

Roadside Weed and Rabbit Control Plan

Council Details

Council Name:	Yarriambiack Shire Council
Postal Address:	PO Box 243, Warracknabeal 3393

Key Contact

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Regional Context of Noxious Weed and Rabbit Management

To assist DPI in gaining an understanding of the regional perspective, briefly provide a summary of noxious weeds and rabbit management on council managed roadsides in your municipality.

The Shire of Yarriambiack is located in the northeast of Victoria and covers approximately 7,158 square kilometers, with a population of 7,500. It is situated in north-western Victoria in the heart of the State's wheat belt. The main industry is agriculture which accounts for almost half the workforce.

Main towns in the Shire are Murtoa and Rupanyup in the south, Warracknabeal in the centre, and Hopetoun in the north.

Yarriambiack Shire Council is responsible for the management of approximately 4,600km of local road network and 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.

Yarriambiack Shire is in two Catchment Management Authority regions, with the Northern half being in the Mallee CMA and the Southern half in the Wimmera CMA.

Through past State Government funding initiatives Council has treated approximately 1,574 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.

The Yarriambiack Shire Environment Officer stays in close touch with community concerns via attendance at meetings of landcare and environmental groups and coordinators and via phone calls and correspondence from individuals. The Shire has also specifically requested community views on this issue via [local newspaper, council newsletter, radio interviews]. Much of the information required to develop this plan had already been obtained during development of the Yarriambiack Shire Council Environment Strategy and Roadside management Plan and a previous rabbit control program .

Stakeholder Consultation

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

- *Sharyn Williams, Biosecurity Area Leader, Department of Environment and Primary Industries.*
- *Daniel Huttig, Landcare Coordinator, Mallee.*
- *Tim Inkster, Landcare Coordinator, Yarrilinks.*
- *Joel Boyd, Landcare Coordinator, Wimmera CMA.*
- *Malinda Godino, Biosecurity Area Leader, Department of Environment and Primary Industries.*
- *Jessica Seidal, Acting Biosecurity Area Manager, Department of Environment and Primary Industries.*

Relevant Local and Regional Policies and Strategies

List policies and strategies relevant to this plan.

State

- *Invasive Plants and Animal Policy Framework*

Regional

- *Wimmera Invasive Plant and Animal Management Strategy*
- *Mallee Invasive Plants and Animals Management Strategy*

Local

- *Yarriambiack Shire Council's Environment Strategy*

- *Yarriambiack Shire Council's Roadside Management Plan*

Objectives of the Plan

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

Contribute to the Shire's ongoing roadside weed and rabbit management program and complement past investments made by Yarriambiack Shire enabled through 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.

Yarriambiack 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 infestations of Regionally Controlled Weeds and rabbits – aligned to DEPI 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.*
6. *Addressing other roadside declared noxious weed infestations of concern to the Shire's community such as infestations of horehound, melons, onion weed and invasive grasses where previous rabbit ripping was carried out.*

Timeframe

Outline the life of the plan.

The plan will run from 1 March 2013 to 30 June 2015, unless extended or replaced with DEPI approval.

Table 1: Target Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	CaLP classification	PRIORITY RATING (1 highest – 3 lowest)	Reasons for Management
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Established Pest Animal	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support Mallee and Wimmera Landcare groups including; Woomelang/Lascelles, Hopetoun, Beulah East, Lah, Warracknabeal East, Minyip, Rupanyup - To support DEPI compliance programs
Horehound	<i>Marubium vulgare</i>	Regionally Controlled – Wimmera CMA / Restricted – Mallee CMA	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In response to frequent ratepayer requests - To support previous investment by Council
Paterson's curse.	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In response to frequent ratepayer requests
Boneseed	<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support previous investment by Council
Serrated tussock	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>	Regionally Prohibited Weed	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support DEPI compliance programs
Caltrop	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed.	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In response to frequent ratepayer requests
Prairie ground cherry	<i>Physalis hederifolia</i>	Regionally Prohibited weed - Wimmera CMA / Regionally Controlled – Mallee CMA	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support DEPI compliance programs

African feathergrass	<i>Pennisetum macrourum</i>	Regionally Prohibited weed	1	- To support DEPI compliance programs
African boxthorn	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	Regionally Controlled weed	2	- In response to frequent ratepayer requests
Noogoora burr	<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	Regionally Prohibited weed	1	- To support DEPI compliance programs
Prickly pear	<i>Opuntia stricta</i>	Regionally Controlled weed	2	- In response to frequent ratepayer requests

Outline the target species and reasoning for management.

Table 2: Control Measures and Target Roadsides

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 3 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	- Mechanical ripping of warrens	- Mainly in Northern half of Shire	300km	Mar-Oct	36,000
Horehound	- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label - Mechanical removal where herbicide application is inappropriate	- Throughout the Shire, to support previous investment in rabbit control	100km	Sep-Dec	5000
Paterson's curse	- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	- Throughout the Shire	50km	Sep-Dec	2500
Boneseed	- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label - Cut-stump herbicide application - Manual removal of seedlings	- Isolated infestations across Shire	50km	Jun – Oct All year	2500
Serrated tussock	- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label - Manual removal of isolated plants	- Isolated infestations across Shire	20km	Feb – Oct All year	1000
African feathergrass	- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label - Manual removal of isolated plants	- On lighter sandy soils to northern half of shire	20km	Aug-Nov	1000
African boxthorn	- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label - Manual removal of isolated plants	Isolated infestations across Shire	20km	All year	1000

Noogoora burr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label - Manual removal of isolated plants 	Sheep Hills – Minyip Rd, Sheep Hills	1km	Dec -Feb	500
Prickly pear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Direct injection of registered chemical 	Isolated infestations across Shire	10km	All year	1000

Outline control techniques and additional details.

* Where multiple noxious weeds are to be treated simultaneously in the same locations, only the most common weed species needs to be listed.

Statement of Responsibilities

Council will:

- 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 DPI on request.
- Obtain approval from DPI before substantially modifying or varying the plan.
- Carefully consider any proposals from DPI to modify or vary the plan in response to changed circumstances.

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:

Date:

Signature:

Endorsement

DPI Representative

Name:

Date:

Signature:

