Regional Context of Noxious Weed and Pest Animal Management

The Shire of Northern Grampians is located in the Wimmera in western Victoria and covers approximately 5,918 square kilometres. The landform consists of rich fertile soils, dryland areas, mountains ranges, large scale open plan pastoral area, nature conservation reserves and lakes. The southern end of the shire is bordered by the Grampians National Park and the Kara Kara National Park is located in the north.

Major towns in the area are Stawell (pop. 6,032 Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016) and St Arnaud (pop. 2,193 Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016) and smaller townships include the popular tourist location Halls Gap, Great Western, Deep Lead, Glenorchy, Marnoo, Navarre and Stuart Mill.

The area is predominantly rural and includes large production farms down to smaller hobby farms. The local economy is based on a diverse range of industries including agriculture, tourism, wine production, gold mining, brick manufacturing and meat production.

The Northern Grampians Shire Council is responsible for the management of approximately 3,400 km 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.

Through past State Government funding initiatives, the Northern Grampians Council has treated approximately 2,016 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

The Northern Grampians Shire has established links with the community to stay informed of current and emerging weed and rabbit issues in the area.

The partnership with two Landcare Network Managers (Project Platypus and the Buloke and Northern Grampians Landcare Network) encompasses feedback from landholders across the Shire and results in a collaborative approach to weed and rabbit control activities.

A representative from Northern Grampians Shire attends quarterly meetings of the Invasive Plants and Animals sub-committee facilitated by Project Platypus which community representatives, Parks Vic, Department of Land, Water, Environment and Planning (DELWP), neighbouring shires (Horsham Rural City Council and Ararat Rural City Council) attend.
The community are able to report weed and rabbit concerns directly to the Shire either person, by phone call or via the Shire website. The website has information regarding Roadside Weeds and Control Project and invites people to report infestations and provide feedback on draft management strategies.

Stakeholder Consultation

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

- Mark Farrer, Biosecurity Area Manager, Agriculture Victoria (DEDJTR)
- John Pye, Project Platypus, Upper Wimmera Landcare Network
- Buloke and Northern Grampians Landcare Network
- Wimmera Catchment Management Authority
- North Central Catchment Management Authority

Relevant Local, Regional Policies and Strategies and submissions

List policies, strategies and submissions relevant to this plan.

State
- Invasive Plants and Animal Policy Framework, Agriculture Victoria

Regional
- Wimmera Invasive Plant and Animal Strategy 2019, Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA)
- North Central Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2010-2015, North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA)

Local
- Northern Grampians Shire Council’s Roadside Management Plan 2008-2011
- Kara Kara Conservation Network’s Strategic Plan 2013-2018
- Project Platypus - Upper Wimmera Landcare’s Strategic Plan 2019-2021

Objectives of the Plan

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

Plan objectives are to contribute to the Shire’s ongoing roadside weed and rabbit management program, to complement past investments made by Northern Grampians 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 as a whole.

Northern Grampians 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 –
Roadside Weeds & Pests Program
Control Plan

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 landowners.

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). This includes but not limited to St John’s Wort, Paterson’s Curse, Wheel Cactus, Serrated Tussock, Horehound, Blackberry, Cape Tulip (one-leaf), Cape Tulip (two-leaf), Bridal Creeper, Boneseed, Broom (English and Cape), Gorse, Spiny Rush and Soldier Thistle.

Term of the Plan

Outline the term for which the plan is to operate.

*The plan will run for a one year period from 1 July 2019 (date of commencement) to 30 June 2020*

Funding

Outline how council plans to fund the implementation of the plan.

- Roadside Weeds & Pests Program (RWPP) - $75,000 per year
## Table 1: Target Species

