

# Weed Management

Wimmera Mallee Pipeline construction will pass through diverse land use areas such as private farming land, residential property, native vegetation, road and railway reserves and waterways. As such, **GWMWater** is very conscious of the significant risk of transferring weeds from one area to another during construction.

Weeds and associated issues are among a range of items included in the project's **Environmental Management Plan (EMP)**, which provides a framework for specific standards that need to be met before, during and after pipeline construction. It is part of **GWMWater's** role to ensure that all pipeline construction work complies with these standards and any other agreed landholder requirements.

Key objectives of the EMP's weed control program are to:

1. Prevent the spread of noxious weeds, infectious plant diseases and fungal infestations within a site, from one site to another or to neighbouring land.
2. Prevent infectious plant diseases arriving in this region from another geographic region.

## Line list

As part of the ongoing consultation between landholders and **GWMWater**, project planners have a key focus on weeds and associated issues. Any issues that have been raised during consultation have been recorded in a **'line list'** which will be provided to the construction contractor to include in their **'works list'**.

## Weed management process

Pipeline planners initially undertook broad consultation with local councils, catchment management authorities, government agencies and landholders. This consultation helps identify site-specific weed management concerns.

Continuing talks with landholders helps to finalise the **'line list'** which provides detailed information for the contractor. This list includes landholder requirements for:

- > Site-specific management of weeds and other contaminants.
- > Vehicle management and weed hygiene issues.
- > Work site preparation.

## As part of managing weeds GWMWater will:

- > Arrange weed control treatment before construction if it benefits the pipeline project weed management program.
- > Ensure each project contractor develops and implements a suitable weed management and control plan.
- > Ensure ongoing monitoring, and treatment if required after construction.
- > Arrange weed surveys of future pipeline stages before construction.



A construction contractor cleans his vehicle as part of the project's weed management strategies

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### As part of managing weeds contractors will:

- > Identify any noxious weeds and decide treatment before construction.
  - > If required spray or remove noxious weed-infested areas in an approved manner.
  - > Minimise disturbance of noxious weed-infested areas.
  - > Avoid moving noxious weed-infested topsoil from one site to another.
  - > Ensure all construction materials brought to site are free of soil, seed and plant material.
  - > Ensure all quarry products are sourced from sites free of noxious weeds.
  - > Avoid stockpiling topsoil close to waterways and drainage lines.
  - > Dump any noxious weed-infested soil or vegetation off-site, only at a licensed waste depot.
  - > Wash down vehicles before arrival and when leaving the site to remove noxious weeds.
  - > Comply with all contractual requirements to control infectious plant diseases from other areas.
  - > Check vegetation and plants are free from diseases before bringing them onto site for planting.
  - > Be aware of and comply with legislative requirements on moving plant equipment and materials between geographic areas.
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### Other conditions

A condition of the contract for pipeline construction requires the contractor to 'leave things as they were' before construction activities.

After construction, contractors will ask landholders to sign a '**landholder release**', which shows that they are satisfied with completion of work on their properties.

Where weed issues arise after construction, the contractor will be responsible for addressing any problems for a period of up to two years and **GWMWater** will hold security from the contractor to ensure this.

Further information regarding weed management is available by contacting the **Horsham Piping It Office** on **1300 659 961** or by dropping into the office at **42-44 Kalkee Road**.

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