

WEEDS INSPECTION POLICY

POLICY OBJECTIVE

This Official Council Policy deals with defining the standards for the planning and conduct of weed inspections within the Wentworth Shire Council (Council) area.

1. POLICY STATEMENT

The intent of this policy is to ensure that Council establishes systems which provide a consistent weed inspection consistent with the Regional Standards for Weed Inspection. It shall also define the standards for the planning and conduct of weed inspections within the Wentworth Shire local government area.

In 2018, Council endorsed the Rapid Response Plan for new incursions of high risk and other new weeds (Western Region) Plan. In line with this plan, Council is the Local Control Authority and is primarily responsible for the monitoring and inspection of all lands within their respective areas for weeds. These inspections are an essential tool in:

- (a) Enabling detection of new incursions of high-risk species, so that appropriate control and other management measures can be implemented at the earliest possible opportunity.
- (b) Monitoring if land managers are meeting their General Biosecurity Duty and other legal requirements under the *NSW Biosecurity ACT 2015* in relation to weeds.
- (c) Monitoring progress towards the achievement of goals and targets under the Western Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 – 2022.
- (d) Determining whether or not weed control programs are successful generally.

2. POLICY COVERAGE

This Policy is applicable to all land owners and land managers in the Wentworth Shire Council area including:

- Private landowners / occupiers
- Public authorities, including Council

3. STRATEGIC PLAN LINK

Objective: 3.0 Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets.

Strategy: 3.2 Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure.

4. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Act	<i>Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)</i>
Council	Council of the Shire of Wentworth
GM	General Manager
Rapid Response	Rapid Response Plan for new incursions of high risk and other new weeds (Western Region) Plan, Western Region. Weed Committee, September 2018
Regulations	Local Government Act (General) Regulations 2005 (NSW)

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5. POLICY CONTENT

APPOINTMENT OF WEED INSPECTION PERSONNEL

- 5.1 Council shall ensure that there is at least 1.0 FTE qualified weed inspector appointed to conduct weed inspections within its area.
- 5.2 Council shall ensure that all such weed inspectors are appointed as Authorised Officers under section 372 of the *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015*.
- 5.3 In the event a weed inspector position becomes vacant, Council shall make every effort to ensure the position is filled as soon as possible.

INSPECTION FREQUENCY AND TARGETS

- 5.4 Council aims to ensure that all lands within its area are inspected for weeds on a regular basis. Its weed inspector shall develop and implement an annual program of weed inspections to achieve this end. Changes in seasonal conditions, land use and other local factors mean that this inspection program needs to be flexible and will have to be regularly changed as circumstances require.
- 5.5 The following standards for inspection frequency and targets take into account this need for flexibility.

(a) Frequency

Council has determined that the following minimum frequency of weed inspections shall apply to the following categories of land within its area:

- ***Eradication and destruction sites*** (sites where eradication/destruction for a High-Risk Species (as defined in the Western regional "Rapid Response Plan for High Risk and New Weed Incursions in the Western region") has been/is being carried out.

These sites are to be inspected monthly of control measures being implemented, follow up inspections to be carried out at least monthly (depending on seasonal conditions) in the first year, at least annually until at least 10 years has lapsed since a high risk weed was last recorded at the site.

High risk pathways and sites (roads, watercourses, railways, other infrastructure pathways and any specific site identified in the "High Risk Pathways & Sites Management Plan for the Western Region" classified as being "high" or "medium" risk for the introduction of high risk and new weed species)

These sites are to be inspected as a minimum of twice per year within a ten-year cycle.

- ***Other priority sites*** (sites that, due to their economic, environmental or cultural value(s), are considered by Council to be of high priority for protection from the negative impacts of weeds).

To be inspected twice per year within a ten-year cycle.

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- **Properties** (all other private and public lands not covered by the previous categories of land) to be inspected as required.

(b) **Targets**

The annual targets for inspections on High Risk Pathways and Sites and Properties shall be those specified in Council's annual funding agreement for the Western Weeds Action Program 2020-2025.

This target will vary from year to year, depending on the success of current control programs and the number of new incursions of High-Risk weeds.

DETECTION OF HIGH RISK AND NEW WEED SPECIES

- 5.6 In the event a high risk (as defined in the Western regional "Rapid Response Plan for High Risk and New Weed Incursions in the Western Region") and/or new weed species to Council is detected during an inspection, the "Rapid Response Plan for High Risk and New Weed Incursions in the Western Region" shall be implemented immediately.

RECORDING OF INSPECTION RESULTS AND DATA MANAGEMENT

- 5.7 Data shall be collected and records kept of all weed inspections carried out by weed inspectors in accordance with the NSW Weeds Metadata Standard.
- 5.8 Council shall submit the above inspection records to NSW DPI for uploading into the Biosecurity Information System (BIS) on at least a monthly basis.
- 5.9 Records of weed inspections will be kept securely in a format and place that is only accessible to the weed's inspector and other LCA personnel who are authorised to access the records.
- 5.10 Inspection records relating to an individual property/parcel of land will be made available on the request to the land owner/manager concerned, NSW DPI or Western LLS. Summaries of inspection records will be made available on request to the Western Regional Weed Committee, NSW DPI or Western LLS.

6. RELATED DOCUMENTS & LEGISLATION

Legislation

- Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2021

Other Plans

- Rapid Response Plan (Western Region) Weed Committee.
- NSW Invasive Species Plan 2018-2021
- Western Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022
- Western Weeds Action Program 2020-2025

7. ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

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8. DOCUMENT APPROVAL

This document is the latest version of the official policy of the Wentworth Shire Council, as adopted by Council on [Click here to enter a date..](#) All previous versions of this policy are null and void.

This policy may be amended or revoked by Council at any time.

A PDF copy of the signed document can be accessed from Council's record management system and Reliansys.



Signed:

24 May 2022

General Manager Wentworth Shire Council

Date