



# Leeton Shire Council Weed Management Program 2023-2025



Local Land Services

## Leeton Shire Council LOCAL WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Leeton Shire Council views effective weed management is an essential activity which safeguards our economy, environment, and community. We manage weeds in accordance with the NSW Biosecurity framework and associated tools. Under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act) everyone, including State Government Organisations, Council and, private landholders have a legal obligation to manage identified priority weeds on land that they own or occupy. In addition, there is a minimum General Biosecurity Duty to effectively contain and prevent the spread of weeds and invasive plant species from landholder's properties into adjacent properties.

Council's role is to work with all landholders and occupiers of land, to help them meet their General Biosecurity Duty according to the Act. This includes:

- helping to identify priority weeds.
- providing advice and information on ways to manage weeds.
- providing displays and community extension education materials about weeds.
- an ongoing program of rural and urban inspections to check for **priority weeds**.
- Provide weed and invasive species management on roadside verges and Council Managed lands
- Enforcing compliance using statute tools such as a Biosecurity Direction or accepting a weed management Biosecurity Undertaking, in cases of non-compliance with General biosecurity Duties.

Weed management in the Leeton Shire Council is conducted strategically, and on a priority basis. As with all land holders, State priority weeds and extreme risk species are the major concern for Council followed by Regional and Local Priority weeds. Council endeavours to provide the most effective weed management activities reasonably possible within the limitations of available funds.

**About Priority Weeds** - A "priority weed" is a plant that has been assessed to cause severe economic loss to agriculture and significantly impact our natural and recreational environments. Priority weeds have been determined on State, Regional and Local levels.

Leeton Shire Council's Inspection Plan is an integral part of Council's weed management program. As noted in the inspection plan, Council undertakes routine inspections of all land, regardless of tenure throughout the region to identify priority weed growth. From the outcome of inspections, Council provides assistance and information to landholders to help them discharge any Biosecurity Duty requirements.

You may also request council to inspect your property which is a common occurrence to provide a Weed Inspection report for the sale of land. A nominal fee may apply for a requested inspection. We always prefer the owner or occupier to be there during an inspection, this way we can provide advice and answer any questions on identification and management of weeds found on the landholders' property.

### **Inspection Management of weeds: What happens if any priority weeds are found?**

All landholder inspections conducted will result in an inspection report of the property. This includes a Nil Weeds Found report if applicable. If weeds are found on the property, the Weeds Inspection Report will identify the landholder, the land to which the report refers, the weeds identified on the property and where they are, the control and management measures required and if required, set out a date for re-inspection to ensure effective and reasonable management of the weeds is being done by the landholder. This includes all landholders both State Government and Private owners. Weeds inspections are tenure neutral and compliance is also tenure neutral as all landholders have the same General Biosecurity Duty and requirements.

If The weeds are not managed as required, management may be enforced. This may include penalties and additional fees and charges.

## **COUNCIL ROADSIDE MANAGEMENT**

Council inspects all council managed roads and road verges in the shire as part of its overall weed management strategy. When weeds are found on the roadsides, or on council managed lands Council will conduct the most effective weed management activities that are reasonably possible within the limitations of available funds. As noted previously, priority is given identified State, Regional and local weeds in that order.

Council uses Chemical means as a method of control but incorporates integrated weed management techniques for best effective outcomes within the resources available. These include but may not be limited to:

- Manual and mechanical control;
- Rotated seasonal livestock Grazing through application to council and approved by LLS
- Chemical Control such as the application of registered herbicides for use
- Cordon and alert systems such as the red guidepost program and signage
- Controlled burning for the reduction of biomass where applicable

Council manages 900 km of roadside annually.

This includes:

- 14 km of priority weed areas which are treated a minimum of twice per year
- 175 km of High Use main and major secondary roads which are treated a minimum of twice per year
- Other priority roads are treated at least once per year.
- All other roads are treated on a needs basis as determined by the council inspection program

**Weed Project Management Programs** actively seeks out external funding sources and joint collaborative management activities across tenure and jurisdictions to effectively develop, participate in and/or manage weed control programs external to the Weeds Action Program (WAP).

Externally funded programs (other than the WAP) will have a separate reporting and record keeping requirement as per the requirements of the external funding provider. A separate Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) and Code will be project allocated for each externally funded weed management project.

### **Extension education**

As part of Leeton Shire Council's management program, council provides education and extension material to landholders as well as supports education events such as field days. In addition, Information on specific weeds and management requirements is provided with weed inspection reports and in response to landholder enquiries.

Leeton Shire Council regularly updates its website [www.leeton.nsw.gov.au](http://www.leeton.nsw.gov.au) and media releases as required, which provides useful and current information on weed issues and management activities pertinent to the local area. There are also links on the website to valuable weed information resources for further information.

- Riverina Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan ([https://www.lrs.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/722446/RIVERINA\\_RSWMP-26-June\\_RLLS\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.lrs.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/722446/RIVERINA_RSWMP-26-June_RLLS_FINAL.pdf)):
- Link to the Weed Wise App: [Get the free weeds app \(nsw.gov.au\)](http://www.nsw.gov.au)

- NSW Weeds Wise:  
[NSW WeedWise](#)
- NSW Weed Control Handbook:  
([https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0017/123317/weed-control-handbook.pdf](https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/123317/weed-control-handbook.pdf))
- Responsibilities for local Government in weed Management:  
[Local government responsibility for weeds \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)
- Council's [Pesticide Notification Plan.pdf](#)

For more information on Council's Weed Management Program, please contact your Local Council Biosecurity Weeds officer at:

**Biosecurity Weeds Officer**

Tel: 02 6953 0911

Email: [council@leeton.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@leeton.nsw.gov.au)