



# Victorian Pest Management

A Framework for Action

## Weed Management Strategy



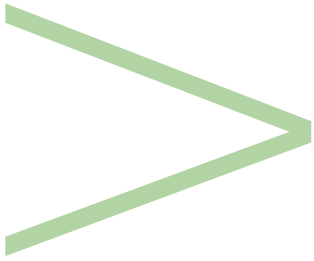
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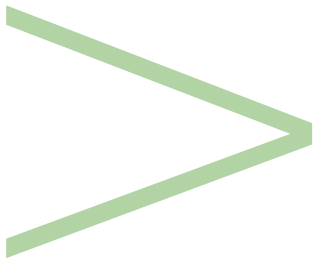
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# Weed Management Strategy

## Reasons for Government investment in weed management

Weeds are a serious threat to primary production and biodiversity in Victoria. They reduce farm and forest productivity, displace native species and contribute significantly to land and water degradation. The most recent estimate puts the direct cost of weeds to Victorian agriculture at more than \$360 million per year. Additional costs are borne by public land managers, industry, local government and utility companies. The impact that weeds have on natural ecosystems is very significant but the ways of understanding this impact are still being developed. Internationally, invasive species (including weeds) are now recognised as the second most significant threat to natural ecosystems.

## Scope of the Weed Management Strategy

The Strategy has been developed within the Victorian Pest Management – A Framework for Action (VPMF) and deals with weed management in Victoria. Management of weeds is principally the responsibility of each land and waterway manager. The Government's role in weed management includes the provision of an appropriate legislative and policy framework. The Government will primarily contribute to weed management in situations where that action results in public benefit, and will provide funding in accordance with the agreed shared investment guidelines. The Government may also have a role in ensuring that all partners in weed management meet their responsibilities. The Strategy covers all types of weeds: declared and undeclared, agricultural and environmental, land and aquatic (non-marine).

## Goals of the Weed Management Strategy

1. Prevent new weed problems.
2. A significant reduction in the impact of existing weed problems.
3. A Victorian community that is fully aware of the economic, social and environmental impacts and threat of weeds, and has the knowledge to act to minimise their damage.
4. Effective working partnerships built for progressive weed management.
5. Continuous improvement through review and evaluation.

## Stakeholders in managing weeds

Government and community stakeholders in weed management include:

- State Government: NRE, Parks Victoria;
- Victorian Catchment Management Council (VCMC) and Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs);
- Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management (CRC);
- Other intra and interstate weed research organisations;
- Federal Government through Environment Australia (EA), Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia (AFFA) and the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS);
- Australian Weeds Committee (the lead committee providing policy advice on matters related to the prevention, management and control of weeds to governments throughout Australia);
- Interstate weed management authorities;
- Key industry groups such as the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF), Nursery and Garden Industry Association of Victoria (NGIAV) and conservation groups;
- Private landholders (including companies, corporations and Landcare groups);
- Government institutes; and
- Local government.

The roles of the key agencies that are involved in weed management are set out below.

### Department of Natural Resources and Environment

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) has policy interpretation and legislative responsibility for weed management and coordinates the implementation of the Government's weed management programs. These programs are delivered through the direct management of public lands and through the provision of behavioural change programs (extension advice and incentives) for private land programs. NRE is also responsible for delivering cost-effective advisory, educational and regulatory services in sustainable land and water management and agricultural industry development.

**Public land managers** – Forests Division, Parks Flora and Fauna Division and Land Victoria are the NRE Divisions responsible for the management of most public land in Victoria. The management of public land by Parks Flora and Fauna Division is directed through Parks Victoria. Public land management is carried out in accordance with the Victorian Biodiversity Strategy, which is a whole-of-government document for the Victorian community with NRE being the lead agency for its implementation.

### Victorian Catchment Management Council

The Victorian Catchment Management Council (VCMC) was established under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act*. Its role is to advise the Minister for Environment and Conservation on natural resource management issues and report on the quality of land and water resources.

### Catchment Management Authorities

The major role of Victoria's Catchment Management Authorities is to ensure the sustainable development of natural resource-based industries the maintenance and, where possible, improvement of land and water resources and the conservation of natural and cultural heritage. CMAs have a responsibility to oversee development, and guide the implementation of regional Weed Action Plans and inform their regional communities about the agreed programs, priorities and funding for weed management. CMAs guide the implementation of catchment priorities through advice to the State Government and Regional Assessment Panels on regional priorities for funding. Within catchments, each CMA administers grants to landholders under the

Government's Second Generation Landcare Program using the community consultation mechanisms provided through the Regional Assessment Panel (RAP).

## VicRoads

VicRoads (or local government acting as its agent) manages roads declared under the *Transport Act* (Freeways, Highways, Main Roads, Forest Roads and Tourist Roads) and is responsible for the implementation of pest management as defined under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act* on these roads. VicRoads, in partnership with other stakeholders, implements strategies to ensure sustainable roadside biodiversity.

## Local government

Local government has an important role to play in natural resource management as it has relatively broad powers in relation to environmental control, protection and conservation, as well as being a land manager. Local government, through the local planning scheme, determines the appropriate use and development of land. In preparing or reviewing the scheme, due regard must be given to relevant aspects of regional catchment strategies and any associated implementation plan or strategy approved under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act*. Statutory planning provides an essential framework for future sustainable regional development. Local government (when acting as an agent for VicRoads) also has responsibilities for weed management on roadsides under its management.

## Public land management

Forest Management Plans and Park Management Plans are the principal strategic documents for management of forest land and land managed by Parks Victoria, and incorporate pest management as a component of the Plans. Priority weed management in the Plans will be primarily directed to the protection of significant natural values of the land and to meeting community 'good neighbour' expectations.

Where weed management on public land primarily benefits the land itself, such as biodiversity conservation and the protection of the natural resource base, management is the core responsibility of the relevant public land manager. Each public land manager will develop weed management programs based on the strategic directions detailed in Section 1 of the Victorian Pest Management A Framework for Action (VPMF), in particular Chapter 3 – Pest Management Principles and Chapter 7 Public Land Management. Funding for these programs will be allocated from the land manager's annual budget and regional programs included in the whole of catchment coordinated reporting process to be undertaken by CMAs.

Where weed management on public land also benefits adjoining private land, this management will be the responsibility of the relevant public land manager and met through the Good Neighbour Program (GNP). The GNP is managed by NRE to address damage caused to the community by pests originating on adjoining public land.

## Partners in the implementation of the Weed Management Strategy

Effective weed management depends on the development and implementation of working partnerships between Government, industry and the community. All levels of government together with private and public land managers, the Victorian Catchment Management Council and Catchment Management Authorities have a role to play in achieving environmentally sound, cost-effective weed management in Victoria. This will only be achieved through the development of effective working relationships between Landcare, community and industry groups such as the Victorian Farmers Federation, the agricultural service industry, rural contractors, the nursery industry,

seed producers, agricultural produce processors and marketers, and the wider community.

The Government provides strategic direction, legislative support and funds weed management programs within the established shared investment guidelines. The VCMC has a number of statutory roles in relation to weed management. These include legislation review, statewide research priorities, community education and program review. The VCMC is well placed to support the coordination of weed management at the statewide level, to advise on weed listings and to provide links between participants in weed management in Victoria.

Key responsibility for the implementation of each action is identified within the Strategy. All actions require the cooperation of other people and organisations. The level of responsibility depends on the action and who is involved. The *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* provides the legislative base for weed management in Victoria, for those situations in which legislation is a useful tool in achieving effective weed management.

## Victorian Weeds Legislation

The principal legislation relating to the management of weeds in Victoria is the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* which is administered by NRE. This Act provides for the declaration of plants as noxious weeds if they have or have the potential to become a threat to primary production, the environment or community health in Victoria. This legislation places responsibility on land managers to control and prevent the spread of noxious weeds from their properties. The Act authorises the inspection of properties for noxious weeds and provides for controls on the movement of machinery and the sale of livestock and farm produce that may contain seeds of noxious weeds. It also provides for restrictions on the sale of noxious weeds and their seeds.

Other Victorian legislation that is relevant to weed control includes the *National Parks Act 1975*, *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*, *Conservation, Forest and Lands Act 1987*, *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* and the *Land Act 1958*. In addition, the *Local Government Act 1989* and the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* provide opportunities for local councils to enforce weed control.

Numerous other Victorian Acts also relate to weed management in Victoria. For example, at least nine Acts make provision for the management of weeds along roadsides including the *Forests Act 1958*, *Transport Act 1983* and the *Country Fire Authority Act 1958*.

Nine Catchment Management Authorities, the Port Philip Catchment and Land Protection Board and the Victorian Catchment Management Council have been appointed under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*. These organisations play a key role in the planning and coordination of weed management in Victoria.

*Adapted from the Environment and Natural Resources Committee of the Victorian Parliament "Report on Weeds in Victoria (1998)".*

## Roadside Weed Management

The *Catchment and Land Protection Act* adopts a shared approach to managing weeds on roadsides. It recognises management responsibilities of those managing the land, the responsibilities of those causing the problem, and identifies those who benefit from action taken.

The responsibility for eradicating and controlling the spread of weeds on roadsides depends on both the category of the weed and the class of the road. Currently, on behalf of the State Government, NRE attempts to eradicate State Prohibited Weeds on all land and Regionally Prohibited Weeds from roadsides, and Vicroads (or local governments acting as its agent) has responsibility for managing all noxious weeds (except State Prohibited Weeds) on declared road network which includes highways, freeways, main roads and tourist roads. Landowners, both public and private, are responsible for the control of Regionally Controlled Weeds on adjoining 'local road'.

### A comparison of weed impact and the effectiveness of Government investment in managing the problem

A weed species may be present at a location for a long time before it has an obvious impact on productivity or on the natural environment. When conditions are favourable, numbers can 'explode' rapidly, with spread and impact building up over a broad area, until eventually a weed occupies all suitable environments. The typical growth in impact of a weed over many years is shown in the graph below.

Land managers usually act to control those weeds having an obvious impact on their use of the land. This generally occurs when numbers and impact are already high (at the right end of the graph). The costs of control may then become an ongoing land management investment. By contrast, government intervention is most effective in preventing weed incursions reaching this level, that is, intervention is most effective when weed and infestation numbers are low. The provision of information to raise awareness and encourage early action is an effective contribution that Government can make in the community interest. Research into appropriate control measures, encouragement of collective action and enforced control are further investments the Government may make for community benefit. Such early Government intervention would help minimise the total impact of a weed on the community.

Once weeds have spread to their full geographic range and are well established, Government intervention in reducing the impact of weeds is much less effective. At this stage the activities necessary to reduce weed impacts should be decided principally by the landowner, group or industry affected.

