

Roadside Weeds & Pests Program Control Plan 2017-2019

Municipality Details

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Regional Context of Noxious Weed and Pest Animal Management

The City of Greater Shepparton is located in the northeast of Victoria and covers approximately 2,421 square kilometres. The landform consists of a predominately flat landscape that is intersected with a number of rivers and tributaries that drain north to the Murray River via the Goulburn River and its associated floodplains. The variation in the landscape and vegetation types range from river valleys, plains woodlands to the slopes of the Goldfields and Dookie area. The area is predominantly rural and includes large production farms of dairy and horticulture as well as small hobby farms. There are low-density settlements surrounding the rural townships of Tatura, Murchison, Toolamba, Dookie, Katandra, and urban settlements in the major regional centres of Shepparton and Mooroopna.

Greater Shepparton City Council (Council) is currently responsible for the management of approximately 2,500km of the local road network. Council is committed to the early prevention and control of weed infestations on Council managed land.

During 2015-2017 (under our previous Roadside Weed and Rabbit Control Plan), Council mapped and treated 602km of high priority weeds that were mostly targeted in areas with higher proportions of high and very high roadside conservation significance. Council also treated over 200km of noxious weeds on roadsides under the Roadside Weed and Rabbit Control Plan (2013-2015).

Prior State Government funding initiatives, such as *Building the Capacity of Local Government to Respond to Pests*, also allowed Council to treat approximately 700 km of roadsides for Regionally Controlled and Regionally Prohibited weeds and established pest animals. In addition, Council maintains a comprehensive weed mapping system which has data of declared noxious weeds, established pest animals, and a range of other weed species the community and Council together consider to have very high local significance.

Council has invested financial and staffing resources on roadside weed treatment over the last seven years. Council's past commitment to roadside weed control has allowed this plan to include a comprehensive list of current target species (refer to Table 1) to control on our high and very high conservation value roadsides. If the high and very high conservation roadsides are all treated then any remaining funds will be spent on treating moderate conservation value roadsides.

Community Consultation

Council's Sustainability and Environment Officers stay well-informed of current weed treatment information and community concerns via phone calls and correspondence with individuals. They also attend meetings with the relevant stakeholders (Goulburn Murray Landcare Network, Land and Biodiversity Implementation Forum, Goulburn Broken Local Government Biodiversity Reference Group, other local Landcare Groups, Dookie Biolinks Group, and relevant meetings of the GeckoClan Landcare Network).

The majority of the stakeholder input required to develop this document was obtained in 2012/13 when Council requested stakeholder input on this issue via 300 randomly selected landholder mail survey and interviews with key stakeholders (refer to list below) and maintains a record of this feedback. There were also 31 interviews conducted face-to-face or over the phone. Council responds to community concerns on all issues including pest and weeds, via phone calls, site meetings and provides information to the community on weed management on the Council website, Facebook and Twitter.

Council Officers will inform the community that this plan has been prepared via traditional and social media avenues. The plan will be available on the Council website and distributed through the Goulburn Murray Landcare Network and other local networks.

Stakeholder Consultation

The key stakeholders below were consulted in the development of the original Roadside Weed and Rabbit Control Plan that was developed in 2013. This plan is an extension of the original plan therefore, this input has been included in the development of this plan. Council will promote the implementation of this plan via the Council website, traditional and social media avenues, and include an article in the Goulburn Murray Landcare Network newsletter.

- Arcadia and District Landcare Group
- Benalla Rural City
- Bunbartha Kaarimba Zeerust Landcare Group
- Country Fire Authority
- Congupna Tallygaroopna Landcare Group
- Dhurringhile and District Landcare Group
- Dookie Land Management Group
- Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning
- Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources
- East Shepparton Landcare Group
- GeckoClan Landcare Network
- Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
- Goulburn Murray Landcare Network
- Goulburn Valley Environment Group
- Greater Shepparton City Council – Environment Services staff
- Harston Community Landcare Group
- Invergordon District Environment Group
- Lower Goulburn Conservation Management Network
- North West Mooroopna Land Management Group
- Parks Victoria
- Riverine plains Group
- Sheep Pen Creek Land management Group

- Shepparton-Mooroopna Urban Landcare Group
- Undera Landcare Group
- Victorian Farmers Federation
- Whroo Goldfields Conservation Management Network

Relevant Local, Regional Policies and Strategies and submissions

List policies, strategies and submissions relevant to this plan.

