

Buffel Grass Weed Management Plan

Summary of Management Requirements

Background

In July 2024, buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris* and *C. pennisetiformis*) was declared a weed under the Northern Territory *Weeds Management Act 2001* (the Act) due to its negative impacts on biodiversity, cultural values, and fire regimes.

A [Buffel Grass Weed Management Plan 2026–2036](#) (the Plan) has been developed, providing additional details as to how buffel grass is to be managed and regulated in the Northern Territory. This fact sheet summarises the management requirements under this Plan.

Management Requirements (Section 5 and Appendix A)

Management Requirements for Conservation Areas in Central Australia (Section 5.1)

For the purpose of the Plan, conservation areas are identified as Northern Territory or Australian Government managed parks and reserves, Indigenous Protected Areas, Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary and Ngalurrtju Aboriginal Land Trust, situated within the Alice Springs and Tennant Creek weed management regions.

Plan Reference	Management Requirement
5.1.1	<i>Responsibilities for all persons</i>
	Contractors/people undertaking works are required to adhere to good weed hygiene practices
	Adhere to any site-specific buffel grass hygiene requirements of the owner or occupier of land
	Adhere to any property weed management plans
	Clean buffel grass from any vehicle or equipment prior to travelling off maintained roads, as detailed in the Northern Territory Government's Vehicle Hygiene Brochure
5.1.2	<i>Responsibilities for owners or occupiers of land</i>
	Ensure that any permits, such as works, exploration, research or access, or contracts issued by the owner or occupier of land, recognise buffel grass risks and have a standard clause requiring permit holders to practice good weed hygiene
	Develop a property buffel grass management and monitoring program or incorporate buffel grass management into general or existing land management plans by 2028
	Incorporate buffel grass control principles into fire and fuel load management

Management Requirements for Transport Corridors in Central Australia (Section 5.2)

Owners or occupiers of transport corridors in Central Australia must develop a weed spread prevention plan or incorporate buffel grass management into existing environmental management plans by 2028. These plans will address management of buffel grass within its current distribution and methods to limit further spread. Key factors to be considered as part of these plans are outlined in Section 5.2 of the Plan.

Responsibilities for all persons – All land tenures (5.3.1 and Appendix A)

Under the Act and this Plan, all persons have a duty not to undertake any of the below without a permit:

Plan Reference	Management Requirement
Appendix A	Not bring a declared weed into the NT
Appendix A	Not propagate or scatter a declared weed
Appendix A	Not sell or purchase a declared weed or thing containing a declared weed
Appendix A	Not hire any equipment or item which contains a declared weed
Appendix A	Not store, grow or use a declared weed
Appendix A	Not transport or carry a declared weed on public roads or roads not owned or occupied by the person in question

Permit

To allow for continued pastoral use, the Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment will grant an industry-wide permit to Crown Land subject to pastoral lease under the *Pastoral Land Act 1992* to use buffel grass for pastoral purposes.

Individual permits will be required to import buffel grass into the NT.

Land used for pastoral purposes, but which is not covered by the *Pastoral Land Act 1992*, will not be covered by this industry-wide permit but land holders or land managers will be able to apply for individual permits.

Information about permits can be found in Section 6 and Appendix A of the Plan.

Management Requirements for Owners or Occupiers of Land (Section 5.3.2)

Plan Reference	Management Requirement
5.3.2	To take 'reasonable measures' to prevent the spread of buffel grass on their own land. NB: reasonable measures are suggested under Section 5.3.2.1 of the Plan with different expectations for urban, pastoral and remote non-pastoral land.
	To take 'reasonable measures' to prevent buffel grass on their land spreading to other land where buffel grass is not contiguous across adjoining land tenures and/or there is active management occurring on a neighbouring property. NB: reasonable measures are suggested under Section 5.3.2.2 of the Plan.
	Notify the Weed Management Branch of the presence of buffel grass in areas where Figure 1, defined by the 50 km grid squares, indicates that buffel grass is absent, has been eradicated or where the distribution is unknown, within 14 days after first becoming aware.

For More Information

For more information please see nt.gov.au/buffel.

For support managing buffel grass, please contact the Weed Management Branch on the details below.