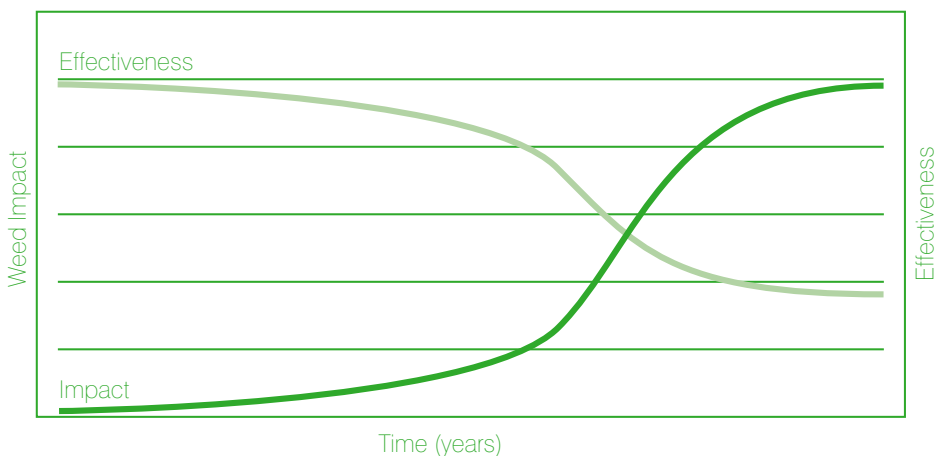


Fig 1: Representation of the impact of weeds over time and the effectiveness of Government investment in managing this.



# Goals, Objectives & Strategic Actions

## Goal 1 Prevent new weed problems.

*Objective 1 – Assess the threat and risk posed by new plant species with weed potential.*

Strategic Action	Key Responsibility	Partners	Timeframes
1. Assess threat  Assess the potential economic, social and environmental impact of weeds that are not currently established in Victoria.	NRE	VCMC, CMAs, CRC	December 2002 Ongoing
2. Set priorities based on the risk posed  Establish priorities for action based on the likelihood of introduction into Victoria and the threat posed.	NRE, VCMC, CMAs	CRC	December 2002 Ongoing

*Objective 2 – Minimise the risk of introducing new plant species with weed potential.*

Strategic Action	Key Responsibility	Partners	Timeframes
<p>3. Prevent sales and distribution of weedy species</p> <p>Develop cooperative mechanisms to prevent the sale and distribution of potential weed species.</p> <p>(mechanisms developed in line with Objective 6 – Strategic Action 18)</p>	NRE	Nursery and aquatic industries, industry groups and organisations.	June 2003 Ongoing
<p>4. Control movement of livestock, produce, soil and equipment</p> <p>Investigate procedures to minimise the risk of weeds being brought into Victoria by the movement of livestock, fodder, farm produce, soil and machinery. The methods may include education, codes of practice and regulation.</p> <p>(procedures developed in line with Objective 6 – Strategic Action 16)</p>	NRE	VCMC, CMAs, VFF, Landholders, nursery and seed industries, rural contractors	December 2002
<p>5. Strengthen links with quarantine services</p> <p>Cooperate with the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS), quarantine agencies in other states and industry to strengthen the response to new weed species in order to prevent introduction of new weeds into Victoria.</p>	NRE	AQIS and quarantine agencies in other States	Ongoing

*Objective 3 – Ensure early detection of, and rapid action against, new weed problems.*

Strategic Action	Key Responsibility	Partners	Timeframes
<p>6. Enhance community vigilance</p> <p>Implement an ongoing program of community education and awareness through State and local government, CMAs, farm organisations, community groups and schools to alert the community to the risks of new weed species.</p>	NRE	VCMC, CMAs, VFF, agriculture service industry, municipalities, landowners, Landcare, industry and community groups and schools	<p>Program developed by December 2002</p> <p>Ongoing program improvement</p>
<p>7. Establish notification procedures</p> <p>Gain agreement by relevant bodies to the notification procedures described in the 'Weed Alert' framework to ensure the early and efficient identification of new weed incursions.</p>	NRE	National Herbarium	December 2002
<p>8. Put in place rapid response plan</p> <p>Finalise and implement 'Weed Alert' framework.</p> <p>Determine funding arrangements to allow for efficient operation of 'Weed Alert'.</p>	NRE	VCMC, CMAs	December 2002

**Goal 2** A significant reduction in the impact of existing weed problems.

*Objective 4 – Assess the current and potential impact of existing weed problems in Victoria.*

