



## Policy W17 – Weed Control Works within Road Reserves

### 1. Policy Intention

- (a) To outline the standard operating procedures for Shire of Murray (Shire) staff and approved contractors responsible for the application of herbicides within the Shire's road reserves.
- (b) To ensure existing roadside vegetation is not adversely impacted whilst undertaking weed control works.
- (c) To ensure the Shire meets its legal responsibilities under the following legislation:
  - *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection (Spraying Restrictions) Regulations 1979*, made under provisions of the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*;
  - *Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1960*;
  - *Land Administration Act 1997*;
  - Pesticide Regulations - made under provisions of the *Health Act 1911*;
  - Poisons Act Regulations - made under provisions of the *Poisons Act 1964*; and
  - Section 23(b) of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*.

### 2. Policy

#### General Provisions-

- (a) The Shire's weed control works shall at all times be dictated by the following:
  - Road Design - which includes road geometry and soil type;
  - Road Reserve Width;
  - Road Classification and Traffic Volume;
  - Climate and Topography;
  - Vegetation Characteristics; and
  - Environmental Considerations.
- (b) Where circumstances such as the presence of declared species, a weed monoculture, or an existing or proposed roadside revegetation site exist, and there is clear benefit by undertaking weed control works in such an area. The Shire's weed control programme may extend beyond the maintenance area defined within this policy.
- (c) The Shire's operational staff shall undertake stakeholder consultation prior to undertaking major weed control works outside of the defined maintenance area.
- (e) The Shire acknowledges the need to undertake a survey of conservation value. This will enable the identification of priority weed infestations to be future targets of the control programme. It is proposed to achieve this through liaison with current and past weed control contractors, community groups, Land Conservation District Committee

(LCDC) groups and implementation of the pre-spray procedure detailed below.

- (f) Herbicide applications are to be limited within the “maintenance zone” which comprises the running surface, shoulder, table drain and batter; or distance of 1.5m from the road shoulder (whichever is the lesser). This is the area identified by the Shire as requiring regular, effective weed control to maintain stormwater drainage efficiency and roadside visibility and safety.
- (g) The frequency of herbicide application is to be kept to the minimum required for maintenance purposes. Generally, this comprises of a summer application targeting woody weeds, and a winter/spring application for annual grasses.
- (h) Weed control for living stream verges to be in accordance with adopted work procedure.
- (i) Weed control in close proximity to remnant vegetation, revegetation and regrowth to be in accordance with adopted work procedure.
- (j) Extreme care to be taken when incidence of Declared Rare Flora is located wiping of weeds with herbicide only.

<b>Policy Detail</b>		
<b>Responsible Directorate</b>	Infrastructure Services	
<b>Responsible Department</b>	Engineering	
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Manager Engineering	
<b>Next Policy Review / Schedule</b>	2026 (3-yearly)	
<b>Council Adoption</b>	<b>Date / Resolution</b>	27 March 2002 (OCM02/072)
<b>Amendment Record</b>	<b>Date / Resolution</b>	30 April 2009 (OCM09/060)
		26 June 2014 (OCM14/077)
		22 February 2018 (OCM18/008)
		23 June 2022 (OCM22/070)