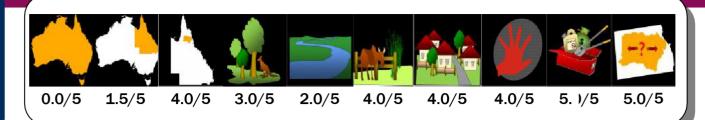
Opuntia spp. (Drooping tree-pear)



Description: Drooping tree pear is a perennial succulent 1-2.5m tall. Stems are broad, thick flattened, leafless paddles which are segmented to form branches which are covered in short, evenly spaced spines. Forms a branching, squat multi-trunked plant. Large flowers (many different colours depending on variety) form on edges of stems followed by distinctive reddish fruit.

Distribution: Drooping tree pear is restricted to a single location/population at Finch Bay near Cooktown.

Impacts: A weed of the environment and rangelands where it competes with pasture and native plants and restricts access.

Key projects: Treatment of the infestation at Finch Bay works were undertaken in February 2017 and annual follow ups are scheduled to ensure the species is eradicated.

Prevention

General surveys have not revealed the presence of drooping tree pear in any other locations within the Cook Shire. The purpose of inclusion of the species within the Cook Shire Biosecurity Plan 2017-2021 was to raise awareness and increase the probability that additional infestations are identified and treated. Should this species, or any other resembling those belonging to the genus Opuntia be observed, individuals are encouraged to contact Cook Shire Council's Biosecurity Services team on 4069 5444.

The introduction of drooping tree-pear is usually human assisted so will be most likely to occur in the vicinities of existing townships or historic settlements.

Eradication

An isolated infestation is currently located on Council Reserve at Finch Bay, Cooktown. Limited distribution has resulted in the infestation being targeted for eradication. Treatment works were undertaken in February 2017 and annual follow ups are scheduled to ensure the species is eradicated.

flower							0					0	
seed		\bigcirc						0					
herbicide													
fire													
	J	F	M	Α	M	J	J	Α	S	0	Ν	D	
Biology		● Peak) est flush	Occasional			⊗ n/a			
Control		• Optimal			⊕ Good			○ Marginal			⊗ Not recommended		

Opuntia spp. (Drooping tree-pear)



terrestrial

succulent

perennial

Category

2

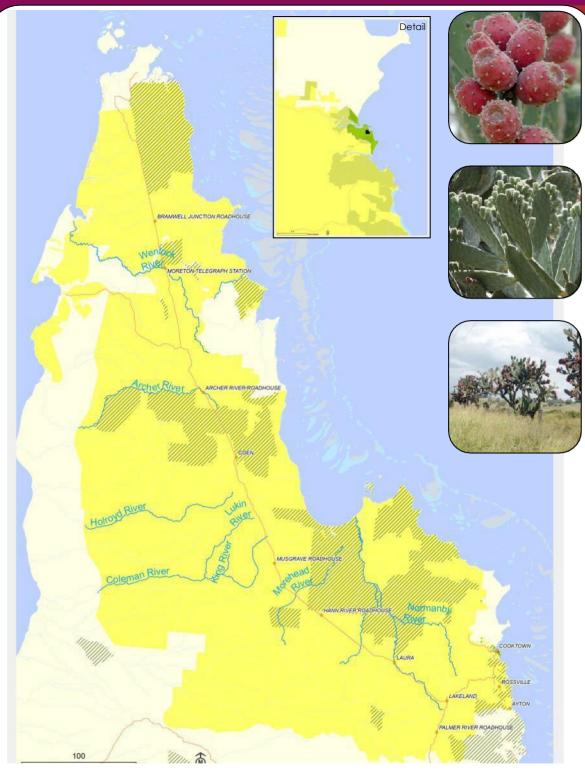
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Control



What is my biosecurity obligation?

Prevention zone

Report any suspected outbreaks or detections in the prevention or eradication zones to Cook Shire Council on 07 4069 5444. Ensure garden waste is disposed of responsibly and that Opuntia species are not given away, sold or introduced from other regions.

Eradication zone

Ensure best practice weed hygiene measures are in place to reduce risk of spread to new locations. Maintain weed free areas. Minimise or prevent soil disturbance in known infestations.

Spread

7