

REGISTER OF COUNCIL POLICIES

Title:	Control of Pest Plants		
Policy No.:	ENV1		
Date Adopted:	Unknown	Date Last Reviewed:	18/05/09

Objective:	The purpose of this policy is to implement the Shire of Kalamunda Pest Plant By-laws, 1979 for the control of nominated pest plants in order to protect, manage and promote the values of biodiversity to ensure a lasting legacy for future generations.
------------	---

Background

The existence of this policy enables the effective control of Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*), African Feather Grass (*Pennisetum macroucrum*) and Watsonia (*Watsonia spp.*) through the administration of the Shire of Kalamunda Pest Plant By-laws, 1979 upon private properties within the Shire of Kalamunda.

Blackberry is listed as a Priority 1 (P1) declared plant for the State of Western Australia under the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act, 1976*. A P1 classification prohibits movement of plants or their seeds within the State and prohibits the movement of contaminated machinery and produce including livestock and fodder.

African Feather Grass and Watsonia are not listed under the State legislation as being a declared weed species.

Scope & Limitations

The scope of the policy relates specifically to the control of plant species listed in the First Schedule of the Pest Plant By-law specifically upon private lands.

The Shire has identified a priority list of ten pest plant species which need urgent attention of the remaining species not subject to the Pest Plant By-law the following species are listed as P1. under the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act, 1976*:

- Bridal creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*);
- Paterson's curse (*Echium plantagineum*); and
- Cape tulip, one leaf (*Moraea flaccida*).

- Pampas Grass (*Cortaderia selloana*);
- Freesia (*Freesia spp.*);
- Tambookie Grass (*Hyparrhenia hirta*); and
- Victorian Tea tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*) are not listed under *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act, 1976*.

The *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act, 1976*. or the Pest Plant By-law does not allow for control these identified priority species upon private properties.

The Pest Plant By-law does not take into account the opportunistic removal of a declared plants following a localised outbreak of a plant not listed in the First Schedule of the By-law.

Definitions

'control'

- means to eradicate those plants or cause those plants to be eradicated.

'declared plant'

- means a plant belonging to a class of plants declared under Section 35 of the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act, 1976* to be declared plants and includes.

- (a) any part of such a plant; and
- (b) the product of such a plant.

Policy

1. Where Council directs the pest plants on private property **must** be controlled **and** eradicated by **the most appropriate treatment method to be determined by the Director of Planning and Development Services given the size and density of the infestation and the sensitivity of the surrounding environment.**
2. The property owner will be informed by writing of the threat posed to the natural environment by the particular pest plant(s) and will be actively encouraged by the Shire to undertake remedial action to control and eradicate the infestation.
3. Should the property owner not wish to undertake the remedial action to control and eradicate the infestation the property owner will be advised to engage the services of a **suitably qualified** professional contractor.
4. The **Director of Planning and Development Services** is authorised to issue orders to property owners to control **and** eradicate pest plants where pest plants are affecting adjoining properties, **posing a potential wildfire hazard, posing a threat to local biodiversity values,** encroaching upon public land, road reserves and water courses.

CROSS REFERENCES (If any):

Admin Policy/Procedure:		Delegation:	
-------------------------	--	-------------	--

LEGAL REFERENCES

Legislation:	Local Government Act, 1960 -1978; Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act, 1976
Local Law:	Shire of Kalamunda Pest Plant By-laws, 1979
Notes:	Previous Policy ES 1.13