

Roadside Weed and Pest Animal Control Plan

Municipality Details

Municipal District / Council Name:	Corangamite Shire Council
Postal Address:	181 Manifold St, Camperdown 3260

Key Contact

Name:	Roland Herbert
Position:	Environment Project Officer
Contact Details:	5593 7100

Regional Context of Noxious Weed and Pest Animal Management

Corangamite Shire is located in Victoria's south west approximately two and a half hours east of Melbourne. The shire covers a land area of approximately 4,600km² extending from the 12 Apostles coastal area in the south to the township of Skipton 120km to the north. To the east the shire is bounded by the shores of Lake Corangamite and extends 45km west just beyond Terang.

The towns of Camperdown, Cobden, Simpson, Timboon, Port Campbell, Princetown, Terang, Derrinallum, Skipton, Lismore, Darlington and Noorat lay within Corangamite's boundaries. Agriculture is the major industry, producing milk, wool, beef, fat lamb and grain. The region is also a strategic destination for tourism, located on Victoria's rugged Shipwreck Coast and in the middle of the internationally significant Great Ocean Road. Tourism is growing at a significant rate and is set to increase its proportion in the local economy. Much of this tourism is based around the beauty of the natural environment, including the rugged coast and volcanic cones and lakes.

The shire spans the Otway Plain, Victorian Volcanic Plain and Warrnambool Plain bioregions. These bioregions contain numerous lakes, waterways, estuaries, wetlands (some of which are Ramsar listed) and a diverse mix of EVCs. Each bioregion supports a large variety of species, many of which are listed as endangered to critically endangered. The southern end of the shire begins with the rugged cliff line of the ocean and its associated coastal vegetation. Vegetation then changes into wet sclerophyll forest moving northward, transitioning into grassy woodland and open grassland near Skipton.

Corangamite Shire has a total of 2,630km of sealed and unsealed roads, including 2,205km of local roads that are managed by Council and 425 km of arterial roads that are managed by VicRoads. Council's Rural Roadside Management Plan was developed in 2012 through extensive community and stakeholder consultation and sets out five goals for management of Council's rural roadsides, including Goal 2: Protect Natural and Heritage Assets:

"Protecting natural and heritage assets means that roadsides are managed to protect their wider values and there is improved stakeholder and community awareness of natural and heritage assets. Thus, Council will work with the community and roadside users to improve biodiversity conservation and enhancement, manage invasive plants and animals, and protect Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage assets".

Weeds are a significant issue in Corangamite Shire, due predominantly to the region's historical land use patterns and high rainfall (which has facilitated the extensive spread of cool-climate weeds such as blackberry *Rubus fruticosus* agg.). As rural roadsides provide a vital refuge for many rare and threatened remnant plant communities, appropriate control of invasive species is key to Council meeting its commitment to protect the region's environmental and agricultural assets.

This Roadside Weed and Rabbit Control Plan has been prepared based on Council's existing Rural Roadside Management Plan (2012) which guides roadside weed and rabbit control activities on local roadsides. Through past State Government funding initiatives and Council programs, Council has treated approximately 1150km of roadsides (both sides) annually for Regionally Controlled weeds. The amount of

roadside weeds being treated in Corangamite Shire has increased each and every year, with this trend set to continue. Weed locations have been identified using weed mapping undertaken on all Council roads.

Target species identified in this Roadside Weed and Pest Control Plan have been selected based on the investment framework (Appendix 1) set out in the Rural Roadside Management Plan. This Roadside Weed and Pest Control Plan will focus on protecting priority assets, eradicating and containing emerging weed threats, building on previous and complementary programs and responding to community priorities.

Table 1 shows current priority species for treatment, while Table 2 outlines program costings.

Community Consultation

Council undertook extensive community consultation during development of the Rural Roadside Management Plan (2012), upon which this Roadside Weed and Pest Control Plan is based. This involved holding three workshops with a Stakeholder Reference Group which included 15 community representatives. A Roadsides Issues and Opportunities Discussion Paper was developed with the Stakeholder Reference Group to identify community priorities for roadside management. The Discussion Paper was then exhibited for public comment for a four week period, during which Council held community consultation sessions in three towns to gather feedback on the paper.

Feedback on the Discussion Paper was then used to develop the Draft Rural Roadside Management Plan, which was then exhibited for public comment over an eight week period. Community members were invited to provide feedback on the Draft Plan through written submission, phone interview, meeting appointment or by attending one of four community consultation sessions held across the shire.

