

# Roadside Weeds & Pests Program Control Plan

## Municipality Details

Council Name: Murrindindi Shire Council

Key Contact Name: Sue McNair

Position: Environment Officer

Contact Details: 03 57720702 Mb 0478 007

## Regional Context of Noxious Weed and Pest Animal Management

To assist Local Government Victoria in gaining an understanding of the regional perspective, briefly provide a summary of noxious weeds and pest animal management on council managed roadsides in your municipality.

Murrindindi Shire is situated on Melbourne's peri-urban fringe. The Shire spans 3,887 square kilometres of which 48% is Crown land. With the exception of a small area south of Kinglake, most of the shire lies in the upper part of the Goulburn River Catchment.

Predominately rural, including large production farms down to smaller hobby farms, the terrain ranges from mountainous to steep hills, rolling hills and river flats. Murrindindi Shire benefits from great natural beauty and tourist attractions such as Lake Eildon, picturesque national parks, the Great Victorian Rail Trail and access to Victoria's snowfields.

Murrindindi Shire Council (MSC) is responsible for the management of approximately 1,218 km of local road network. There are several main roads managed by Vic Roads that traverse the Shire. MSC proactively targets weeds on roadsides and unused road reserves in partnership with other tiers of government, agency and community groups. MSC regularly liaises with various land management agencies and works collaboratively with the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network. MSC works with its partners to promote and encourage landholders across Murrindindi to undertake responsibilities under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*.

Council understands the importance of partnering with community volunteers. These partnerships give Council access to local expertise and knowledge and help to produce better results on ground. This Plan and Program has been developed with this in mind - focusing on ways in which Council and other tiers of government can work with individual landholders and community groups to support and expand on existing work happening across the Shire.

MSC is dedicated to managing weed infestations on council managed land and committed to the early prevention and control of weed species newly identified in the area.

Through past State Government funding (FY16-17) initiatives Council has treated approximately 810 km of roadsides for Regionally Controlled Weeds and established pest animals. Refer to Table 1 for a list of current target species. State Government funding has assisted MSC to contribute to collaborative programs with other public land management agencies, and grassroots movements such as Landcare and Blackberry Action Groups.

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## Community Consultation

Briefly describe how Council stays informed of community priorities for weed and rabbit management. Examples may include; relevant public meetings, feedback/comment via Council website, meetings with relevant groups, recording of correspondence.

The Murrindindi Shire Council Environment Officer stays in close touch with community concerns via attendance at meetings of Landcare or other groups and via phone calls and correspondence from individuals. The Shire has also specifically requested community views on this issue via the 'Have Your Say' survey and maintains a record of feedback. Much of the information required to develop this plan had already been obtained during development of the proposed Murrindindi Shire Environment Strategy, previous Roadside Pest & Weed Control Plan 2015-2017 and liaison with relevant community groups. DEDJTR Compliance programs have been considered when developing the plan.

The recent 'Have Your Say' community survey conducted by the new council indicated that respondents considered the natural environment one of the main reasons for the love of the shire. Weed control enforcement on private landholders and absentee landholders was raised as was blackberry control on road reserves (no specific roads mentioned). There is an expectation from the community that local government will undertake weed control on council managed land.

Council actively liaises with the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network (14 groups) and Landcare groups individually. Council's Environment Officer sits on a number of committees including Blackberry Action Groups and the recently formed King Parrot Fox Control Groups.

Murrindindi Shire Council collaborates with the Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative (an umbrella group administering the finances and coordinating the activities of 4 Landcare groups, mostly in the neighbouring Shire of Strathbogie) on weed control in the Highlands and other parishes on/or near the Shire boundary.

Council's Environment Officer receives numerous calls from the public seeking information on weed control and these conversations shape the public interests. Customer requests include control of Paterson's Curse, Blackberry, Chilean Needle Grass, Cape Weed and numerous environmental weeds.

Networking at field days and other community events.

## Stakeholder Consultation

Key stakeholders who have been consulted in the development of this plan include:

- Terry Barnard - Leading Biosecurity Officer North East  
Agriculture Services and Biosecurity Operations,  
Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources
- Russell Purcell - Biosecurity Officer, Agriculture Services and Biosecurity

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Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources.

- Upper Goulburn Landcare Network and Landcare groups within the Network
- Liaison with Blackberry Action Project Officers
- Built on and an extension of previous Roadside Weed and Pest Plans

## Relevant Local, Regional Policies and Strategies and submissions

List policies, strategies and submissions relevant to this plan.

