

BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

WEEDS STRATEGY

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This document is a result of the community workshops in the Bega Valley Shire initiated by the Bega Valley Shire Council and endorsed by the Voluntary Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy Management Team formed by a South East Catchment Management Board Task Group, NSW Agriculture, Rural Lands Protection Board, Department of Land and Water Conservation, National Parks and Wildlife Service, State Forests and Far South Coast Landcare Association.

Terry Irwin capably facilitated all the Workshops.

Cover illustration by Max Campbell

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ACRONYMS

BVSC	Bega Valley Shire Council
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DLWC	Department of Land and Water Conservation
NHT	Natural Heritage Trust
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NSW Ag	NSW Agriculture
NWAC	Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee
RLPB	Rural Lands Protection Board
SECMB	South East Catchment Management Board
Weeds CRC	Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management

BEGA VALLEY SHIRE WEEDS STRATEGY

Background

The National Weeds Strategy defines a weed as

"a plant that has, or has the potential to have, a detrimental effect on economic, social or conservation values."

A weed is simply a plant out of place. A plant is usually considered a weed when it interferes with beneficial uses of land or water, displaces desirable or native plants, or affects human and animal health. Weeds aggressively compete for moisture, nutrients, space and sunlight with surrounding plants. They are spread by dispersal of seeds or plant parts by wind, water, animals, machinery and people.

Many weeds produce abundant seeds with barbs, hooks or other attaching devices that facilitate adherence to people, animals or equipment. With society becoming increasingly mobile, weed seeds can and do travel great distances quickly. Weeds usually become established and advance along roadways and river corridors. Some weeds have been spread through ill-advised horticultural and home garden plantings. Others have been inadvertently introduced through planting of contaminated pasture and crop seeds, the feeding of weed seed contaminated forage to livestock, on vehicles, or other machinery.

Throughout this document the term **weed** refers to both noxious and environmental weeds affecting economic, social and/or conservation values.

Noxious weeds have been proclaimed under the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*, generally because they are serious economic pests, toxic to stock or a danger to human health. There is a legal requirement on landowners to control these weeds. The species listed as noxious vary between different parts of NSW. A list of the species noxious in the Bega Valley Shire can be obtained from the website www.agric.nsw.gov.au/noxweed/

There are several categories of noxious weeds:

- W1 weeds must be continuously suppressed and destroyed, and Council must be notified within three days of detection of the plant on a property (eg. water hyacinth),
- W2 weeds must be continuously suppressed and destroyed (eg. St John's wort),
- W3 weeds are widespread species whose total destruction is impractical. Landholders are required to prevent their spread, and reduce numbers to the satisfaction of Council (eg. blackberry, bitou bush),
- Actions required for W4 weeds vary. Some (eg. willows) must not be propagated or sold, but there is no legal requirement to remove existing plants.

Environmental weeds are plants which invade native plant communities, and that may replace native plants and cause the loss of habitat for native animals. Some environmental weeds have been declared noxious (such as bitou bush), but most have not. A plant may be both an agricultural and an environmental weed, depending on where it is growing.

Introduction

This Weeds Strategy is based on the ideas, strategies and recommendations from each of the local area community consultations. Four community groups took part in the development of this Strategy. This document is a direct result of their energy, enthusiasm and commitment to weed control.

The goals and objectives grew out of the first and second round of meetings, while the third round provided the Facilitator with the objectives/strategies and actions, which form the basis of this document.

Given the consensus of ideas across all the groups, the Strategy does not identify from which local community group particular objectives/strategies or actions originated. The objectives are not prioritised. The Facilitator applauds those members of the community who persisted in attending difficult and demanding meetings to produce this Strategy.

The Strategy addresses the principles of the South East Catchment Blueprint, an initiative of the South East Catchment Management Board. Community members and agencies acknowledge their responsibilities for sound resource management through targeted action, the development and implementation of integrated weed management programs leading to the reduction and control of weeds. Identified Shire strategies and local actions fit within the wider catchment targets of the Blueprint.

The community consultation process leading to the development of this Strategy was partly funded by a grant from the Natural Heritage Trust. NSW Agriculture provided assistance throughout the process and other agencies, including the Rural Lands Protection Board, Department of Land and Water Conservation, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Far South Coast Landcare Association and State Forests have given freely of their time and support. All agencies have made a commitment to work cooperatively, largely as a result of the Voluntary Biological Diversity Conservation Strategy developed by a South East Catchment Management Board Task Group. The Weeds/Biodiversity Working Group, composed of agency representatives and private landholders, reported directly to the VBDCS Management Team, which strongly supported the community consultation process.