State

- Invasive Plants and Animal Policy Framework
- *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*
- *Roadside Management Act 2004*
- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*
- *Road Management Act 2004*. Code of Practice. Worksite Safety – Traffic Management.
- Road Management (Works and Infrastructure) Regulations 2005
- DSE Roadside Vegetation Policy for Bushfire Risk Mitigation purposes.

Regional

- GBCMA Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019
- GBCMA Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2010-2015
- Goulburn Broken Catchment Roadside Biodiversity Risk Management Protocols

Local

- Greater Shepparton City Council Municipal Fire Management Plan 2007
- Greater Shepparton City Council Roadside Management Strategy 2008
- Greater Shepparton City Council Road Management Plan
- Greater Shepparton City Council 2017-2021 Council Plan
- Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy
- Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy Discussion Paper

Submissions

A comprehensive stakeholder engagement process has informed the development of this plan. Council received 131 completed surveys and conducted 31 face-to-face or phone interviews with representatives from community groups, nongovernment organisations, and Council and State agency staff, to establish their views on weed management during the 2012/13 consultation process.

Objectives of the Plan

The objective of this plan is to prevent the introduction and control the spread of invasive plants and animal species across the municipality and region; and to complement past investments made by Greater Shepparton City Council enabled through State Government initiative funding.

Greater Shepparton City Council's overall roadside weed and rabbit management objective is the effective and proactive management of invasive species on Council managed roadsides across the Municipality. Investment of funds will be aligned to:

1. Treatment for the eradication of Regionally Prohibited Weed infestations.
2. Treatment for the containment or reduction in area infestations of Regionally Controlled Weeds and rabbits – aligned to DEDJTR weed and rabbit compliance project area.
3. Supporting community group investment in weed and pest control projects.

4. Contributing to other previous investment in the control of Regionally Controlled and Regionally Prohibited Weeds and rabbits.
5. Protect identified assets such as significant roadside vegetation under threat from weed invasion or other significant roadside infrastructure.
6. Support weed and pest animal management programs being undertaken by land-owners.
7. Addressing other roadside declared noxious weed infestations of concern to the Municipality's community including Restricted Weeds declared under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act (CaLP) Act 1994*.

Term of the Plan

*The plan will run for a **two year period** from 1 July 2017 (date of commencement) to 30 June 2019*

Funding

- Roadside Weed and Pest Program Allocation - \$52,595 per year
- Greater Shepparton Roadside Management Strategy - \$5,000 per year plus an estimated 200 in-kind staff hours to develop, implement and report on this plan.

Table 1: Target Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	CaLP classification	PRIORITY RATING (1 = highest)	Reasons for Management
Serrated Tussock	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>	Regionally Prohibited Weed	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support DELWP and DEDJTR compliance programs. - There is only one known former location of Serrated Tussock mapped within Greater Shepparton. Surveillance to continue, any new sites will be treated immediately.
Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> (agg.)	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support DELWP and DEDJTR compliance programs; local Landcare group's activities and previous State Government and Council investment (<i>including Rounds 1,2&3 of Building the Capacity of Local Government to Respond to Pests grants program</i>)
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Established Pest Animal	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are no known roadside rabbit warrens. - Support Goulburn Murray Landcare Network members and other community led control programs
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support DELWP and DEDJTR compliance programs. - There are only two known locations mapped within Greater Shepparton. Surveillance to continue, any new sites will be treated immediately.
Sweet Briar	<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In response to stakeholder feedback - To support Goulburn Murray Landcare Network control programs; and previous DEPI and council investments
African Boxthorn	<i>Lyceum ferossisimum</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support previous investment by Council - In response to stakeholder feedback but targeted to roadsides with high or very high conservation significance (moderate conservation significance roadsides will be treated if budget permits).
Paterson's Curse	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	
St John's Wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	
Chilean Needle Grass	<i>Nassella neesiana</i>	Restricted Weed	3	

Bridal Creeper	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>	Restricted Weed	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support previous investment by Council - In response to stakeholder feedback but targeted to roadsides with high or very high conservation significance (moderate conservation significance roadsides will be treated if budget permits).
Caltrop	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	
Bathurst Burr	<i>Xanthium spinosum</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	
African Love Grass	<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	
Horehound	<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	
Prairie Ground cherry	<i>Physalis hederifolia</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	
Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia monacantha & stricta</i>	Restricted Weed	3	
Spear thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Restricted Weed	3	
Spiny Burr Grass	<i>Cenchrus longispinus</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	
Silverleaf Nightshade	<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	
Variegated Thistle	<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	
Khaki Weed	<i>Alternanthera pungens</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	
Willow	<i>Salix spp.</i>	Restricted Weed	3	
Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Restricted Weed	3	

