



# Weed Management and Disposal Guide

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Supporting Document – Applicable to Transport Projects Delivery  
Office

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## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance with regard to weed management and disposal on Transport Projects Delivery Office (TPO) project sites. Weeds are plants that may have detrimental effects on the natural environment and can impact on human health or agriculture.

Construction works can result in the spread of weeds, dependent on the type of weeds present on site, and the activities being undertaken. Appropriate weed management and disposal minimises the risk of spreading weeds to surrounding areas.

In New South Wales, there are legislative requirements to contain the spread and impact of declared noxious weeds. Controlling noxious weeds on TPO sites is a legal requirement, with the risk of penalties to individuals, TPO and its contractors.

## 2. Scope

This document applies to the management of weeds on site, including prevention, removal and containment of weeds and appropriate disposal methods. This guide includes references to some of the relevant legislative and regulatory requirements but is not intended to replace them. It is not intended to replace any requirements for weed management identified as part of the environmental impact assessment process.

## 3. Definitions

All terminology in this document is taken to mean the generally accepted or dictionary definition with the exception of the following terms which have a specifically defined meaning:

CEMP	Construction environmental management plan
EIA	Environmental impact assessment
NW Act	<i>Noxious Weeds Act 1993</i>
TfNSW	Transport for New South Wales
TPO	Transport Projects Delivery Office (TfNSW)
TSR	TfNSW Standard Requirement

## 4. Accountabilities

The Technical Director Planning and Environment Services is accountable for this guide including authorising the document, monitoring its effectiveness and performing a formal document review.

Project directors are accountable for ensuring the requirements of this document are implemented within their area of responsibility.

Project directors who are accountable for specific projects/programs are accountable for ensuring associated contractors follow this document to the extent they are required under TSR E – Environmental Management and the contract.

Contractors are accountable for following this guide, where this document forms a part of their contract.

## 5. Legislative requirements

Table 1 lists some of the relevant legislation/regulations for the management of weeds in NSW. It is important that TPO and its contractors are aware of their obligations under relevant legislation and that the importance of weed management on a TPO project is clearly understood and appropriate management measures are in place prior to commencement of construction.

**Table1: Legislation and due diligence for the management of weeds in NSW**

Relevant requirement	Objectives and offences
<i>Noxious Weeds Act 1993</i> (NW Act)	<p>Key piece of weed management legislation in NSW, administered by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI).</p> <p>Identifies five classes of noxious weeds, all of which are <a href="#">listed on the DPI website</a><sup>1</sup>.</p> <p>Under the NW Act, a plant that is subject of a weed control order is a noxious weed. Weeds are declared noxious when they have potential to cause harm to the community and individuals and because control will provide a benefit to the community over and above the cost of implementing control programs.</p> <p>The NW Act is implemented and enforced by the local control authority for the area, usually local councils. The NW Act imposes obligations on occupiers of land to control noxious weeds declared for their area.</p> <p>It is an offence to scatter weed material and sell soil or turf from land with a notifiable weed.</p>
National Weeds Strategy	<p>Identifies twenty (20) introduced plants as Weeds of National Significance (WONS). These weeds are regarded as the worst weeds in Australia because of their invasiveness, potential for spread, and economic and environmental impacts.</p> <p>Identifies twenty-eight (28) introduced plants as National Environmental Alert Weeds. These weeds are in the early stages of establishment and have the potential to become a significant threat to biodiversity if they are not managed.</p> <p>More information is available on these weeds on the <a href="#">Commonwealth Department of the Environment website</a><sup>2</sup></p>
<i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> (TSC Act)	<p>A number of weeds have been identified as a Key Threatening Processes (KTPs) under Part 2 clause 8 of the TSC Act (list provided in Schedule 3 of the Act).</p>
NSW Invasive Species Plan 2008–15 (Dept. Primary Industries).	<p>The plan outlines a hierarchy of control:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Exclude</li> <li>2. Eradicate or control</li> <li>3. Effectively manage</li> <li>4. Capacity Building</li> </ol>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/weeds/noxweed>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/weeds/>

<i>Pesticides Act 1999</i>	It is an offence under this act to wilfully or negligently use pesticides in a manner that may harm humans, animals or property or threaten endangered, vulnerable or protected species outlined under the TSC Act and/or the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>
Pesticides Regulation 2009	Specifies that pesticides used in an occupational setting may only be used by qualified persons and that a Pesticide Use Notification Plan must be prepared and implemented when use of pesticides occurs on public lands such as rail corridors. The plan must include public consultation requirements of this regulation.

## 6. Weed management

The inappropriate management of weeds has the potential to result in the introduction and spread of weeds through the environment and penalties to individuals and corporations involved in the works. Activities that have the potential to spread weeds include vegetation clearing, topsoil stripping and movement, import and export of soils and mulch, and vehicle movements. The following provides guidance on weed management prior to, during and after construction.

