

Roadside Weeds and Pests Program Control Plan 2023-2026

1: Council Name: Baw Baw Shire Council

2: Contact Details:

Name: Baw Baw Shire Council

Position:

Telephone: Email:

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.

The Shire of Baw Baw is located approx. 100km east of Melbourne in the West Gippsland Region. Baw Baw Shire encompasses an area of 4031 square kilometres, and is located within two catchment management areas; West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority & Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority.

Council is responsible for the maintenance of 1400 kilometres of rural roads classified as collector, link, local or local minor roads. Council has been working in partnership with Government agencies and the community since 1999 to control weeds and rabbits on roadsides. An endorsed Roadside Weed and pest control plan

has provided a framework for the control of roadside weeds and declared pest species. Resources have been allocated to align with achieving objectives of the plan, with a focus on control of declared weeds and rabbits; these weeds vary in distribution and infestation levels across the municipality.

The following pest species have been a focus for treatment and control: African Feather Grass, Prickly Pear, Gorse, Blackberry, Cape Broom, Flax-leaved Broom, English Broom, Ragwort and Rabbits.

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.

Receipt of community concerns and priorities

Baw Baw Shire Council has different options available to residents for reporting of concerns regarding weed and rabbit management, which assist Council in understanding community priorities and concerns for weed control.

Public Consultation

Public consultation occurs as part of a review and or the development of a strategy in accordance with Council Public Consultation Policy, with the aim to prepare a strategy or plan that reflects priorities of the community.

In 2019 a survey was undertaken to inform Council of community priorities for weed control for inclusion into the 2020-2025 Baw Baw Shire Council Weed Management Strategy. Results of this survey provided Baw Baw Shire Council with Nine ranked priorities for weed control on Council managed land. Priority two was Managing noxious weeds on Council managed land including roadsides.

Between 20th November 2023 and 11th December 2023 Council completed community consultation to achieve a Roadside Weed and Pest Control Plan that considers feedback from the community. The aim of this campaign was to inform the community the Roadside Weed and Pest Program (RWPP) Control Plan is due for renewal, and to engage their input to ensure that the new plan is consistent with the community priorities.

To engage the community, the campaign was advertised on social media, and distributed by Landcare facilitators to relevant local Landcare groups. By accessing the Baw Baw Shire council Website, community members were able to access a draft copy of the plan, and provide feedback by participating in a survey or providing

comment direct to Council. A participation summary provides total counts for three engagement categories, defined by the level of engagement. A total of 218 residents had some level of engagement with the consultation campaign and 23 participated in the survey.

Customer Service Team

Baw Baw Shire Council has a customer service team dedicated to receiving and recording maintenance concerns from resident within the shire. Residents are able to lodge concerns regarding weeds and declared pest animal species on both roadsides, and private property either in person, on the phone, or by email. Concerns are recorded within Council Customer Relationship Manager (CRM) software and delegated to the appropriate team within Council for consideration.

Electronic Lodgement

Baw Baw Shire Council has an application available on smart phone devices - Snap, Send, Solve (SSS). SSS allows residents to lodge a request for maintenance direct to Council, including weed control direct to council and upload supporting information photographs for consideration by the appropriate department. Baw Baw Shire Council also has regular meetings with Agriculture Victoria, Landcare and DECCA to discuss matters related to pest and noxious weed control activities and relevant projects.

