

Policy Objective

The objectives of this policy are to

- Minimise any impact on biodiversity from the introduction and/or spread of weeds as a result of land development; and
- Provide guidance to stakeholders regarding the Shire's requirements for weed management as part of land development.

Policy Statement

Environmental and agricultural weeds are considered to pose a significant risk to biodiversity in the Shire of Broome. Weeds are often more able to exploit areas that have been disturbed and act as colonists gaining a foothold in the ecosystems faster than many native flora species can.

The presence of weeds generally indicates a landscape that has been impacted on, usually by human activities such as clearing, uncontrolled access along tracks and rubbish dumping. Weeds also occur as a result of fire and through agricultural activities and grazing. Weeds are usually established when seed escapes from surrounding areas including gardens, and is transported by vehicles, people, wind or water. This is often exacerbated by the clearing of sites for development and construction works.

Due to the risk posed by weeds to biodiversity and the resultant visual impact on landscapes, it is necessary to require and implement active and ongoing management programs as part of land use change and development, asset management of public open spaces and landowner maintenance of gardens. This requires action to be undertaken by the development industry, Council and the community.

The *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act) groups organisms into four main classifications - declared pests; permitted; prohibited; and permitted requiring a permit. Under the BAM Act, all declared pests are placed in one of three categories, namely C1 (exclusion), C2 (eradication) or C3 (management).

Occurrences of Declared pests need to be controlled using recommended methods outlined by the Western Australian Department of Agriculture and Food.

The control of declared pests is likely to be an on-going requirement for relevant land managers and the Shire of Broome. Although declared pests should be removed prior to the development of housing, there is the potential for re-establishment, particularly if future landowners are not aware of these species.

There are also 14 Weeds of National Significance in the Kimberley which have been identified by the Australian Government due to their invasiveness, impacts on the environment and primary production, potential for spread and socioeconomic impacts. Weeds of National Significance that occur in the Broome Townsite are Mesquite, (*Prosopis species*), Parkinsonia (*Parkinsonia aculeate*) and Rubber Vine (*Cryptostegia Grandiflora*).

Policy application

This Policy applies to the planning and development of urban lands across the Shire including any proposals for rezoning, development plans, and subdivision and development proposals for residential, rural-residential, commercial or industrial uses.

Status

(a) Relationship to Town Planning Scheme No.4

This Policy is a planning Policy prepared, advertised and adopted pursuant to Clause 2.3 of Town Planning Scheme No.4 District Zoning Scheme (TPS4). Under Clause 2.4 of TPS4 all planning policies are documents supporting the Scheme.

This policy is a Local Planning Policy adopted under the provisions of clause 2.5 of TPS4. Planning policies adopted under TPS4 may only be amended or rescinded after the procedures set out in clause 2.5 and 2.6 have been completed

This policy supports the preparation of development plans in accordance with Clause 4.25.3.1(m) of TPS4.

(b) Relationship to other State Planning Policies (SPPs)

This policy has due regard to, and should be read in conjunction with the State Planning Policies. Of particular relevance to this Policy are:

- i) State Planning Policy No. 1 (State Planning Framework Policy)
- ii) State Planning Policy No 2 (Environment and Natural Resources Policy)

Interpretations

The following are definitions that relate directly to the application of this Policy:

‘Pest Plant’ means a plant listed as a pest plant in schedule 1.

‘Environmental Weeds’ - are plants that invade natural ecosystems and have a negative effect on the natural process resulting in a decline of biodiversity.

Delegation

Applications that comply in all respects with this Policy may be dealt with under delegated authority, pursuant to Clause 11.2 of Town Planning Scheme No.4.

Policy Provisions

It is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure and to demonstrate, that the following provisions are adequately addressed.

- Declared Pests under the Biosecurity and *Agriculture Management Act, 2007* are to be controlled using recommended methods outlined by the Western Australian Department of Agriculture and Food.

- Plants identified as pest plants by the Shire and listed in Schedule 1 are not permitted to be retained or established in any landscaped areas.
- A weed management plan will be required to be prepared to accompany a local structure plan/subdivision guide plan and/or local development plan and implemented as a condition of subdivision and/or development as dictated by the Shire. The weed management plan is to incorporate an appropriate management regime for the control of weeds as part of the construction of the subdivision and/or development and include ongoing monitoring and weed control until handover of the development to the Shire.
- The Shire will only accept the handover of areas of public open space and/or drainage where it is demonstrated by the applicant that weeds have been appropriately monitored and controlled in all public lands the including roadside verges, consistent with an endorsed Weed Management Plan. This includes the eradication of all pest plants listed in Schedule 1 from all areas to be handed over.
- Topsoil should be protected where possible or otherwise removed, stored and re-used where appropriate. Topsoil that is contaminated with weeds must be removed and placed in Shire approved dumpsites or used in rehabilitation of any adjacent disturbed areas (i.e. not retained in mounds)
- Access and fire breaks should be controlled and provided in an efficient manner in order to minimise clearing of land and through locating along existing tracks where possible.
- A site construction and management plan will be required as a condition of subdivision that addresses appropriate hygiene practices for construction machinery, the importation of clean, weed-free fill and the containment and disposal of rubbish.
- Landowners are encouraged to retain native vegetation on blocks and preferentially plant native plant species through the provision of education packs as part of the sale of lots which includes a list of pest plants that should not be used in gardens and the requirements for managing declared pests.

Application Requirements

An acceptable weed management plan should be prepared to accompany any development plan lodged with the Shire for their consideration for consent to advertise.

Proposals lodged without all required documentation shall be deemed incomplete and will not be assessed by the Shire.

SCHEDULE 1: PEST PLANTS

Common Name	Scientific Name
Coffee Bush	Leucaena leucocephala
Siratro	Macroptillium atropurpureum
Khaki Weed	Alternanthera pungens
Neem	Azadirachta indica
Hairy woodrose or Hairy morning glory	Merremia aegyptia and Merremia dissecta

Gallon's Curse
 Bellyache Bush
 Wild Passionfruit
 Caltrop
 Mint Bush
 Buffel Grass

Cenchrus biforus
 Jatropha gossypifolia
 Passiflora foetida
 Tribulus terrestris
 Hyptis suaveolens
 Cenchrus ciliaris

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