



BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY NO 11/007

CAMPBOR LAUREL MANAGEMENT IN BYRON SHIRE

Policy – Camphor Laurel Management in Byron Shire

INFORMATION ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT (INTERNAL USE ONLY)

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Further Document Information and Relationships

Related Legislation	<p><i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i></p> <p><i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i></p> <p><i>Noxious Weeds Act 1993</i></p> <p><i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i></p> <p><i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i></p>
Related Policies	
Related Procedures/ Protocols, Statements, documents	<p>Byron Shire Flora and Fauna Study 1999</p> <p>Byron Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2004</p> <p>Byron Local Environmental Plan 1988</p> <p>Byron Shire Tree Preservation Order</p> <p>Byron Shire Development Control Plan 2010 (DCP 2010) Chapter 16 – Exempt and Complying Development</p> <p>Kanowski, J and Catterall, CP, <u>Converting stands of camphor laurel to rainforest</u>, http://www.griffith.edu.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0006/75786/Camphor-conversion-factsheet-NRCMA-Final.pdf</p> <p>“Neilan et al (2005) A New role for Weeds in Rainforest Restoration?, Rainforest CRC, http://www.jcu.edu.au/rainforest/issues/ITFL_camphor.pdf</p> <p>Scanlon, T and NSW North Coast Camphor Laurel Taskforce (2000) <u>Camphor Laurel Kit</u>, http://www.northcoastweeds.org.au/camphorkit.htm</p>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. OBJECTIVES	1
2. BACKGROUND	1
3. POLICY STATEMENTS	1
3.1. General provisions	1
3.2. Camphor Laurel control for biodiversity conservation	1
3.3. Camphor Laurel harvesting for electricity generation.....	2
3.4. Camphor Laurel harvesting for other economic development activity.....	2
3.5. Camphor Laurel management on roadsides	3
3.6. Further Readings	3

POLICY TITLE CAMPHOR LAUREL MANAGEMENT IN BYRON SHIRE

FILE REFERENCE PLN484100

1. OBJECTIVES

- 1.1. To detail Council's framework for the management of Camphor Laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*), taking into account the diversity of uses, values and opportunities available.
- 1.2. To integrate social, economic and environmental considerations associated with management of Camphor Laurel throughout Byron Shire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. Camphor Laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*) is an exotic evergreen tree which grows to approximately 30 metres in height and produces prolific crops of small black fruits at maturity. These fruits are eaten and dispersed by many fruit-eating birds and other animals (Scanlon and the Camphor Laurel Taskforce, 2003). Camphor Laurel dominated vegetation makes up more than one quarter of the vegetated area in the Shire (Byron Shire Council, 1999).
- 2.2. Camphor Laurel is listed as a class 4 noxious weed in Byron Shire. There is a legislative requirement under the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* to control the growth and spread of Camphor Laurel in accordance with a management plan published by the local control authority, Far North Coast Weeds.

3. POLICY STATEMENTS

3.1. General provisions

- a) Large individual specimens (over 1m at breast height) in any urban and village zones are protected by Council's Tree Preservation Order to ensure consideration of heritage and aesthetic values subject to application to remove such trees.
- b) Biodiversity conservation values of Camphor Laurel as per 3.2 are generally associated with significant areas of Camphor Laurel forest and/or where Camphor Laurel is present as riparian vegetation, within a mapped wildlife corridor or forming a vegetated linkage between other retained vegetation.
- c) The presence of Camphor Laurel can promote the dispersal and germination of fleshy fruited rainforest species. The promotion of these rainforest species can aid the transition of non rainforest ecosystems towards becoming rainforest. The regeneration of non rainforest communities should therefore aim to continually suppress camphor invasion and establishment.

3.2. Camphor Laurel control for biodiversity conservation

Despite being regarded as a serious weed throughout northern New South Wales, Camphor Laurel is recognised as providing a range of significant biodiversity benefits. This includes as a source of food for some rainforest birds, vegetative cover for large areas of disturbed landscape and provision of dispersal and germination potential for rainforest plant species. Where the land use intent is to remove Camphor Laurel for the purpose of native forest regeneration, land managers are encouraged to use the 'camphor conversion'

technique in which Camphor Laurels are killed and left to decay in situ while other understorey weeds are systematically controlled (See 3.6 a)).