5: Stakeholder Consultation:

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

Residents of Baw Baw Shire Council

Landcare Groups within Baw Baw Shire Council

Representative of Agriculture Victoria

6: Relevant Policies, Strategies and Submissions:

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

State

Catchment and Land Protection Act, 1994

Biodiversity 2037

Invasive Plants and Animal Framework

Regional

Port Phillip and Western Port regional catchment strategy

West Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy

Local

Baw Baw Shire council Plan 2021 – 2025

Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2022 – 2030

Baw Baw Shire Council Weed Management Strategy 2020-2025

Baw Baw Shire Council Roadside Conservation Management Plan 2014

Submissions

Any submissions received by Council during the community consultation period

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 (DEDJTR) or DEECA 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'

Council Objectives

Baw Baw Shire Council have adopted a Weed Management Strategy that details the vision, goals and priorities for management of weeds within Baw Baw Shire from 2020 – 2025. The strategy details goals and subsequent objectives relevant to weed and pest control activity on roadsides;

Goal 1: Protect Baw Baw shire's Landscape, biodiversity and agriculture from the threat of invasive weeds

Objective 1.1 Delivery on-ground weed management works consistent with Victorian and Australian government strategy and legislation

Objective 1.2 Adopt a consistent risk assessment and prioritisation approach to ensure appropriate management of weed populations on Council land

Objective 1.3 Provide support to landowners to protect biodiversity assets from weed invasions on private land and adjoining roadsides

Goal 2: Manage – Strategically allocate resources to local weed priorities consistent with regional, state and national priorities.

Objective 2.1 Demonstrate best practice weed management on Council owned and managed land, ensuring that Council land is not the source of invasion to neighbouring properties

Objective 2.2 Develop annual weed programs in collaboration with relevant agencies and community stakeholders to achieve a landscape scale approach.

Council Activities

To achieve the goals and objectives for control of declared pest and weeds on roadsides Council activities will include:

- Prioritise the treatment of declared weeds and pests listed in the Catchment and Land Protection Act.1994
- Manage weeds in which the goal of treatment is efficient and aligned to the generalised invasion curve as per Invasive Plants and Animals Policy Framework (figure 1).
- Continue treatment of weeds in areas that have been treated previously to prevent re-establishment
- Engagement of specialised roadside weed control contractors to deliver on-ground weed control works using herbicide application
- Engagement of specialised contractors to control Rabbits
- Mapping of weeds distribution and estimate of cover on target areas to inform of locations for weed control priorities, provide baseline infestation data, and to measure effectiveness of controls
- Where possible, Council will prioritise working with adjoining landholders or active community groups who are controlling weeds on private property

- Implement appropriate controls to manage the risk of traffic to ensure works are done in a safe manner
- Monitor the long term effectiveness of weed control by establishing photo point monitoring at designated locations

Outputs

- Monitoring, control and prevention of spread of targeted weeds (section 10 & 11)

Outcomes

- Continued protection of assets that provide high biodiversity, agricultural, social and/or cultural value
- Containment and/or prevention of further spread of weeds where possible to do so
- Continued long term surveillance of targeted weed species managed for eradication

