rivers Gwydir, Namoi and Central West CMA recommendations supports listing of *Vachellia farnesiana* as a feral native plant species.

Kodala (2006) states that *Vachellia farnesiana* probably arrived in Australia (via SE Asia) prior to European settlement (has moved southwards), which affects its classification as 'native'/'indigenous' or 'introduced'/'alien' by land management authorities. This is an indication that *Vachellia farnesiana* may not have existed in the New South Wales prior to European settlement and may not be native under the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*. If information supports this, the species could be managed as non-native and removed from the INS database. If there is uncertainty the species should be listed as a feral native plant species as recommended.

Regards,

Ken Harrison
General Manager
Western Catchment Management Authority