

# Roadside Weeds and Pests Program Control Plan 2023-2026

**1: Council Name:** Loddon Shire Council

**2: Contact Details:**

**Name:** Daniel Lloyd

**Position:** Manager Works

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**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 Loddon Shire is located in northern Victoria and covers approximately 6,694 square kilometers that is predominately broad acre agricultural land.*

*Loddon Shire is characterized by its flood plain that stretches between the Avoca River, Loddon River and west across towards the Bendigo Creek and up to the Mount Hope Creek leading in to Kow Swamp. The southwestern corner of the Shire is lightly forested with Box Ironbark forests.*

*The population of Loddon Shire was 7,200 as at the 2015 sense. There are several small villages and 5 small towns these towns are as follows:*

- *Wedderburn*
- *Boort*
- *Pyramid Hill*
- *Inglewood*
- *Bridgewater*

*The Loddon Shire is responsible for approximately 4,600km of road network. Council is dedicated to managing pest plant and an animal infestation on Council managed land and is committed to the early prevention and control of newly identified pest plant and animal species in the Shire.*

*Through past State Government funding initiatives Council has treated approximately 200 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.*

## **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 Loddon Shire stays in close touch with community concerns via attendance at meetings of Landcare groups and via phone calls and correspondence from individuals. The Shire has also specifically requested community views on this issue via committee consultation meetings to develop its roadside management plan and maintains a record of feedback. Much of the information required to develop this plan had already been obtained during development of the Weed Management Strategy for the Loddon Shire Council.*

## 5: Stakeholder Consultation:

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

- *Benjamin Perry, Agriculture Victoria*
- *Loddon Plains Landcare Network Coordinator*
- Individual Landholders
- Community Forums

## 6: Relevant Policies, Strategies and Submissions:

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

### State

- *Invasive Plants and Animal Policy Framework*
- *Catchment & Land Protection Act, 1994 (CaLP Act)*
- *Flora & Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*
- *Local Government Act 1989*
- *Planning & Environment Act 1987*
- *Road Management Act 2004*
- *Victoria's Biodiversity Strategy 1997*

### Regional

- *North Central CMA Invasive Plants & Animal Strategy 2010-15*
- *Mallee CMA Invasive Plants & Animals Management Strategy.*

### Local

- *Loddon Shire Council's Roadside Management Plan*
- *Weed Management Strategy for the Loddon Shire Council*

### Submissions

*Any submissions received by Council relating to RPWs, RCWs, EIAs or Restricted Weeds.*

## 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:

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

*Loddon 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. *Supporting community group investment in weed and pest control projects.*
  - *Works will align with community Landcare projects*
2. *Controlling and preventing the spread of regionally prohibited and regionally controlled weeds and rabbits on municipal roadsides to align with any DEDJTR compliance projects in the Loddon Shire Council.*
3. *Control of regionally controlled weeds, such as Silver leaf nightshade on roadsides with high to very high vegetation quality as per ratepayer's requests and Landcare projects.*
4. *Control of Wheel Cactus*
  - *Works will align with community Landcare projects*
  - *Works on roadsides with high to very high vegetation quality and*
  - *To address customer concerns for the spread of this weed from roadsides to private property.*
5. *Protect identified assets such as significant roadside vegetation under threat from weed invasion or other significant roadside infrastructure.*
6. *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).*

## 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. One

## 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
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Established Pest Animal	1	To support community and stakeholder action and Agriculture Victoria compliance programs.
Wheel cactus	<i>Opuntia robusta</i>	Regionally controlled	1	To support landholders and reducing infestations in grazing and annual pasture land
Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia stricta</i>	Regionally controlled	1	To support landholders and reducing infestations in grazing and annual pasture land and Agriculture Victoria compliance programs.
Patterson's curse	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Regionally controlled	3	To support landholders and reducing infestations in grazing and annual pasture land

African Lovegrass	Eragrostis Curvula	Regionally controlled	2	To support works carried out by VicTrack
Silver leaf Nightshade	Solanum elaeagnifolium	Regionally controlled	1	To support Landcare groups and land owner management programs and Agriculture Victoria compliance programs.
Cape Tulip	Homeria flaccida & Homeria Miniata	Regionally controlled	4	To support Landcare groups and land owner management programs
Serrated Tussock	Nassella trichotoma	Regionally prohibited	1	To support Landcare groups and land owner management programs and Agriculture Victoria 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*

