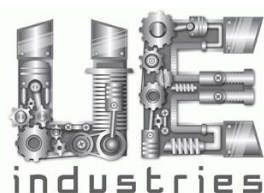




NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Version 1.0

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Management Philosophy

The organisers of Yemaya Festival endeavor to reduce and eliminate any potential negative environmental impact which may result prior to, during, or after the event. The primary goal of the standard operating procedure is to meet and exceed best practice standards wherever possible, extending to every facet of the event development.

1.2 Objective

The operational objective of the weed management plan is:

- To prevent growth and proliferation of weeds.
- To prevent introduction of weed species as a results of operational activities.
- To eradicate all identified instances of infestation.

1.3 Responsibility

Any and all costs, resources, and labour requirements associated with the implementation of this policy are to be borne solely by the event organiser of Yemaya Festival, UE Industries Pty Ltd, with the full consent and support of the property owner, Ken Pattison of Cathcart Farms.

1.4 Legislation

The performance criteria and implementation strategy has been developed in accordance with:

- Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988
- Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006
- Environmental Authority No. EPPG00711513
- Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994
- Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966
- Invasive Plants and Animals Policy Framework

1.5 Obligations

The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR), is responsible for administering the *Catchment and Land Protection Act (1994)*, which is the main article of legislation governing the management of invasive plants in Victoria.

Catchment and Land Protection Act (1994) - Section 20

General duties of land owners

- (1) In relation to his or her land a land owner must take all reasonable steps to -
- (a) avoid causing or contributing to land degradation which causes or may cause damage to land of another land owner; and
 - (b) conserve soil; and
 - (c) protect water resources; and
 - (d) eradicate regionally prohibited weeds; and
 - (e) prevent the growth and spread of regionally controlled weeds; and
 - (f) prevent the spread of, and as far as possible eradicate, established pest animals.

1.6 Register

Identified on the property is Silverleaf Nightshade (*Solanum Elaeagnifolium* Cav). Classified under Schedule 2 of the Victorian Noxious Weeds List published by Agriculture Victoria. In the relevant Mallee region, it is categorised as a Regionally Controlled Weed (Category C), in that it is more prolific than State or Regionally Prohibited Weeds, yet not deemed as harmful as Restricted Weeds.

1.7 Classification

Category	Description
S	State Prohibited Weeds. These are weeds that are, or have or may have the potential to become, a serious threat to primary production, Crown land, the environment or community health in Victoria or in another State or a Territory of the Commonwealth. They do not occur in Victoria or it is reasonable to expect that they can be eradicated from the State.
P	Regionally Prohibited Weeds. These are weeds that are, or have or may have the potential to become, a serious threat to primary production, Crown land, the environment community health in Victoria or in another State or a Territory of the Commonwealth. They are not widely distributed throughout the region, are capable of spreading further and it is reasonable to expect that they can be eradicated from the region.
C	Regionally Controlled Weeds. These are weeds that are, or have or may have the potential to become, a serious threat to primary production, Crown land, the environment or community health in Victoria or in another State or a Territory of the Commonwealth. They occur in the region, are capable of spreading further and continuing control measures are required to prevent their spread.
R	Restricted Weeds. These are weeds that are, or have or may have the potential to become, a serious threat to primary production, Crown land, the environment or community health in Victoria or in another State or a Territory of the Commonwealth. They pose an unacceptable risk of spread if they were sold or traded.

2 SILVERLEAF NIGHTSHADE

Common name:	silverleaf nightshade
Scientific name:	<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i> Cav.
Other common name/s:	white horse nettle, tomato weed

2.1 Plant status

Catchment management authority boundaries

		Regionally prohibited in the Glenelg Hopkins, Port Phillip and Western Port Catchments
		Regionally controlled in the Mallee, Wimmera, North Central, Goulburn Broken, North East and Corangamite Catchments
		Restricted in the West Gippsland and East Gippsland Catchments

