

Roadside Weeds and Pests Program Control Plan 2023-2026

1: Council Name: East Gippsland Shire Council

2: Contact Details:

Name: Claire Manuell

Position: Environmental Projects Officer

Telephone: 03 5153 9500

Email: feedback@egipps.vic.gov.au

3: Regional context of noxious weed and pest animal management:

The Shire of East Gippsland is in far eastern Victoria and covers an area approximately 21,000 square kilometres. East Gippsland is renowned for its natural values which includes over 75% of public land. Grazing and mixed cropping land comprises around 14% of the region. Residential areas account for 1% of land use in the region. Population figures for EGSC were 48,715 in 2021, with the urban centres of Bairnsdale and Lakes Entrance having the highest number of residents.

East Gippsland Shire Council (EGSC) is responsible for the management of approximately 3,600 kilometres of roads. Many of these roadsides have highly significant remnant vegetation that is protected under State and Federal legislation.

Three catchment areas lie within the boundaries of EGSC: East Gippsland, Northeast, and West Gippsland. As a result, the classification of some pest species varies across the Shire. EGSC borders three Victorian Local Government Areas, Wellington, Alpine and Towong. EGSC also borders three New South Wales Local Government Areas, Bega Valley, Snowy Monaro Regional and Snowy Valleys.

EGSC prioritises weed control based on several sources, primarily the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (CaLP Act) definitions of Regionally Prohibited, Regionally Controlled and Regionally Restricted Weeds. Our priority focus is on Regionally Prohibited Weeds and then Regionally Controlled Weeds where investment is supported by adjacent private land management. Treatment of rabbits on roadsides has been undertaken in the past where State Government Compliance Areas and programs have been established.

4: Community Consultation:

Consultation with the community has occurred through East Gippsland Shire Council's "Your Say" web page for a period of four weeks from 6 November 2023 to 3 December 2023. Notification of the consultation was advertised in local Newspapers, the Bairnsdale Advertiser, Lakes Post and Snowy River Mail. Information regarding consultation was also posted to the East Gippsland Shire Council's Facebook page. This consultation included a Survey, from which results have been collated and analysed and incorporated where relevant.

Project Officers consistently respond to concerns from the community when reports have been made to the Shire, in person or via phone and email. The EGSC website has information regarding Roadside Weeds and Control Projects and invites people to report issues and provide feedback.

5: Stakeholder Consultation:

Consultation was open for all residents and ratepayers of the East Gippsland Shire to have input into the development of the Control Plan through our community engagement process (as above).

Other stakeholders:

- Agriculture Victoria
- Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
- Community groups, Committees of Management / Community Asset Committees
- Contractors operating within East Gippsland Shire Council
- Internal staff

6: Relevant Policies, Strategies and Submissions:

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

State

- *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*
- *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*
- *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*
- *Local Government Act 1987*
- *Road Management Act 2004*
- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*
- *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992*
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth)

Regional

- East Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy 2022-2028

Local

- East Gippsland Shire Council's Council Plan 2021-2025
- Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2022-2032
- Environmental Sustainability Action Plan 2022-26
- East Gippsland Shire Council's Roadside Strategy 2012

7: Objectives of the Plan:

East Gippsland Shire Council aims to contribute to ongoing roadside weed and pest management programs and complement past investments made by EGSC enabled through past State Government funding. Funding will help to assist with preventing the spread and introduction of invasive plant and animal species across the Shire and the wider region.

East Gippsland Shire Council will continue to reach the objectives outlined in previous Roadside Weeds and Pest Program Control Plans. Investment of funds will be aligned to:

1. Treatment for the eradication of Regionally Prohibited Weed infestations
2. Treatment for the containment or reduction in area infestations of RCW
3. Deliver complementary works in line with Agriculture Victoria weed and rabbit compliance programs.
4. Supporting community group investment in the control of declared RPW, RCW and pest control activities.
5. Contributing to previous investment in control of RPW, RCW and rabbits by Council.
6. Protect identified assets such as significant roadside vegetation under threat from declared weed invasion or other significant roadside infrastructure.
7. Support weed and pest animal management programs being undertaken by community groups and other landowners as a priority.
8. Investigating other declared noxious roadside weed infestations of concern to the Shire's community which are declared under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (CaLP Act) and where funding allows.

8: Term of the Plan:

The plan will run for a three-year period to 30 June 2026, with extensions as required by funding.

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.

