

Roadside Weeds & Pests Program Control Plan

Municipality Details

Council Name: Colac Otway Shire Council

Key Contact Name: Anneke Martin / Liza Kennedy

Position: Environment Officer / Environment Project
Support Officer

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Regional Context of Noxious Weed and Pest Animal Management

The Colac Otway Shire is located in the southwest of Victoria and covers approximately 3,400 square kilometres. It contains both significant and diverse environmental values, from the rugged coastline and tranquil temperate rainforests of the Great Otway National Park, to the endangered grasslands and volcanic lakes and craters of the Victorian Volcanic Plain.

The Otway Ranges and Plains characterise the southern half of the shire, where a large proportion of the land is National Park and Forest Park. In contrast, much of the north of the Shire is used for agriculture, with farming, cropping and dairying being the main agricultural activities. The Shire has two main townships; Colac, the largest and major service town where most community support and health services, retail trade and manufacturing businesses are located, and Apollo Bay on the Great Ocean Road, which serves as the major tourism centre. Dotted throughout the Shire are many small and historic towns, many with active community associations.

Colac Otway Shire Council (Council) is responsible for the management of approximately 1,600km of local road network (equating to 3,200km of roadside). Due to the size of the Shire, the diversity of the roadside vegetation values, the extent of weed infestations and the limited funding available, Council uses a strategic asset-based model to prioritise the management of roadside weeds. Three approaches are used under this model. The first is the control of weeds located on high conservation value roadsides, the second is the control of high priority emergent weeds, and the third is the support of community group efforts to control declared noxious weeds.

Control of weeds located on high conservation value roadsides

The majority of the funding is used to control weeds on road reserves of high conservation value. To identify these road reserves, Council has used its biodiversity database that has been prepared by a qualified independent botanist, using the Roadside Conservation Advisory Committee method. Road reserves are assessed as being of Very High, High, Medium or Low conservation value, and then ranked in a priority order that reflects both their conservation value and their strategic management value. For example, those roads that adjoin other roads or land being managed by another government agency or environmental group rank more highly.

Council then treats as many roads as this portion of the funding permits, with the view to improve the quality of the existing native vegetation, and therefore enhance habitat and wildlife corridors throughout the Shire. This program involves ongoing data capture of weed species presence and treatments. This enables Council to stay informed of weed infestations and prioritise roads and weed species accordingly for inclusion in the following year's Weed

Roadside Weeds & Pests Program Control Plan

Management Program.

Control of high priority emergent weeds

Another portion of the funding is used to identify and treat high priority emergent weeds. Council draws on weed infestation records of new and emergent weeds maintained by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), through its networks with other agencies and environmental groups, and distinct small-scale mapping projects undertaken by Council itself, to plan and deliver these works.

Support of community group efforts to control declared noxious weeds

Another portion of the funding is used to support Landcare and other environment group efforts to target declared noxious weeds, where there has been a demonstrated group effort within a defined target area.

Through past State Government funding initiatives and on-going partnerships, Council has worked towards protecting and enhancing approximately 1600km of roadside vegetation with conservation value (approx. 800km of roads) through the control of Regionally Prohibited and Regionally Controlled weeds. Approximately 40km of roadsides have been protected from the impact of rabbits.

The support of the State Government has enabled Council to treat severe infestations of Regionally Controlled weeds such as Blackberry, which is found throughout the Shire and threatens the quality of the Great Otway National Park and surrounding Forest Parks, and Gorse, which threatens agricultural land. Important work to tackle emergent weed species such as Broom species and Cape Tulip (two-leaf) is also underway, enabled by this funding. While these weeds and others will present on-going management issues for years to come, the State Government's support has helped Council to minimise the spread of these infestations.

Community Consultation

Council stays informed of priorities for weed and rabbit management through a number of formal and informal avenues. The Environment Officer convenes regular meetings of the Weeds Consultative Committee (WCC), a group representing local agencies including:

- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)
- Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR)
- Parks Victoria
- Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
- VicRoads
- Otway Coast Committee
- Greening Australia, and
- Landcare Groups (including the Upper Barwon Landcare Network, Southern Otway Landcare Network, Lismore Land Protection Group, and Barongarook Landcare Group).

