

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Why is the Victoria Government funding this program?

Roadsides provide a means for weeds and pests to spread throughout Victoria. These, in turn, threaten agricultural production and environmental assets and are a major concern for both private land managers and Government.

The *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (CaLP Act)* makes councils the landowners of roadsides for the purposes of weed and pest animal management.

The Victorian Government has previously provided support to councils to fulfil this responsibility and the 2017 state budget allocated \$5.4 million for a further two year period through to June 2019. This allows for the continuation of the Roadside Weeds and Pests Management Program (RWPP) to support councils in addressing this issue.

Local Government Victoria (LGV) administers the funding for this program.

### What is the purpose of the program?

The RWPP will support councils to plan and implement control activities for the long-term management of noxious weeds and pest animals on rural roadsides.

### Who is eligible for funding?

All rural, regional and regional city councils are eligible for funding under the RWPP<sup>1</sup>. The interface municipalities of Cardinia, Casey, Hume, Melton, Mornington Peninsula, Nillumbik, Whittlesea, Wyndham and Yarra Ranges are also eligible.

The RWPP is targeted at the management of weeds and pests on rural roads and as such, metropolitan councils will not be eligible for funding.

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<sup>1</sup> With the exception of the Borough of Queenscliffe who are not responsible for the management of any rural road network.

### How will the funding be allocated?

All eligible councils will continue to receive a base funding amount of \$5,000 per year (exclusive of GST). Remaining funds will be allocated based on the total number of kilometres of rural roads managed by eligible councils<sup>2</sup>.

The maximum funding available per year (including the base allocation) will be capped at \$75,000 (exclusive of GST) per council.

Funding agreements will be established between the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and eligible councils detailing payment schedules and program requirements. Project activities must be completed by June 2019.

### What activities are mandatory?

In order to receive funding, eligible councils must produce a Roadside Weed and Rabbit Control Plan (Control Plan) endorsed by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) by October 2017. An updated template for the Control Plan is now available to assist councils develop their plan in-line with the eligible project activities.

These plans will outline the agreed approach to be undertaken by each council and identification of weeds and pest to be treated. Once approved by DEDJTR, these plans will form the basis for the reporting and monitoring of councils' activities. Councils will be required to report their progress against their plans and seek variations to the plan where required.

Council are required to undertake community consultation on their plans and make the plans available to the public and readily available on their external website.

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<sup>2</sup> Data for rural road length is sourced from the Victoria Grants Commission (VGC). Councils report this information annually to the VGC.

To access a template for a control plan and accompanying information, visit:  
<https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/council-funding-and-grants/roadside-weeds-and-pest-management>

### What activities **can** be undertaken with this funding?

Eligible activities are listed below in order of priority:

- Treating “regionally prohibited” weeds on municipal roadsides;
- Controlling and preventing the spread of “regionally controlled” weeds and the control of rabbits on municipal roadsides that align with DEDJTR compliance project areas and/or support community-led weed and pest control activities;
- Follow-up treatment works for projects funded in councils’ previous roadside weed and pest control plans
- Control activities for “regionally controlled” weeds and rabbits on roadsides that support other investment for integrated landscape protection projects or address particular community concerns;
- Control activities for “restricted weeds” on roadsides where there has been demonstrated widespread community concern.
- Assistance to appropriately recognized community groups (eg: Landcare) or appropriately licensed/accredited contractors to undertake eligible control activities. Any contracts entered into with appropriately licensed/accredited contractors to undertake eligible control activities must specify that all control activities are to be conducted in line with recognised good practice standards regarding the timing of control for the particular species, the method of control and vehicle hygiene.
- Contracts with third parties should be managed as a separate arrangement between the council and community group/contractor.
- Software applications and mapping of infestations of “regionally controlled” weeds and pests on roadsides, and
- Consultation activities to establish community

priorities for inclusion in the Control Plan.

### What activities **cannot** be undertaken with this funding?

Funding cannot be used towards:

- Treatment of weeds and/or pests that are not declared as “regionally prohibited”, “regionally controlled” or “restricted”.
- Purchase of capital items or equipment eg: computer hardware or spraying equipment.

### Will councils be required to match funding?

No council contribution to funding is required under the RWPP.

### What role will DEDTJR take in weed and pest control compliance on roadsides?

DEDJTR Officers are authorised under the *CaLP Act* to conduct enforcement activities with respect to declared noxious weeds and pest animals, including on roadsides. However, no enforcement action will be taken on municipal roadsides where the responsible council is implementing an approved roadside weed and control plan. Where a council is failing to reasonably implement their control plan, enforcement action may be considered.

### Who can I contact?

#### LGV Funding Arrangements:

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