This technique is recommended in the following areas:

- a) Environmental protection zones
- b) High conservation value vegetation
- c) Native species associated with the lowland rainforest endangered ecological community
- d) Known or potential threatened plant species locations
- e) Known or potential threatened fauna habitat
- f) Riparian and steep land
- g) Wildlife corridors

3.3. Camphor Laurel harvesting for electricity generation

- a) Establishment of electricity co-generation plants in the region has resulted in a demand for Camphor Laurel as a fuel source. The harvesting for this purpose involves large scale clearing and processing of Camphor Laurel and subsequent transportation of chipped material for burning in the co-generation plants. Whilst the activity provides an opportunity to remove significant areas of Camphor Laurel, harvesting on this scale also requires careful management to address risks to environmental values.
- b) Harvesting for this activity is not supported in the following areas:
 - i) High conservation value vegetation (and for a buffer of 20m from mapped high conservation value vegetation)
 - ii) Known or potential threatened flora or fauna habitat
 - iii) Riparian and steep land
 - iv) Wildlife corridors
- c) Where harvesting for this activity is proposed to occur outside of the areas identified in 3.3 b), the following minimum standards apply:
 - i) Site assessment undertaken by suitably qualified person to identify and avoid impacts on biodiversity and landscape values of the site
 - ii) Development of a site management plan that identifies relevant strategies for implementation subsequent to harvesting that ensure effective control of Camphor Laurel (including regrowth), ongoing maintenance requirements, noise, dust, transport & odour management. Strategies are to be consistent with a documented intended land use subsequent to clearing.

3.4. Camphor Laurel harvesting for other economic development activity

Camphor Laurel can provide an economic benefit as a timber resource for use in the local and export market. Numerous known and potential activities utilise Camphor Laurel for products that provide economic and social benefit to the local community.

Significant opportunities exist to facilitate the identification of mutually beneficial opportunities for land managers wishing to remove Camphor Laurel and users of products. Council will facilitate networks between removers and product users that reconcile removal of Camphor Laurel in a manner and scale that is compatible with the conservation of environmental values.

Sustainable use of Camphor Laurel is encouraged within the following parameters:

- a) Consideration of appropriateness of removal with regard to areas identified above in 3.2.
- b) Ensure that opportunities for salvage of Camphor Laurel timber resources are promoted in a timely and efficient manner, including those that arise from Council operations
- c) Removal is carried out in a manner that does not increase degradation of the area (such as increased invasion of Camphor Laurel seedlings and other environmental weeds, damage to native vegetation or increased soil erosion)

3.5. Camphor Laurel management on roadsides

Areas of Camphor Laurel within Council managed road reserves are required to be controlled in a manner that ensures road safety, roadside maintenance implications, ecological values and scenic amenity are paid appropriate regard.

These areas are of potential value for economic activities including those specified above in 3.3 and 3.4. Removal of Camphor Laurel from Council managed road reserves is required to be undertaken in accordance with the following:

- a) Assessment of ecological values by suitably qualified person to identify and locate any threatened plant species;
- b) Control specifications including working near threatened species, effective control methods, maintenance regime/s and stump removal;
- c) Consultation and written confirmation of local residents' agreement to Camphor Laurel removal.
- d) Availability of resources to ensure appropriate capacity to address each of these issues.

3.6. Further Readings *

- a) Kanowski, J. and Catterall, C. P. (2007). Converting stands of camphor laurel to rainforest: What are the costs and outcomes of different control methods? Griffith University, Queensland, Australia.
http://www.griffith.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/75786/Camphor-conversion-factsheet-NRCMA-Final.pdf
- b) Neilan, W., Catterall, C.P., Kanowski, J. and McKenna S. (2005). A New role for Weeds in Rainforest Restoration? Rainforest Cooperative Research Centre.
http://www.jcu.edu.au/rainforest/issues/ITFL_camphor.pdf
- c) Scanlon, T. and NSW North Coast Camphor Laurel Taskforce (2000). Camphor Laurel Kit. <http://www.northcoastweeds.org.au/camphorkit.htm>

* Note links to readings correct at time of printing.