### State

- *Invasive Plants and Animal Policy Framework*
- *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*
- *Planning & Environment Act 1987*
- *Catchment & Land Protection Act 1994*
- *Protecting Victorias Environment-Biodiversity 2037*

### Regional

- *Biodiversity Strategy for the Goulburn Broken Catchment 2016-2021*

### Local

- *Murrindindi Shire Council Community Local Law 2012*
- *Murrindindi Shire Council's Rural Roadside Management Plan & Code of Practice*

## Objectives of the Plan

Provide a general overview of Council's objectives, activities, outputs and expected outcomes.

Murrindindi Shire Council's overall roadside weed and rabbit management objective is the effective and proactive management of invasive species on Council managed roadsides across the Shire. 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 of infestations of Regionally Controlled Weeds and rabbits – aligned to DEDJTR weed and rabbit compliance project area.
3. Supporting community group investment in declared 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, or nearby natural assets.
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 Shire's community including Restricted Weeds declared under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (CaLP Act), such as Chilean Needle Grass.

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## Term of the Plan

Outline the term for which the plan is to operate.

The plan will run for **a two year period** from mid October 2017 to 30 June 2019

## Funding

Outline how council plans to fund the implementation of the plan.

- RWPP Allocation - \$28,932 per year
- Council Contribution - \$37,000 per year
- Non cash contributions from Upper Goulburn Landcare Network Landcare Groups, Conservation Volunteers, local school network and other sources of opportunity as they arise.

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**Table 1: Target Species**

Common Name	Scientific Name	CaLP classification	PRIORITY RATING (1 highest – 4 lowest)	Reasons for Management
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Established Pest Animal	1	Management of this species on municipal roadsides in Murrindindi Shire will be through removal of thickets of woody weeds that provide shelter and refuge for this animal. MSC will support group efforts on private land.
Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus (agg.)</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	1	To support DEDJTR compliance programs. To attempt to prevent blackberry from spreading and to work on containment, support community and stakeholder action.
Sweet Briar	<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	As a noxious woody weed, this plant can be treated when treating the others on the list.
Boneseed	<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>	Regionally Prohibited Weed	1	Cooperation between Vic Roads and Murrindindi Shire Council to act swiftly if reported on roadsides under management
Serrated tussock	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>	Regionally Prohibited Weed	1	To support DEDJTR compliance programs
Bridal Creeper	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>	Restricted Weed	4	In response to frequent ratepayer requests, support community and stakeholder action.
Paterson's Curse	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	As a noxious woody weed, this plant can be treated when treating the others on the list.
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Regionally Controlled weed	1	To build on previous DEDJTR compliance programs.
St John's Wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Regionally Controlled weed	1	As a regionally controlled weed and in response to ratepayer requests.
Broom (English & Cape)	<i>Cytisus scoparius &amp; Genista monspessulana</i>	Regionally Controlled weed	1	As a regionally controlled weed and in response to ratepayer requests

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**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 (location of proposed works should be specified, and a map where possible should accompany the plan)	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
Blackberry	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label Mechanical removal where herbicide application is inappropriate	All 7 areas (see map)	486 km	Dec - March	\$15,000
St John's Wort	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	Predominately areas 2,3,4 & 5	346 km	Oct-Jan	\$4,000
Sweet Briar	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	Predominantly areas 2,3,4 & 5	387 km	Oct-Dec	\$2,000
Broom	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label Cut-stump herbicide application Manual removal of seedlings	All 7 areas	280 km	Oct-Jan	\$4,932
Gorse	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	Areas 1,2,3,4 & 5	48 km	Feb – Oct	\$2,000
Paterson's Curse	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	Areas 3,4,5 & 6	63 km	June-Oct	\$1,000

**\*\*\*Note that the allocation of funds is in line with the estimated funding State Government will allocate to Murrindindi Shire Council. To treat the length of roadsides proposed the addition of funds from MSC operational budget will need to supplement the State Government funding.**

# Roadside Weeds & Pests Program Control Plan

## Maps & Tables

Map 1 Map of Murrindindi Shire indicating areas of Roadside Weed control 2017-2019.

Table 1 Roads to be treated for Regionally Controlled weeds

## 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:**

Date:

Signature:

**Council CEO Name:**

Signature:

Date:

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Map One: Map of Murrindindi Shire indicating areas of Roadside Weed Control 2017-2019