GENERALISED INVASION CURVE SHOWING ACTIONS APPROPRIATE TO EACH STAGE

Version 1.0: 30 APR 2009

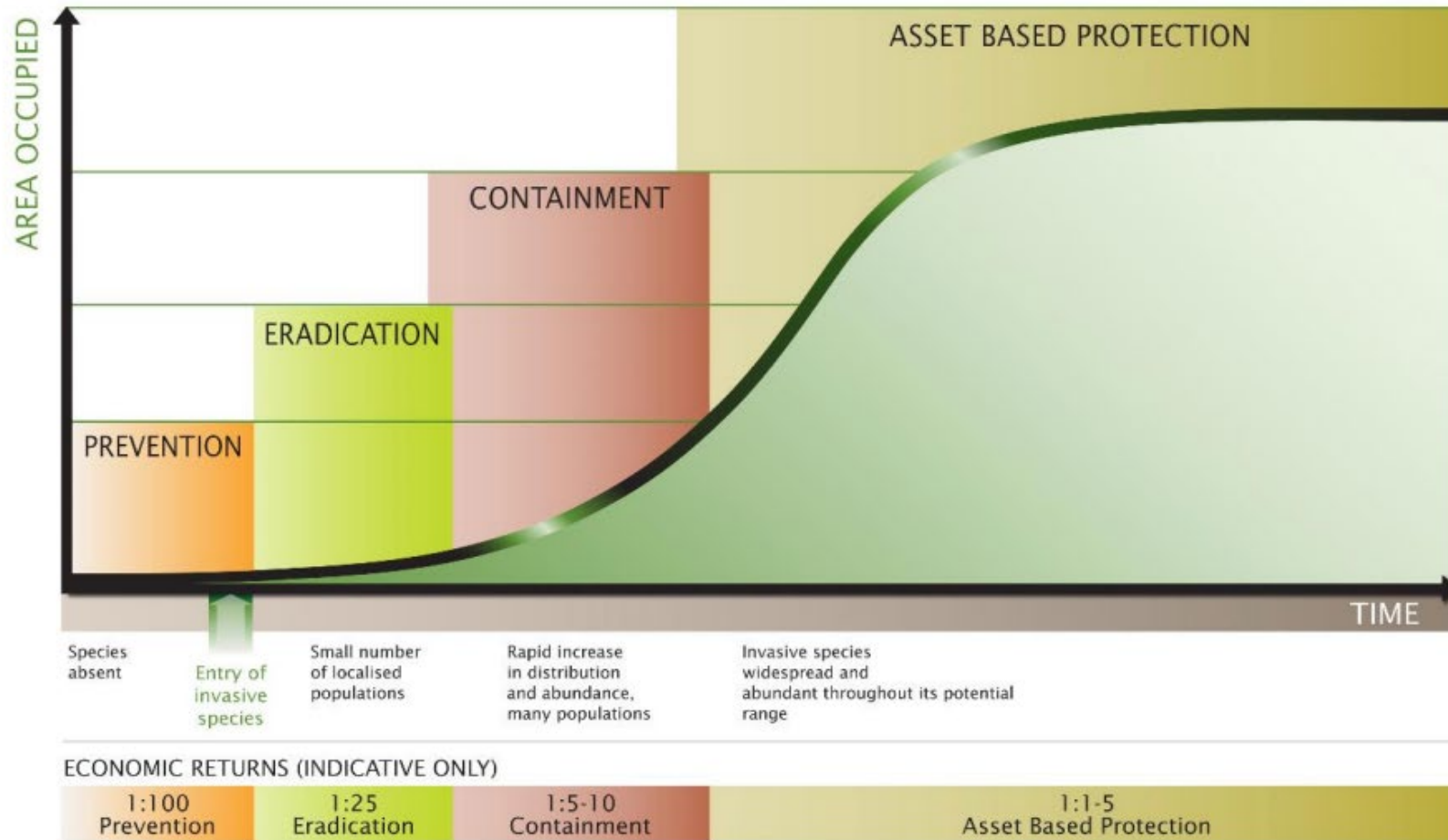


Figure 1 Generalised invasion curve showing actions appropriate to each stage (Invasive plants and animal framework).

Table 1 Aim of planned mapping, timing and location.

Target Weed	Aim	Timing	Location
<p>Various weeds as listed in the CaLP Act.</p> <p><i>Blackberry, Broom, Gorse, Ragwort will be most detectable at time of mapping</i></p>	<p>Determine infestation levels as percentage cover on link roads</p> <p>Inform future resource allocation</p>	Jan 2024	Roads maintained by Baw Baw Shire identified as link roads
Ragwort	<p>Map Distribution to determine infestation levels and monitor extent of Ragwort</p> <p>Consider repeat Mapping to review infestation levels</p>	<p>Jan 2024</p> <p>Jan 2026</p>	<p>Link roads maintained by Baw Baw shire within southern containment area</p> <p>Link roads maintained by Baw Baw shire within southern containment area and other roads identified</p>
Broom Spp.	Map distribution within containment area and monitor extent of Broom Spp. (consideration pending previous mapping results)	Jan 2025	Broom containment area and possible external roads
Gorse	Map Distribution	<p>Completion by Jan 2025</p> <p>As Required</p>	<p>Known locations</p> <p>New observations</p>
African Feather Grass	Map Distribution of known locations within Baw Baw Shire for record keeping	<p>Completion by Jan 2025</p> <p>As Required</p>	<p>Known locations - Coalville area</p> <p>New and establishing populations on detection</p>

	Understand the location of infestations on private property within to understand threat of increase populations		
Other as required	To be determined as required	To be determined as required	To be determined as required

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.