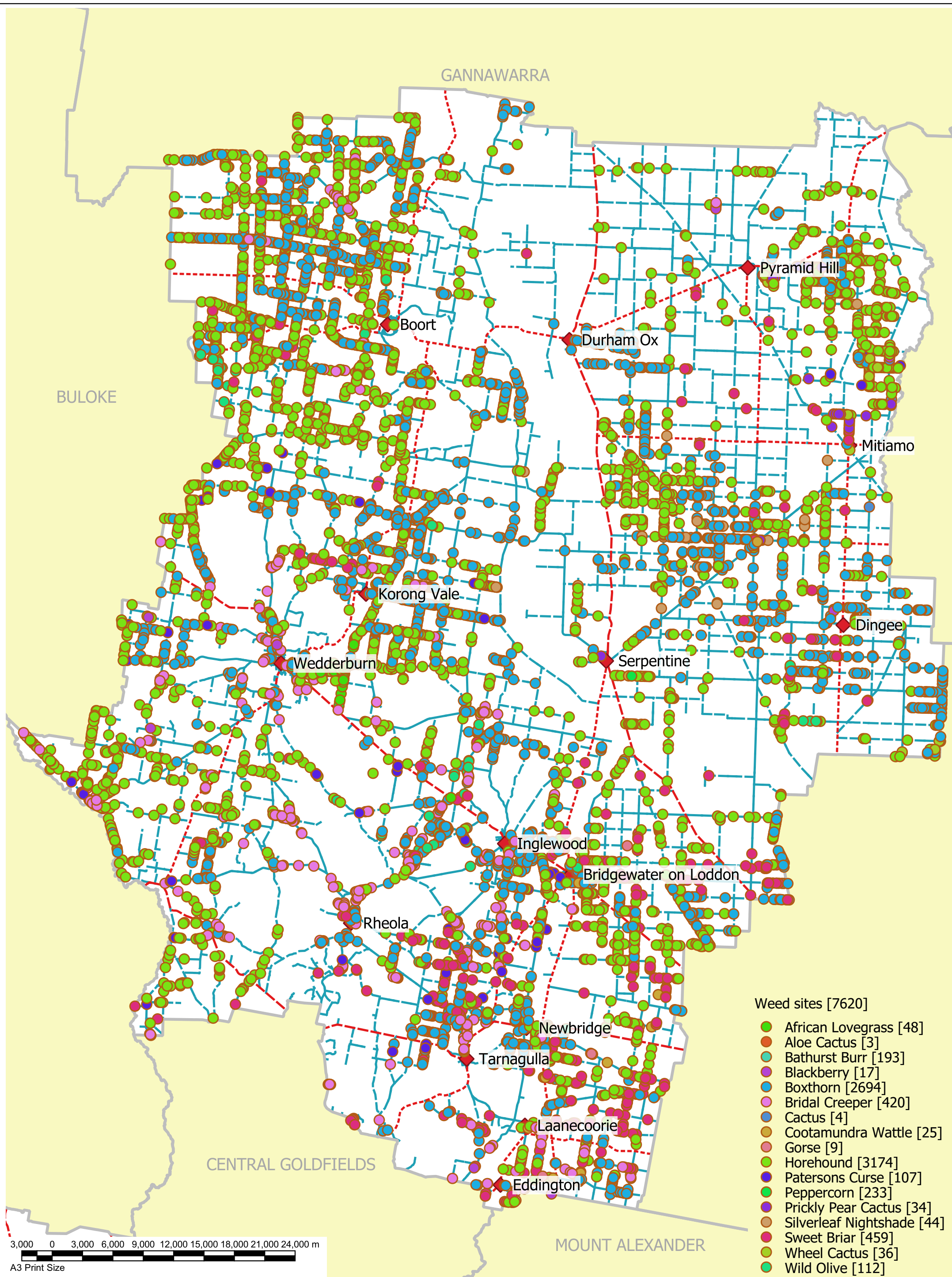
Common Name	Control Measures	Location of Proposed Works	Estimated Length of Roadside to be Treated Annually	Approximate Annual Timing of Treatment
	To be based on accepted best practice management of the target species	Location of proposed works should be specified, and a map where possible should accompany the plan	Km = length of road along which both sides are treated. Where only one side is treated halve the figure	
Rabbit	Mechanical ripping of warrens	Where located across Shire	2km	On-going
Wheel cactus & Prickly Pear	Application of registered herbicide. Manual removal of isolated plants.	Where located across Shire,	80km	On-going
Silver leaf nightshade	Application of registered herbicide.	Landcare trial sites throughout Shire	20km	On-going
Patterson's curse	Application of registered herbicide.	Where located across Shire	40km	On-going
African Lovegrass	Application of registered herbicide.	Where located across Shire	10km	On-going



Cape Tulip	Application of registered herbicide.	Where located across Shire	20km	On-going
Serrated Tussock	Application of registered herbicide.	Where located across Shire	10km	On-going
Other Regionally Controlled and Restricted Weeds	Application of registered herbicide.	Where located across Shire	10km	On-going
Roadside Audit	Engage specialist to undertake target species weed mapping of Loddon Shire road network and establish program.	Loddon Shire road network	4,600km	TBC

## 12: Maps:

Provide the following maps to support the control plan information:



This material may be of assistance to you but the Council and its employees do not guarantee that it is without flaw or is appropriate for all purposes and so disclaims liability for any consequence which may arise from the use of this material.

**Loddon Shire Roadside Weed Survey 2017  
Weed sites still to be treated @ 30/06/2023**

Note: the PDF version of this map is Geo-referenced (AKA: Geospatial PDF).

## 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:** Daniel Lloyd

**Date:** 5/07/2023

**Signature:** 

**Council CEO Name:** Lincoln Fitzgerald

**Date:** 13/07/2023

**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: BEN PERRY

Date: 11/7/23

Signature: Ben Perry