



# Vertical Tree Management & Consultancy

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## *Species Identification Statement*

Commissioned by: Dominic Hogan

Site: 170 Russell Street Emu Plains

Within: Penrith City Council

Date of Inspection: 12 October 2022

Version: 1.0

Prepared by: Michael Garton

Vertical Tree Management & Consultancy

Level 5 Consulting Arborist (AQF Level 5)

TRAQ – Tree Risk Assessment Qualification

QTRA – Quantified Tree Risk Assessment

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## Overview

The vegetation observed within the assessment area is heavily infested with exotic vegetation. The species profile of the assessment area contains only exotic species classes as environmental weeds according to Department of Primary Industry and Local Government.

Contained within the assessment area are 3 dominant species of weeds and one native species observed.

The dominant canopy trees within the assessment area are:

- *Robinia pseudoacacia*, Black Locust aka Robinia.

Understorey vegetation within the assessment area includes:

- *Lycium ferocissimum*, African Boxthorn
- *Lantana spp*, Lantana.

Ground cover species include:

- *Pavonia hastata*, Pink Pavonia,

In addition, a mixture of native and exotic grass species were also observed within the site.

Under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015, all landholders have a “General Biosecurity Duty” to manage any “Biosecurity Risk” posed or likely to be posed by Priority Weeds. These weeds can impact on human health, the economy, the liveability within the urban environment. Impacts can include allergies and other health issues, costs of control, loss of tourism value, degradation of natural landscapes, parks and recreation facilities, reduction of useful agricultural land and loss of primary production, loss of biodiversity and water quality.

## Taxonomy

Basic taxonomy recorded as genus, species, family (refer to species profile).

## Landscape value – Landscape Significance – Environmental Factors

The tree species mentioned within this report feature within the within the assessment area of 170 Russell Street Emu Plains NSW 2750. This vegetation has a low landscape significance with a low retention value. Weeds of National Significance List. These weeds are regarded as some of the worst weeds in Australia because of their invasiveness, potential for spread, and economic and environmental impacts. The vegetation within the assessment area should be considered for removal. Council consent is required for the removal of this vegetation.

## Assessment Area



*Figure 1 – Aerial image of the site and assessment area indicated in red - 170 Russell Street Emu Plains*

\* A visual level 1 assessment was conducted from Old Bathurst Road. At no point was the site accessed for the purpose of this assessment.



## Species 1 – Dominant Canopy Trees

- *Robinia pseudoacacia*
- Family: Fabaceae

### Species characteristics

Black locust reaches a typical height of 12–30 metres. It is an upright tree with a usually straight trunk and narrow crown that grows scraggly with age. The dark blue-green compound leaves with a contrasting lighter underside give this tree a beautiful appearance in the wind and contribute to its grace. Black locust is a shade-intolerant species and therefore is typical of young woodlands and disturbed areas where sunlight is plentiful, and the soil is dry. In this sense, black locust can be considered a weed tree. It also spreads by underground shoots or suckers, which contributes to the weedy character of this species. Young trees are often spiny, but mature trees often lack spines. In the early summer black locust flowers, the flowers are large and appear in large, intensely fragrant clusters reminiscent of orange blossoms.



Figure 2 - Image of the site 170 Russell Street Emu Plains NSW 2750 – Canopy trees identified as Robinia



## Species 2 – Understory Vegetation

- *Lycium ferocissimum*, African Boxthorn
- Family: Solanaceae

### Species characteristics

*Lycium ferocissimum*, the African boxthorn or boxthorn, is a shrub in the nightshade family (Solanaceae). The species is native to the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, and Free State provinces in South Africa and has become naturalised in Australia and New Zealand. It is listed in Australia's Weeds of National Significance list and is a declared noxious weed in the United States and several other Countries.



Figure 3 - Image of the site 170 Russell Street Emu Plains NSW 2750 – Understorey vegetation identified as African boxthorn



### Species 3 – Understorey vegetation

- *Lantana species*, Lantana
- Family: Verbenaceae

#### Species characteristics

*Lantana* is a genus of about 150 species of perennial flowering plants in the verbena family, Verbenaceae. They are native to tropical regions of the Americas and Africa but exist as an introduced species in numerous areas, especially in the Australian-Pacific region, South and North-eastern part of India. The genus includes both herbaceous plants and shrubs growing to 0.5–2 m tall. Their common names are shrub verbenas or lantanas. It is listed in Australia's Weeds of National Significance list and is a declared noxious weed.

Lantana's aromatic flower clusters (called umbels) are a mix of red, orange, yellow, or blue and white florets. Other colours exist as new varieties are being selected. The flowers typically change colour as they mature, resulting in inflorescences that are two- or three-coloured in stages.



Figure 4 - Image of the site 170 Russell Street Emu Plains NSW 2750 – Understorey vegetation identified as Lantana



## Species 4 Understorey vegetation and ground cover

- *Pavonia hastata*, Pink Pavonia.
- Family: Malvaceae

### Species characteristics

*Pavonia* is a genus of around 200 species which are widely distributed worldwide. It is closely related to the commonly cultivated *Hibiscus* but differs from *Hibiscus* in having a 10-lobed style (5-lobed in *Hibiscus*). *P. hastata* is one of two species of the genus found in Australia (the other being *P. calycina* from northern Western Australia). *P. hastata* occurs in woodland and open forest in both damp and dry situations. This species was apparently collected from near the Nepean River west of Sydney within 15 years of European settlement but there has been some debate as to whether it may be an introduced species to Australia.



Figure 5 - Image of the site 170 Russell Street Emu Plains NSW 2750 – Understorey vegetation identified as *Pavonia*



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### **Tree Consultancy / Landscape Architect**

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