

## The effect of State Government policies on Local Government: Weeds on roadsides and in urban areas

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### Summary

*Noxious weed management and control on roadsides*

Case Study: Managing community expectation and noxious weed spread on rural roadsides in Surf Coast Shire.

#### Surf Coast Shire roadsides

- 76 significant flora species;
- Roadsides degrading over time;
- Responsibility for weed control widely misunderstood;
- Expertise required for vegetation management;
- OH & S issues;
- Important community asset;
- Proactive approach needed.

#### Roadside program

- three year roadside enhancement and management program;
- Focus on high and medium conservation roadsides;
- The program is 100% Council funded.

#### Results to date

- 131.8 km of roadside treated for gorse, flax leaf broom, blackberry, cape tulip, sweet briar, fennel, boxthorn, watsonia, cape broom and pittosporum;
- Positive community feedback;
- Opportunity to communicate responsibilities;
- 'Lead by example'.

#### Where to from here with roadsides?

- Further works during 2005;
- Secure funding for 2005/2006;
- Communication;
- Linking with Landcare and DPI for private land;
- Working towards long term vision.

*Noxious weed management and control in urban areas of Surf Coast Shire*

Case Study: Serrated tussock in Torquay/Jan Juc.

#### How things used to be

- 1999–2002 Torquay serrated tussock program;
- Project officer employed;
- Non-authoritarian, educational, co-operative, CaLP Act reminder;
- 100% compliance for over 400 urban properties.

#### The urban situation today

- Infestation from Torquay to Barrabool Hills;
- Impacts on native vegetation and waterways;
- Major seed source;
- Seed set coincides with fire prevention slashing;
- Community asking for action;
- Council refers landholders to DPI;
- Legislative constraints.
- Council works within own areas;
- Integration of PPA with fire prevention works;
- Planning permit process;
- Reminder of obligations under CaLP Act;
- Support community initiatives and programs with partners;
- Positive working relationship with DPI officers.

#### Policy

- Victorian Pest Management Framework;
- Corangamite Regional Catchment Strategy;
- Corangamite Weed Action Plan;
- Surf Coast Shire Planning Scheme 21.05-5 Pest Plants and Animals;
- Surf Coast Shire Pest Plant and Animal Action Plan;
- CaLP Act.
- Common to all of the above is the objective of taking action to control noxious weeds.

#### Programs

- Policy leads to investment in programs;
- Second Generation Landcare, EnviroFund;
- 'Tackling Weeds on Private Land' and 'Tackling Weeds on Public Land';
- Limited opportunity under Regional Catchment Strategy funding;
- Surf Coast Shire PPA Program;
- Implementing programs is resource intensive for Council;
- DPI compliance program in Barrabool Hills;
- Pre-compliance extension in Moriac.

#### The story so far...

- Serrated tussock is a significant environmental, social and economic issue in the Torquay area;

- Serrated tussock is an important issue to the Surf Coast Shire community;
- Past programs were effective at the time but all the hard work has been lost;
- Council takes a responsible approach to serrated tussock and other noxious and environmental weeds;
- Implementing programs is extremely resource intensive;
- State and regional legislation, policies and plans influence investment;
- With the exception of Barrabool Hills, hot spots in Surf Coast Shire fall outside DPI priority areas.

Acknowledging the availability of resources at the state and local level, how do government, together with community, effectively manage serious noxious weeds in areas which fall outside state government priority areas?