

## LIFETIME PROTECTION FOR YOUR PET 'Cheap as Chips'



DURING OCTOBER 2012

Greater Hume Shire Council is inviting residents to microchip their companion animals during the month of October for a reduced fee. The fee has been reduced to \$20 for October only. To make a booking you have to pay the fee at one of Council's Offices or Customer Service Centres. Alternatively, the Local Vets are also offering \$20 microchips for October. To make a booking contact the following, Holbrook Vet Centre on 02 6036 2374 or Jindera Vet Clinic on 02 6026 3277.

### **Under the Companion Animals Act, owners of dogs and cats must:**

- Microchip their dog or cat by 3 months of age, or before it is sold or given away,
- Lifetime register their cat or dog with the local council before it is 6 months old,
- Ensure their dog wears a collar and identification tag when in a public place,
- Ensure their dog is under effective control,
- Pick up their dog faeces from public areas,
- Address barking problems,
- Prevent their dog or cat from causing harm to any person or other animal.

Council's Rangers will be visiting properties throughout the Shire to update the NSW Companion Animal Register. Failure to permanently identify/register your pet may result in an Infringement Notice being issued for \$165. Should you require further information on microchipping or lifetime registration of your companion animals please contact Council's Rangers, on 02 6029 8588 during business hours.



## IDENTIFY THE HAZARDS OVERGROWN PROPERTIES AND ACCUMULATED PILES OF MATERIALS

Property inspections have started in September; accumulated piles of materials and overgrown vegetation create a fire hazard and detract from the general appearance of the area as well as providing a harbourage for vermin, which leaves a property in an unhealthy condition. Council requires that owners of land maintain their property in a healthy condition, to avoid the possibility of vermin. Council receives numerous complaints each year about the above issues.

Rangers respond to complaints of overgrown vegetation, and if required, after issuing orders under the Local Government Act 1993, may issue a penalty infringement of \$330 and employ a contractor to remove vegetation or materials which is then charged to the owner also. Council encourages residents with real concerns about such issues, to report them to council so they can be investigated. However, we would also encourage neighbours to watch out for each other and communicate concerns about unmown spaces.

The more work you can do around your property now, the better – slashing mowing grass, getting rid of rubbish piles and flammable materials – and the best time to do this work is now before the onset of the fire danger period. Residents are encouraged to report any potential Hazards to Council on 02 6036 0100 or seek more information about preparing their property for the summer fire danger period by calling the Rural Fire Service on 02 6051 1511.

## *chilean needle grass*

Chilean Needle Grass (*Nassella neesiana*) is a perennial tussock-forming grass, native to South America. A Weed of National Significance in Australia, Chilean needle grass is a vigorous competitor in agricultural, natural and urban environments.

The presence of Chilean needle grass has a devastating impact on agriculture. It can severely reduce pasture productivity, contaminate crops and hay, and the needle-like seed can injure stock or pets. Sheep pose a particular problem, as seed burrows into their fleece and skin and cannot be easily removed. Considered one of the worst environmental weeds, Chilean needle grass is highly invasive in native grasslands. It invades urban parks and gardens and is a significant riparian weed along creeks and rivers.

Chilean needle grass is spread by the movement of seed on vehicles, machinery and equipment, particularly along roadsides.

**Within the Greater Hume Shire Council it is a Class 3 Declared Noxious Weed which must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.**

This noxious weed has been found in the Greater Hume Shire, particularly around Culcairn, along the Olympic Way and Taylors Road/Mountain Creek Road area, as well as on Urana Road between Jindera and Burrumbuttock and the Jindera/Walla Walla Road. Other infestations have been located in the Bungowannah area, the Howlong/Brocklesby Road, the Walbundrie/Rand road and last year along the Hume Highway near the Westby road.

For further information please contact the Senior Weeds Officer on 02 6029 8588.

