



Tasmanian Weeds Action Fund  
Drought and Weed Management Program 2020  
Municipal Drought Weeds Grants 2020 -  
Guidelines and Eligibility

## Supporting Farmers to Combat Weeds During and After Drought

Drought in recent years has affected the municipalities of Southern Midlands, Break O'Day, Glamorgan Spring Bay, Sorell and Tasman. As part of the Tasmanian Government's \$350,000 Weed Action Fund *Drought and Weed Management Program* farmers in these areas have access to financial support to manage weed issues related to drought. A grant program is currently open to assist farmers to undertake targeted weed management of species favoured by drought and post drought conditions that impact on agricultural production. For more information see the [Weed Action Fund webpage for the Drought and Weed Management Program](http://dpipwe.tas.gov.au) (dpipwe.tas.gov.au).

### Council Drought Weed Support

The grants provide rebates of up to 66% of the total approved costs of a project. Project activities can involve planning, weed control or capacity building activities (see below).

All activities undertaken must meet the objectives of the Tasmanian Government's Drought and Weed Management Program:

- Assist farmers to mitigate the impact of weeds on agricultural production during and after drought
- Prevent spread of weeds as a consequence of drought management practices
- Farmers, local government and the rural services industry are equipped with the knowledge and skills to manage weeds before and after drought over the long-term through strategic actions, such as planning and raising awareness
- Contribute to local employment opportunities in areas where weed control activities are occurring

The Drought Weeds Grants Application Form for your municipality specifies the due date for the application and project completion, and any specific local conditions. Each council administers the grants for their municipality and as a result there may be some variance to conditions.

### Weeds Favoured by Drought and Post Drought Conditions

Weeds can threaten agricultural productivity:

- through their growth and reproduction, including when drought breaks, to outcompete desirable species or be a danger to stock
- as a result of farmers needing to prioritise drought relief actions for stock and production over weed control
- by being newly introduced by favourable drought or post drought conditions.

There may be certain weeds that are a strategic priority in your Council's area and Weed Management Plan, or a particular concern as 'drought-favoured' weeds.

## Getting Support or Further Information

Agricultural producers experiencing difficulties managing weeds due to drought or post drought conditions, including from hardship as a result of the prolonged drought, are encouraged to use this program to identify weed management strategies and get support to protect their productivity and assets.

For further information about the program please contact the relevant person in your municipality. Support can include arranging a site meeting to discuss weed management options and assistance with applying for funding.

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Break O' Day Council	Peter Heading: 0400 737 253, <a href="mailto:PHeading@nrmnorth.org.au">PHeading@nrmnorth.org.au</a> .
Glamorgan Spring Bay Council	Amanda Brooks: 0488 573 175, <a href="mailto:amanda@freycinet.tas.gov.au">amanda@freycinet.tas.gov.au</a> , or 6256 4777
Sorell Council	Phone 6269 0000 (Russel Fox)
Tasman Council	John Hueston: <a href="mailto:john.hueston@tasman.tas.gov.au">john.hueston@tasman.tas.gov.au</a> , 6250 9205

## Eligible Activities

- Planning activities that establish a strong basis for farmers to reduce the risk of drought-favoured weeds spreading or establishing after the drought breaks including:
  - establishing farm biosecurity and weed hygiene measures that prevent weed spread and establishment
  - introducing measures that limit the potential for stock and stock feeds to spread weeds within and between properties
  - identification of high-risk areas within the farm requiring actions to mitigate the risk of weed emergence and spread (e.g. stock feeding areas)
- Control activities that remove or reduce the likelihood of high-risk weeds spreading or emerging once the drought breaks, including:
  - tools, equipment and protective clothing to be used in proposed projects
  - weed suppression materials (such as chemicals) used in proposed projects
  - fencing materials where it is required to effectively quarantine an area identified to be a high-risk of spreading drought-favoured weeds
  - contractor services used in proposed projects
- Training that contributes to an understanding of the control and management of drought-favoured weeds
- Awareness and educational material related to managing weeds favoured by drought.

**What Will Not be Funded**

- Activities or purchases otherwise funded e.g. through Commonwealth programs, general Weeds Action Fund or Tasmanian Landcare Action Grant Program.
- Activities that do not relate to the control or management of drought-favoured weeds.
- Purchases or expenses related to day-to-day operations of a business that are not linked to weed management
- Purchase or transport of livestock.
- Purchase of machinery.

**Funding and Application Conditions**

- Applicant/s main income (>50% gross) is from primary production.
- Applicant must provide their ABN
- The applicant's property used for primary production is located in the relevant municipality.
- Full and complete information on the proposed project must be provided using the appropriate municipality's application form and will be the basis, with these guidelines, for the Council determining the project's eligibility, merits and approval.
- Written landowner permission must be supplied where the proposed activities are not on the applicant's land.
- Successful applications - a tax invoice is to be provided to council on completion of works, with copies of supplier or contractor invoices and a brief project report.
- Provide evidence of public liability insurance cover for the proposed activities.
- Use of AgVet chemicals is regulated. Applicants and partners are responsible for ensuring any contractors have a Commercial Operators Licence and the APVMA registered label of chemicals is followed.
- Weed data collected from drought weed projects will be freely available for use of Council's and DPIPW, and maybe uploaded onto the Natural Values Atlas.

**Priority Criteria**

Due to the limited amount of funds available, priority will be given to projects that demonstrate:

- Target weeds are drought-advantaged and a threat to agricultural production of the farm and/or other farms
- Proposed treatments apply best practice to the weed problem
- Includes realistic future management options and plan for follow-up weed control
- Working in collaboration with neighbours/group
- Ability to manage weeds and farm production diminished due to drought (ie reduced income, more time spent on other aspects of farm)
- Includes management of priority weeds for municipality
- Increases capacity in the agricultural sector to manage weeds over the long-term through strategic actions, such as planning and improved awareness and skills.



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The 2020 Municipal Drought Weeds projects are a partnership between the drought-affected Councils (2019) and the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment's *Weed Action Fund* \$350,000 *Drought and Weeds Management Program*.

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