

# Roadside Weeds and Pests Program Control Plan 2023-2026

1: Council Name: Golden Plains Shire Council

## 2: Contact Details:

Name: Bram Muller

Position: Natural Resources Officer -Sustainable Assets

Telephone: 0477 170 001

Email: [bram.muller@gplains.vic.gov.au](mailto:bram.muller@gplains.vic.gov.au)

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

Outline the regional perspective by briefly provide a summary of noxious weed and pest animal management on council managed roadsides in your municipality.

Golden Plains Shire is located in the southwest of Victoria and covers approximately 2,700 square kilometres. Situated within two bioregions; the Central Victorian Uplands (CVU) and the Victorian Volcanic Plains (VVP), the landform consists of open woodlands and forests in the northern and eastern extent and native grassland, open woodlands and fertile river valleys and flats in the south.

The area is predominantly rural and includes large production farms down to smaller hobby farms. There are also low density settlements surrounding the rural townships of Berringa, Cape Clear, Linton, Haddon, Smythesdale, Scarsdale, Ross Creek, Rokewood, Meredith, Dereel, Enfield, Teesdale, Inverleigh and Batesford. The township of Bannockburn is the Shire's major township consisting of low density residential and urban environments.

Golden Plains Shire is responsible for the management of approximately 1834 kilometres of local road network and is dedicated to managing weed infestations on council managed land.

Through past State Government funding initiatives, Golden Plains Shire has treated approximately 1730 kilometres of roadsides for Regionally Controlled weeds (Gorse and Serrated Tussock) and established pest animals. Refer to Table 1 for a list of current target species.

Due to the ongoing success of Golden Plains Shire Councils roadside pest plant and animal control program, Council now has the capacity to begin controlling additional declared weeds as part of the 2023-2026 Roadside Weed and Pest Program.

#### 4: Community Consultation:

Briefly describe how council stays informed of community priorities for weed and rabbit management. Examples may include 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.

The Golden Plains Shire's Natural Resources Officer stays in close touch with community concerns via attendance at meetings of Landcare and 'friends of' environmental groups, phone calls and correspondence from individuals. During September 2023 Council requested community views on the development of this plan via the Golden Plains Shire website and social media platforms and local newspapers.

## 5: Stakeholder Consultation:

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

- Dallas Gooding, Biosecurity Manager, Agriculture Victoria
- Landcare Groups- Woody Yaloak Catchment Group, Leigh Catchment Group, Geelong Landcare Network

## 6: Relevant Policies, Strategies and Submissions:

List policies, strategies, and submissions relevant to this plan (State, regional, and local).

### **State**

- Invasive Plants and Animals Policy Framework
- Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994
- Road Management Act 2004
- Conservation, Forests and Land Act 1987
- Local Government Act 1989

### **Regional**

- Corangamite Regional Catchment Management Strategy 2021-2027
- Corangamite Invasive Plant and Animal Management Strategy 2010

### **Local**

- Golden Plains Shire Council's Environment Strategy 2019-2027

- Golden Plains Shire Council Roadside Strategy 2010
- Golden Plains Shire Rabbit Management Strategy 2021-31
- Golden Plains Shire Council Roadside Environmental Management Plan 2016

## 7: Objectives of the Plan:

Provide a general overview of council's objectives, activities, outputs and expected outcomes, ensuring that investment of RWPP 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 pests 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'

Golden Plains Shire'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 of infestations of Regionally Controlled Weeds and rabbits – aligned to Ag Vic weed and rabbit compliance project areas.
3. Supporting community group investment in weed and pest control projects.
4. Contributing to previous investment in the control of Regionally Controlled and Regionally Prohibited Weeds and rabbits through State Government funding.
5. Support the completed Roadside Weed Mapping Project carried out under 2010/11 State Government funding.
6. Protect identified assets such as significant roadside vegetation under threat from weed invasion.
7. Addressing other roadside declared noxious weed infestations of concern to the Shire's community.

Works will be carried out by suitably qualified pest plant and animal contractors. Contractors will have appropriate licenses, certificates and OHS procedures in place.

### **Serrated Tussock Control Principles**

- Serrated Tussock control will be carried out in early winter/ spring prior to seed set.
- Ag Vic Serrated Tussock containment line in the Rokewood/Illabarook area is the first priority and will be controlled annually.
- After the containment line has been treated all municipal roadsides in the southern half of the Golden Plains Shire will be targeted annually for Serrated Tussock.