2.2 Plant images





2.3 Plant biology

Appearance	Herbaceous plant - Forb (flowering herbaceous plant - not a grass)
Description	Silverleaf nightshade is an erect summer perennial herb growing to a height of 80 cm.
Stems	Stems of silverleaf nightshade are erect with many branches and densely covered with fine star-shaped (stellate) hairs which give them a silver-white appearance. They also usually have numerous slender, yellow to red prickles 2-4 mm long.
Leaves	Silvery white due to a dense covering of stellate hairs and denser on the under surface. Alternate, lanceolate to oblong, growing to 15 cm long (usually about 6-10 cm) and 1-2 cm wide. Stalked, often with prickles on the underside of veins with undulating margins and often scalloped.
Flowers	Silverleaf nightshade flowers are purple to violet or occasionally white and grow to 3.5 cm in diameter. They consist of five fused petals with five yellow, long and tapering anthers.
Fruit	The fruit of silverleaf nightshade is a smooth globular berry. They are green with dark striations when immature, yellow and orange mottled and becoming wrinkled and dry when ripe. Fruit are about 1.5 cm in diameter with up to 60 fruits per plant.

2.4 Growth and lifecycle

Silverleaf nightshade is spread by root pieces and seed. All parts of the root are capable of forming shoot buds. Birds can disperse the plant's seed over distances greater than 1 km. The seeds of silverleaf nightshade have a long lifespan. Each plant bears 30 fruits with about 75 seeds in each fruit resulting in approximately 2,250 seeds per plant.

2.5 Preferred habitat



















Silverleaf nightshade prefers warm-temperate regions where it is not confined to any particular soil type. It grows well in areas with an annual rainfall of 250-600 mm. The weed is also drought tolerant.

2.6 Distribution

In Victoria, it is found mainly in areas with an average annual rainfall of 300-560 mm and appears to favour light, textured soils. Larger infestations are found on wheat growing lands and pastures, mostly in northern Victoria.

2.7 Growth Calendar

The icons on the calendar below represent the times of year for flowering, seeding, germination, the dormancy period of Silverleaf nightshade and also the optimum time for treatment.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Flowering												
Seeding												
Germination												
Dormancy												
Treatment												

2.8 Impact

Silverleaf nightshade is primarily a weed of agriculture and cropping. The weed's extensive root system enables the plant to draw moisture and nutrients from a large volume of soil and compete effectively against other species. Although it infests broad areas, the infestations tend to be populated as discrete patches. Infestation is aided by cultivation.

2.9 Agricultural and economic impacts

Silverleaf nightshade is a direct competitor to summer growing crops and pastures. The plant reduces the production of winter crops, such as cereals, because of the depletion of nutrients and moisture. The weed does not severely affect orchards or vineyards but competes with cover crops grown in these situations.

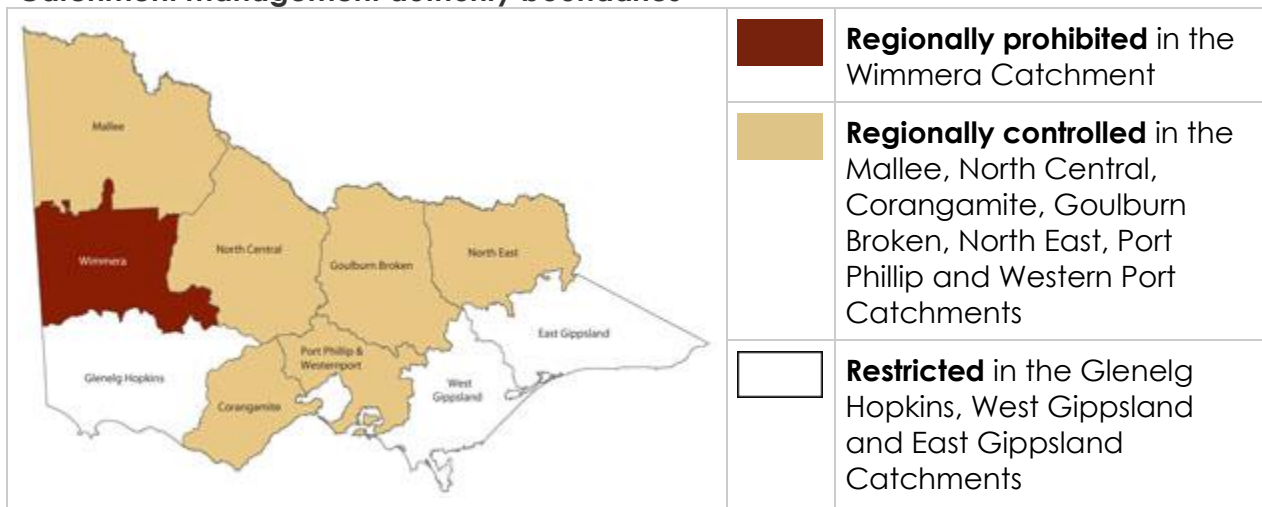
The plant's spiny leaves and coarse stems may lower the quality of hay taken from infested areas, resulting in contaminated product which may be rejected for sale. All parts of the plant's fruit, especially when the fruit is either green or ripe, are toxic to animals. Silverleaf Nightshade is one of the most difficult weeds to kill. The value of land infested with this plant is reduced, due to the weed's persistence and its potential impact on agricultural production. The weed also has allelopathic effects which have been demonstrated in cotton.