0.4 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
Boneseed	<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i>	Regionally Prohibited Weed	Priority 1	- To support AgVic compliance programs - To support previous investment by Council - Maintain low population levels, aim towards eradication
English Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Regionally Prohibited (EG) Regionally Controlled (NE)	Priority 1 (EG) Priority 2 (NE)	- To support AgVic compliance programs - To support previous investment by Council - Maintain low population levels, aim towards eradication (EG) and containment (NE)
Flax Leaf Broom	<i>Genista linifolia</i>	Regionally Prohibited	Priority 1	- To support AgVic compliance programs - To support previous investment by Council - Maintain low population levels, aim towards eradication
Serrated Tussock	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>	Regionally Prohibited Weed	Priority 1	- To support AgVic compliance programs - To support previous investment by Council - Maintain low population levels, aim towards eradication

Khaki Weed	<i>Alternanthera pungens</i>	Regionally Prohibited Weed	Priority 1	- To support AgVic compliance programs - To support previous investment by Council - Maintain low population levels, aim towards eradication
Pampas Lily of the Valley	<i>Salpichroa organifolia</i>	Regionally Prohibited Weed	Priority 1	- Maintain low population levels, aim towards eradication - To support previous investment by Council
Gorse	<i>Ulex euraopeus</i>	Regionally Prohibited Weed	Priority 1	- To support AgVic compliance programs - To support previous investment by Council - Maintain low population levels, aim towards eradication
African Love Grass	<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	Regionally Controlled	Priority 2	- To support community groups where demonstrated activities are occurring on adjacent land - To address areas of concern where demonstrated activities are occurring on adjacent private/public and neighbourhood cooperation through community group action or funding - To support previous investment by Council
Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> sp agg	Regionally Controlled	Priority 2	- To support community groups where demonstrated activities are occurring on adjacent private/public land - To address areas of concern where demonstrated activities are occurring on adjacent private/public and neighbourhood cooperation through community group action or funding

				- To support previous investment by Council
African Boxthorn	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	Regionally Controlled	Priority 3	- To support community groups where demonstrated activities are occurring on adjacent private/public land - To address areas of concern where demonstrated activities are occurring on adjacent private/public and neighbourhood cooperation through community group action or funding - To support previous investment by Council
Fireweed	<i>Senecio madagascariensis</i>	Restricted	Priority 3	- To support community groups where demonstrated activities are occurring on adjacent private/public land - To address areas of concern where demonstrated activities are occurring on adjacent private/public and neighbourhood cooperation through community group action or funding - To support previous investment by Council
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctologus cuniculus</i>	Declared Pest Animal	Priority 3	- To support AgVic compliance programs - To address key areas of concern where demonstrated activities are occurring on adjacent private/public and neighbourhood cooperation through community group action or funding - To support large scale community action programs where rabbit control is undertaken by 100% adjacent landholders

11: Control Measures and Target Roadsides:

List the control measures and target roadsides, eg.

