

2 May 2022

North West Hudson Pear Taskforce

Land owners and residents of the Warrumbungle are being urged to contact the Castlereagh Macquarie County Council and report any sightings of the invasive and damaging Hudson Pear.

Warrumbungle Shire Council is a member of the Castlereagh Macquarie County Council, which manages the weed control process across the Warrumbungle Local Government Area (LGA) and is a part of the Hudson Pear Task Force (HPTF)

The Hudson Pear Task Force (HPTF) was established in the early 2000s. This group consisted of relevant local government and state agencies, mining associations, Landcare, landowners, and regional natural resource management bodies. The group meets twice a year to communicate and share information, discuss lessons learnt and collaborate on ideas for the region. A Hudson Pear Management Plan was developed by the HPTF in 2006 and is currently under review.

The Hudson Pear Task Force (HPTF) is working with NSW Department of Primary Industries in supporting a biological control approach using a cochineal bug, which is one of Australia's success stories when dealing with Hudson Pear, and is playing a significant role in controlling the various prickly pear species in Australia particularly in the drier, warmer areas.

Hudson Pear, an extremely invasive cactus, has been found in the Warrumbungle LGA on the Newell and Oxley Highways. This infestation is also across the Pilliga State Forest as well as adjoining LGAs, that are also members of Castlereagh Macquarie County Council, which is a concern as it is not far from the Warrumbungle National Park.

Make sure you contact the relevant person if you have sighted this weed as these calls have led to Biosecurity Officers being able to correctly identify the cacti and engage with the landowner to actively control these incursions.

To find out more about getting your hands on the biocontrol agent for Hudson pear, contact Castlereagh Macquarie County Council Weed Biosecurity Officer Mat Savage on 0427 253 463 or NW Cacti Control Coordinator Jo Skewes on 0438 353 519 or go to [Northern Slopes Landcare Associations](#).

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NORTH WEST

No Space for Weeds



Seen this plant? Hudson pear

Cylindropuntia pallida

Hudson pear is an invasive cactus species of Mexican origin that has naturalised in a variety of habitats in north-western NSW. It has pink to purple coloured flowers, large spines and grows up to 1.5 m high and 3 m wide.

It spreads easily and rapidly and is hard to manage, seriously degrading invaded land and ecosystems.

How does this weed affect us?

Hudson pear has serious consequences and the potential to:

- injure people, stock and pets
- reduce land value
- displace native flora
- kill native fauna including koalas
- make mustering difficult
- penetrate skin, shoes and tyres with its vicious spines.

The spines have a sheath which can stay in a wound after the spine is taken out. This can cause more pain and inflammation.

Seen it? Call us:

Help protect our land, plants and wildlife. If you spot any infestations of Hudson pear, please contact:

BIOSECURITY WEEDS OFFICER
WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL
0428 462 060
0497 013 086

NSW BIOSECURITY HELPLINE
1800 680 244