

Making the most out of a sticky situation - acting on Sticky Nightshade as an emerging threat

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Summary Sticky nightshade (*Solanum sisymbriifolium*) is an invasive species that is native to South America. For a long time in Australia, sticky nightshade was considered a weed of disturbed sites in western Sydney, with scattered records outside this area in NSW, Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia. Sticky nightshade was probably introduced into the central tablelands with fodder in the 1980's drought and since then has been largely confined to the Upper Belubula south of Orange. In 2018, members of the Central Tablelands Regional Weed Committee observed that the sticky nightshade was spreading from this initial infestation area and the weed was subsequently identified as an emerging threat in the region.

In late 2018, the committee moved to investigate further the potential impacts and distribution of sticky nightshade in the central tablelands. Records for sticky nightshade over recent years supported that the core infestation was still in the Upper Belubula, but that new incursions had been recorded

in the surrounding council areas. As a result, members of the regional weed committee and landholders impacted by the weed met to conduct a weed risk assessment for sticky nightshade. With the support of the Central Tablelands Local Land Services Board and New South Wales Department of Primary Industry it was determined that sticky nightshade should be listed as a regional priority species in the Central Tablelands Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan – a first for NSW.

This presentation will outline the process to get Sticky Nightshade listed as a regional priority weed species as well as the resources and actions that have been developed to raise awareness of this emerging weed. It is hoped that through listing sticky nightshade in the central tablelands region – other regions will be aware of the threat posed by this weed and be proactive in managing the species.

Keywords Sticky nightshade, Local Government, Local Land Services, NSW DPI, weed risk assessment, priority weed species. emerging weeds