All feedback received through public consultation was considered by the Stakeholder Reference Group and used to develop the Final Rural Roadside Management Plan. The plan was communicated with the community via media releases and information on Council's

website.

Council Environment Project Officers have attended several community workshops to provide information on Council's roadside weed control program, as well as hosting stalls focusing on local weeds at community events. Council also undertakes partnership projects with landholders and Landcare organisations to achieve greater integration of control works across tenures, and supports community weed priorities through a Council-funded environmental grants program.

Community members are encouraged to report complaints to Council's Environment Project Officers, who maintain a register of community roadside complaints and actions taken. All complainants are notified of the outcomes of reports and the reasoning behind specific actions.

Stakeholder Consultation

Council consulted extensively on roadside management issues, including roadside weed and rabbit control, during development of the Rural Roadside Management Plan upon which this plan is based. A 42-member Stakeholder Reference Group consisting of key State, regional and local agency and organisation representatives was established to ensure a variety of expert and community perspectives were considered in the plan's development.

A full list of Stakeholder Reference Group members can be found on Page 33 of the plan, however some key external stakeholders involved in development of the Rural Roadside Management Plan include:

- Richard Curwell – Environment Coordinator, VicRoads
- Steve McDougall – Team Leader Biodiversity Services Barwon Otway, DSE
- Ryan Melville – Senior Project Officer, Greening Australia
- Ian Morrison – Vegetation Management Officer, CFA
- Karen O'Keefe – Landcare Coordinator, Lismore Land Protection Group
- Geoff Rollinson – Landcare Coordinator, Heytesbury District Landcare Network
- Jackie Scally – Natural Resource Management Officer, Corangamite CMA

- Kim Stanley-Eyles – Team Leader, Greening Australia
- Saul Vermeeren – Biodiversity Officer, DSE
- Peter Walsgott – VVF Regional Manager, Victorian Farmers Federation.

* note: position titles were correct at time of plan development

In addition, Council's Environment Officer contacts local Landcare Coordinators when developing the annual weed program for feedback on local priorities and issues. We also endeavor to keep up to date with new research and developments and attend relevant workshops, such as the recent *Finding a Way Forward with Rabbit Control* workshop in Geelong.

Relevant Local, Regional Policies and Strategies and submissions

State

- *Invasive Plants and Animal Policy Framework*

Regional

- *Corangamite CMA Regional Catchment Strategy*
- *Corangamite CMA Invasive Plant and Animal Management Strategy*
- *Corangamite CMA Native Vegetation Strategy*

Local

- *Corangamite Shire Environment Strategy 2014 - 2019*
- *Corangamite Shire Rural Roadside Management Plan 2012*
- *Corangamite Shire Council Plan 2017 – 2021*

Objectives of the Plan

This plan will support Council's ongoing roadside weed control program and complement previous work enabled through State Government funding. Through effective and proactive management of invasive species, Corangamite Shire will seek to protect priority assets, eradicate and contain emerging weed threats, build on previous and complementary programs and respond to community priorities.

Investment of funds will be aligned to:

1. Treat for the eradication of Regionally Prohibited Weed infestations where identified.
2. Controlling and preventing the spread of Regionally Controlled Weeds and the control of rabbits on municipal roadsides that align with DEPI compliance project areas and / or support community led weed and pest control activities.
3. Contribute to other previous investment in the control of Regionally Controlled Weeds, Regionally Prohibited Weeds and rabbits.
4. Control activities for Regionally Controlled Weeds and rabbits on roadsides that support other investment for integrated landscape protection projects or address particular community concerns.
5. Protect identified assets such as significant roadside vegetation under threat from weed invasion.
6. Treat other roadside declared noxious weed infestations of concern to the Corangamite community.
7. Support community group investment in weed and pest control projects.

