

Roadside Weeds and Pests Program Control Plan 2023-2026

1: Council Name: Yarriambiack Shire Council

2: Contact Details:

Name: La Vergne Lehmann

Position: Waste & Sustainability Coordinator

Telephone:

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3: Regional context of noxious weed and pest animal management:

The Shire of Yarriambiack is located in the northeast of Victoria and covers approximately 7,158 square kilometres, with a population of 6,556 (2021 ABS census). 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.

The Shire is covered by two Catchment Management Authorities, the Mallee in the north and Wimmera in the south.

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 more than 4,000 km of ¹roadsides for Regionally Controlled and Regionally Prohibited weeds and established pest animals. Please refer to Table 1 for a list of current target species.

4: Community Consultation:

The Yarriambiack Shire has established links with the community to stay informed of current and emerging weed and rabbit issues in the area. The collaborative approach to working with the Yarrilinks Landcare Network and the Mallee Landcare Network facilitators assists in channeling feedback from landholders across the Shire and results in a collaborative approach to weed and rabbit control activities.

The community can report weed and rabbit concerns directly to the Shire either in person, by phone call or via the Shire website. The website has engagement and control information regarding roadside weeds and pests and invites people to report infestations and provide feedback on draft management strategies to inform future programs.

5: Stakeholder Consultation:

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

?, Agriculture Victoria

Alicia Merriam, Yarrilinks

Marissa Shean, Mallee Landcare

Wimmera Catchment Management Authority

Mallee Catchment Management Authority

Local Farming Community

6: Relevant Policies, Strategies and Submissions:

State

- *Invasive Plants and Animal Policy Framework*
- *Invasive species laws and the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*
- *Catchment and Land Protection Regulations 2012*

Regional

- *Wimmera Invasive Plant and Animal Management Strategy*
- *Mallee Invasive Plants and Animals Management Strategy*
- *Wimmera CMA Landcare and Community Participation Plan 2021,*
- *Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA)*
- *Wimmera Biodiversity Action Plan - Wimmera CMA (2022)*
- *Wimmera Invasive Plant and Animal Strategy - Wimmera CMA (2019)*
- *Regional Land Partnerships Program Action Plan Wimmera CMA (2021)*

Local

- *Yarriambiack Shire Council's Environment Strategy*
- *Yarriambiack Shire Council's Weed Management Plan 2017- 2019*
- *Yarriambiack Shire Council's Roadside Management Plan*

7: Objectives of the Plan:

Plan objectives are to contribute to the Shire's ongoing roadside weed and rabbit management program, to complement past investments made by Yarriambiack Shire enabled through State Government initiative funding and to assist with preventing the spread and introduction of invasive plant and animal species across the Shire and the region.

Yarriambiack Shire Council's overall roadside weed and pest 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:

- 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 Agriculture Victoria 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 pest 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.'*

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.

It is estimated that 0.4 FTE for Yarriambiack Shire staff (including field-based staff and administration staff) and 0.6 for contractors who will be working on achieving control plan outcomes

10: Target Species:

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

Serrated tussock *Nassella trichotoma* Regionally Prohibited Weed 1 To support Agriculture Victoria compliance programs

Common Name	Scientific Name	CaLP Act Classification	Priority Rating <i>1 highest - 4 lowest</i>	Reason for Management
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Established pest animal	1	In response to DEECA control programs, regular landholder requests & support community & stakeholder action.
Bridal Creeper	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>	Restricted weed across whole state	1	support community & stakeholder action including Wimmera CMA control works
Horehound	<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	Regionally controlled weed	2	In response to resident requests & to support previous council work
African boxthorn	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	Regionally controlled weed	3	To support control works
Paterson's Curse	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Regionally controlled weed	3	In response to resident requests
Silver leaf nightshade	<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i>	Regionally controlled weed	2	To support control works

Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia stricta</i>	Restricted weed across whole state	3	To support control works
Wheel cactus	<i>Opuntia robusta</i>	Regionally controlled weed	3	To support control works
Athel Pine	<i>Tamarix aphylla</i>	Restricted weed across whole state	2	To support control works
Boneseed	<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>	Mallee CMA prohibited weed, Wimmera CMA -regionally controlled weed	1	Support community & stakeholder action.
Caltrop	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	Regionally controlled weed	2	In response to resident requests

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	
European Rabbit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mechanical ripping of warrens Fumigation of warrens where mechanical ripping is deemed inappropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widespread across the Yarriambiack Shire Locations to be treated as reported by the community 	75km	all year
Bridal Creeper	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label Physical removal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spread around the Yarriambiack Shire Locations to be treated as reported by the community 	40km	July – December
Horehound	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label Physical removal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spread around the Yarriambiack Shire Locations to be treated as reported by the community 	110km	May - November
African boxthorn	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spread around the Yarriambiack Shire 	60km	All year

	2. Physical removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locations to be treated as reported by the community 		
Paterson's Curse	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label Physical removal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spread around the Yarriambiack Shire Locations to be treated as reported by the community 	45km	Sep - Dec
Silver leaf nightshade	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label Physical removal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spread around the Yarriambiack Shire Locations to be treated as reported by the community 	25km	Sep - Dec
Prickly Pear	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Treat with registered chemical Mechanical removal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spread around the Yarriambiack Shire Locations to be treated as reported by the community 	8km	All year
Wheel cactus	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Stem injection, cut & paste, foliar spraying Mechanical removal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spread around the Yarriambiack Shire Locations to be treated as reported by the community 	7km	All year
Athel Pine	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label Physical removal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spread around the Yarriambiack Shire Locations to be treated as reported by the community 	4km	Sep - Dec
Boneseed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label Physical removal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spread around the Yarriambiack Shire Locations to be treated as reported by the community 	55km	All year

Caltrop	1. Application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spread around the Yarriambiack Shire • Locations to be treated as reported by the community 	25	Oct-Dec
	2. Physical removal			Mar – May

12: Maps:

Provide the following maps to support the control plan information:

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