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>CaLP classification</th>
<th>PRIORITY RATING (1 highest – 4 lowest)</th>
<th>Reasons for Management</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>European Rabbit</td>
<td>Oryctolagus cuniculus</td>
<td>Established Pest Animal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>In response to DEDJTR control programs, frequent ratepayer requests and support community and stakeholder action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackberry</td>
<td>Rubus fruticosus</td>
<td>NCCMA &amp; WCMA - Regionally Controlled Weed</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>To support DEDJTR compliance programs as well as community and stakeholder action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Briar</td>
<td>Rosa rubiginosa</td>
<td>NCCMA &amp; WCMA - Regionally Controlled Weed</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>To support community and stakeholder action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boneseed</td>
<td>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</td>
<td>NCCMA - Regionally Prohibited Weed WCMA - Regionally Controlled Weed</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>To support community and stakeholder action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridal Creeper</td>
<td>Asparagus asparagoides</td>
<td>NCCMA &amp; WCMA - Restricted Weed</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>To support community and stakeholder action. To support Project Platypus, Landcare groups and Wimmera CMA control works</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Boxthorn</td>
<td>Lycium ferocissimum</td>
<td>NCCMA &amp; WCMA - Regionally Controlled Weed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>To support community and stakeholder action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Broom</td>
<td>Genista monspessulana</td>
<td>NCCMA - Restricted Weed WCMA - Regionally Controlled Weed</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>To support community and stakeholder action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Tulip</td>
<td>Moraea flaccida</td>
<td>NCCMA &amp; WCMA - Regionally Controlled Weed</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>To support community and stakeholder action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weed Name</td>
<td>Scientific Name</td>
<td>NCCMA &amp; WCMA Status</td>
<td>Action Number</td>
<td>Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Tulip (two-leaf)</td>
<td>Moraea miniata</td>
<td>NCCMA - Regionally Controlled Weed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>To support previous investment by Shire, DEDJTR compliance programs and community and stakeholder action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>WCMA - Regionally Prohibited Weed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flax-Leaved Broom</td>
<td>Genista linifolia</td>
<td>NCCMA - Restricted Weed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>To support community and stakeholder action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>WCMA - Regionally Controlled Weed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gorse</td>
<td>Ulex europaeus</td>
<td>NCCMA &amp; WCMA - Regionally Controlled Weed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>To support previous investment by Shire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horehound</td>
<td>Marrubium vulgare</td>
<td>NCCMA &amp; WCMA - Regionally Controlled Weed</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>To support community and stakeholder action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opuntia sps.</td>
<td>Opuntia sps.</td>
<td>NCCMA &amp; WCMA - Regionally Controlled Weed</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>To support community and stakeholder action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paterson’s Curse</td>
<td>Echium plantagineum</td>
<td>NCCMA &amp; WCMA - Regionally Controlled Weed</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>To support community and stakeholder action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serrated Tussock</td>
<td>Nassella trichotoma</td>
<td>NCCMA &amp; WCMA - Regionally Prohibited Weed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>To support previous investment by Shire, DEDJTR compliance programs and community and stakeholder action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St John’s Wort</td>
<td>Hypericum perforatum</td>
<td>NCCMA &amp; WCMA - Regionally Controlled Weed</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>To support community and stakeholder action and previous investment by Shire</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Silverleaf Nightshade</th>
<th>Solanum elaeagnifolium Cav.</th>
<th>NCCMA &amp; WCMA - Regionally Controlled Weed</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>- To support community and stakeholder action and previous investment by Shire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spiny Broom</td>
<td>Calicotome spinosa</td>
<td>NCCMA - Restricted Weed WCMA - Regionally Controlled Weed</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>- To support community and stakeholder action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soldier Thistle</td>
<td>Picnomon acarna</td>
<td>NCCMA - Regionally Prohibited Weed WCMA - Restricted Weed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>- In response to DJPR control programs, to support the DJPR and their efforts in controlling the spread of the weed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2: Control Measures and Target Roadsides (this table can be used as part of Council’s yearly or acquittal report to LGV)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name*</th>
<th>Control Measures (to be based on accepted best practice management of the target species)</th>
<th>Location of where works will be done (location of proposed works should be specified, and a map where possible should accompany the plan)</th>