Term of Plan

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 - \$54,290 per year*
- *Council Contribution - \$188,000 in the first year, (Council funding may vary from year to year.)*

Table 1: Target Species				
Common Name	Scientific Name	CaLP classification	PRIORITY RATING (1 highest – 3 lowest)	Reasons for Management
<i>Rabbit</i>	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	<i>Established Pest Animal</i>	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To integrate with works on adjacent private land - To protect significant native vegetation assets on priority roadsides
<i>Blackberry</i>	<i>Rubus fruticosus (agg.)</i>	<i>Regionally Controlled Weed</i>	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In response to frequent community requests - To protect significant native vegetation assets on priority roadsides - To support previous investment by Council - To integrate with works on adjacent private land
<i>Serrated Tussock</i>	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>	<i>Regionally Prohibited Weed / RC Weed</i>	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support DEPI compliance programs - To protect high value grassland assets on roadsides
<i>Ragwort</i>	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	<i>Regionally Controlled Weed</i>	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To protect native vegetation assets on priority roadsides - To integrate with works on adjacent private land - To support previous investment by Council
<i>African Boxthorn</i>	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	<i>Regionally Controlled Weed</i>	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To protect native vegetation assets on priority roadsides - To support previous investment by Council
<i>St John's Wort</i>	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	<i>Regionally Controlled Weed</i>	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To protect significant native vegetation assets on priority roadsides - To integrate with works on adjacent private land

<i>Gorse</i>	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	<i>Regionally Controlled Weed</i>	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>To protect significant native vegetation assets on priority roadsides</i> - <i>To support previous investment by Council</i> - <i>To integrate with works on adjacent private land</i>
<i>Pampas Grass</i>	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	<i>Environmental Weed</i>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>To protect significant native vegetation assets on priority roadsides</i> - <i>To support previous investment by Council</i>
<i>Sweet Pittosporum</i>	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	<i>Environmental Weed</i>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>To protect significant native vegetation assets on priority roadsides To support previous investment by Council</i>

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	Approximate Annual Timing of Treatment	Total Estimated Cost
Rabbit	- Destruction of harbor (Blackberry, Gorse, Boxthorn)	- Throughout the shire	20km	Dec - May	\$5,000 annually
Blackberry	- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	- Southern part of Shire	514km	Dec - May	\$35,290 annually
Gorse	- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label - Cut-stump herbicide application where spot spraying is unfeasible	- In priority areas throughout the shire	91km	Aug - March	\$1,000 annually
Ragwort	- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	- Southern part of Shire	243km	March - Nov	\$4,000 annually
Serrated tussock	- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label - Manual removal of isolated plants	- Where plants are identified	Where plants are identified	Feb – Oct All year	\$1,000 annually (*under expenditure will go to blackberry control)

* note cost estimates provided relate to allocation of State Government funding only and are not representative of actual costs (approx. \$180,000 annually) required for the ongoing control of Regionally Controlled Weeds in Corangamite Shire.

African Boxthorn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with product label - Cut-stump herbicide application where spot spraying is unfeasible 	- Where plants are identified	78km	All year	\$1,000 annually (*under expenditure will go to blackberry control)
St John's Wort	- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with product label	- Throughout the shire	96km	Oct - Jan	\$2,000 annually
Pampas Grass	- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	- Southern part of Shire	250km	Jan- April	Internal funding
Sweet Pittosporum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cut-stump herbicide application - Manual removal of isolated plants 	- Southern part of Shire	140km	All year	Internal funding
All	- Mapping	- Throughout the shire			\$5,000
TOTAL					\$54,290 *

Maps

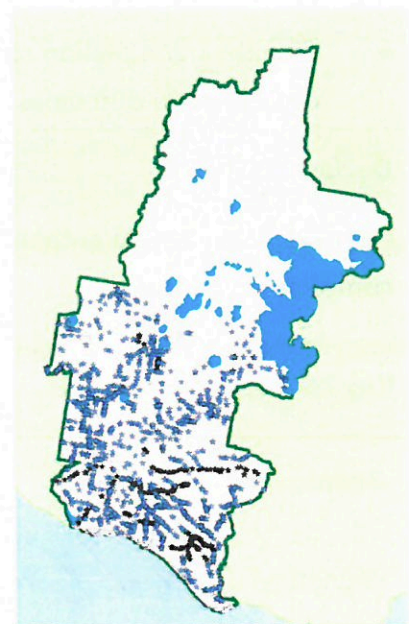
Map 1

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 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:

Roland Herbert

Date:

28/11/2017

Signature:

[Handwritten Signature]

Council CEO

Name: Andrew Mason

Date: 28/11/2017

Signature: 

DEDUTR ENDORSEMENT

*I DECLARE THAT I AM AN AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVE AND THIS PLAN
HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND ALIGNS WITH ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES*

DEDUTR REGIONAL MANAGER - PLANTS CHEMICALS AND INVASIVES

Ryan Cooke 

28/11/2017