The function of the WCC is to plan for and aid in the implementation of Council's current and future weed management strategies and projects. The focus is to manage weeds within Colac Otway Shire and to ensure that the risk of spreading weeds through council works is minimised. The WCC also provides a forum to identify opportunities for collaborative projects, and to share weed-related knowledge and resources amongst members. Within this context the objectives of the WCC are:

1. To develop a cohesive working relationship through improved communications between land managers.
2. To assist strategic decisions on Colac Otway Shire resource allocations for weed management.
3. To ensure a more coordinated approach to identifying, prioritising and managing emergent weed issues.
4. To advise Colac Otway Shire's work practices to prevent the spread of existing weeds and minimise the risk of introducing new or potential weeds.
5. To reduce the impact of existing noxious and environmental weeds, and Weeds of National Significance.
6. To protect and enhance biodiversity and the natural resource base.
7. To support and implement actions within existing documents and policies where applicable.
8. To actively approach council and other stakeholders for additional funding for weed control.

Roadside Weeds & Pests Program Control Plan

Council attends pest plant and animal meetings with neighbouring councils when they arise, which helps to align priorities and better understand encroaching threats and neighbouring community priorities. Frequent informal communication with pest plant and animal contractors also provides insight in to management activities being undertaken around the Shire by public and private land managers.

Council often receives verbal and written correspondence from community members concerned about weed infestations. The Environment Officer records the details of correspondence in a spreadsheet to help identify weed hotspots, and subsequently guide and justify future investment towards these areas where appropriate.

Stakeholder Consultation

Key stakeholders who have been consulted in the development of this plan:

- Andrew Gray, Facilitator – Central Otways Landcare Network
- Anna Carrucan, Project Officer – Greening Australia
- Anthony Alfirenko, Executive Officer - Otway Coast Committee
- John Tunn, Safety, Environment & Quality Officer - VicRoads
- Robert Bendon, Forest Management & Roding Officer, Otways – Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
- Ryan Cooke, Biosecurity Manager Plants, Chemicals & Invasive Species – Agriculture Victoria (DEDJTR)
- Craig Clutterbuck, Leading Biosecurity Officer - Agriculture Victoria (DEDJTR)
- Gary Summers, Ranger – Western Otways – Parks Victoria
- Ian Lane, President – Barongarook Landcare Group
- Karen O'Keefe, Regional Landcare Facilitator – Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
- Sarah Brien, Project Officer – Upper Barwon Landcare Network
- Mark Robinson, Team Leader Parks & Gardens – Colac Otway Shire
- Libby Riches, Landcare Manager – Southern Otway Landcare Network
- Rod Eldridge, Landcare Facilitator – Lismore Land Protection Group
- Chris Smith, Councillor – Colac Otway Shire

Relevant Local, Regional Policies and Strategies and submissions

State

- *Invasive Plants and Animal Policy Framework*

Regional

- *Corangamite Invasive Plant and Animal Management Strategy*

Local

- *Colac Otway Shire Council's Environment Strategy 2010-2018*
- *Colac Otway Shire Council's Environment Action Plan 2016-2018*
- *Colac Otway Shire Council's Roadside Environmental Management Plan (in draft stage)*

Objectives of the Plan

In participating in the Roadside Weeds and Pests Program funded by DELWP, Council's objective is to strengthen its existing roadside weed and pest management programs. Strategic use of the funds to complement past

Roadside Weeds & Pests Program Control Plan

investments made by Council and State Government will help Council work towards improving the quality of remnant roadside vegetation through effective and proactive management of invasive species. This in turn will assist with preventing the establishment and spread of invasive plant and animal species across the Shire and the region.

Management activities will at all times reflect Council's existing strategic asset-based approach, which is to:

- Prioritise the management of weeds located on roads with conservation value;
- Target high priority emergent weeds on Council-managed roads; and
- Support coordinated Landcare and other environment group efforts to control Declared Noxious Weeds.

Investment of funds will be aligned to DEDJTR priorities:

1. Treatment of Regionally Prohibited weeds on Council roadsides.
2. Containment or reduction in area of Regionally Controlled weeds and rabbits aligned to the DEDJTR weed and rabbit compliance project areas where possible.
3. Continuing the treatment of Regionally Controlled and Regionally Prohibited Weeds and rabbits managed as part of previous control plans.
4. Supporting Landcare and other community group investment in weed and pest control projects where those projects align with Council's strategic approach outlined above.
5. Addressing roadside Restricted Weed infestations that are of concern to the community or are a threat to agricultural or environmental assets, where they align with Council's strategic approach outlined above.
6. Mapping infestations of Regionally Controlled weeds and pests in line with Council's strategic approach outlined above.

Term of the Plan

The plan will run for a two year period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2019.

Funding

- RWPP allocation – \$37,288 per year
- Council contribution – \$10,000 per year (estimate)
- Council in-kind contribution for project management – \$12,000 per year (estimate)

Roadside Weeds & Pests Program Control Plan

Table 1: Target Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	CaLP classification	PRIORITY RATING (1 highest – 4 lowest)	Reasons for Management
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Established Pest Animal	1	- To support DEDJTR compliance program and complement works on private and public land.
Serrated Tussock	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>	Regionally Controlled Weeds	1	- To support DEDJTR compliance programs
Cape Tulip (two-leaf)	<i>Moraea miniata</i>	Regionally Prohibited	1	- To address newly-identified threat.
Ragwort	<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	- To support previous investment by Council and the State government. - To support community action. - In response to frequent ratepayer requests
Gorse	<i>Urex europaeus</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	- To support previous investment by Council and the State government. - To support community and stakeholder action.
Broom species (Flax-leaf, Scotch & Montpellier)	<i>Genista linifolia, Cytisus scoparius & Genista monspessulana</i>	Regionally Controlled Weeds	2	- To support previous investment by Council and the State government. - To support stakeholder action.
Hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	- In response to frequent ratepayer requests.

Roadside Weeds & Pests Program Control Plan

<i>Fennel</i>	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	<i>Regionally Controlled Weed</i>	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>In response to frequent ratepayer requests.</i> - <i>To support community and stakeholder action.</i>
<i>Boxthorn</i>	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	<i>Regionally Controlled Weed</i>	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>To support previous investment by Council and the State government.</i> - <i>To support community and stakeholder action.</i>
<i>St John's Wort</i>	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	<i>Regionally Controlled Weeds</i>	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>To support historic investment by Council and the State government.</i> - <i>To support stakeholder action.</i> - <i>To address newly-identified threat.</i>
<i>Blackberry</i>	<i>Rubus fruticosus (agg.)</i>	<i>Regionally Controlled Weed</i>	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>To support DEDJTR compliance programs.</i> - <i>To support previous investment by Council and the State government.</i> - <i>In response to frequent ratepayer requests</i>
<i>Asparagus Fern</i>	<i>Asparagus scandens</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>To support previous investment by Council and the State government.</i> - <i>To support community and stakeholder action.</i>
<i>Chilean Needle Grass</i>	<i>Nassella neesiana</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>To support stakeholder action.</i> - <i>To address newly-identified threat.</i>

Roadside Weeds & Pests Program Control Plan

Table 2: Control Measures and Target Roadsides (this table can be used as part of Council's yearly or acquittal report to LGV)

Common Name*	Control Measures (to be based on accepted best practice management of the target species)	Location of where works will be done (location of proposed works should be specified, and a map where possible should accompany the plan)	Estimate of length of roadside to be treated annually over 2 years (Km = length of road along which both sides are treated. Where only one side is treated halve the figure)	Approximate Annual Timing of Treatment	Estimated Cost ²
<i>Rabbit</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Fumigate and collapse burrows/warrens</i> - <i>Where appropriate, mechanical ripping of warrens</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Roadsides around Alvie and Beeac, and/or within future DEDJTR compliance areas.</i> 	30km	<i>Oct - March</i>	\$1,500
<i>Serrated Tussock</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Monitor to identify, map and treat new plants encroaching on Shire land from the north, and from previous containment areas and historic roadside sites</i> - <i>Mapping will capture key data in alignment with the National Core Attributes for Weed Mapping</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Roadsides in Cressy and Wingeel areas.</i> 	N/A	<i>Immediately if plant/s are found</i>	\$1,000
<i>Ragwort</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Roadsides predominantly around Johanna, Marengo, Apollo Bay, Gellibrand, Upper Gellibrand, and Kowarren.</i> 	60km	<i>Throughout the year, but target especially from November - April when seeding</i>	\$7,000
<i>Gorse</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label</i> - <i>Mechanical removal where herbicide application is inappropriate</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Roadsides predominantly around Murroon and Whoorel.</i> 	30km	<i>Cut and paint any time of year. Spot-spray any time of year, but</i>	\$4,000

Roadside Weeds & Pests Program Control Plan

				<i>especially target from October - March.</i>	
Broom species (Flax-leaf, Scotch & Montpellier)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label - Cut and paint adult plants with a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roadsides predominantly around Barongarook, Barongarook West, Coram, Irrewillipe East and Yeodene. 	50km	English Broom: May – Nov Flax-leaf Broom: Mar - Sept Cape Broom: Jun - Nov	\$7,000
Hemlock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roadsides north of the Princes Highway. 	No mapping available yet. Will target approx. 75km of roadsides.	May - Oct	\$2,500
Cape Tulip (two-leaf)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roadsides north of the Princes Highway. 	No mapping available yet. Will target approx. 75km of roadsides.	June - Nov	\$650
Fennel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roadsides north of the Princes Highway. 	No mapping available yet. Will target approx. 75km of roadsides.	Aug - Oct	\$650
Boxthorn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label - Cut and paint adult plants with a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roadsides north of the Princes Highway. 	Will target approx. 75km of roadsides.	Sept - May	\$650
St John's Wort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roadsides north of the Princes Highway. 	No mapping available yet. Will target approx. 75km of roadsides.	Sept - Nov	\$650

Roadside Weeds & Pests Program Control Plan

Blackberry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label - Mechanical removal where herbicide application is inappropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roadsides predominantly around Irrewillipe, Barongarook, Barwon Downs, Gellibrand, Kawarren, Forrest, Beech Forest, Lavers Hill, Johanna, Apollo Bay and Skenes Creek. 	400km	Oct - April	\$18,000
Asparagus Fern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roadsides predominantly around Wye River, Separation Creek, and Apollo Bay. 	No mapping available yet. Will target approx. 100km of roadsides.	Mar - Aug	\$2,000
Chilean Needle Grass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roadsides north of the Princes Highway. 	No mapping available yet. Will target approx. 75km of roadsides.	Oct - Jan	\$2000
TOTAL					\$47,600

²Council does not yet have adequate mapping for some target species to accurately estimate the cost of treating these species. Funds will be reallocated if necessary, and/or in the event that high priority species were detected or where new programs were commenced to support community DEDJTR objectives in alignment with Council's strategic approach.

N.B. Council's estimated annual contribution of \$10,000 is factored in to Table 2. These funds are allocated for Council to treat the same target weeds on additional municipal roadsides, in alignment with the priorities stipulated in this plan. These funds also cover Council's commitment to treat those high threat environmental weeds that are not listed under the CaLP Act but that need to be treated to protect the quality of our high conservation roadsides. These funds are subject to annual budget review.

Roadside Weeds & Pests Program Control Plan

Maps

Map 1 Proposed location of control works.

Map 2 Known infestations of Regionally Prohibited Weeds, Regionally Controlled Weeds and Established Pest Animals and Restricted Weeds.

Statement of Responsibilities

Council will:

- Publish this approved plan (or approved variation to this plan if relevant) on its website within 28 days of approval and ensure copies are available for public inspection at Council's office/s.
- Coordinate the implementation of this plan on Council managed roadsides in accordance with the investment principles stated in this plan and the control measures specified in Table 2.
- Implement best practice weed hygiene principles and protocols.
- Maintain accurate records sufficient to provide evidence that the plan has been carried out and provide these to Local Government Victoria on request.
- Obtain approval from DEDJTR before substantially modifying or varying the plan.
- Carefully consider any proposals from DEDJTR to modify or vary the plan in response to changed circumstances.

Provide a completion report to Local Government Victoria within 30 days from expiry of this plan outlining the outcomes of the control measures undertaken.

DEDJTR Endorsement

I declare that I am an authorised representative and that this plan has been reviewed and aligns with eligible activities.

DEDJTR Regional Manager - Plants, Chemicals & Invasive Species

Name: *Ryan Cooke*

Signature: *Ryan Cooke*

Date: *15/2/17*

Declaration

I declare that I am an authorised representative and the information given on this form is complete and correct

Key Contact Name: Anneke Martin

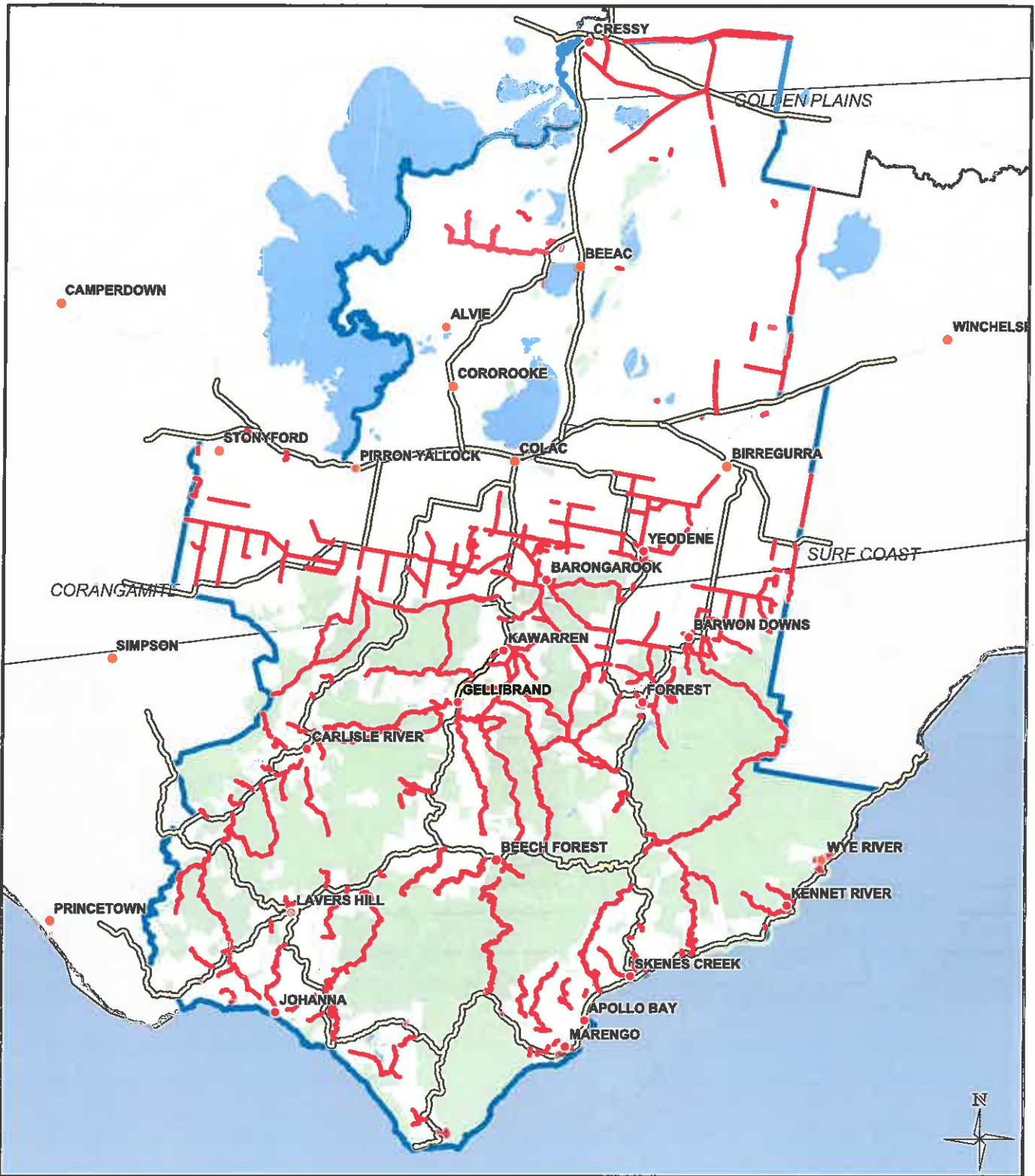
Date: 19/02/2018

Signature: *Anneke Martin*

Council CEO Name: Mr Tony McGann

Date: 19/02/2018

Signature: *AMC*



Map 1. Proposed location of control work

Cadastral Information from Land Victoria,
Department of Sustainability & Environment.

Disclaimer Note

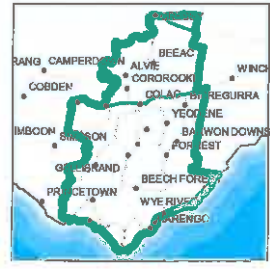
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Overview Map



LEGEND

- TARGET MUNICIPAL ROADS
- VICROADS ROADS

MAP SCALE = 1 : 450159

