**When is a Windbreak No Longer a Windbreak**

**The successful removal of 89 established Athel Pines**

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**Summary**

With the passing of bi-planes and the rapid development of aircraft in the 20th century the need for wind breaks along airport boundaries/runways is more aesthetic than functional. Along the western boundary of the Nyngan airport a row of 89 Athel pines were planted in 1956 as a windbreak. Athel pine are in fact Weeds of National Significance (WoNS), seed can spread by both wind and water or revegetate via plant parts. These trees have been through at least 5 flooding events in the last 23 years, the latest was 2022 and the most severe 1990. The Athel pines were removed this year (2023).

This paper addresses the processes, obligations and involvement undertaken to remove the trees. Including involvement with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), Nyngan community and Bogan Shire Council, councilors, council staff and sub-contractors. Also, what happens to the organic matter when removing the trees as well as initial and ongoing follow up surveillance after their removal.

**Keywords:** Flooding, involvement, obligations, CASA, WoNS