

# Roadside Weeds & Pests Program Control Plan

## Municipality Details

Council Name:

Key Contact Name: Paul Smitka

Position: Weed Management Officer

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## 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.

*Yarra Ranges Council is located on metropolitan Melbourne's eastern fringe and covers approximately 2,500 square kilometres. The Shire stretches from the densely populated outer suburbs into the surrounding foothills, agricultural ranges and forested areas of the Great Dividing Ranges.*

*Yarra Ranges Council is responsible for the management of more than 2,500 km of local road network, and has a comprehensive weed control program that includes target weed programs, programs for new and emerging weeds and noxious weeds.*

*Regionally Prohibited, Regionally Controlled Weeds are targeted on roadsides as funding permits. Contract weed control is programmed on 354 roadsides supporting high conservation value vegetation.*

*Rabbit management on roadsides will occur in the Silvan area to assist with a rabbit control program being implemented by WAGS (Wabbit Action Group Silvan).*

*Through past State Government funding initiatives Council has treated approximately 200 km of roadsides for Regionally Controlled and Regionally Prohibited weeds and established pest animals. Please refer to Table 1 for a list of current target species.*

## 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.

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.

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*Yarra Ranges Council's Biodiversity and Bushland Teams stay in close touch with community priorities. We support over 40 environmental volunteer groups that work on Council managed land. Annual plans are developed with volunteers and contractors to guide site specific weed control. A number of networks of groups have been formed that advocate weed management priorities through meetings and correspondence to Yarra Ranges Council.*

*Yarra Ranges Council chairs an annual interagency meeting focused on weed control on public land across the municipality. A large number of partnership projects have emerged from these meetings.*

*Community and other agency relationships have been further strengthened through the Peri Urban Weed Management Partnership, currently being implemented in the Dandenongs.*

## Stakeholder Consultation

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

- *Greg Mitchell, Department of Economic Development Jobs Transport and Resources*
- *Catherine Drummond, Melbourne Water*
- *Trevor McIntosh, Parks Victoria*
- *Southern Ranges Environment Alliance*
- *Southern Dandenongs Landcare Group*
- *Yarra Ranges Environment Advisory Committee*
- *Wags (Wabbit Action Group Silvan)*

## Relevant Local, Regional Policies and Strategies and submissions

List policies, strategies and submissions relevant to this plan.

### State

- *Invasive Plants and Animal Policy Framework*

### Regional

- *Port Phillip And Westernport CMA Weed Action Plan*

### Local

- *Yarra Ranges Council Weed Management Strategy 2005*
- *Yarra Ranges Council Environment Strategy 2015-2025*
- *Yarra Ranges Council Tree Management Plan 2009*
- *Yarra Ranges Council Flora and Fauna Plan 2012*

### Submissions

*Nil*

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## Objectives of the Plan

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

*Contribute to Yarra Ranges Council's ongoing roadside weed and rabbit management program and complement past investments made by Council and State Government initiative funding. Assist with preventing the spread and introduction of invasive plant and animal species across the Shire and the region as a whole.*

*Yarra Ranges 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 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.*
- 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).*

## Term of the Plan

Outline the term for which the plan is to operate.

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

## Funding

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

- RWPP Allocation - \$30, 877 per year*
- Council Contribution - \$400,000 per year*

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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	- To support community and stakeholder action.
Hardheads	<i>Rhaponticum repens</i>	Regionally Prohibited Weed	1	- To support previous investment by Council and support DEDJTR compliance programs.
Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus (agg.)</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	- To support previous investment by Council and support DEDJTR compliance programs.
Brooms (Flax- leaf, English and Montpellier)	<i>Genista linifolia</i> <i>Cytisus scoparius</i> <i>Genista monspessulana</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	- To support previous investment by Council
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	- To support previous investment by Council
St Peter's Wort	<i>Hypericum tetrapterum</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	- To support previous investment by Council
Bridal Creeper	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>	Restricted Weed	3	- To support previous investment by Council
Chilean Needle grass	<i>Nassella neesiana</i>	Restricted Weed	3	- To support previous investment by Council

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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
Rabbit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Harbour removal works to assist private landholders actively reducing rabbit numbers via warren destruction, baiting &amp; shooting. To complement the release of the calicivirus in the WAGS project area.</li> <li>- Mechanical ripping of warrens or baiting to protect recreational asset. To support the Soccer &amp; Athletics Club, including Council's Sportsfield Team with erosion &amp; safety issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Silvan roadsides</i></li> </ul>	3km	Sept - Feb	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mechanical ripping of warrens or baiting to protect recreational asset. To support the Soccer &amp; Athletics Club, including Council's Sportsfield Team with erosion &amp; safety issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mikado Rd, Mt Evelyn (Morrison Reserve)</li> </ul>	500m	March - April	\$4,000
Hardheads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label</li> <li>- Mechanical removal where herbicide application is inappropriate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hilton Rd, Ferry Creek</li> <li>- Temple Rd, Selby</li> </ul>	200m	Nov - Feb	\$877
Blackberry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label</li> <li>- Mechanical removal where herbicide application is inappropriate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Throughout the Shire. (therefore maps are not attached for individual sites)</li> </ul>	25km	Nov - March	\$15,000
Brooms (Flax-leaf, English and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mount View Rd, Highview Rd, Ferry Creek</li> <li>- Warburton Hwy, Woori</li> </ul>	1km	All Year	\$3,000

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Montpellier)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cut-stump herbicide application</li> <li>- Manual removal of seedlings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Yallock</li> <li>- Old Dalry Rd, Don Valley</li> <li>- Lockwood Rd, Belgrave Heights</li> <li>- Mt Riddell Rd, Trench Farm Rd, Healesville</li> <li>- Hoiles Rd, Wandin North</li> <li>- Edebohis Rd, Narre Warren East</li> </ul>			
Gorse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Steels Creek Rd, Yarra Glen</li> <li>- Tarrowarra Rd, Tarrowarra</li> </ul>	500m	Nov - March	\$500
St Peter's Wort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Macclesfield area along the following roads (no maps); Tschampions, Yuruga, Merrits, Harding, Jardine, Coopers, Spillers, Cherry, Miller, Mineshaft, Mulhalls, Patons Kennedy and Brodrick</li> <li>- Hunter Rd, Mt Evelyn</li> <li>- Station Rd, Seville</li> </ul>	5Km		\$2,000
Chilean Needle grass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label</li> <li>- Mechanical removal where herbicide application is inappropriate</li> <li>- Mechanical removal of small infestations as a priority</li> <li>- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label for large infestations to prevent flowering/seeding.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Predominantly on Fussell Rd, Rue De Gare and Healesville</li> <li>- Yarra Glen Rd</li> </ul>	1Km	July-Sept	\$1,500
Bridal Creeper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mechanical removal of small infestations as a priority</li> <li>- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label for large infestations to prevent flowering/seeding.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Throughout the Shire. (therefore maps are not attached for individual sites)</li> </ul>	5Km	June -Nov	\$4,000

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## Maps

Map 1 Proposed location of control works.

Map 2 Known infestations of Regionally Prohibited Weeds, Regionally Controlled Weeds and Established Pest Animals and Restricted 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:

Aimee Liston

Signature:



Date:

22/11/2017

## Declaration

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

**Key Contact Name:** Paul Smitka

Date: 1/11/2017

Signature:



**Council CEO Name:** Glenn Patterson

Date: 2-11-2017

Signature:



