

Objectives: Place

Outcome: 2.2 - A sustainable natural environment.

Strategy: 2.2.1 - Develop, maintain and implement plans for the management and maintenance of Shire controlled parks, reserves and natural assets.

Purpose

The objectives of this policy are to:

1. Reduce the impact of unwanted plants on agriculture, conservation and landscape values in the Shire;
2. Encourage co-operative approaches between land managers to control unwanted plants; and
3. Ensure Council meets its legal responsibilities to control unwanted plants within the Shire under the *Agricultural and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*.

Definitions

“Declared Plant” a plant that is declared by the Agriculture Protection Board under the *Agriculture & Related Resources Protection Act 1976*. Under the Act landholders are legislatively required to control these plants on their properties.

“Declared Pest Plant” a plant that has been “Declared” by the Shire, using local laws, under the *Local Government Act 1995*, requiring local landholders to control these plants on their properties.

“Pest Plant” non-native plants which can be either a threat to biodiversity or a nuisance to property owners.

Policy

1. The following applies to weed control on Council land:
 - a) All weed control on high conservation roadsides and reserves for protection of flora and fauna should minimise herbicide application through maximising physical/mechanical control and should be followed by rehabilitation with local provenance species where necessary.
 - b) Where weed control on medium and low conservation roadsides or bushland reserves is made a priority, it should be in combination with other means (e.g. slashing) and should be accompanied with revegetation and/or direct seeding once effective control is obtained.
 - c) Where large (rural) landowners and groups of small landowners have expressed a commitment to control weeds, Council should assist with co-ordination and increase the priority of weed control on land in the vicinity under its management.



- d) Council to discourage utilities from being placed in areas that would require clearing of native vegetation.
- e) Council is to ensure, as far as possible, that where clearing of roadside vegetation is unavoidable, utilities are aware and able to rehabilitate the site with local provenance vegetation.
- f) Where roadworks cause disturbance to roadsides, Council should carry out revegetation to prevent re-establishment of weeds.
- g) Weed control of high conservation road reserves and reserves for protection of flora and fauna are to extend to roadsides adjacent to the priority areas.
- h) Ensure that Main Roads WA roadside management guidelines, including the Control of Road Verge Burning Guidelines, are implemented.

2. The following applies to weed control on all lands within the Shire:

- a) All weed control in the Shire is to start in the areas where vegetation is mostly intact and move towards areas which are increasingly weed infested.
- b) The Shire is to trial alternative methods of weed control which minimise or avoid use of chemicals, and apply these methods where feasible.
- c) Before clearance of subdivisions, all subdivided land should be free of Schedule 1, 2 and 3 weeds.
- d) A review of Roadside Conservation Value should be conducted every five years to assess the effectiveness of this policy and roadside management generally.
- e) New weeds appearing within the shire which are considered potential Schedule 1 or 2 weeds, especially when appearing on roadsides, should be controlled as a priority.
- f) Where control of a weed or area is a priority, the source of the weeds should be identified if possible and control measures put in place.
- g) Landowners shall be discouraged from planting, and encouraged to remove, all Schedule 1, 2 and 3 weeds.

3. **Schedules of Weeds**

Weed Schedules 1, 2 and 3 are to be reviewed every two years or as necessary.

Schedule 1 - Common invaders of native bushland, generally limited in distribution

Narrow leaf Cottonbush	DP	<i>Gomphocarpus fruticosus</i>
Victorian Tea Tree	DPP	<i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i>
Blackberries	DP	various <i>Rubus</i> species
Fig	PP	<i>Ficus carica</i>



Bamboo/Giant reed	PP	<i>Arundo donax</i>
Evening primrose	PP	<i>Oenothera drummondii</i>
Castor oil plant	PP	<i>Ricinus communis</i>
Pampas grass	PP	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>
Bridal creeper	PP	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>
Wild Gladiolus	PP	<i>Gladiolus undulata</i>

Schedule 2 - Common invaders of native bushland, generally widespread in distribution

Lovegrass	DPP	<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>
Watsonia	DPP	various <i>Watsonia</i> species
Veldt Grass/perennial Veldt Grass	PP	<i>Ehrharta calycina</i>
Arum Lily	DP	<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>
Wild Gladiolus	PP	<i>Gladiolus caryophyllaceus</i>
Apple of Sodom	DP	<i>Solanum <u>linnaeanum</u></i>

Schedule 3 - Weeds of cleared areas, generally poor invaders of native bushland

Paterson's Curse	DP	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>
One leaf Cape Tulip	DP	<i><u>Moraea flaccida</u></i>
Two leaf Cape Tulip	DP	<i><u>Moraea miniata</u></i>
Docks	PP	various <i>Rumex</i> species
Melons	PP	various species
Double gees	DP	<i><u>Emex australis/spinosa</u></i>
Saint John's Wort	DP	<i><u>Hypericum perforatum</u></i>

- DP – Declared Plant
DPP – Declared Pest Plant
PP – Pest Plant

**References**

Name of Policy	2.3.1 Control of Weeds			
Previous Policy	E204 – Control of Weeds (E15/5096)			
Date of Adoption and Resolution Number				
Review dates and Resolution Numbers	Reviewed	OCM023.1/01/10	25/01/2010	Ordinary Council Meeting
	Reviewed	OCM101/03/12	26/03/2012	Ordinary Council Meeting
	Reviewed	OCM187/09/15	29/09/2015	Ordinary Council Meeting
	Modified	OCM179/12/17	18/12/2017	Ordinary Council Meeting
Next review date				
Related documents	<p>Acts/Regulations <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> <i>Agricultural and Related Resources Protection Act 1976</i> Pest Plants Local Law 1986</p> <p>Plans/Strategies Strategic Community Plan 2017 - 2027</p> <p>Policies Nil</p> <p>References Nil</p> <p>Delegations Nil</p> <p>Work Procedures Nil</p>			

Note: changes to references may be made without the need to take the Policy to Council for review.