

## POLICY NO EP07 WEED MANAGEMENT POLICY

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Works and Infrastructure
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	Manager Infrastructure and Development Services
<b>LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN:</b>	To balance our use of the natural environment to ensure that it is available for future generations to enjoy as we do.
<b>STATUTORY AUTHORITY:</b>	<p>The Tasmanian legislation regulating the use of agricultural chemicals is the <u>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1995</u> and the regulations under this Act. Other relevant State legislation includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <u>Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994</u> and regulations under this Act.</li><li>• The Dangerous Goods Act 1998 and regulations under this Act.</li><li>• The Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995 and regulations under this Act.</li><li>• The Code of Practice for Ground Spraying.</li><li>• Guidelines for disposal of washings and rinsates.</li></ul>
<b>OBJECTIVE:</b>	The objective of this policy is to ensure that the most appropriate approach is adopted by Council for weed management on land under Councils jurisdiction throughout the Break O'Day Municipality.
<b>POLICY INFORMATION:</b>	Adopted 19 March 2012 – Minute No 03/12.15.4.069 Amended 16 July 2018 – Minute No 07/18.13.5.163 Amended 16 August 2021 – Minute No 08/21.14.3.181

### POLICY

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

This policy serves to provide guidance in relation to weed management within the municipal area on Council owned or controlled property. The management of other vegetation is covered in Policy No. AM14 Mowing Policy.

#### 2. DEFINITION

A weed is any plant that colonises and persists in an ecosystem in which it did not previously exist and that may affect the economy, the environment, human health and amenity.

A weed can be an exotic or native species, which can inhabit and become dominant in the environment.

### 3. PROCESS

Management methods utilised by the Council for the control of weeds may include removal by hand or mechanical means if possible, steam treatment and the use of chemical herbicides when deemed appropriate by the Works Operations Manager.

Council shall abide by the **Code of Practice for Spraying in Public Places (current version)**, issued by the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment that provides a clear statement of responsibilities and minimum standards for spraying contractors and employees who apply chemical products for weed or insect pest control in a public place in Tasmania, by any means other than aerial spraying.

The Code of Practice does not remove or alter any obligation or requirement under any Act or Regulation or alter the need to comply with other Codes of Practice or industry guidelines.

Council employees and contractors engaged to undertake weed control activity using approved herbicides are required to undergo Safe Chemical Handling training and meet required competency.

Herbicide and surfactant use shall be strictly in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, for transport & storage, required personal protective clothing, dilution, application, equipment cleaning and disposal of empty containers.

Council will keep a written record of all spraying activity. Spraying logs are required to be kept that are subject to audit by the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.

### 4. DO NOT SPRAY REGISTER

Adequate maintenance of road reserves ensures the control of weeds and prevents the deterioration of public infrastructure such as roads, footpaths, kerb and gutters.

Section 26 of the Code of Practice provides property owners the opportunity to request Council not to spray chemical herbicide on land adjoining their property.

Property owners who apply to be listed on the 'Do No Spray Register' (the register), must assume responsibility for the management of weeds on the road reserve in front of or alongside their property. The following conditions apply:

**4.1** Applications require the property owner to provide a management plan identifying the method of control for weeds and how regularly the property owner plans to undertake this control.

The property owners Weed Control Plan must ensure:

- control of all weed species;
- the road frontage is kept clear and/or tidy;
- drainage and or paths are kept free of obstruction and fully operational at all times;
- kerbs, footpaths and gutters are kept free of vegetation growth;
- It applies to the entire frontage, including the side and rear of the property if abutting a Council road reserve;
- Removal of existing trees and shrubs on the road reservation is prohibited unless permission is granted by the Council and is in alignment with Policy No EP06 Tree Management Policy.

Councils Works Operations Manager is authorised to approve Weed Control Plans subject to a plan satisfactorily meeting the criterion outlined above. Plan approval is required before a property is included in the register.

**4.2** Once included on the register if in the opinion of Council a weed problem is not dealt with satisfactorily, the Works Operations Manager will advise the property owner in writing that weed maintenance must occur within fourteen (14) days of the date of the correspondence.

Failure by the owner to conduct maintenance upon request of Council will result in Council undertaking, without further notice, any necessary work to remove weeds including herbicide spraying if necessary.

Should this occur the property owner will be removed from the register and Council will resume responsibility for the maintenance of the land including the use of chemical herbicides, if necessary.

**4.3** Should a property change ownership the new owner will need to make application to be included on the register if they so wish.

**4.4** Tenants of a property will need to provide written confirmation from the landlord in support of a request before being included on the register.

**4.5** Council officers and contractors engaged to carry out chemical herbicide spraying must abide by the register.

**4.6** The register will be maintained by Councils Works department.

## **5. MONITORING AND REVIEW**

This Policy will be reviewed every three (3) years in line with Council's Policy Framework or earlier in the event of major changes to legislation, related policies, procedures or if deemed necessary by the General Manager.