3 PRAIRIE GROUND CHERRY

Common name:	Prairie ground cherry
Scientific name:	<i>Physalis hederifolia</i> A. Gray
Other scientific name/s:	<i>Physalis viscosa</i> L.
Other common name/s:	Cape gooseberry, tomato weed, Chinese lantern

3.1 Plant status

Catchment management authority boundaries



3.2 Plant images





3.3 Plant biology

Appearance	Herbaceous plant - Forb (flowering herbaceous plant - not a grass)
Description	Prairie ground cherry is an erect perennial herb 25-60 cm high.
Stems	Stems of prairie ground cherry are branched, spreading, longitudinally ribbed and have very short hairs.
Leaves	Prairie ground cherry leaves are light green, alternate but with upper leaves often in opposite pairs, almost hairless on the leaf surface but with short hairs on margins and veins. Leaves are 6 cm long, 4 cm wide (commonly 4-5 cm long and 3 cm wide) with undulating margins.
Flowers	Prairie ground cherry flowers are yellow, bell-shaped and 2-3 cm in diameter. They have 10-angled calyx and five petals which are fused. These are produced on stalks in axils of upper leaves.
Fruit	The fruit of prairie ground cherry is an orange coloured globular berry when ripe, 1-1.5 cm in diameter, sticky and enclosed in a bladder-like case of about 2-2.5 cm in diameter.

3.4 Growth and Lifecycle

Prairie ground cherry is spread by cultivation and pieces of root longer than 1.5 cm that are capable of producing new plants. The fruit, while enclosed in its bladder, is dispersed effectively by wind and water, hence the spread along irrigation channels. Without its bladder, the sticky fruit adheres to most objects but this is not a major means of spread because the bladder is generally retained. The fruit is eaten by birds, foxes and stock, and germination is enhanced after seeds pass through animals. The frequent occurrence of this weed along linear reserves can be linked to bird migration and animal droppings traced to known infestations. The distribution of hay cut from infested areas is also an important means of the plant's dispersal. Prairie ground cherry produces an estimated 15 berries per plant with 20 seeds per berry resulting in 300 seeds per plant.

3.5 Preferred habitat

Prairie ground cherry prefers warm-temperate regions, growing mostly on clay or loam soils. In southern Australia, it is a summer-growing plant of open grazing land occurring mostly in areas receiving 300-500 mm annual rainfall.

3.6 Distribution

In Victoria, infestations can be found in the Goulburn Broken, Mallee, Port Phillip & Westernport and Corangamite catchments.



3.7 Growth calendar

The icons on the calendar below represent the times of year for flowering, seeding, germination, the dormancy period of Prairie ground cherry and also the optimum time for treatment.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Flowering												
Seeding												
Germination												
Dormancy												
Treatment												

3.8 Impact

Prairie ground cherry forms dense infestations in pastures, crops and roadsides, reducing available fodder and displacing desirable species. When well established, competes with other vegetation, particularly summer crops, for moisture, nutrients and space. The weed is suspected of being poisonous but its foliage is rarely eaten by stock. Sheep readily eat the ripe fruit, apparently without ill effect. Fodder produced from within infested areas is often a means of dispersal. Contaminated product may be unsuitable for sale. Grain quality may be affected through competition for moisture with Prairie Ground Cherry. The plant can interfere with crop harvesting.

