

Roadside weed and pest

Animal control plan

Municipality Details

Municipal District / Council Name:	Gannawarra Shire Council
Postal Address:	47 Victoria St, Kerang 3579

Key Contact

Name:	Leigh Hollingworth
Position:	Technical Officer
Contact Details:	5450 9333 email: leigh.hollingworth@gannawarra.vic.gov.au

Regional Context of Noxious Weed and Pest Animal Management

The Gannawarra Shire is located in Northern Victoria and covers approximately 3,732 square kilometres. Gannawarra Shire has a diverse landscape of lakes and rivers, red gum forests, irrigated pasture, broad acre dry land farming and Mallee scrub.

It is home to a diverse range of communities within the townships of Kerang, Cohuna, Koondrook, Leitchville, Quambatook, Murrabit, Lake Charm, Lalbert and Mystic Park, each with their own defining personality.

Council has responsibility for 508 km of sealed roads and 1930 km of gravel/earth roads, varying from major roads to minor access tracks. Council 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.

In the past 12 months Council has inspected 640 km of roadsides and treated approximately 417.3 km through a variety of mechanical and chemical treatments. The species targeted include: rabbits, boxthorn, blackberry, Patterson's curse, prickly pear and sweet briar.

Please refer to Table 1 for a list of current target species.

Community Consultation

The Gannawarra Shire stays in close touch with community concerns via attendance at meetings of various community organisations and development associations throughout the municipality. Council also receives feedback via phone calls, social media and correspondence from individuals. The Shire has also specifically requested community views on this issue via the Gannawarra Times newspaper, social media, Council's website and newsletter and maintains a record of feedback. Much of the information required to develop this plan had already been obtained through direct communication with landholders and other government agencies.

Stakeholder Consultation

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

- Nick Hunter, Joudie enterprises
- Murray Thorson, Parks Victoria Ranger
- Adrian Martins, Project Manager, NCCMA
- Ben Perry, Economic Development Victoria
- Tim Nitschke, Goulburn Murray Water
- Gary Napier, Myall Landcare
- Angela Hird, Kerang Landcare
- Jess Cook, Lalbert Landcare

Relevant Local, Regional Policies and Strategies and submissions

List policies, strategies and submissions relevant to this plan.

State

- *Invasive Plants and Animal Policy Framework*
- *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*

Regional

- *NCCMA, North Central Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2010-2015*

Local

- *Gannawarra Shire Council's Roadside Management Plan 2000*

Objectives of the Plan

- Contribute to the Shire's ongoing roadside weed and rabbit management program and complement past investments made by Gannawarra 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.
- Gannawarra 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 DEDJTR 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 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).
8. Compliment works carried out by other agencies such as Parks Victoria, NCCMA, Goulburn Murray Water and Vic Roads.

Term of Plan

The plan will run for a **two year period** from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2019, unless extended, replaced or amended with DEWLP approval.

Funding

- Victorian Government RWPP Allocation
- Federal Government *Roadside Weeds and Pests Management in Drought Affected Areas Program* - \$40,000 (2017)

Table 1: Target Species

Outline the target species and reasoning for management.

Common Name	Scientific Name	CaLP classification	PRIORITY RATING (1 highest – 4 lowest)	Reasons for Management
Boxthorn	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	1	- To reduce rabbit harbour and support Landcare groups and landowner management programs
Patterson's curse	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	1	- To support landowners and reduce infestations in grazing and annual pasture land.
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Established Pest Animal	1	- To support community and stakeholder action.
Amsinckia	<i>Amsinckia</i> spp.	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	- To compliment works carried out by Vic Roads and in response to community concerns
Sweet Briar	<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	- To support previous investment and/or in response to community concerns

Common Name	Scientific Name	CaLP classification	PRIORITY RATING (1 highest – 4 lowest)	Reasons for Management
Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus (agg.)</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	- To support DEDJTR compliance programs.
Prarie Ground Cherry	<i>Physalis hederifolia</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	- To support previous investment and/or in response to community concerns
Spiny rush	<i>Juncus acutus</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	4	- To support previous investment and/or in response to community concerns
Wheel cactus	<i>Opuntia robusta</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	4	- To support previous investment and/or in response to community concerns

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 (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 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
<i>Boxthorn</i>	Application of a registered herbicide Manual removal of isolated plants Cut and paint butt with registered herbicide	Shire wide approach	350 km	All year	\$8,517
<i>Patterson's curse</i>	Application of a registered herbicide	Koondrook and Murrabit areas	54 km	May-Oct	\$1,174
<i>Rabbit</i>	Mechanical ripping of warrens Baiting programs Habitat removal	Shire wide approach	1,120 km	All year	\$32,020
<i>Amsinckia</i>	Application of a registered herbicide Manual removal of isolated plants	Shire wide approach	100 km	March-August	\$2,000

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

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 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
<i>Blackberry</i>	Application of a registered herbicide Manual removal of plants Mulching	Cohuna/Leitchville area	100 km	Sept-April	\$3,000
<i>Prarie Ground cherry</i>	Application of a registered herbicide Manual removal of isolated plants	Shire wide approach in response to community concerns	95 km	Sept-Nov	\$650
<i>Spiny Rush</i>	Application of a registered herbicide Manual removal of isolated plants	Shire wide approach in response to community concerns	130 km	All year	\$970
<i>Sweet Briar</i>	Application of a registered herbicide Manual removal of isolated plants Cut and paint butt with registered herbicide	Koondrook/Cohuna area	50 km	All year	\$1,000
<i>Wheel cactus</i>	Application of a registered herbicide Manual removal of isolated plants	Shire wide approach in response to community concerns	100 km	All year	\$970

Table 3: Control Measures and Target Roadsides for 2017 Federal Government Roadside Weeds and Pests Management in Drought Affected Areas Program funding

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 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
<i>Rabbit</i>	Mechanical ripping of warrens Baiting programs Habitat removal	Shire wide approach	120 km	All year	\$7,000
<i>Boxthorn</i>	Application of a registered herbicide Manual removal of isolated plants Cut and paint butt with registered herbicide	Shire wide approach	350 km	All year	\$15,000
<i>Sweet Briar</i>	Application of a registered herbicide Manual removal of isolated plants Cut and paint butt with registered herbicide	Koondrook area	150 km	All year	\$15,000
<i>Patterson's curse</i>	Application of a registered herbicide	Koondrook, Appin and Murrabit areas	150 km	May-Oct	\$3,000

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 DEDJTR 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 DEDJTR within 30 days from expiry of this plan outlining the outcomes of the control measures undertaken.

Declaration

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

Key contact

Name: Leigh Hollingworth

Date:

1-9-2017.

Signature:



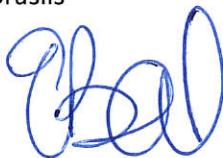
Council CEO

Name: Eric Braslis

Date:

4/9/2017

Signature:



Eric Braslis
Chief Executive Officer
Gannawarra Shire Council
Authorised Officer pursuant to Section 224
of the Local Government Act 1989