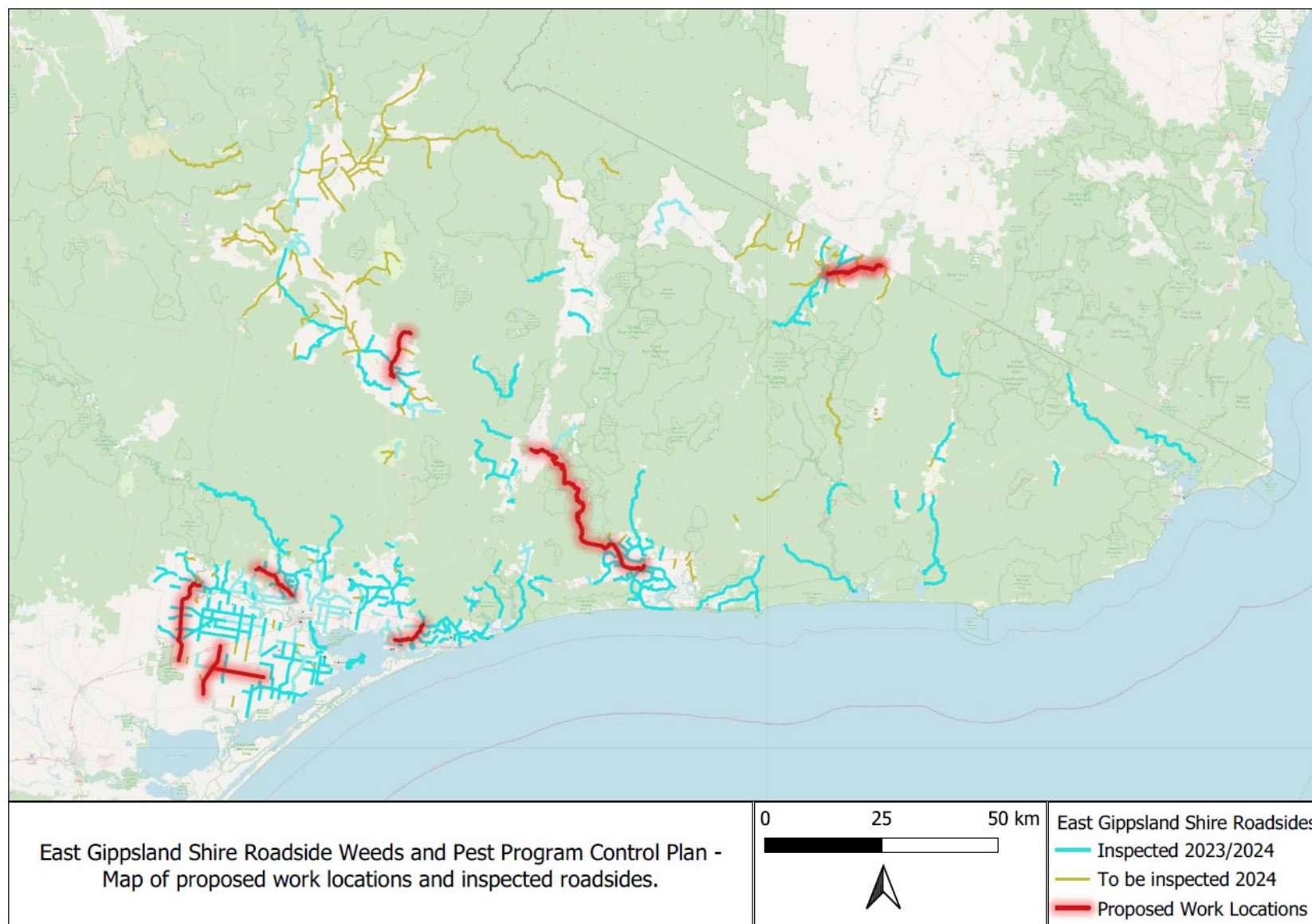
Serrated tussock *Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label* *Smith Road, Smithville* *5km* *Feb – Oct*

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	- Fumigation where possible	- Shire wide, funding dependent	Unknown	Sept-Feb
African Love Grass	- Spot Spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	- Boundary Road, Lindenow - Meerlieu-Lindenow Road, Lindenow South - Buchan-Orbost Road, Buchan - Shire wide, as detected and funding dependent	20 km	July-Feb
Blackberry	- Spot Spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	- Nungurner Road, Nungurner - Little River Road, Ensay - Lower Bendoc Road, Bendoc - Fernbank-Glenaladale Road, Fernbank - Mt Lookout Road, Ellaswood - Shire-wide, as detected and funding dependent	100 km	Oct-April

Boneseed	- Manual removal of plants across area - Cut and paint stem if manual removal not possible	- Forge Creek - Lake Tyers - Metung	12 km	Any time of year
Flax Leaf Broom	- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with product label	- Goon Nure - Metung - Sarsfield	6km	Any time of year
Khaki Weed	- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with product label	- Swifts Creek	1km	Any time of year
Gorse	- Manual removal of plants across area where possible - Cut and paint stem with herbicide - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with product label	- Lindenow South - Fernbank - Sarsfield - Benambra	19 km	Any time of year
Pampas Lily of the Valley	- Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with product label	- Metung - Sarsfield - Bairnsdale	3 km	Any time of year
Fireweed	- Manual removal of plants across area where possible - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with product label	- Deptford	2km	Any time of year
Serrated Tussock	- Spot Spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	- Forge Creek - Lucknow	29 km	Any time of year

-
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| - Manual removal of isolated plants | - Bendoc |
| | - Omeo |
-
-

12: Maps:



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: Claire Manuell

Date: 23/02/2024

Signature: 

Council CEO Name: Fiona Weigall, Acting CEO

Date: 08/03/24

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: Peter Kennedy

Date: 13/03/2024

Signature: *P. Kennedy*