



Government
Services

OFFICIAL

Roadside Weeds and Pests Program Control Plan 2023-2026

1: Council Name:

Campaspe Shire Council

2: Contact Details:

Name: James Marsh

Position: Manager Waste and Environment

Telephone: 0456 972 460

Email: j.marsh@campaspe.vic.gov.au

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

The Shire of Campaspe is located in the north of Victoria and covers approximately 4,500 square kilometres. The landform consists of a flat landscape that slopes to the north towards the Murray River, which is drained by the Campaspe River and its tributaries. The variation in the landscape and vegetation types, range from river valleys, plains grasslands to Box Woodlands and River Red Gum floodplains.

The Shire of Campaspe is predominantly a rural area. Land use across the Shire is dominated by agriculture, predominantly irrigated agriculture, defining the landscape visually by the network of irrigation and drainage channels. Agricultural production, both irrigated areas and large tracts of dry land farming combine to form the largest industry in the Shire. In addition to on-farm food production, food processing, manufacturing, construction and tourism are major employers across the Shire.

The majority of the community lives in urban settlements of Echuca, Kyabram, Rochester, Tongala, Rushworth, Stanhope, Lockington and Gunbower. There are lower density settlements surrounding the rural townships of Colbinabbin, Corop, Girgarre, Nanneella, Toolleen, Torrumbarry and Ky Valley.

Campaspe Shire Council maintains a road network of more than 4,000 kilometres including:

- 1,154km of sealed roads
- 2,100 km of gravel roads
- 856 km of earth roads.

Approximately 3,775 km of this network are rural roads which is 7,550 km of rural roadside. Campaspe Shire Council is dedicated to managing noxious weed infestations on council managed land and committed to the early prevention and control of weeds species newly identified in the area.

Campaspe Shire Council maintains a weed mapping system to facilitate the targeting of priority weeds. This mapping records the presence of State Prohibited, Regionally Controlled and Regionally Prohibited Weeds and also weeds of significant local concern, including Restricted Weeds such as Bridal Creeper, Chilean Needle Grass and undeclared weeds such as Prunus, European Olive and Willows.

Through past State Government funding initiatives Council has monitored and treated Regionally Prohibited and Regionally Controlled weeds and established pest animals across more than 1510km of roadside annually. Please refer to Table 1 for a list of current target species.

Following the significant flood event in October 2022 Campaspe Shire Council undertook a municipal wide survey in November 2023 to assess the immediate impact of the floods on weed species type and distribution across the Shire. This assessment has informed this updated control plan in addition to community consultation and discussions with AgVic.

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 Campaspe Shire Council Environment Officer has a history of working with the community through our Landcare Support Program (Campaspe Landcare Steering Committee), individual Landcare and environmental groups as well as the community through phone calls, correspondence and direct contact at meetings and community events. This regular contact informs Council as to the state of all local issues, including the presence of weeds and pests on roadsides. It is great to hear positive feedback from our community when they appreciate the works undertaken to remove a particular weed from a roadside, not just reports of where weeds are.

Combined with the information collected through our Landcare support and community engagement, we also work with our local and regional stakeholders including Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, North Central Catchment Management Authority, Agriculture Victoria and Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action.

An online survey has been conducted to ascertain the communities' concerns and priorities which is incorporated into the final plan.

5: Stakeholder Consultation:

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

- Campaspe Landcare Steering Committee which includes members of the following Landcare Groups
 - Campaspe River Reserve Committee
 - Echuca Moama Landcare Group
 - Girgarre-Stanhope Landcare Group
 - Gunbower Landcare Group
 - Harston Landcare Group
 - Koyuga Kanyapella Landcare Group
 - Kyabram Urban Landcare Group
 - Lockington District Family Landcare Group
 - Mount Pleasant Creek Landcare Group (currently in recess)
 - Nanneella Landcare Group
 - Northern Plains Conservation Management Network
 - Strathallan Family Landcare Group
 - Waranga Catchment Landcare Group
 - Wyuna Landcare Group (in recess)
- Goulburn Murray Landcare Network
- Rochester Golf Club Committee
- Regional Landcare Coordinator, North Central Catchment Management Authority
- Municipal Catchment Coordinator, Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority

6: Relevant Policies, Strategies and Submissions:

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

State

- Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (CaLP ACT)
- Catchment and Land Protection Regulations 2022 (CaLP Regulations)
- Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992
- Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006
- Biological Control Act 1986
- Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987
- Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978
- Environment Protection Act 2017
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)
- Fences Act 1968
- Firearms Act 1996
- Fisheries Act 1995
- Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988
- Land Act 1958
- Local Government Act 1989
- Local Government Act 2020
- National Parks Act 1975
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- Parks Victoria Act 2018
- Planning and Environment Act 1987
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986
- Road Management Act 2004
- Road Safety Act 1986
- Sale of Land Act 1962
- Wildlife Act 1975
- Victorian Government (2010) Invasive Plants and Animals Policy Framework, DPI Victoria, Melbourne

- Victorian Government (2017) Victorian Government Land Use Policy and Guidelines, DELWP Victoria, Melbourne
- Victorian Government (2017) Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037, DELWP Victoria, Melbourne

Regional

- GBCMA Regional Catchment Strategy 2021-27
- GBCMA Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2019-2025
- Goulburn Broken Catchment Roadside Biodiversity Risk Management Protocols
- Shepparton Irrigation Region Land and Water Management Plan
- NCCMA North Central Victoria Regional Sustainable Agriculture Strategy

Local

- Campaspe Roadside Conservation Strategy (Campaspe Shire Council)
- Road Management Plan 2021 (Campaspe Shire Council)
- Environment Strategy 2022 (Campaspe Shire Council)
- Work Within Road Reserve Application (Campaspe Shire Council)
- Local Law No.9 (2022) General Local Law (Campaspe Shire Council)

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 DJPR 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'

Campaspe Shire Council is committed to the management of weeds and pests on Council roads. Our aim is to:

1. Contribute to the Shire's ongoing roadside weed and rabbit management program and complement past investments made by Campaspe Shire Council enabled through State Government initiative funding.
2. Assist with preventing the spread and introduction of invasive plant and animal species across the Shire and the region as a whole.

Campaspe 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 – across the Shire. Priority will be given to any Agriculture Victoria weed and rabbit compliance project area.
3. Supporting community group investment in declared 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 or adjoining National Parks.
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), including Caltrop and Bridal Creeper.

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.

0.4 FTE – internal staff member

0.5 FTE - contractor

10: Target Species:

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

<i>Serrated tussock</i>	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>	<i>Regionally Prohibited Weed</i>	1	To support Agriculture Victoria compliance programs
Common Name	Scientific Name	CaLP Act Classification	Priority Rating 1 highest - 4 lowest	Reason for Management
Boneseed	<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i> ssp. <i>monilifera</i>	Regionally Prohibited Weed	1	To support previous investment by Council.
Serrated Tussock	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>	Regionally Prohibited Weed	1	To support DEECA compliance programs For surveillance to ensure the weed does not establish in our Shire.
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Established Pest Animal	1	To support community groups and previous investment in Council, will require coordinated response.
Artichoke Thistle	<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	Regionally Prohibited Weed	1	To support previous investment by Council and prevention of Artichoke Thistle establishing in the Shire.

				To support DEECA compliance programs.
Hardheads/ Russian knapweed	<i>Rhaponticum repens</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	1	In response to weed survey completed in November 2023 that identified 3 sites. High priority as eradication is achievable.
Prairie ground cherry	<i>Physalis hederifolia</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	1	In response to weed survey completed in November 2023 that identified 1 site. High priority as eradication is achievable.
Tufted honeyflower	<i>Melianthus comosus</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	1	In response to weed survey completed in November 2023 that identified 1 site. High priority as eradication is achievable.
Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> (agg.)	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	To support previous investment by Council and State Government. To support community and stakeholder action. In response to frequent ratepayer requests.
Sweet Briar	<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	To support previous investment by Council and State Government.

					Support community and stakeholder action. In response to ratepayer requests.
African Boxthorn	<i>Lycium ferossisimum</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	2		To support previous investment by Council and State Government (high priority for the grasslands of the Patho Plains). Support community action at Gunbower/Torrumbarry. In response to landholder feedback.
Asparagus fern	<i>Asparagus scandens</i>	Restricted Weed	2		In response to weed survey completed in November 2023 that identified 5 sites. High priority as eradication is achievable.
Slender/ Shore thistle	<i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i>	Restricted Weed	2		In response to weed survey completed in November 2023 that identified 3 sites. High priority as eradication is achievable.
Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia stricta</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	3		To support previous investment by Council and State Government.

				Support community action and in response to ratepayer requests.
Paterson's Curse	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	To support previous investment by Council In response to landholder feedback and priority to areas adjoining high value assets, specifically grasslands.
St John's Wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	In response to ratepayer requests and previous government investment to prevent establishment in the south of the Shire. To support NCCMA who have observed an increase in complaints.
Variegated Thistle	<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	4	In response to ratepayer requests. To support previous investment by Council.
Bridal Creeper	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>	Restricted Weed	4	To support community action and in response to frequent ratepayer requests.

				To support previous investment by Council.
Caltrop	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	4	In response to frequent ratepayer requests To support previous investment by Council.
Chilean Needle Grass	<i>Nassella neesiana</i>	Restricted Weed	4	To support previous investment by Council and State Government In response to ratepayer requests.
Spears Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Restricted Weed	4	To support ratepayer requests To support previous investment by Council.
Horehound	<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	4	To support ratepayer requests. To support asset protection of national parks/crown land (Patho Plains) in partnership with Parks Victoria
Khaki Weed	<i>Alternanthera pungens</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	4	To support community requests and resulting Khaki Weed Stakeholder workgroup
Silverleaf Nightshade	<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	4	To support ratepayer requests.

To support asset protection of
national parks/crown land
(Patho Plains) in partnership
with Parks Victoria.

11: Control Measures and Target Roadsides:

List the control measures and target roadsides; eg.

<i>Serrated tussock</i>	<i>Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label</i>	<i>Smith Road, Smithville</i>	<i>5km</i>	<i>Feb – Oct</i>
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	
Boneseed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label - Cut-stump herbicide application - Manual removal of seedlings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bamawm Extension - Lampard Road Myola. 	2 km	June - Oct
Serrated Tussock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Surveillance. If Serrated Tussock is found: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label o Manual removal of isolated plants 	Throughout the Shire, with a focus on roads near the main highway and entrances to the Shire in the south and the east.	50 km	Mar - Sept
Rabbit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mechanical ripping of warrens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gunbower region - Kanyapella 	10 km	Sep - Feb

	Where ripping not appropriate, fumigation of warrens	- Patho			
	Surveillance of previously treated areas				
Artichoke Thistle	- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	- Peter McEvoy Road, Pook Road Toolleen and Hamblin Road Cornella.	5 km		May – Dec
Asparagus fern	- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	- Bonn Road, Rochester - Hansen Road and Singer Road, Bamawm	2 km		Oct – Mar
Hardheads / Russian knapweed	- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	- Fenn Road, Gunbower	<1 km		Dec - Mar
Prairie ground cherry	- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	- Hobans Lane, Rushworth	<1 km		Nov - Feb
Slender/ Shore thistle	- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	- Dormoyle Road and Fenn Road, Gunbower	<1 km		May - Sep

Tufted honeyflower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kimber Lane, Toolleen 	<1 km	
Blackberry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label - Mechanical removal where herbicide application is inappropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Throughout the Shire, concentration of blackberries parallel to the Murray River, Nanneella, Wyuna, Kyabram and Stanhope. 	200 km	Nov - Feb
Sweet Briar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label - Cut-stump herbicide application if located near Northern Plains Grassland and/or known sites of Plains Wanderers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Throughout the Shire, more common in the irrigation areas of the Shire. 	700 km (spot treatment)	Sep - Jun
African Boxthorn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label - Cut-stump herbicide application if located near Northern Plains Grassland and/or known sites of Plains Wanderers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Throughout the Shire. 	700 km (spot treatment)	Sep – Dec

Prickly Pear	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label - Manual removal of isolated plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Throughout the Shire, known infestations at Echuca Village, Diggora and Rushworth. 	700 km (spot treatment)	Aug – Mar
Paterson's Curse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Throughout the Shire with focus on roads adjoining environmental assets (along the Murray and Campaspe Rivers and Northern Plains Grasslands). 	700 km (spot treatment)	Jun - Oct
St John's Wort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Myola East area 	10 km	Sep - Jan
Variegated Thistle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Throughout the Shire 	40 km (spot treatment)	Apr - Oct
Bridal Creeper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Torrumbarry area - Small infestations near Echuca and Rochester 	20 km	Sep – Apr
Caltrop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Across the Shire, predominantly Kyabram area, smaller infestations around Rochester and Tongala 	30 km	Sep – Apr
Chilean Needle Grass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Runnymede (McKenzie and Grogan Roads Runnymede) 	3 km + monitoring when treating other weeds	Mar – Aug



Spear Thistle	- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	- Throughout the Shire	Monitor	Jun – Oct
Horehound	- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	- Throughout the Shire, more common around bushland reserves	2 km	Apr - Oct
Khaki weed	- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	- Across the Shire, common around main townships of Echuca, Kyabram and Rochester as well as along channels in Rochester/Nanneella/Girgarre area.	30 km	Jan - May
Silverleaf Nightshade	- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	- Predominantly Patho Plains (west of shire)	5 km	Sep - Jan

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.

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: James Marsh

Date: 31/01/24

Signature:



Council CEO Name: Pauline Gordon

Date:

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: BEN PERRY

Date: 13/2/24

Signature: Ben Perry.