<th>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)</th>
<th>Approximate Annual Timing of Treatment</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Rabbit       | - Mechanical ripping of warrens  
- Fumigation of warrens where mechanical ripping is deemed inappropriate  
- Locations to be treated as reported by community | - Lake Lonsdale area, Lake Fyans area, Deep Lead/Illawarra, Morrl Morrl, Joel Joel, Crowlands, Banyena, Cope Cope  
- Locations to be treated as reported by community | 20km | All Year | $10,000 |
| Blackberry   | - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label  
- Mechanical removal where herbicide application is inappropriate  
- Locations to be treated as reported by community | - Stuart Mill, Carapooee, Halls Gap  
- Locations to be treated as reported by community | 5km | Jan - Apr & Sep - Dec | $2,500 |
| Sweet Briar  | - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label  | - Locations to be treated as reported by community | 5km | Sep - Nov | $2,500 |
| Boneseed     | - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label  
- Cut-stump herbicide application  
- Manual removal of seedlings | - Stawell  
- Locations to be treated as reported by community | 20km | June - Oct | $6,000 |
### Roadside Weeds & Pests Program Control Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weed/Invasive Plant</th>
<th>Control Plan</th>
<th>Locations</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Bridal Creeper      | - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label  
- Locations to be treated as reported by community | 35km | May - Dec | $6,000 |
| African Boxthorn    | - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label  
- Manual removal | - Avon Plains, Banyena, Cope Cope Traynors Lagoon, Marnoo, Gre Gre, Sutherland, Moolerr  
- Locations to be treated as reported by community | 50km | Jan - May & Sep - Dec | $6,000 |
| Cape Broom          | - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label  
- Manual removal | - St Arnaud, Stuart Mill, Stawell  
- Locations to be treated as reported by community | 15km | July - Nov | $4,500 |
| Cape Tulip (one-leaf) | - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label  
- Manual removal | - Moolerr, Sutherland, Stawell  
- Locations to be treated as reported by community | 50km | Apr - Aug | $6,000 |
| Cape Tulip (two-leaf) | - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label  
- Manual removal | - Stawell  
- Locations to be treated as reported by community | 2km | Jun - Sept | $2,000 |
| Flax-Leaved Broom   | - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label  
- Manual removal | - Stawell  
- Locations to be treated as reported by community | 50km | Mar - Sep | $6,000 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Treatment Details</th>
<th>Coverage</th>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Gorse** | - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label  
- Manual removal  
- Mulching  
- Cultivation  
- Stuart Mill  
- Locations to be treated as reported by community | 5km      | All Year      | $2,500 |
| **Horehound** | - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label  
- Manual removal  
- Cultivation  
- Widespread in the Northern Grampians Shire  
- Locations to be treated as reported by community and in conjunction with Landcare and landholder treatment programs | 200km   | May - Oct     | $11,000 |
| **Opuntia sps.** | - Wheel Cactus  
- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label  
- Manual removal  
- Prickly Pear  
- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label  
- Manual removal  
- Isolated infestations in the northern part of the Shire  
- Locations to be treated as reported by community | 5km      | All Year      | $5,000 |
| **Paterson’s Curse** | - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label  
- Manual removal  
- Kooreh, Gowar, Marnoo, Marnoo East, Banyena, Traynors Lagoon, Moolerr, Sutherland, Swanwater, Gooroc, Coonooer Bridge  
- Locations to be treated as reported by community | 200km   | May - Sep     | $11,000 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weed/Invasive Plant</th>
<th>Control Method</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serrated Tussock</td>
<td>Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label, Manual removal</td>
<td>Glenorchy, Deep Lead, Locations to be treated as reported by community</td>
<td>3 - 5km</td>
<td>Feb - Oct</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St John’s Wort</td>
<td>Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label, Manual removal</td>
<td>Rostron, Winjallok, Navarre, Kanya, Wallaloo, Marnoo, Dalyenong, Stuart Mill, Natte Yallock, Carapooee</td>
<td>50kms</td>
<td>Dec - Feb</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silverleaf Nightshade</td>
<td>Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label, Manual removal</td>
<td>Locations to be treated as reported by community</td>
<td>5km</td>
<td>Sep - Dec</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiny Broom</td>
<td>Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label, Manual removal</td>
<td>Winjallok, Stawell, Navarre, Landsborough</td>
<td>15km</td>
<td>Aug - Dec</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soldier Thistle</td>
<td>Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label, Mechanical removal where herbicide application is inappropriate</td>
<td>Marnoo area, Swanwater area, Gooroc area, Areas to be treated as reported by DJTR, Areas to be treated as reported by the community</td>
<td>100 - 150km</td>
<td>June - Oct</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 Local Government Victoria 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 Local Government Victoria within 30 days from expiry of this plan outlining the outcomes of the control measures undertaken.
Appendix:
Map 1a: Proposed work area for listed target weed and pest species.
Map 1b: Proposed work area for Soldier Thistle at Marnoo, Swanwater and Gooroc