Strategic Action	Key Responsibility	Partners	Timeframes
<p>9. Assess benefits and costs of weed management</p> <p>Develop a decision-making process for investment in weed management that considers economic, environmental and social values.</p>	NRE	VCMC, CMAs, Parks Victoria, industry groups and organisations	June 2003
<p>10. Determine priorities for action</p> <p>Apply the decision-making process at a State and regional level to determine priorities for action.</p>	CMA's	VCMC, NRE, Parks Victoria, VFF, agriculture service industry, municipalities, landowners, Landcare, industry and community groups	December 2003
<p>11. Review noxious weeds list</p> <p>Utilise the decision-making process to assist in a review of noxious weed lists.</p>	VCMC	CMAs, NRE,	June 2004

*Objective 5 – Implement environmentally sound, cost-effective weed management programs.*

Strategic Action	Key Responsibility	Partners	Timeframes
<p>12. Continue to develop sound management practices</p> <p>Develop and implement environmentally sound cost-effective weed management practices.</p> <p>Assess the risk of herbicide resistance in weed species and ensure management practices minimise the risk.</p>	<p>Landowners, Landcare and community groups</p>	<p>NRE, CRC, CMAs, VFF universities, ASI</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>13. Promote 'best practice' weed management techniques</p> <p>Ensure information on 'best practice' management techniques for weed management is available to those responsible for weed management.</p> <p>Encourage the further development and use of multi-media information.</p>	<p>NRE, ASI</p>	<p>CRC, CMAs, universities, TAFE, Landcare and community groups, VFF, industry groups and organisations, rural contractors</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Objective 6 – Reduce the spread of established weeds within Victoria.

Strategic Action	Key Responsibility	Partners	Timeframes
<p>14. Strengthen legislation</p> <p>Amend the <i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</i> to increase its efficiency and effectiveness.</p> <p>Ensure Victorians are aware of their legislative responsibilities.</p>	Government	NRE, VCMC, Victorian community	December 2002
<p>15. Enhance compliance and enforcement programs</p> <p>Implement enhanced, cost-effective and timely compliance and enforcement programs for priority noxious weeds in areas where weed management is supported by Regional Weed Action Plans and/or community action. Compliance rate of landowners contacted in above situations targeted at 95%.</p>	NRE	CMA, Victorian community	Ongoing
<p>16. Control movement of livestock, fodder, soil and farm produce</p> <p>Develop accredited self-assessment procedures, in association with industry, to eliminate the risk of weed seeds being spread within Victoria by the movement of livestock, fodder, soil and farm produce.</p> <p>(procedures developed in line with Objective 2 – Strategic Action 4)</p>	VCMC, VFF	CMA, NRE, nursery and seed industries, rural contractors, ASI	First Example December 2002  Ongoing
<p>17. Reduce the spread of weeds by machinery and equipment</p> <p>Develop accredited self-assessment procedures to ensure that weeds are not spread by machinery or equipment.</p>	VCMC	Municipalities, VicRoads, VFF, landowners, rural contractors, utility companies, VTrack, NRE, CMA,	June 2003
<p>18. Control sale of weed species</p> <p>Use the provisions of the <i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</i> to control the sale and distribution of weeds that have the potential to further invade areas of Victoria.</p> <p>(coordinate with Objective 2 – Strategic Action 3)</p>	NRE	Industry sector organisations, VCMC, Victorian community	June 2003 Ongoing
<p>19. Manage weeds on public land</p> <p>Continue to help protect private land from weed invasions from public land through the Good Neighbour Program.</p> <p>Protect the highest priority value areas on public land threatened by weeds through appropriate resource allocation and management.</p>	Public land managers	VCMC, CMA, municipalities	Ongoing