## 7. Weed management planning

Prior to the commencement of construction, the following planning measures should be considered and implemented as required:

- Review the EIA for requirements for the management of weeds on site, particularly as they relate to declared noxious weeds for the region and weed management strategies of local authorities.
- Conduct a site inspection to identify the type and location of weeds on the site, and potential sources of weed propagation.
- Engage with the local council (if required) for advice on weeds in the project area, where information in the EIA is limited.
- Engage a qualified weed management specialist to develop a weed management plan, where required by the EIA or conditions of approval.
- Incorporate specific weed management measures identified in the EIA, and through discussions with the local council, landowners and adjoining landowners, into the site induction to ensure that everyone on site is aware of the requirements.
- Site inductions, tool box talks and pre-starts are to include photos of the weeds during various growing stages for ease of identification and management measures.
- Incorporate specific weed management measures into relevant environmental management plans and the environmental control map (see [Guide to Environmental Control Map – 3TP-SD-015](#)). In particular, identify any weed infestations that are declared noxious weeds, weeds of national significance or key threatening processes.

Weed management measures require planning and implementation at appropriate times to maximise their effectiveness and minimise impacts to native vegetation (where relevant). For example, weed control may be required prior to vegetation removal and topsoil stripping. Relevant timeframes should be specified in the weed management plan and/or CEMP.

## 8. Weed prevention

Prevention of the establishment of weeds is the best and most effective form of weed control. In order to prevent the spread of weeds on TPO sites, the following measures should be considered and implemented as required:

- Ensure plant, equipment and clothing are free of soil and vegetative matter prior to being brought to site.
- Minimise disturbance to existing native vegetation on the site (refer to the [Vegetation Management Guidelines – 9TP-SD-111](#)).
- Separate weed infested soils from clean soils.
- Monitor high-risk areas such as access roads, stockpiles and bare ground.
- Control weed propagules by trimming any developing flowers or seed heads and disposing of these appropriately.
- Ensure erosion controls are in place to minimise the spread of weeds from run off.
- Apply mulch and revegetate disturbed sites as soon as practical.

## 9. Weed control

There are a number of control methods available to manage weeds and these should be outlined in the site specific weed management plan, or within the CEMP, for the site.

Where herbicides are to be used for weed control, the following measures should be considered and implemented as required:

- requirements for chemical use under the Pesticides Act 1999 and Regulation 2009, such as community notification measures
- read and adhere to the information contained on herbicide labels
- prepare a [Pesticides Application Record form – 9TP-FT-160](#)
- use the appropriate technique of application for the identified weed
- avoid application of herbicides during times when plants will be dormant such as winter and the hottest times of day in summer
- avoid application during windy conditions and before rain
- avoid application near waterways and other sensitive receivers. Where this is unavoidable select herbicides which are suitable for the environment.

Where mechanical control of weeds is to be used, the following measures should be considered and implemented as required:

- minimise the area of disturbance
- check all items are free of soil and vegetative material before moving through un-infested areas and before leaving the site, including machinery, vehicles, tools and footwear.

## 10. Weed disposal

For the disposal of weeds the following management measures should be considered and implemented as required:

- place waste containing seed and vegetative material in bags or on plastic sheeting during weed removal, where practicable
- remove all weed infested plant material from the site, preferably the same day
- dispose of weed infested plant material in accordance with the waste management legislation and approved procedures for the site
- do not use weed material as mulch on site unless it has been appropriately composted to remove any potential for re-growth
- where suitable retain treated weed material on-site to maintain habitat conditions, such as skirt cut vines on trees or woody species treated via direct drilling.

## 11. Site rehabilitation and maintenance

To prevent re-infestation in areas which have been subject to weed control the following measures should be considered and implemented as required:

- stabilise and cover treated areas with mulch, biodegradable weed matting or similar products to prevent weeds from germinating
- consider the need to test and ameliorate topsoil conditions to promote the growth of desirable species
- replace the weed with suitable native vegetation that will provide strong competition against weeds and promote biodiversity and erosion control, where possible
- undertake regular site inspections and follow-up weed control of high risk areas such as recently weeded sites, new stockpiles and drainage lines
- ensure a maintenance program is in place for any landscaping or revegetation undertaken as part of the project.

## 12. Record keeping

Where required the following records should be maintained as part of a sites weed management program:

- a weed management plan or measures included as part of the CEMP
- records of monitoring as part of weekly environmental inspections
- records of herbicide use [Pesticides Application Record form – 9TP-FT-160](#); and
- copies of any other relevant weed management records.

## 13. Related documents

[Vegetation Management Guidelines – 9TP-SD-111](#)

[Pesticides Application Record form – 9TP-FT-160](#)

[Guide to Environmental Control Map – 3TP-SD-015](#)