NOXIOUS WEED PROFILE

Small-Leaved Privet
Ligustrum sinense

IDENTIFICATION

Habit: Large Shrub up to 4 metres tall.
Leaves: Opposite in arrangement, to 6cm long and 3-5cm wide with a slightly wavy margin.
Flowers: Flower head dense, branched 5-10cm long. Flowers consist of four white petals, each 3-5mm long. Flowers late winter spring.
Fruit: Black to blue-black berry, 4-7mm long. Fruits in Winter
Underground Structure: Consists of a main tap root.
Habitat: Prefers moist, sheltered areas, usually along creek and drainage lines where soil is nutrient rich.

Small leaved Privet showing its typical wavy leaf margin.

METHODS OF REMOVAL

Hand removal is the most effective method for removing young Privet seedlings.
Larger plants can be treated with the 'cut and paint' technique.

Large-leaved Privet
Ligustrum lucidum

Large Leaved Privet fruit

WHY IS PRIVET A PROBLEM

A native of Asia, Privet has been popular as a hedging plant, particularly in England, since its discovery in the 19th century. This tradition was brought to Australia where the plant escaped from gardens and naturalised in bushland areas. The large supply of seed from suburban gardens is readily available to foraging birds, which aids this plants dispersal.
Fruit and Leaves or *Ligustrum lucidium* are suspected of being poisonous to stock and small children, but there is no proof of toxicity (*Flora of NSW*. G. Harden (ed), Vol 3, 1992, page 473). *Ligustrum* species are also known to cause hayfever (*Weeds.* B.A. Auld and R.W. Medd 1992, page 191).

For enquiries regarding noxious weeds contact Randwick City Council 1300 722 542.