Table 2: Control Measures and Target Roadsides (this table can be used as part of Council's yearly or acquittal report to LGV)

Common Name*	Control Measures (to be based on accepted best practice management of the target species)	Location of where works will be done	Estimate of length of roadside to be treated annually over 2 years (Km = length of road along which both sides are treated. Where only one side is treated halve the figure)	Approximate Annual Timing of Treatment	Estimated Cost (will be redistributed if funds not required)
Serrated Tussock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label - Manual removal of isolated plants 	- Throughout the municipality	50km	Part of mapping and ongoing surveillance	\$4,000
Blackberry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label - Mechanical removal where herbicide application is inappropriate 	- Throughout the municipality	100km	February – Aprill	\$6,690
Rabbit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mechanical ripping of warrens limited to roadsides with exotic grass cover only - Fumigation of warrens at all other sites 	- Unknown	Unknown	September - February	\$4,000
Gorse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray, drill and fill or cut and paste application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label - Cut stump herbicide application if appropriate\ 	- Toolamba	2km	April - July	\$1,000
Sweet Briar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray, drill and fill or cut and paste application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label - Cut stump herbicide application 	- Throughout the municipality	50km	October - December	\$5,000
African Boxthorn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray, drill and fill or cut and paste application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label - Cut stump herbicide application 	- Roadsides with High or Very High Conservation significance first priority	50km	Part of mapping and ongoing surveillance	\$4,500
Paterson's Curse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label - Manual removal of isolated plants 		50km	June - October	\$5,000
St John's Wort			50km	June - October	\$5,000
Bathurst Burr			50km	October - March	\$5,000
Caltrop			50km	October - March	\$5,000
Bridal Creeper			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label 	50km	April - October

Chilean Needle Grass	- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	- Roadsides with High or Very High Conservation significance first priority	100km	October - March	\$5,000
African Love Grass			100km	September - April	\$5,000
Horehound			100km	April- December	\$5,000
Prairie ground cherry			100km	October - March	\$5,000
Prickly Pear			100km	October - April	\$5,000
Spear thistle			100km	August - December	\$5,000
Spiny Burr Grass			100km	August - March	\$5,000
Silverleaf Nightshade			100km	September - December	\$5,000
Variegated thistle			100km	April - October	\$5,000
Hawthorn	- Spot spray, drill and fill or cut and paste application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label		100km	October - March	\$5,000
Willow			100km	October – January	\$5,000
Fennel	- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label		100km	October - March	\$5,000
Mapping	- 5 days of field mapping	- Areas previously unmapped as per GIS system	Approximately 500km	As required	\$5,000

Maps

1. Map 1 - Proposed location of control works (refer to attached Map 1 for the location of roadsides with High and Very High Conservation Significance).
2. Map 2 - Known roadside weed infestations 2010 - 2017
3. Map 3 – Roadside Weed Treatment Areas 2010 – 2017. Please note that this map displays treatment activities for all weed species on all Council roadsides, regardless of the conservation value.

Statement of Responsibilities

Council will:

- Publish this approved plan (or approved variation to this plan if relevant) on its website within 28 days of approval and ensure copies are available for public inspection at Council's office/s.
- Coordinate the implementation of this plan on Council managed roadsides in accordance with the investment principles stated in this plan and the control measures specified in Table 2.
- Implement best practice weed hygiene principles and protocols.
- Maintain accurate records sufficient to provide evidence that the plan has been carried out and provide these to Local Government Victoria on request.
- Obtain approval from DEDJTR before substantially modifying or varying the plan.
- Carefully consider any proposals from DEDJTR to modify or vary the plan in response to changed circumstances.

Provide a completion report to Local Government Victoria within 30 days from expiry of this plan outlining the outcomes of the control measures undertaken.

DEDJTR Endorsement

I declare that I am an authorised representative and that this plan has been reviewed and aligns with eligible activities.

**DEDJTR Regional Manager - Plants, Chemicals
& Invasive Species**

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Declaration

I declare that I am an authorised representative and the information given on this form is complete and correct

Key Contact Name: Travis Turner

Date:

Signature:

Council CEO Name: Peter Harriott

Signature:

Date: