

Noxious weeds – Macalister Irrigation District

What types of weeds are there in the MID?

Under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (CaLP Act) certain plants are declared as noxious weeds in Victoria. These plants cause environmental or economic harm or have the potential to cause such harm. They can also present risks to human health.

The CaLP Act defines 4 categories of noxious weeds:

- state prohibited weeds.
- regionally prohibited weeds.
- regionally controlled weeds.
- restricted weeds.

State prohibited weeds

State prohibited weeds are invasive plants that either:

- do not occur in Victoria but pose a significant threat if they invade.
- are present, pose a serious threat and can reasonably be expected to be eradicated.

If present, infestations of a state prohibited weed are relatively small.

They are to be eradicated from Victoria if possible or excluded from the state.

The Victorian Government is responsible for their eradication, but under section 70(1) of the CaLP Act, it can direct landowners to prevent their growth and spread.

If you think you've purchased or seen a state prohibited weed please contact Agriculture Victoria on 136 186.

Regionally prohibited weeds

Regionally prohibited weeds are not widely distributed in a region but can spread further.

It is reasonable to expect that they can be eradicated from a region, and they must be managed with that goal.

Landowners, including public authorities responsible for crown land management, must take all reasonable steps to eradicate regionally prohibited weeds on their land.

Regionally controlled weeds

These invasive plants are usually widespread in a region. To prevent their spread, ongoing control measures are required.

Landowners have the responsibility to take all reasonable steps to prevent the growth and spread of regionally controlled weeds on their land.

Restricted weeds

This category includes plants that pose an unacceptable risk of spreading in this state and are a serious threat to another state or territory of Australia. Trade in these weeds and their propagules (either as plants, seeds or contaminants in other materials) is prohibited.

Who is responsible for making decisions about noxious weeds in the Macalister Irrigation District?

The local Catchment Management Authority (CMA), in this case the West Gippsland CMA, is responsible for recommending to the Minister the appropriate classification for each weed species within the catchment. The Minister is responsible for declaration of a species as noxious.

Who is responsible for managing Regionally Prohibited Weeds and Regionally Controlled Weeds?

Landowners and land managers are responsible for managing Regionally Prohibited Weeds and Regionally Controlled Weeds on the land they own or manage. Regionally Prohibited Weeds must be managed with the aim of eradication.

Regionally Controlled Weeds must not spread from their property onto surrounding properties.

- Private landowners are responsible for managing weeds on their land, including easements used by Southern Rural Water (SRW).
- SRW is responsible for managing weeds on its asset components and reserves.
- VicRoads is responsible for managing weeds on and along declared roads.
- Public land managers are responsible for managing weeds on public land.
- Local Shire Councils are responsible for managing weeds on local Shire Council / municipal roads.

If any treatment is to be undertaken which might result in any disturbance of native vegetation, culturally significant areas or waterways, you should contact the responsible authority - being Local Government, cultural heritage and/or Catchment Management Authority - prior to the works being started.

What is a SRW asset component?

A SRW asset is a channel or drain. Components of these assets include those parts that shape and define it – the waterway, banks, berms, access tracks, fences and any controlling structures.

Easements are owned by landowners but SRW structures, such as channels or drains have been or may be constructed on their property. SRW staff need on-going access to easements so they can operate and maintain these structures.

As the land is not owned by SRW, the management of weeds (including noxious weed control) is the responsibility of the landowner.

SRW are responsible for weeds present in the waterways or components that form part of the asset. Chemicals which are registered for use in waterways are used to control and maintain weeds in our drains.

A reserve is a parcel of crown land acquired by SRW or its predecessors on which channels and drains have been constructed. They are owned and managed by SRW for the purpose of water supply or drainage.

Their management, including noxious weed control, is the responsibility of SRW - whether infestations occur on the asset components or reserve areas adjacent to them.

Are most of SRW's assets located on an easement or reserve?

The majority of SRW assets are on easements. Most Certificate of Title documents identify where easements have been created on a landowner's property. If you are unsure of whether an easement exists on your property, you should contact SRW.

What chemicals can be used on SRW easements and near waterways?

Only herbicides that are registered for use in or near waterways can be used on SRW easements. As new chemicals and weed management technologies become available, it's always best to check the use of these products with SRW before spraying weeds on your property.

Retailers can usually supply Material Safety Data Sheets to help you with your quality assurance schemes.

When using chemicals always refer to the label.

What can I do about my neighbour's weeds?

If your neighbour is not managing or controlling weeds on their property, you can contact your local DEECA office or the Customer Service Centre on 136 186. DEECA will ensure that those people responsible for weed control are informed of their responsibilities and obligations.

Under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 DEECA can serve notices on non-compliant landowners.

More information

For more information, contact us on 1300 139 510 or visit www.srw.com.au.

For more information about noxious weeds and their control contact DEECA on 136 186 or visit deeca.vic.gov.au or <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds>



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www.srw.com.au



Southern
Rural Water