The community groups identified seven goals for which strategies and actions were identified. Council's Weeds Team, community groups and agencies involved in the process then identified responsibilities, actions and completion dates.

Outcomes

There are six desired outcomes for this Strategy:

1. to heighten awareness among the community of the risk to the Shire's biodiversity, aesthetic values, and economic viability caused by the explosive spread of weeds;
2. to allow the efficient use of private and public resources to halt or slow the spread of weeds throughout the Bega Valley Shire and thus reduce the ecological, economic and social impacts of weeds;
3. to lead to the definition of objectives and performance indicators that will allow the monitoring, evaluation, and adaptation of action plans;
4. to provide the community with clear lines of accountability;
5. to adopt strategies providing incentives for landholders taking prompt and effective action to control and eradicate weeds, and finally,
6. to maintain and enhance cooperation between Council, agencies and individuals to achieve positive weed management outcomes across the landscape, regardless of land tenure.

Summary of Goals

Goal I

Funding

Develop stable, consistent funding dedicated to weeds.

Goal II

Early Detection and Control of New Invaders

Prevent and treat new noxious and environmental weed introductions.

Goal III

Commitment and Cooperation

Increase cooperative and coordinated actions by the community and agencies in the Shire to maximise the effectiveness of money and time being used to manage and/or eradicate weeds.

Goal IV

Control of Current Weeds

Develop and promote sustainable, cost-effective management systems for the control of weeds that are already present in the Shire.

Goal V

Leadership and Planning

Extend planning and prioritising to allocate limited resources and provide direction for implementation of programs and projects. Establish effective planning procedures that take account of the special requirements of local differences while integrating weed management into sustainable resource management.

Goal VI

Education, Awareness and Communication

Encourage a well-informed community with a good understanding of weed issues as such a community will be confident in making management decisions for the benefit of the whole Shire.

Goal VII

The Need for On-Going Research

Provide direction and support for research into the development of cost-effective and sustainable weed management practices.

GOALS

For each goal, strategies and actions have been identified. These are detailed below. Following each action is the agency, agencies and/or community groups responsible and the dates by which each action is to be achieved. The coordinating agency/group is listed first.

I Funding

Rationale

Stable, consistent funding dedicated to weed control is required. Weed management is not a short-term affair and consequently needs consistent funding to allow coordination, planning and implementation of projects to effectively manage weeds. Assured on-going funding will largely influence the success of the Shire's weed control program.

Goal I

Funding

Develop stable, consistent funding dedicated to weeds.

Strategies/ Objectives

1. Explore funding opportunities to enhance BVSC's integrated weed management strategy

ACTION

a. Lobby relevant authorities (including NHT)

BVSC, Landcare, SECMB	On-going
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b. Investigate non-government sources of funding

Community	30/06/03
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c. Council to make a submission to NHT to remove discrimination in accessing NHT funding for weed control

BVSC, Landcare, SECMB	31/12/03
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d. Lobby Council for a share in the proposed environmental levy to be set aside for control of environmental weeds

BVSC, SECMB, community	ASAP
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2. Develop quantitative goals for the allocation of resources

ACTION

a. Ensure proposed weed management programs match available funding

BVSC	On-going
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3. Consistently lobby politicians at all levels regarding the weed problem and the need for extra funding

ACTION

a. Lobby relevant authorities (including NHT)

b. Lobby for a commensurate increase in funding for each new declared weed

State Weed Control Coordinator, NSW Ag, Regional Weeds Committees	On-going
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II Early Detection and Control of New Invaders

Rationale

Prevention and treatment of new weed introductions is the most successful, cost effective and least environmentally damaging means of control. If new invasive weeds are allowed to go unchecked, economic losses will exceed the present control costs of eradication or containment by several orders of magnitude. After introduction of a new invasive plant, there is a short period of opportunity for eradication and containment. Once permanently established, a new invader becomes a long-term management problem.

Goal II

Early Detection and Control of New Invaders

Prevent and treat new noxious and environmental weed introductions.

Strategies/ Objectives

1. Develop and implement a contingency plan for early detection and rapid response to new invaders

ACTION

- a. Identify likely newcomers
- b. Action plans to be developed to enable early treatment of infestation

BVSC	30/06/02
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2. Early identification of new weeds

ACTION

- a. Train field people in weed identification

BVSC	In place, on-going
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- b. Landholders be made aware of new weeds on their own and nearby properties

BVSC	Inspections, on-going
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- c. Community education plans to be implemented, see Goal VI *Education, Awareness and Communication*

- d. Identify likely invaders and publicise, see Goal VI *Education, Awareness and Communication*

3. Monitor and control new infestations to prevent the spread from infested to clean areas

ACTION

- a. Follow-up inspection after treatment
- b. Re-vegetate controlled areas
- c. Identify and develop an incentive scheme for reporting new outbreaks of weeds, see Goal V *Leadership and Planning*
- d. Lobby for funding to set up a “Weeds Hotline”
- e. Update Weed Maps
- f. Continue to monitor treated areas (twice yearly)
- g. See actions under Goal IV *Control of Current Weeds* and Goal V *Leadership and Planning*

BVSC, DLWC	On-going
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4. Identify areas of new contamination

ACTION

- a. Develop a reporting system that is inclusive of key Shire and agency staff and others who may be able to provide early identification of new weeds
- b. Report outbreaks to the wider community to alert them of a new risk
- c. Encourage community reporting of new weeds, see Goal VI *Education, Awareness and Communication*
- d. Enlist the support of Shire Council workers, the public and other authorities

BVSC	Commenced, on-going
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5. Understand how new weeds may intrude and create a Watch List

ACTION

- a. Steps need to be taken so that key participants and advisers communicate new threats and create a Watch list of the most likely weeds to threaten the Shire

NSW Ag, BVSC, NWAC	ASAP
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- b. On a regular basis, experts to create a risk assessment of weeds that might appear on the Watch list

NSW Ag	First list 30/06/02
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- c. Information produced should be shared with the wider community, see Goal VI *Education, Awareness & Communication*

- d. Draw up a list of the way new weeds might be introduced, eg. fodder, grain, contractors, plant nurseries, public authorities, etc., see Goal VI *Education, Awareness & Communication*

- e. List key authorities and individuals that might introduce new weeds

BVSC	30/06/02
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III Commitment and Cooperation

Rationale

As the weed problem becomes more widespread and acute, the need for effective coordination is critical. Scarce resources should not be wasted. Cooperation is necessary to bring together all interested and concerned parties in the Shire for the purpose of combining expertise, energy and resources to deal with common weed problems. Community based weed committees can provide an open forum for the concerns of all citizens, landowners and managers to consider and deal with the challenges of weed control and eradication.

Goal III

Commitment and Cooperation

Increase cooperative and coordinated actions by the community and agencies in the Shire to maximise the effectiveness of money and time being used to manage and/or eradicate weeds.

Strategies/ Objectives

1. Shire and agencies to demonstrate commitment to Weeds Strategy implementation

ACTION

- a. Use community groups to review outcomes and provide feedback on a regular basis to ensure accountability

BVSC	On-going
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- b. Council control/eradicate roadside weeds and maintain clean land

BVSC	On-going
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- c. Long term funding for weed control pledged by Council and NSW Agriculture

BVSC, NSW Ag	30/06/03
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- d. Council to share planned action and protocols with communities, see Goal VI *Education, Awareness & Communication.*

- e. State agencies meet commitments to manage weeds on public land, including Crown Land

Agencies	30/06/03
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2. All stakeholders and agencies come together to be involved in an integrated management program

ACTION

- a. Meet regularly (at least annually) with communities, Council staff and other agency staff to build commitment for an integrated community response to weed management

BVSC	Commenced, on-going
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- b. Look for opportunities for effective partnerships, and encourage group assistance

BVSC, Landcare, community groups	On-going
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- c. Ensure other agencies "sign off" the Weeds Strategy

BVSC, SECMB, all agencies	30/06/02
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3. Develop effective and consistent coordination of activities

ACTION

- a. Encourage regular oversight by community based weed committees to ensure consistency of effort and focus

BVSC, community	Minimum annually
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- b. Implement reporting system with appropriate database, see “Weeds Hotline” under Goal II *Early Detection and Control of New Invaders*

BVSC	Implemented March, 2002
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4. Encourage willing participants (voluntary compliance) with the objective that landowners accept their responsibilities

ACTION

- a. Develop a plan to encourage compliance by the use of both incentives and penalties, see Goal V *Leadership And Planning*

BVSC	30/06/02
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- b. Provide assistance/guidance to willing participants

BVSC, NSW Ag, DLWC	On-going
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- c. Refer to people who have succeeded in controlling difficult weeds, see Goal VI *Education, Awareness & Communication*

BVSC, NSW Ag	On-going
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5. Ensure fair and consistent enforcement