*Objective 7 – Facilitate market mechanisms to stimulate on-farm weed control.*

Strategic Action	Key Responsibility	Partners	Timeframes
<p>20. Reduce prices of contaminated produce</p> <p>Review farm produce pricing schedules using Quality Assurance (QA) processes to ensure prices reflect weed contamination.</p> <p>Prevent sale without a permit, of produce contaminated with noxious weeds.</p>	<p>Agricultural commodity processors and marketers</p> <p>NRE</p>	<p>Landowners, VCMC, VFF, NRE</p> <p>Landowners</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>21. Assess the use of vendor statements</p> <p>Consult with industry and local government to review opportunities for the use of vendor statements to alert land purchasers to potential weed problems.</p>	<p>VCMC</p>	<p>NRE, CMAs, municipalities, VFF, landowners</p>	<p>December 2002</p>
<p>22. Promote Environmental Management Systems (EMS)</p> <p>Promote the development and adoption by agricultural industries of EMS frameworks that consider weed management.</p>	<p>VCMC, VFF</p>	<p>CMAs, NRE, industry groups and organisations</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

**Goal 3** A Victorian community that is fully aware of the economic, social and environmental impacts and threat of weeds, and has the knowledge to act to minimise their damage.

*Objective 8 – Inform Victorians of the current and potential losses caused by weeds and what actions they can take to reduce these losses.*

Strategic Action	Key Responsibility	Partners	Timeframes
<p>23. Maintain community education and extension programs</p> <p>Use education and extension programs to inform Victorians of the impacts of weeds, their responsibilities for managing weeds and appropriate courses of action.</p> <p>Review existing and develop innovative education and extension programs to ensure effective information exchange</p>	<p>NRE</p>	<p>VCMC, CMAs, Landcare and community groups, ASI</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

*Objective 9 – Understand community commitment to weed management.*

Strategic Action	Key Responsibility	Partners	Timeframes
<p>24. Assess community awareness, attitudes, knowledge and practices.</p> <p>Regularly assess land, water and resource managers, Landcare, industry and environmental groups and the wider community to determine their level of understanding and commitment to weed management.</p>	NRE	CMAAs, VCMC, VFF, Landcare groups, municipalities, community groups	Ongoing, next survey by October 2002
<p>25. Determine community 'drivers and barriers'</p> <p>Continue to conduct social research projects that will provide information on community 'drivers and barriers' in relation to weed management.</p>	NRE	CMAAs, universities, Landcare groups	Ongoing, survey by October 2002

*Objective 10 – Align research into the development of cost-effective and sustainable weed management practices with the needs of the 'Weed Management Strategy' and Regional Weed Action Plans.*

Strategic Action	Key Responsibility	Partners	Timeframes
<p>26. Implement five-year research plan</p> <p>Review and implement the endorsed recommendations of the weed management five-year research plan.</p>	NRE	VCMC, CRC, VFF, Landcare, community and industry groups and organisations, municipalities	June 2003
<p>27. Undertake research into sustainable weed management</p> <p>Use economic and environmental triggers to secure co-investment.</p>	NRE, CRC, ASI	Universities, municipalities, industry groups and organisations, landowners	Ongoing
<p>28. Protect biodiversity</p> <p>Link weed management to biodiversity management programs.</p>	NRE, Parks Victoria	Municipalities, Landcare and community groups, Greening Australia	Ongoing, review December 2002
<p>29. Strengthen weed science in universities</p> <p>Encourage and support weed science and management research in universities.</p>	NRE, CRC	RIRCs, universities	Ongoing

*Objective 11 – Develop and provide education and training programs to ensure the use of cost-effective and sustainable weed management.*

Strategic Action	Key Responsibility	Partners	Timeframes
<p>30. Strengthen post-secondary education in weed management</p> <p>Ensure curricula reflect current strategic weed management principles.</p> <p>Strengthen links between NRE and universities.</p>	TAFE, universities	NRE, CRC, VFF, industry groups and organisations, land managers	Ongoing,  review June 2003
<p>31. Provide technical training</p> <p>Provide training in 'best practice' weed management techniques.</p> <p>Promote the need for all weed managers to undertake appropriate training and to hold an Agricultural Chemical Users Permit (ACUP) when necessary.</p>	Accredited training providers	NRE, CRC, TAFE, Department of Education Employment and Training, municipalities, ASI	Ongoing
<p>32. Develop national competency standards</p> <p>Participate in the development of national standards for weed management competencies and develop appropriate training courses.</p>	NRE	TAFE, CRC, universities, Commonwealth Government, land managers	December 2002
<p>33. Include weed management in the property management planning program</p> <p>Develop the weed management components of the property management and industry extension programs to give strong emphasis to the role of effective weed management as a component of sustainable land use.</p>	NRE	TAFE, accredited training providers, RIRCs, landowners, industry groups and organisations	Components in place by December 2002

## Goal 4 Effective working partnerships built for progressive weed management.

### Objective 12 – Integrate weed management into sustainable resource management.

Strategic Action	Key Responsibility	Partners	Timeframes
<p>34. Implement Regional Weed Action Plans</p> <p>Review Regional Weed Action Plans in accordance with this Strategy, implement and further integrate recommended actions with other resource management programs.</p>	CMAAs	NRE, Landcare groups, municipalities, community groups, Parks Victoria, industry groups and organisations, VFF	Ongoing
<p>35. Target grants</p> <p>Encourage projects that integrate weed management into a long-term sustainable resource management approach through Second Generation Landcare and other funding sources.</p>	CMAAs, Parks Victoria	VCMC, NRE, Landcare groups	Ongoing, review December 2002
<p>36. Review natural resource legislation</p> <p>Review the legislation that governs land, water and resource management to ensure that an efficient, holistic approach is taken to natural resource management.</p>	Government	NRE, VCMC	December 2004
<p>37. Plan weed management</p> <p>Identify 'high value' areas and determine the risk posed to them by weeds. Ensure weed control is a component of long-term sustainable management of public land.</p> <p>On private land include weed management as a key component of property management plans.</p> <p>Prepare roadside and linear reserve plans that integrate weed control into overall vegetation management and that define the responsibilities of agencies that use the land.</p>	NRE, Parks Victoria	VCMC, CMAAs, municipalities, landowners, Roadsides Conservation Advisory Committee, VicRoads, utility companies, VTrack, VFF, industry groups and organisations, Landcare groups.	Ongoing, review by June 2003

*Objective 13 – Establish roles for and linkages between those with responsibility for weed management.*

Strategic Action	Key Responsibility	Partners	Timeframes
<p>38. Reinforce landowner responsibility</p> <p>Reinforce the understanding that weed management is the responsibility of every landowner.</p> <p>Encourage cooperative action through the implementation of Regional Weed Action Plans and the funding of community projects.</p>	<p>Landowners, NRE, Parks Victoria, CMAs</p>	<p>Municipalities, Landcare groups, VFF</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>39. Explain shared-investment principles</p> <p>Improve community understanding of the established cost sharing guidelines of Regional Weed Action Plans and Regional Catchment Strategies.</p> <p>Improve community understanding of the principles for shared-investment between Government and those managing land and water resources.</p>	<p>NRE</p>	<p>VCMC, CMAs, Landcare and community groups, VFF, municipalities</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>40. Involve local government</p> <p>Develop an agreed understanding of the role of local government in weed management. This includes establishing the place of rate incentives and planning controls in encouraging sustainable weed management.</p>	<p>VCMC</p>	<p>CMAs, NRE, municipalities</p>	<p>Ongoing, review December 2002</p>

*Objective 14 – Build on existing communication channels to ensure effective flow of information.*

Strategic Action	Key Responsibility	Partners	Timeframes
<p>41. Promote participation in weed mapping</p> <p>Develop tools and guidelines to support the involvement of the community, State and local government and utility companies in weed mapping.</p> <p>Develop web-based tools.</p>	NRE	VCMC, CMAs, CRC, municipalities, Landcare, industry and community groups, universities, utility companies, VicRoads, VTrack	review December 2002
<p>42. Develop communication framework</p> <p>Devise a communication framework to aid effective information transfer between all stakeholders in weed management.</p>	NRE	VCMC, CMAs, municipalities, Landcare and community groups, VFF, industry groups and organisations, landowners, ASI, Victorian community	December 2002

*Objective 15 – Facilitate stakeholder input into weed management.*

Strategic Action	Key Responsibility	Partners	Timeframes
<p>43. Improve community involvement in weed management</p> <p>Continue to invite community comment on all aspects of weed management.</p> <p>Continue to encourage the community to nominate projects to the Good Neighbour Program where weed infestations on public land threaten private land programs.</p> <p>Support local government and community groups in the development of participatory management programs on public and private land.</p>	NRE, Parks Victoria	VCMC, CMAs, municipalities, Landcare and community groups, VFF, industry groups and organisations, landowners, ASI	Ongoing
<p>44. Consult with industry</p> <p>Consult with the nursery, landscaping, seed and rural contracting industries and farm groups to ensure flow of information and to enable effective implementation of restrictions on the sales of plants and seeds and the movement of livestock, equipment, produce, gravel and soil.</p>	NRE	VCMC, CMAs, VFF, industry groups and organisations, Victorian community, ASI	Ongoing

*Objective 16 – Ensure ongoing coordinated management of weed problems within Victoria.*

Strategic Action	Key Responsibility	Partners	Timeframes
<p>45. Coordinate weed management</p> <p>Coordinate weed management planning, implementation and reporting across all private and public land in the State through the implementation of the Regional Weed Action Plans.</p> <p>Recognise that integrated projects require deliberate management to be effective.</p>	NRE, CMAs	VCMC, municipalities, community groups, Landcare groups	Ongoing
<p>46. Resolve conflicts</p> <p>Establish a process for resolving conflicts where there are competing interests in the community concerning plant species that have both useful and weed attributes.</p>	VCMC	NRE, CMAs	December 2002
<p>47. Encourage innovative weed management</p> <p>Continue to stimulate the development of strategic, innovative, cost-effective approaches to weed management while strengthening links between municipalities, Catchment Management Authorities and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment.</p>	VCMC	CMAs, NRE, municipalities, CRC	Ongoing

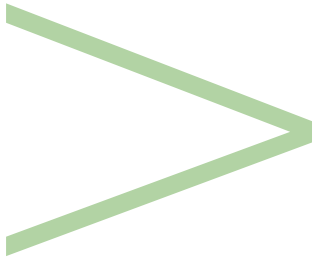
## Goal 5 Continuous improvement through review and evaluation.

*Objective 17 – Review the Weeds Strategy component of the VPMF after three years.*

Strategic Action	Key Responsibility	Partners	Timeframes
48. Evaluate weed management Evaluate the effectiveness and appropriateness of the 'Weed Management Strategy' and identify areas for improvement.	NRE	VCMC, CMAs, municipalities, Landcare and community groups, VFF, industry groups and organisations, Victorian community	June 2005
49. Report on weed management Report annually on the progress in implementing the 'Weed Management Strategy'.	NRE, VCMC	CMAs, municipalities, Landcare and community groups, VFF, industry groups and organisations, Victorian community	Annually

*Objective 18 – Monitor, evaluate and report on projects that implement the strategic actions.*

Strategic Action	Key Responsibility	Partners	Timeframes
50. Report annually on projects Ensure monitoring and evaluation components are included in all project plans.	NRE	VCMC, CMAs	Annually



## Glossary

These abbreviations have been used throughout the Strategy

AFFA	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia
AQIS	Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
ASI	Agricultural service industries (includes chemical companies, resellers and contractors)
CMAs	Catchment Management Authorities
CRC	Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management
EA	Environment Australia (Department of the Environment and Heritage)
NRE	Department of Natural Resources and Environment
RIRCs	Rural Industry Research Corporations
TAFE	Technical and Further Education
VCMC	Victorian Catchment Management Council
VFF	Victorian Farmers Federation



