

Paterson's Curse

Echium plantagineum

- Grows to about 60cm but can grow up to 150cm high.
- Seedlings appear in autumn and develop into a rosette in winter.
- Several upright stems are produced in late winter, followed by flowering in spring.
- Flowers are trumpet shaped; mostly purple but occasionally pink or white.



Rosette



Flowers



Declared weed under the Biosecurity Act 2019

REMOVING PATERSON'S CURSE

- Management of Paterson's curse is best achieved through the application of herbicides registered for use on this weed, and in accordance with the label.
- Be aware that any disturbance to soil through physical removal or application of non-selective herbicides such as Glyphosate will encourage further germination of seeds.
- If you choose to physically remove plants either by digging out or hand pulling, ensure they are placed inside two sealed bags and disposed of in general waste.
- **Do not** dispose of Paterson's curse via green waste.
- **Do not** slash, brushcut or mow Paterson's curse. This will not destroy the plant and will only encourage further spread of the infestation.

Employ a contractor if you are unable to directly carry out the weed control. Council is not responsible for costs associated with contractors.



IMPACTS

Paterson's curse carries a great economic risk to Tasmania as it competes with pasture, contaminates feed and is toxic to some stock. It is estimated to cost Australia's sheep and cattle industry \$250 million every year.

It also poses a threat to the environmental values of Kingborough and its spread is of great concern. Fortunately, due to limited infestations, we still have the opportunity to prevent Paterson's curse from having the same devastating impact that mainland Australia has witnessed. Success, however, relies on all of us to play a role and do our part to stop its spread and ultimately eradicate this serious weed species.