4 BATHURST BURR

Xanthium Spinosum

4.1 Origin and Distribution

Bathurst burr originated in South America (probably Argentina) and is now a cosmopolitan weed in warm temperate and semi-arid regions of the world. It was introduced to Australia in the 19th Century and has been declared a noxious weed in Victoria. Bathurst burr is found throughout most of Victoria but is most prevalent in the northern districts.

Description	An erect, much branched, herb growing mainly in summer, it commonly grows 30 to 60 cm high, occasionally to 1 m, reproducing by seed. Most germination occurs after rain or irrigation in late spring and summer. Older plants produce burrs in February while late germinating plants produce them when only a few weeks old. Plants generally die early in winter but mature plants may be found at any time of year.
Stems	Greenish yellow with fine short hairs, armed at the base of each leaf and stem node with one or two triple-pronged yellow spines which are 1.5 to 2.5 cm long.
Leaves	Up to 7 cm long, alternate and divided into three lobes; dark green and shiny above with prominent pale veins, downy and pale green or whitish beneath.
Flowers	Creamy green, small and inconspicuous, wind pollinated, appearing from February to July. Female flowers occur beneath the leaf axils; male flowers at the ends of stems.
Fruit	An ovoid, straw-coloured, hairy burr, 1 to 1.5 cm long and 4 to 5 mm wide, covered with many yellow-orange hooked spines and sometimes with one or two straight terminal beaks. When ripe the burr is hard and woody. Other species of Xanthium found in Australia have burrs which are considerably larger.
Seeds	Flat, brown or black, 1 cm long, two in each burr. Seed may remain dormant in the soil for three years.
Roots	Branched taproot to over 3 m depth, often with extensive lateral roots.



4.2 The Problem

Bathurst burr is common in pastures (particularly around stock yards and watering points) and infestations occur frequently along water courses. It is rarely grazed by livestock because of the long spines. The burrs are one of the most common contaminants of wool. They become entangled in the neckline and belly wool, requiring severe skirting and devalue the product. Burrs also cause irritation to shearers and damage shearing equipment. Spines on the burrs damage the feet of sheep and other animals.

Bathurst burr is a prevalent weed of summer crops such as grapes, tomatoes and sunflowers where it can form dense stands, and may interfere with manual harvesting operations. It can also act as a host for a number of fungal pathogens found in horticulture, and causes contact dermatitis in some people.

Hydroquinone is present in the seed and persists in the young plants, making the seedlings toxic to sheep, goats, cattle, horses, pigs and poultry. Poisoning may result in nausea, vomiting, depression and death, but is not a major problem in Australia.

4.3 Dispersal

The burrs attach to the coats of animals and to other fibrous material by their hooked spines. Dispersal in the fleece of sheep is common. The fruits float and are readily dispersed in water. Seed harvested from summer crops is sometimes contaminated with weeds such as Bathurst burr, which may be spread in this way.



5 MANAGEMENT PLAN

5.1 Risks Identified

The planned operations of the Yemaya Festival event pose a unique risk to the potential spread of the noxious weeds identified on the site due to the significant vehicle and foot traffic anticipated to frequent the event site. Given the risk factors and the resilience of the weeds to traditional control methods, a comprehensive control strategy will be implemented to prevent any and all spread and eliminate or isolate instances wherever possible. The noxious weeds identified on the property are Silverleaf Nightshade, Prairie Ground Cherry, and Bathurst Burr. As Silverleaf Nightshade is the most prominent and invasive of the three, the control measures and management policies outlined below will be targeted towards this plant, with all procedures outlined also to be applied to the control of the Prairie Ground Cherry and Bathurst Burr also.

5.2 Operational Practice

In the preparation of a site for the hosting of an event, it is standard operating procedure to conduct a sweep of the general patronage areas to reduce any hazards of fallen branches, pathway obstructions, and risks of cuts/scratches. The identified weeds are covered in sharp prickly thorns, which pose significant threat of nuisance to barefoot patrons. Taking into account that over 90% of traditional onsite medical instances are for the treatment of mild cuts, scratches, and insect bites, any reduction in onsite hazards is likely to have a significant impact on reducing medical team workloads.

