

Roadside Weeds and Pests Program Control Plan 2023-2026

1: Council Name: Greater Shepparton City Council

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2: Contact Details:

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3: 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 predominantly 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 2,550km of the local road network. Council is committed to the early prevention and control of weed infestations on Council managed land.

During 2022/23 (under our previous Roadside Weed and Pest Plan), Council mapped and treated 840 km of high priority weeds, with initial work targeted in areas with higher proportions of high and very high roadside conservation significance, along with other roadsides with known high weed infestation. Other areas were targeted as a direct response to customer communication and feedback.

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 past thirteen 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 all other roadsides.

4: Community Consultation:

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

It is expected that prior to drafting the plan, council will have notified the community that a plan is to be prepared and views are invited on what the plan should address. Views from the community should be considered.

Greater Shepparton City Council officers stay well-informed of current weed treatment information and community concerns via phone calls and correspondence with individuals. They also attend meetings regularly with the relevant stakeholders (Goulburn Murray Landcare Network, various Land Managers such as Parks Victoria and Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Goulburn Broken Local Government Biodiversity Reference Group, other local Landcare groups and Goulburn Valley Environment Group).

Council responds to community concerns on all issues including pests and weeds, via phone calls and site meetings, and provides information to the community on weed management on the Council website.

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

5: Stakeholder Consultation:

List key stakeholders who have been consulted in the development of this plan.

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority

Parks Victoria

Regional Roads Victoria

Goulburn Murray Water

Agriculture Victoria

Goulburn Murray Landcare Network (and associated Landcare Groups)

Goulburn Valley Environment Group

6: Relevant Policies, Strategies and Submissions:

List policies, strategies, and submissions relevant to this plan (State, regional, and local).

State

- Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (CaLP ACT)
- Catchment and Land Protection Regulations 2022 (CaLP Regulations)
- Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992
- Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006
- Biological Control Act 1986
- Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987
- Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978
- Environment Protection Act 2017
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)
- Fences Act 1968

- Firearms Act 1996
- Fisheries Act 1995
- Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988
- Impounding of Livestock Act 1994
- Meat Industry Act 1993
- Land Act 1958
- Local Government Act 1989
- National Parks Act 1975
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- Parks Victoria Act 2018
- Planning and Environment Act 1987
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986
- Road Management Act 2004
- Road Safety Act 1986
- Sale of Land Act 1962
- Wildlife Act 1975
- Victorian Government (2010) Invasive Plants and Animals Policy Framework, DPI Victoria, Melbourne
- Victorian Government (2017) Victorian Government Land Use Policy and Guidelines, DELWP Victoria, Melbourne
- Victorian Government (2017) Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037, DELWP Victoria, Melbourne

Regional

- GBCMA Regional Catchment Strategy 2021-27
- GBCMA Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2019-2025
- Goulburn Broken Catchment Roadside Biodiversity Risk Management Protocols

Local

- Greater Shepparton City Council Roadside Management Strategy 2008
- Greater Shepparton City Council 2021 - 2025 Council Plan
- Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy
- Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy Discussion Paper

7: Objectives of the Plan:

Provide a general overview of council's objectives, activities, outputs and expected outcomes, ensuring that investment of RWPP funds will be aligned to:

- treating 'regionally prohibited weeds' on municipal rural roadsides;*
- controlling and preventing the spread of 'regionally controlled weeds' and the control of rabbits on municipal rural roadsides that align with DJPR compliance project areas and/or support community-led weed and pest control activities;*
- Follow-up treatment works for projects funded in councils' previous roadside weeds and pests control plans;*
- control activities for 'regionally controlled weeds' and rabbits on municipal rural roadsides that support other investment for integrated landscape protection projects or address community concerns.*
- control activities for 'restricted weeds' on municipal rural roadsides where there has been demonstrated widespread community concern;*
- undertaking planning, mapping, and community consultation for the control of 'regionally prohibited weeds', 'regionally controlled weeds' and 'restricted weeds'*

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 pest control 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 pests – aligned to DJPR's 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 pests.
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 in the Municipality's community including Restricted Weeds declared under the Catchment and Land Protection (CaLP) Act 1994.

8: Term of the Plan:

The plan will run for a maximum three year period to 30 June 2026.

9: Full time equivalent (FTE) resourcing:

Provide an estimate of the full time equivalent (FTE) number of staff and contractors who will be working on achieving control plan outcomes. Include both office and field based staff and contractors.

0.8 FTE – internal staff member

0.2 FTE - contractor

10: Target Species:

List the species that will be targeted during the duration of this control plan;

Common Name	Scientific Name	CaLP Act Classification	Priority Rating <i>1 highest - 4 lowest</i>	Reasons For Management
Serrated Tussock	Nassella trichotoma	Regionally Prohibited Weed	1	There is only one known former location of Serrated Tussock mapped within Greater Shepparton. Surveillance to continue, with any new sites treated immediately.
Spiny Rush	Juncus acutus	Regionally Controlled Weed	1	There are no known locations. Surveillance to continue, any new sites will be treated immediately.
Hoary Cress	Cardaria draba	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	There is only one known location mapped within Greater Shepparton. Surveillance to continue, any new sites will be treated immediately.
Blackberry	Rubus fruticosus (agg.)	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	To support previous investment by Council or in response to community concern
Rabbit	Oryctolagus cuniculus	Established Pest Animal	2	There are no known roadside rabbit warrens
Gorse	Ulex europaeus	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	There are only two known locations mapped within Greater Shepparton. Surveillance to continue, any new sites will be treated immediately.
Sweet Briar	Rosa rubiginosa	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	In response to stakeholder feedback and to support previous investment by Council
African Boxthorn	Lyceum ferossisimum	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	To support previous investment by Council and in response to stakeholder feedback with initial treatment of roadsides with

