

Weed Management Policy

Policy Owner: Infrastructure
Contact Person: Manager Infrastructure Maintenance
Date of Approval: 4 May 2010 – CS06-05/10

OBJECTIVE

To ensure that the City of Wanneroo meets its environmental, legal and community obligations for weed management on land it administers, in a manner that is environmentally, socially and economically acceptable to Council.

STATEMENT

The City of Wanneroo Weed Management Policy reflects current trends for weed management in a manner that is environmentally, socially, and economically acceptable whilst meeting the City's legal responsibilities and obligations.

As part of the State Weed Plan released by the Department of Agriculture in October 2001, the desired roles and responsibilities of Local Governments are to manage weeds on lands under Local Government control, as well as to provide information, coordination and support for community groups involved in weed management activities.

DEFINITIONS

Weed: A plant which has, or has the potential to have, a detrimental effect on economic, social or conservation values (National Weed Strategy 1997).

DETAIL

To achieve the objective the City of Wanneroo shall:

1. *Implement* long-term plans for weed management in areas under the control of the city in association with all stakeholders. These will take a strategic approach, based on one or more of four defined management options, these being:
 - Prevention of weed infestation including proactive planting of endemic species
 - Eradication
 - Sustained control
 - No intervention

Management plans will allow for weed mapping and prioritising of weeds for control plus on-going maintenance and re-vegetation. The City shall prioritise sites for weed management based on the invasiveness, distribution and environmental impact of weeds. A weed management approach shall be taken which involves the gradual control of weeds through best practice chemical and mechanical management that allows natural regeneration of native vegetation (or revegetation in degraded areas).

High priority shall be given to weeds listed under the ranking system used by Agriculture Western Australia State Weed Plan (Randall, 2000).

2. Work towards best practice methods for sustained control of weeds for:
 - Urban roadsides
 - Intensively managed areas of parks
 - Rural roadsides
 - Nature conservation reserves
 - Reduction of fuel loads and to assist with fire prevention
3. Upgrade the standards of roads, footpaths and kerbing in order to minimise weed invasion and to facilitate non-herbicide weed control.
4. Continue to facilitate an on-going reduction in herbicide use in all areas where practical.
5. Encourage partnerships with Local and, State Governments and landowners for management of widespread weed colonies.
6. Monitor and record the effectiveness of all weed control programs.
7. *Maintain* a monitoring process for recording the occurrence, location and abundance of weeds in natural areas including conservation and foreshore reserves throughout the City of Wanneroo, which also incorporates information concerning new weed species.
8. Adopt the following approach with regard to herbicide use:
 - Allow the use of the specific herbicides only where their application is justified due to non-herbicide methods being deemed ineffective or cost inhibitive.
 - Only specified herbicides should be used in natural areas to target specific weeds and minimize impacts on native flora and fauna (e.g. Frogs).
 - Herbicides must be registered by the National Registration Authority in Canberra (NRA).
 - Before herbicides are used, consideration should be given to non-spray methods of application.
 - Record use of all herbicides and collate the resulting information into annual usage statistics.
 - Ensure herbicides used on the City of Wanneroo administered land are applied by registered chemical applicators or Council staff working in accordance with the City of Wanneroo task procedures for spraying of chemicals.
 - Introduce selection criteria for contractors to ensure that only contractors using best practice, with specialist knowledge of herbicide use and having proven risk management skills are employed to use chemicals within the City.

- Produce an annual weed control programme in March of each year (May for nature conservation reserves) and create an awareness of this programme by providing a Public Notice media release in the Wanneroo Community Newspaper by 31 March each year (30 May for nature conservation reserves).
- Incorporate provision in the annual programme for the control of weeds immediately following bushfires in nature conservation reserves.
- Notify residents of the weed control programme no less than one week before work commences. Advertised information shall include the location, likely time span and the herbicide being used.
- Maintain for residents electing not to have herbicides used abutting their properties. These locations may include road reserves, public access ways, public land immediately adjoining private residences, or in other circumstances where herbicides are used.
- Review the 'No Spray List' and the 'No Spray Zones' annually to assess the impact of weed control on weed communities.
- In the event that a request arises to make a natural area a 'No Spray Zone', each request will be treated individually based on the invasiveness, distribution and environmental impact of weeds. Natural areas will not become 'No Spray Zones' based solely on the request.
- Maintain a Register of Complaints regarding herbicide use, with the information provided to the relevant contractor within two hours of notification and associated Officer intervention as required.
- Herbicide use in Public Drinking Water Source Areas must conform to Waters and Rivers Commission Statewide Policy No. 2 Pesticide use in Public Drinking Water Sources Areas and Department of Health PSC 88: Use of Herbicides in Water Catchment Areas.

Responsibility for Implementation

Manager Infrastructure Maintenance

Versions	Next Review	Record No:
1 January 2003		
18 September 2007–IN03-09/07	December 2005	10150
May 2010 – CS06-05/10	May 2012	TRIM: 10/1310