0.2 FTE

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 <i>1 highest - 4 lowest</i>	Reason for Management
African Feather Grass	<i>Pennisetum macrourum</i>	Regionally Prohibited	1	To support Agriculture Victoria compliance program, new and emerging weed in Narracan area
Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia Stricta</i>	Regionally Prohibited	1	Monitor to ensure past treatment has eradicated populations and treat and record new and emerging infestations
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	1	Containment of isolated low coverage infestations Support previous investment by Council
Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> (agg.)	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	Reduction in Blackberry Infestations Support previous investment by Council Asset Protection
Cape Broom	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	To contain Broom Spp to known extent areas of high infestations and prevent widespread establishment of isolated populations in areas of isolated low coverage infestations

Flax-leaved Broom	<i>Cytisus Linifolia</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	To contain Broom Spp. to known extent within areas of high infestations and prevent widespread establishment of isolated populations
English Broom	<i>Cytisus Scoparius</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	To contain and control Broom Spp. to known extent within areas of high infestations and prevent widespread establishment of isolated populations
Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	To contain and control Ragwort to known extent within areas of high infestations and prevent widespread establishment of isolated populations
Rabbits	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Established Pest Animal	2	Control and reduce populations
Other	To be determined as required	N/A	TBC	Other noxious weeds and or pests may be targeted for control, in which reason for management will be determined as needed

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	
African Feather Grass	Monitoring Herbicide application	Coalville	50m2	Monthly January – February If required on detection
Prickly Pear	Monitoring for new and emerging plants Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	Lardner Road Pryor Road	10m2 10m2	Monthly December – February If required on detection
Gorse	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	Longwarry Trafalgar	50m2 at each known location	July – December
Blackberry	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in	Roads throughout the municipality	Variable	December - April

	accordance with the product label			
Cape Broom	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	Various roads throughout municipality including areas with high density coverage	Variable	December – June
Flax-leaved Broom	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	Various roads throughout municipality including areas with high density coverage	Variable	December – June
English Broom	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	Various roads throughout municipality including areas with high density coverage	Variable	December – June
Ragwort	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	Various roads throughout municipality including areas with high density coverage	Variable	November – April
Rabbits	Warren Collapse and Fumigation	Various Roadsides on identification of harbour	Estimate of up to five sites with harbour identification	As detected
Other weeds and or pests as required	Best Practice guidelines will apply			

12: Maps:

Provide the following maps to support the control plan information:

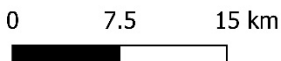
- Map 1 Proposed location of control works
- Map 2

- Map 2 Known infestations of Regionally Prohibited Weeds, Regionally Controlled Weeds, established pest animals and Restricted Weeds
 - Mapping of Link roads scheduled to commence January 2024. Maps from this work will be attached to this plan once finalised.

Roadside Weed and Pest Plan Implementation Area



- Towns
- Council_Managed Rural_Roadsides
- Arterial_Roads
- Watercourses
- Public_Reserves
- LGA_Boundary



Disclaimer
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Note

Figure 2 Roadside Weed And Pest Plan Implementation Area

Broom High Density Infestation Area



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Note
 Note

Figure 3 Known areas of high density Broom Species infestations

Ragwort High Density Infestation Area



- Towns
- Known_High_Infestation Ragwort_Area
- Council_Managed Rural_Roadsides
- Arterial_Roads
- Watercourses
- Public_Reserves
- LGA_Boundary



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Note

Figure 4 Known areas of high density Ragwort Infestations

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.

Agriculture Victoria Endorsement

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