5.3 Control Measures

There is no single silver bullet that will easily control Silverleaf nightshade, therefore a medium to long term strategy will be implemented using a range of chemical and non-chemical tactics appropriate to the specifics of the situation. Silverleaf nightshade can be difficult to control due to the extensive and interconnected nature of its root system. Herbicide application may result in regrowth from the root bank and cultivation can spread root fragments, enabling movement into clean areas. It will also readily regrow following mechanical control, such as slashing.

Given the plant's resistance to standard control methods, a series of eight measures will be undertaken to control the infestation:

- Physical removal
- Use of registered herbicide
- Quarantine of infected areas
- Quarantine of livestock
- Notification
- Inspection
- Monitoring
- Reporting



5.4 Seedbank Control

Seed is the start of a new infestation. Seed production will be minimised wherever possible, as seed can persist for up to five years in the soil. Herbicide treatment at flowering provides better seedbank control than after berry formation, as viable seed can be present 28 days after flowering. Attention will be paid to Silverleaf nightshade growth stages to ensure herbicides are applied before berries are too advanced.

5.5 Rootbank Control

The rootbank is the main source of new stems each season in established infestations. Effective long term control will be focused on tactics that deplete the rootbank. Where foliar growth is present in autumn, opportunity exists for a late season herbicide application for rootbank control. Herbicides applied late in the season can significantly decrease stem emergence the following season. Late season application of glyphosate or picloram (eg., Tordon 75-D ®) is more effective than application of 2,4-D amine or fluroxypyr (eg., Starane ®).

5.6 Scheduling

Spray application can be undertaken at several times during the Silverleaf nightshade growing season, depending on what outcome is being sought. Currently, herbicides are generally recommended to be applied at flowering, which for most stems is mid-summer. Herbicide application at this growth stage will prevent berry formation and viable seed production. Spraying Silverleaf nightshade when it is in a vegetative growth stage, either in spring or autumn, provides the best opportunity for herbicide translocation into the roots. The extensive root system is the major source of new stems each season and will be actively targeted throughout the implementation.

5.7 Application

The short time frame of three months remaining until the scheduled date of the event falls conveniently at an ideal stage of Silverleaf nightshade's lifecycle. Initial applications are scheduled at exactly mid-Summer to eliminate berry and thus seed production, with progressive applications in early Autumn best timed for efficient penetration through the root structure.



5.8 Proliferation

Instances of infestation on the event site are limited to smaller patches, with few of the growths exceeding five (5) individual stems per cluster. Given the limited spread and density of the infestation, control and eradication is the planned objective of this policy.

5.9 Performance Criteria

The performance criteria and objectives for this management plan are as follows:

- Weeds are controlled within the designated property.
- No increase in abundance or distribution of weed species as a result of operational activities.
- No introduction of weed species as a result of project activities.

5.10 Action Plan

Prescribed control measures for the containment and elimination of Silverleaf nightshade:

Control Measure	Application
Physical/mechanical removal	Physical removal will be undertaken to remove the top parts of the plant to eliminate berry/seed spread, leaving root structure and stem healthy to promote the effectiveness of herbicide absorption via translocation.
Use of registered herbicide	Three herbicides, Tordon 75-D®, Starane Advanced® and glyphosate, under various trade names, are registered for spot spraying or boom application. Picloram is very effective at controlling root banks (or systems of roots), but can restrict the planting of broadleaf crops the following winter and may cause yield losses due to its residual nature. If timed appropriately, glyphosate can target the root bank, however glyphosate is non-selective and can remove species that provide competition against Silverleaf nightshade. For any herbicides delivered through a hand held appliance, a compatible marker dye will be incorporated in the herbicide, with recording of use as outlined below.
Quarantine of infected areas	Infestations will be isolated with star pickets and mesh-wrapping to prevent seed proliferation and allow clear identification for monitoring throughout the policy implementation.
Quarantine of livestock	All livestock will be checked to ensure no berries are attached to their coat or feet. If there is a chance the livestock have been grazing where berries were present, or consumed fodder containing berries, stock will be quarantined in a small area for 14 days to allow any ingested seed to be excreted.
Notification	All crew to be trained in the identification of weed species known to inhabit the area.
Inspection and cleaning	Any and all vehicles, equipment, and clothing of personnel accessing the site will be inspected prior to departure to ensure no spread of any Silverleaf nightshade plant matter.
Monitoring	Identified infestations will be regularly and continually monitored and control works carried out accordingly.
Recording	Progress of treatments will be recorded at key intervals throughout the process with additional resources and measures applied accordingly as required.



