

Pest Plants and Animals (Pest Plant) Declaration 2020

Disallowable instrument DI2020–291

made under the

Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005, s 7 (Declaration of pest plant)

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The *Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005* is an Act about pest plants and animals, and related purposes.

The purpose of the Act is to protect the ACT's land and aquatic resources from threats from pest plants and pest animals, to promote a strategic approach to pest management, to identify pest plants and animals, and to manage pest plants and animals.

Section 7 of the Act provides for the Minister to declare a plant to be a pest plant. A declaration may also declare that a pest plant:

- (a) is notifiable – in which case its presence must be notified to the Director-General within two working days. The intention of declaring a pest plant as notifiable is to control new pest incursions; or
- (b) must be suppressed – all infestations on premises must be controlled; or
- (c) must be contained – infestations must be prevented from spreading to neighbouring premises; or
- (d) prohibited – supply and propagation is not allowed.

This instrument declares Coolatai Grass (*Hyparrhenia hirta*) as a pest plant in the ACT. The instrument also declares Coolatai Grass to be a pest plant that is notifiable, prohibited and must be suppressed.

Coolatai Grass is a recent incursion in the ACT. The instrument declares Coolatai Grass as a pest plant to help the ACT to be vigilant and proactive in managing this new incursion. This declaration will assist in its early detection and rapid control to reduce damage to the environment and cost to the ACT Government.

The instrument does not repeal the *Pest Plants and Animals (Pest Plants) Declaration 2015 (No 1)* [DI2015-59]. This declaration will continue to be in force.

Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS)

The *Legislation Act 2001* (Legislation Act) requires a RIS for regulations and disallowable instruments subject to specified exceptions. A RIS is not required for this instrument because the declaration of a pest plant does not impose any appreciable costs on the community or part of the community (s34(1) of the Legislation Act).

Human Rights Act 2004

There are no human rights implications arising from the declaration of a pest plant. The instrument does not engage any rights under the Human Rights Act.