### **Woody Weed Control Principles (Gorse, Blackberry, Sweet Briar, Cape Broom, Hawthorn, Boxthorn)**

- Woody weed control will be carried out in Spring/Summer.
- Designation of core areas will be determined by existing mapping and funding availability.
- Designation of extension areas will be determined by existing mapping and funding availability.
- A new core area is tackled in spring each year based on mapping (extent determined by infestation density and funding availability).
- An extension to existing core areas is tackled each spring based on mapping (extent determined by infestation density and funding available).
- Core areas receive two years of follow up control before dropping back to a visit every second year. E.g. core area in 2022, core area follow up in 2023, core area follow up and extension in 2024, core area follow up in 2025 and every two years, thereafter.
- Extension areas get two years of follow up before dropping back to a visit every second year. E.g. extension area treated in 2022, extension area follow up in 2023, extension area follow up in 2024, extension area follow up in 2025 and every two years thereafter until no woody weeds require treatment. Further extensions to the extension area occur on the third year of treatment.
- Isolated infestations get two years of follow up before dropping back to a visit every second year. E.g. isolated infestation treated in 2022, isolated infestation follow up in 2023, isolated infestation follow up in 2024, isolated infestation follow up in 2025 and every two years thereafter until no woody weeds require treatment.
- Previously controlled areas are inspected and any control works undertaken every two years.

### **All other Declared Weed Control Principles**

- When funding permits or if there has been an effort by local Landcare and 'friends of' groups to control declared weeds or pests, Council will assist where possible.
- If the Ag Vic has identified a Declared weed or pest on a roadside that needs to be addressed, Council will have funds set aside for its control.
- If the allocated funds have not been used for that year, funds will be used to address specific complaints about roadside weeds.

### **Rabbit Control Principles**

- Work in with Ag Vic compliance programs. During 2011/12 Council worked in with the Ag Vic compliance program around Mt Mercer and controlled rabbits on roughly 100km of roadsides. Follow up control will be considered if funding permits. Respond to specific complaints where rabbit harbour or warren removal is determined to provide effective control. Given Council receives little complaints about roadside rabbits, works are generally undertaken in house.

## 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.

1x FTE Council Staff- Bram Muller Natural Resources Officer -Sustainable Assets

4 x Weed and Pest Plant Control Contractors as per Councils Panel of Suppliers



## 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 1 highest - 4 lowest	Reason for Management
Serrated Tussock	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	1	To support community and stakeholder action and previous investment by Council. To support Ag Vic compliance programs
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	1	To support community and stakeholder action and previous investment by Council. To support Ag Vic compliance programs
Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus (agg.)</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	1	To support community and stakeholder action and previous investment by Council
Sweet Briar	<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	To support community and stakeholder action and

				previous investment by Council
Cape Broom	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	To support community and stakeholder action and previous investment by Council
Boxthorn	<i>Lycium Ferocissimum</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	To support community and stakeholder action and previous investment by Council
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus oxyacantha</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	To support community and stakeholder action and previous investment by Council
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Established Pest Animal	1	To support community and stakeholder action and previous investment by Council. To support Ag Vic compliance programs

## 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	
Serrated Tussock	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label. Manual removal of isolated plants	As per the attached maps	850km	August-November
Gorse, Blackberry, Sweet Briar, Cape Broom, Hawthorn, Boxthorn	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label. Manual removal of isolated plants	As per the attached maps	840km	September-March
Rabbits	Fumigation and Mechanical ripping of warrens	As per the attached maps	30km	Late summer or as need basis

## 12: Maps:

Provide the following maps to support the control plan information:

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

Please note the maps are produced via GIS mapping software and are large in size. Maps can be provided upon request.

## 13: Declarations:

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). Any personal information contained in the control plan should be redacted prior to publishing. The signatures on the approved control plan may also be redacted prior to publishing.
- 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.
- 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 on request.
- Obtain approval from Agriculture Victoria before substantially modifying or varying the plan.
- Carefully consider any proposals from Agriculture Victoria to modify or vary the plan in response to changed circumstances.

### Council Declaration

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

**Key Council Contact Name:** Bram Muller

**Date:** 3/10/2023

**Signature:**



**Council CEO Name:** Eric Braslis

**Date:** 3/10/2023

**Signature:**



### **Agriculture Victoria Endorsement**

I declare that I am an authorised representative and that this plan has been reviewed and aligns with eligible activities.

**Agriculture Victoria Regional Biosecurity Manager – Plants, Chemicals and Invasives**

**Name:** Dallas GOODING

**Date:** 04/10/2023

**Signature:**