5.11 Recording Agricultural Chemical Use

All chemical users who use agricultural chemical products are required to make and keep the prescribed records for all agricultural chemicals used.

The following records will be made within 48 hours of using an agricultural chemical product and kept for a period of two years from the date of use:

1. Product trade name: The full name of the product should be recorded to avoid confusion. Many products on the market have similar names but different concentrations, approved uses and rates, so be specific.
2. Date the product was used: The actual date you used the product.
3. Application rate of the product: The rate should be written in the same terms as on the label. This is often the amount of chemical product used (before mixing) per unit area (e.g. 700 mL/ha).
4. Crop/commodity that was treated or the situation in which the product was applied: The crop/commodity is sometimes referred to as the host (e.g. pasture, wheat, apples, roadway).
5. Extent of use: This should be expressed as the area of land treated, the volume of water treated, the volume of stored commodity treated, or the weight of the commodity treated (e.g. 20 ha land, spot spraying over 2 ha, 50 t wheat).
6. Location where the product was used: The description must be sufficient to enable the treated area to be identified by a person not familiar with the location. The more specific the better. Maps, diagrams or paddock numbers are good ways of recording this information.
7. Name and address of the applicator/ supervisor: Full name and address of person spraying, spreading or dispersing the product and if applicable (i.e. where the applicator is using a 'restricted use' chemical product and does not hold a valid Agricultural Chemical User Permit), the name and address of the person supervising the application. Supervision is defined as being within sight and sound.
8. Name and address of the person for whom the application was carried out: Full name and address of the person requesting the application (i.e. where the applicator is a licensed spray contractor applying chemicals for a fee or reward).
9. Wind speed and direction at the time of application: These details should be the conditions at the time and place of application, not just the regional conditions that day. A description of 'light winds' is not precise enough. A description such as 'wind 4-8 km/h from the NW' is required and is also more useful if you need to review the effectiveness of your chemical use at a later date. Measuring devices such as automatic weather stations or portable weather measuring devices can be useful.



the application, in accordance with the product label and directions for use, of a herbicide product that is registered by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, the product label of which allows for the control of the relevant noxious weed, and if that herbicide is delivered through a hand held appliance, the incorporation of a compatible marker dye in the herbicide.

5.12 Vehicle Inspection

Should significant noxious plant matter still be present onsite prior to the commencement of the event, a machinery hygiene station may be established at the main exit from the site to inspect and clean as required any potentially contaminated vehicles. The area will be clear of watercourses and drainage lines.

There are certain areas of a machine or vehicle that require particular attention as seeds can easily lodge behind or within them. The particular mechanical and structural components to be careful of include:

- buckets and blades
- radiators
- grills/filters
- tyres/ axels and differentials
- within slashing mulching and
- ripping equipment
- chassis and body
- between dual wheels
- ledges and frames
- inside drivers cab
- mudguards

5.13 Vehicle Cleaning

The process of inspecting and cleaning machinery will vary according to its type, the working environment and the level of contamination. If the level of contamination is significant then vehicles will be inspected when leaving site, if material and/or soil is present, a combination of the following clean-down procedures will be followed:

- Wash-down: achieved by applying water to machinery at a high pressure using a pressure cleaner or spray tank and pump
- Air blast: assists decontamination in those hard to reach areas by using a compressor with hose
- Vacuuming: can help remove contaminants from the interior surfaces of machinery
- Physical removal: most appropriate for contaminants that adhere to machinery. Often undertaken prior or at the completion of wash down or air blast.



6 REFERENCE

Guidelines utilized in the preparation of this document include but are not limited to:

Weeds of National Significance, National Silverleaf Nightshade Strategic Plan 2012-2017
© Commonwealth of Australia and the Australian Weeds Committee [2012]

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