

VERDANT MINERALS LTD

WEED MANGEMENT POLICY

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| Revision Number | Date | Prepared By | Checked By | Approved By |
| 1.0 | 23/03/17 | John Dunster | Nigel Doyle | Chris Tziolis |

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# Introduction

Exploration and mining activities can pose significant environmental threats by the inadvertent transport and introduction of noxious weeds and by creating soil disturbance which allows colonisation by introduced species, many of which out-compete the native plant species. The spread of introduced flora has a flow-on affect to local fauna. There can also be implications for surface water quality and the risk and intensity of bushfire. Ecological biodiversity and aesthetic and cultural values could be adversely impacted. Environmental weeds are defined as those plants that adversely affect the integrity, conservation value or biodiversity of natural ecosystems.

While this is a general document, the Company also has site-specific inductions and training which include communicating the importance of this document and the identification of declared weeds that may be present in the area.

The Company follows the *Northern Territory of Australia Weeds Management Act 2001* which is the primary legislation relating to weed management on any land in the NT (including exploration and mine sites). The Act applies to all owners, managers and occupiers of land, and all other land users in the NT. Some key requirements under *Part 3 Section 9 of the Act* include:

1. *The owner and occupier of land must:*
2. *take all reasonable measures to prevent the land being infested with a declared weed*
3. *take all reasonable measures to prevent a declared weed or potential weed on the land spreading to other land; and*
4. *within 14 days after first becoming aware of a declared weed that has not previously been, or known to have been, present on the land, notify an officer of the presence of the declared weed.*
5. *The owner and occupier of land on which a declared weed or potential weed is present must comply with a weed management plan relating to the weed.*
6. *The owner and occupier of land on which a potential weed is present must dispose of the weed only on the land or at a designated weed disposal area.*
7. *A person must not, except in accordance with a permit:*
8. *bring a declared weed or take part in, or be responsible for, bringing a declared weed into the Territory*
9. *propagate or scatter a declared weed*
10. *sell or offer to sell a declared weed or any thing that contains or carries a declared weed*
11. *hire any equipment, device or thing that contains or carries a declared weed or potential weed*
12. *purchase or offer to purchase a declared weed or any thing that contains or carries a declared weed*
13. *store, grow or use a declared weed or any thing that contains or carries a declared weed; or*
14. *transport or carry on his or her person a declared weed or anything that contains or carries a declared weed.*

If a weed species is declared in accordance with *Section 7 of the NT Weeds Management Act*, the Company is required to comply with the following declaration classification (NRETAS 2001). Under the NT Weeds Management Act, weeds in the NT are divided into the following classes:

Class A: To be eradicated

Class B: Growth and spread to be controlled

Class C: Introduction into the Territory is to be prevented (NRETAS 2001).

Details of which weed species belong to which classes and other information regarding the Weed Management Act can be sourced from the following website:

<http://www.nretas.nt.gov.au/national-resource-management/weeds/declared>

The relevant information will be included in site-specific training and inductions. Any existing weed infestations on Company titles or in areas likely to be traversed by vehicles will be documented and included in inductions. The Company will impose strict quarantine on these areas.

Also note that other and additional legislation, as well as quarantine restrictions, apply in other Australian states and that equipment coming from those jurisdictions must meet local requirement before it leaves or before it enters the NT.

# Vehicle Inspections

The Company’s emphasis is on preventing the introduction or spread of weeds. The company has a policy of regular vehicle and mechanical plant inspection; the checklist form is attached. High-pressure vehicle washdown facilities will be available where-ever there is a possibility of declared weeds.

# Reporting and Documenting a Potential Weed Management Issue

All workers on Company titles are required to report any suspected in situ declared weeds to the site supervisor who will GPS the location, photograph the suspected weed, and estimate its density based on percentage cover and the area of infestation. This information will be passed to NRETAS Weed Management Branch within 14 days. Once an infestation has been confirmed, the Company will liaise with NRETAS and any other stakeholder (eg the local pastoralist) to co-ordinate a response.

Signed: 

Position: Managing Director

Date: 23/03/17

# Plant & Vehicle Weed Management Checklist

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **INSPECTION RECORD** | | Vehicle Registration: | |
| Vehicle Description: | |
| Inspection (Checkpoint) Location | | Camp | Date |
|  | | | Verified |
| 1 | Vehicle Interior | Check:  i. The foot wells carpets, mats and seat covers for burrs, seeds, mud etc (look under mats) |  |
| ii. The contents of the vehicle (i.e. swags, eskies, tool belts) |  |
| 2 | Tray/Cargo Area | Remove any contents (eg luggage, tool boxes) to assist with the inspection of:  i. Mats (deposits of hay, weeds, burrs and/or soil) |  |
| ii The spare tyre area (s) |  |
| iii Other recesses in the cargo area/tray |  |
| 3 | Engine | Remove and check the air filter/cleaner (dispose if clogged with contaminated material)  Check:  i Grill |  |
| ii Recess under windscreen wipers |  |
| iii Radiator |  |
| iv Engine area for residues (engine oil and grease is not a quarantine risk unless excessive) |  |
| 4 | Vehicle Underside | Inspect the underside of the vehicle, specifically:  i Wheel arches |  |
| ii Mud flaps |  |
| iii Tyre rims (particularly the rear side) |  |
| iv Axles and diffs |  |
| v Spare tyre on 4WD (suspended) |  |
| **Note**: These are potentially high risk areas  vi Chassis rails, all working gear (Buckets, blades etc) |  |
| vii Remove belly plate |  |