ACTION

- a. Develop protocols to meet various responses from landholders to ensure consistent enforcement

BVSC	30/10/02
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- b. Ensure follow up and continuous inspection

BVSC	30/06/02
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6. Encourage local cooperation with Shire Weeds Officers

ACTION

- a. Develop a communication system to promote the effort and success of weed control to the general community

Local weeds committees	30/10/02
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- b. Lobby Landcare group (or some individual) to be repository of information on weeds location in order to encourage reporting of weed outbreaks

Local weeds committees	ASAP
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- c. Implement a Complaints Register and ensure response to complaints within two weeks

BVSC	30/10/02
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IV Control of Current Weeds

Rationale

The desired outcome is to detect weeds quickly and then to use all treatment "tools" such as physical, mechanical, biological, herbicidal and management practices to control or eradicate the outbreak. Once the spread of a weed is halted, weed infested areas must be reclaimed and restored to a healthy and productive condition. The objective will be to restore economic productivity and/or to reduce the possible loss of habitat and erosion.

Goal IV

Control of Current Weeds

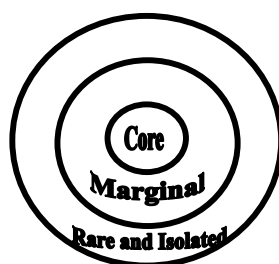
Develop and promote sustainable, cost-effective management systems for the control of weeds that are already present in the Shire.

Strategies/ Objectives

1. Weed identification and management

ACTION

- a. Accurate and easily accessed information for identification and management is needed, see Goal VI *Education, Awareness and Communication*
- b. Prioritise work by defining core, marginal, rare and isolated and clean areas, see Goal V *Leadership and Planning*



2 Adopt a new classification and priority system

ACTION

- a. Map Shire weeds by survey (with inspections to confirm and/or update findings)

BVSC, NSW Ag	Commenced March, 2002
Inspection/confirmation by BVSC	30/09/02
- b. Key weeds: African lovegrass, serrated tussock, St John's wort, new weeds, bitou bush, lantana to be mapped. Mapping categories to be designated as "Rare and Isolated", "Marginal" and "Core"
- c. Map bridal creeper and develop a management plan

DLWC	30/06/03
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- d. Map pine wildings and develop a management plan

NPWS	30/06/04
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3. Community cooperation

ACTION

- a. Work together to develop and implement catchment-wide weed control programs using broadacre and aerial spraying techniques, pasture management and rehabilitation

Community groups	On-going
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4. Roadside management

ACTION

- a. Priority to be given to rare and isolated roadside infestations to prevent further invasion and establishment of new weed species
- b. Where appropriate, establish partnerships with stakeholders
- c. Council to work with other agencies and individuals to develop an integrated and coordinated attack on target weeds to maximise efficient eradication

BVSC, DLWC	30/06/02
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- d. Investigate the 'Adopt a Road' scheme (refer to Towamba Community group) that encourages a direct input from local communities and individuals towards a shared responsibility for controlling roadside weeds. BVSC will support the community effort

BVSC, community groups	Commenced April, 2002
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- e. Trial native revegetation along roadways to better compete with weeds

BVSC, DLWC	30/06/02
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5. Encourage Shire to target major "spread" areas (eg. Saleyards, Candelo markets where visiting vehicles may pick up or deposit weeds)

ACTION

- a. Develop a suitable action plan that defines the problem, identifies the areas at risk, and implements a suitable control plan

BVSC, NSW Farmers, NSW Ag, RLPB	Commenced April, 2002
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6. Disposal of weeds

ACTION

- a. Investigate and report on alternative disposal methods

BVSC, NSW Ag	28/02/03
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7. Disinfection stations

ACTION

- a. Investigate cost effective alternatives and develop Code of Practice for Shire employees, contractors, truck operators, etc. to clean machinery and equipment between jobs, farms, etc.