Paterson's Curse	Echium plantagineum	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	high or very high conservation value followed by all other roads if budget permits.
St John's Wort	Hypericum perforatum	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	
Bathurst Burr	Xanthium spinosum	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	
Caltrop	Tribulus terrestris	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	To support previous investment by Council and in response to stakeholder feedback with initial treatment of roadsides with high or very high conservation value followed by all other roads if budget permits.
Bridal Creeper	Asparagus asparagoides	Restricted Weed	3	
Chilean Needle Grass	Nassella neesiana	Restricted Weed	3	
African Love Grass	Eragrostis curvula	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	
Horehound	Marrubium vulgare	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	
Prairie Ground cherry	Physalis hederifolia	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	
Prickly Pear	Opuntia monacantha & stricta	Restricted Weed	3	
Spear thistle	Cirsium vulgare	Restricted Weed	3	
Spiny Burr Grass	Cenchrus longispinus	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	
Silverleaf Nightshade	Solanum elaeagnifolium	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	
Variegated Thistle	Silybum marianum	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	

Khaki Weed	Alternanthera pungens	Regionally Controlled Weed	3
Hawthorn	Crataegus monogyna	Regionally Controlled Weed	3
Soursob	Oxalis pes-caprae	Restricted Weed	3
Stinkwort	Dittrichia graveolens	Restricted Weed	3
Fennel	Foeniculum vulgare	Restricted Weed	3
Willow	Salix spp.	Restricted Weed	4

11: Control Measures and Target Roadsides:

List the control measures and target roadsides; eg.

Serrated tussock *Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label* *Smith Road, Smithville* *5km* *Feb – Oct*

Common Name	Control Measures	Location of Proposed Works	Estimated Length of Roadside to be Treated Annually	Approximate Annual Timing of Treatment
	To be based on accepted best practice management of the target species	Location of proposed works should be specified, and a map where possible should accompany the plan	Km = length of road along which both sides are treated. Where only one side is treated halve the figure	
Serrated Tussock	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	Throughout the municipality	50km	Part of mapping and ongoing surveillance

	Manual removal of isolated plants			
Blackberry	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 – April
Rabbit	Mechanical ripping of warrens limited to roadsides with exotic grass cover only Fumigation of warrens at all other sites	Unknown	Unknown	September - February
Gorse	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
Sweet Briar	Spot spray, drill and fill or cut and paste application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product	Throughout the municipality	50km	October - December

	label			
	Cut stump herbicide application			
African Boxthorn	Spot spray, drill and fill or cut and paste application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	Roadsides with High or Very High Conservation significance first priority	50km	Part of mapping and ongoing surveillance
	Cut stump herbicide application			
Paterson's Curse	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	Roadsides with High or Very High conservation significance first priority	50km	June - October
	Manual removal of isolated plants			
St John's Wort	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with product label		50km	June - October
Bathurst Burr			50km	October - March
Caltrop			50km	October - March
	Manual removal of isolated plants			
Bridal Creeper	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
African Love Grass			100km	September - April
Horehound			100km	April- December
Prairie Ground cherry			100km	October - March
Prickly Pear			100km	October - April
Spear thistle			100km	August - December
Spiny Burr Grass			100km	August - March
Silverleaf Nightshade			100km	September - December
Variegated Thistle			100km	April - October
Khaki Weed	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	Roadsides with High or Very High conservation significance first priority	100km	September - November
Hawthorn	Spot spray, drill and fill or cut and paste application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	Roadsides with High or Very High conservation significance first priority	100km	October - March
Willow			100km	October – January
Fennel	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label		Approximately 500km	As required
Hoary Cress	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label.	Dookie	Unknown	March - October

Stinkwort	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	Unknown	Unknown	October - March
Soursob	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	Throughout the municipality	50km	March - September
Spiny Rush	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	Kialla West	Unknown	December - February

12: Maps:

Provide the following maps to support the control plan information:

- Map 1 Proposed location of control works.
- Map 2 Known infestations of Regionally Prohibited Weeds, Regionally Controlled Weeds, established pest animals and Restricted Weeds.

13: Declarations:

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). Any personal information contained in the control plan should be redacted prior to publishing. The signatures on the approved control plan may also be redacted prior to publishing.
- 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.
- 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 on request.
- Obtain approval from Agriculture Victoria before substantially modifying or varying the plan.
- Carefully consider any proposals from Agriculture Victoria to modify or vary the plan in response to changed circumstances.

Council Declaration

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

Key Council Contact Name:

Date:

Signature:

Council CEO Name:

Date:

Signature:

Agriculture Victoria Endorsement

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

Agriculture Victoria Regional Biosecurity Manager – Plants, Chemicals and Invasives

Name:

Date:

Signature: