

Roadside Weed and Pest Animal control plan

2015-2017

Municipality Details

Municipal District / Council Name:	South Gippsland Shire Council
Postal Address:	9 Smith Street Leongatha

Key Contact

Name:	Chris Rankin
Position:	Biodiversity Supervisor
Contact Details:	03 5662 9267

Name:	Eric Neville
Position:	Environmental Projects Officer
Contact Details:	03 5662 9360

Regional Context of Noxious Weed and Pest Animal Management

The Shire is located in Gippsland and covers an area of approximately 3,300 square kilometres. The topography varies from coastal plains to the mountainous Strzelecki Ranges. The area is predominantly rural and land uses include dairying, grazing, forestry and also small hobby farms.

South Gippsland Shire has 4 major population centers Leongatha, Korumburra, Mirboo North and Foster. Other townships/villages include Nyora, Toora, Venus Bay, Sandy Point, Poowong, Port Welshpool, Loch, Dumbalk, Welshpool, Meenyan, Fish Creek and Tarwin Lower.

South Gippsland Shire Council is responsible for the management of approximately 2,000km of local road network. At least 300km (15 percent) of the Shire's roadside native vegetation has been identified as having a High Conservation Value, about 600km (30 percent) has a Medium Conservation Value and the remaining 55 per cent (1,100km) has a Low Conservation Value.

In the last 4 years with the assistance of the State Government Council has controlled Regionally Controlled Weed species on a total of 598 km of Shire roadsides. Key weed species that have been targeted are Blackberry, Broom spp, Gorse and Ragwort (not considered a significant roadside weed).

Treatment of roadside weeds has been prioritized based on their conservation significance, advice from local DEDJTR Officers and the Landcare Network/Community and previous investment. Council has also provided free herbicide to adjoining landowners and community groups to undertake roadside weed control works (SGSC Roadside Weed Control Program).

Council also provides weed control advice/information to residents. Detailed information can be found on the South Gippsland Landcare Network's Weed Website, www.southgippslandweeds.com.au. The website is designed to increase awareness of the various noxious and environment weed species in South Gippsland and to provide advice on identification and control methods.

Council has not undertaken rabbit control programs on roadsides in the past. Historically rabbit numbers have not been high on roadsides in South Gippsland and there are also issues associated with access for control works in many areas due to topography and high levels of roadside vegetation.

Rabbit control works will be undertaken in the future if requested by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport & Resources (DEDJTR).

Community Consultation

Council's Sustainability Department stays in close contact with community concerns regarding pest plants and animal species through attendance and participation in the South Gippsland Community Weeds Taskforce meetings and through partnership arrangements with South Gippsland Landcare.

The Community Weeds Taskforce includes representation from the following groups; Landcare (various), DEDJTR, Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP), Parks Victoria and VicRoads. Participation in the Taskforce enables direct communication between relevant stakeholders and enables the early detection of new and emerging weed infestations.

Council also receives communication from the community via phone/emails, written correspondence and direct representation. Council has also specifically requested community feedback on the roadside weed issue through our community consultation process associated with the Shire's Sustainability Strategy.

Much of the information required to prepare this plan had already been obtained during the development of the SGSC Roadside Weed and Rabbit Control Plan 2013-2015.

Stakeholder Consultation

Key stakeholders who have been consulted in the development of this plan include the following:

- Kate Williams, Landcare Project Officer, South Gippsland Landcare Network / South Gippsland Community Weeds Taskforce
- Bob Wilson, Leading Biosecurity Officer – Gippsland, Agriculture Services and Biosecurity Operations Division, DEDJTR
- Scott McArdle, Program Manager Plants Chemicals & Invasive Species Gippsland, Agriculture Services & Biosecurity Operations | Regulation & Compliance Division, DEDJTR.

Relevant Local, Regional Policies and Strategies and submissions

The following Policies and Strategies are relevant to this plan.

State

- Invasive Plants and Animal Policy Framework
- Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994
- Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988
- Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978
- Land Act 1958
- Local Government Act 1987
- Road Management Act 2004

Regional

- West Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019
- WGCMA Strzelecki Integrated Management Strategy 2009
- WGCMA Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2010 - 2015

Local

- SGSC Sustainability Strategy 2011
- SGSC Weed Management Procedure for Council Owned and Managed Land 2009
- SGSC Roadside Management Manual SGSC Roadside Management Plan
- SGSC Roadside Weed and Rabbit Control Plan 2013 - 2015

Objectives of the Plan

The objective of this Plan is to document and plan for Council's ongoing roadside weed and rabbit management program, which will build on past investments made by South Gippsland Shire Council with support funding provided by the State Government.

South Gippsland 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 – aligned to DEDJTR weed and rabbit compliance project area/s
2. Treatment to prevent the growth and spread of Regionally Controlled Weeds and prevent the spread of and as far as possible eradicate, established pest animals e.g. rabbits – aligned to DEDJTR weed and rabbit compliance project areas.
3. Supporting community group investment in weed and pest control projects.
4. Build on works previously undertaken to control Regionally Controlled and Regionally Prohibited Weeds and rabbits.
5. Protect identified assets such as significant roadside vegetation under threat from weed invasion.
6. Strategic/targeted mapping of roadside weed infestations to monitor threats to key environment assets.
7. Addressing other roadside declared noxious weed infestations of concern to the Shire's community.
8. Inspect, identify and record high risk roadsides for future management work e.g. high conservation

value roadsides and roadsides adjoining high value areas of native vegetation.
Continue to raise landowner/community awareness about noxious and environmental weeds and their impact.

Term of Plan

The plan will run from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2017, unless extended or replaced with DEDJTR approval.

Funding

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

- *RWPP Allocation - \$45, 935 per year*
- *Council Contribution - \$42, 600 in 2015/16 and \$43, 665 in 2016/17*

Table 1: Target Species

Outline the target species and reasoning for management.

Common Name	Scientific Name	CaLP classification	PRIORITY RATING (1 highest – 3 lowest)	Reasons for Management
Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus (agg.)</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	1	South Gippsland Community Weeds Taskforce priority weed Very invasive species quickly smothers native vegetation Protection of high quality roadside vegetation. Listed as a Weed of National Significance
Broom Species	<i>Cytisus scoparius (L.) Link</i> <i>Genista linifolia L.</i> <i>Genista monspessulana (L.) L.A.S. Johnson</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	South Gippsland Community Weeds Taskforce priority weed Very invasive species quickly smothers native vegetation Protection of high quality roadside vegetation Listed as a Weed of National Significance
Gorze/Furze	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	1	South Gippsland Community Weeds Taskforce priority weeds Very invasive species quickly smothers native vegetation Protection of high quality roadside vegetation. Listed as a Weed of National Significance
Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea L.</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	To support DEDJTR compliance programs Very invasive species quickly spreads degrading agricultural land.
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Established Pest Animal	2	In response to ratepayer/agency requests and to align with new State Legislation/protection of the environment. To support DEDJTR compliance programs

Table 2: Control Measures and Target Roadsides

Outline control techniques and additional details.

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 (Km = length of road along which both sides are treated.)	Approximate Annual Timing of Treatment	Estimated Cost
Rabbit	Employ contractor/s to undertake appropriate control methods, primarily, fumigation (based on size and location of the infestation) and/or warren destruction (ripping)	Throughout the Shire as Identified or requested	Unknown - works implemented on an as required basis	As Required	~\$60/hr (fumigation) ~\$120/hr plus float cost ~\$200/day (ripping of warrens) (estimates are based on 2012-13 costings and will vary according to infestation level and CPI)
Gorse/Furze	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label Cut-stump herbicide application	Follow-up treatment along McDonalds Trk (Nyora) and Telegraph Rd (Port Welshpool) and in DEDJTR Compliance Areas as notified	30km approx. per annum ₂ .	Winter/Spring 2015 – 17 All year	~\$106.58/km (Please Note: the estimates are based on SGSC Roadside weed control Team costings and will vary according to infestation level and CPI)
Blackberry	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label Mechanical removal where herbicide application is inappropriate	See attached documents for roads lists; Schedule1: 2015-16 roads list Schedule 2: 2016-17 roads list	570km approx. per annum ₂ . (please note there are very few roadsides that don't have some level of blackberry)	Sept – April 2015 – 17	
Ragwort	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label Manual removal of isolated plants	See attached documents for roads lists; Schedule1: 2015-16 roads list Schedule 2: 2016-17 roads list	50km approx. per annum ₂	Sept – April 2015 – 2017	
Broom Species	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label Cut-stump herbicide application	See attached documents for roads lists; Schedule1: 2015-16 roads list Schedule 2: 2016-17 roads list	230km approx. per annum ₂	Sept - April 2015 – 2017 All year	

- Please note these are draft lists that may be added to depending on community/agency requests.
- Based on currently surveyed roads with different weed infestations identified or follow-up treatment where we have previously worked and know what weed species are present.

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

Maps

Refer to attached documents for the Schedules of Roads for Treatment in the 2015-16 and 2016-17 Spray Seasons.

Maps of roads scheduled for treatment can be provided as they are produced.

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: Chris Rankin

Date: 13 November 2015



Signature:

Council CEO

Name: Tim Tamlin

Date: 13 November 2015

Signature: 