BVSC	31/03/03
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- b. Develop and implement a road plant washdown procedure

BVSC	30/06/03
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8. Livestock and Transport

ACTION

- a. Develop a Code of Practice regarding weeds in conjunction with NSW Farmers, transport operators, and individual farmers
- b. Educate landowners concerning best practice for introduction of new stock onto their property

BVSC, NSW Ag	31/03/03
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9. Waterways

ACTION

- a. Encourage a community acceptance regarding the need to manage weeds in waterways and riparian zones, see Goal VI *Education, Awareness & Communication*
- b. Investigate practical and cooperative approaches and accountability for waterways
- c. Investigate legal responsibilities

BVSC, DLWC, SECMB, Landcare	30/06/03
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- d. See also actions regarding Roadside Management

10. Weed control options

ACTION

- a. Develop easily accessible information on options regarding weed control, see Goal VI *Education, Awareness & Communication*

BVSC	Commenced, 30/06/03
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11. Bulk soils and aggregates (extractive industries)

ACTION

- a. Develop a policy on extracted material used for Shire works to minimise weed dispersal
- b. Develop a weed standard to minimise weed dispersal for all Shire contracts and tenders

BVSC	31/12/02
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12. Codes of Practice

ACTION

- a. Develop Codes of Practice and best management guidelines in the following areas:

Supplementary feeding of stock
Transportation of fodder in the Shire
Resellers of grain and fodder
Contractors, agencies and others who may move from farm to farm
Landowners on the introduction of stock onto their property

NSW Ag, BVSC	31/03/03
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The extraction and use of bulk soils and aggregates

NSW Ag, BVSC	31/03/03
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Nurseries and others who sell plants or plant material

Landcare, BVSC	On-going
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V Leadership and Planning

Rationale

Leadership and organisation are required to direct cooperative weed projects and allocate limited resources. The need for leadership and planning extends to federal and state, as well as local levels to organise weed control projects, develop partnerships, provide assistance, and implement effective programs.

Goal V

Leadership and Planning

Extend planning and prioritising to allocate limited resources and provide direction for implementation of programs and projects. Establish effective planning procedures that take account of the special requirements of local differences while integrating weed management into sustainable resource management.

Strategies/ Objectives

1. Develop weed action plans including priorities for specific geographical areas

ACTION

- a. Action and work plans need to be developed for African lovegrass, serrated tussock, fireweed, St John's wort, bitou bush, lantana and "new weeds". These action plans will take into account local priorities
- b. Develop action and work plans for local areas

BVSC	30/06/02
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2. Develop and implement incentives for landholders who control weeds

ACTION

- a. Investigate incentives such as a reduction in Council rates on properties that control weeds

BVSC	30/10/02
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- b. Council to enforce buffer zone between neighbours (eg. 50m in total)
- c. Canvass the possibility of an environmental levy for weed control

BVSC	31/03/03
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3. Examine the possibility of a pre-purchase weed report for prospective buyers

ACTION

- a. Investigate and implement if appropriate

BVSC	31/03/03
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4. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Weeds Strategy

ACTION

- a. Weeds Officers to liaise with specific local weed committees and agencies

BVSC, agencies	30/06/02
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- b. Support and maintain the weeds advisory committee and the community based weed groups

BVSC	30/06/02
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- c. Review outcomes of work plans and provide feedback to the community

BVSC	30/06/03
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5. Adapt the Weeds Strategy as required

ACTION

- a. Community based weeds groups and Shire staff to adjust the Weeds Strategy in light of the evaluation of the Strategy

BVSC	28/02/03
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6. Weeds Officers to be linked to local community weeds committees

ACTION

- a. Build a closer relationship between Weeds Officers and landholders to encourage weed reporting

BVSC	ASAP
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7. Nursery sales

ACTION

- a. Work with local nurseries to develop an appropriate Code of Practice

Landcare, BVSC	30/06/03
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8. Ensure environmental weeds are considered along with other weeds

ACTION

- a. Liaise with Landcare and Dunecare groups to maintain awareness of environmental weeds that may not be declared noxious

Landcare, SECMB, BVSC, NPWS	30/06/03
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9. Develop a drought and post-drought guide

ACTION

- a. Prepare guide for distribution to local weeds committees

NSW Ag, BVSC	30/06/03
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10. Utilise the Shire Web site for information and reporting

ACTION

- a. Plan for identification and technical information to be available on the Shire Web site

BVSC	30/06/03
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- b. Investigate practicality of weed report or sighting system on the web site

BVSC	30/06/04
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11. Identify current gaps in legislative powers to control weeds

ACTION

- a. Review Weeds Legislation (NSW)

NSW Ag	30/06/04
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VI Education, Awareness and Communication

Rationale

The public is generally not aware of the economic and environmental impacts of weeds. There is a need to improve awareness of weeds and to provide educational information to landholders and the public. As people become more aware of weeds, the probability of detecting them is greatly increased which allows for more effective and timely control. Education and awareness assist weed identification, reporting new infestations, prevention and control and fosters cooperation and partnerships.

Goal VI

Education, Awareness and Communication

Encourage a well-informed community with a good understanding of weed issues as such a community will be confident in making management decisions for the benefit of the whole Shire.

Strategies/ Objectives

1. Improve community ability to identify weeds

ACTION

- a. Develop an appropriate identification plan
- b. Promote and distribute appropriate material

BVSC, all agencies	30/09/02
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2. Expand understanding of impacts of weeds

ACTION

- a. Develop and implement a specific education plan, see Goal V *Leadership and Planning*

BVSC	31/01/03
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- b. Enhance community understanding of biodiversity and aesthetic values of controlling weeds

SECMB, all agencies	On-going
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- c. Provide weed information to the community at large

BVSC, all agencies	New publication 30/06/02
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- d. Communicate successful activities, with particular reference to individuals who have been successful or played an important part in the control of weeds

BVSC, NSW Ag, Landcare	On-going
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- e. Conduct demonstration projects as required

NSW Ag, BVSC	On-going
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- f. Educate transport drivers, contractors, Shire, Telstra, etc. and general community on transport of weeds into the Shire

BVSC	On-going
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3. Improve Communications

ACTION

- a. Develop and implement a comprehensive Communication plan

BVSC	See below
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- b. Utilise a variety of means to disseminate information: local weeds committees, radio, newspapers, RLPB newsletters, rates notices, business newsletters (Cobargo Co-op, Bega Cheese), displays (Council offices, markets, businesses, etc.), tourist information centres, shows, road-side warning notices ("You are entering a serrated tussock area") Landcare, SECMB, school newsletters, individuals and groups, notice boards in community halls, roadside rest areas; display cases in schools.
Action for a) and b): explore the possibility of employing an education/communication/field officer either on a part-time or for a period of time (6 months) to prepare and implement a communication/education plan. Otherwise, implementation is ongoing.
- c. Communicate the efforts of groups and people in the Valley who are making an effort to control weeds
- d. Particularly target absentee landholders with information
- e. Share information with neighbouring Shires

BVSC	On-going
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4. Particular focus on new-comers to the Shire

ACTION

- a. Develop and implement specific actions to educate and inform new landholders
- b. Investigate a pre-purchase weeds report for prospective buyers (like a pink slip)

BVSC	31/03/03
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5. Promote and encourage the acceptance of "codes of best practice."

ACTION

- a. Encourage the development of Codes of Practice

Weeds CRC, NSW Ag	On-going
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- b. Document the available Codes of Practice
- c. Disseminate these Codes to appropriate groups, individuals etc.
- d. Encourage consumers to prefer sellers who follow the appropriate Codes

NSW Ag	On-going
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- e. Promote the Codes in various media

Landcare, NSW Ag	30/06/03
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6. Involve Schools in the fight against weeds

ACTION

- a. "Weeds Week"; competitions; visits by government departmental representatives, Weedbusters Week
- b. Lobby teachers to encourage students to inform weed sightings to Council

BVSC	31/03/03
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VII The Need for On-Going Research

Rationale

There is a need for on-going research to allow the most effective control of existing weeds using various available control methods. However, there comes a time when a noxious and environmental weed is beyond the economic and environmental possibility of control in a region. At this point biological control may be the only hope.

Goal VII

Research

Provide direction and support for research into the development of cost-effective and sustainable weed management practices.

Strategies/ Objectives

1. Investigate knowledge/ resources of other Councils/ groups

ACTION

- a. Share information with other Councils, Landcare groups and others

BVSC	On-going
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2. Document best practice and most up to date research

ACTION

- a. Collate and question current information

NSW Ag, BVSC	On-going
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- b. Document successful farm weed management plans

NSW Ag, BVSC	As available
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3. Establish test plots to assess treatment and application methods

ACTION

- a. Work with other land management agencies and landholders to assess control methods

- b. Evaluate control methods and refine techniques to specific needs

NSW Ag, community, others	On-going
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- c. Assess herbicide treatments, timing, rates and application methods

NSW Ag	On-going
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4. Review management tools.

ACTION

- a. Work with landholders to refine grazing and rotation techniques

NSW Ag	On-going
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- b. Evaluate integration of chemical and biological control methods

NSW Ag, CSIRO	On-going
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- c. Develop and evaluate competitive planting methods

NSW Ag, BVSC, SECMB	Commenced
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5. Establish alternatives to chemical control

ACTION

- a. Consult agencies such as the CSIRO, Weeds CRC

- b. Establish links with key weeds research organisations

BVSC	On-going
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NOTES