

## **Good Neighbour Program Weed Management Statement**

### **Good Neighbour Program Summary;**

The Barcardine Regional Council, Good Neighbour Program (GNP) has been established to enable positive action to stem the spread of pest plants across the Region.

The good neighbour program is a community participation-based program by Barcardine Regional Council to help reduce the spread of weeds throughout the Barcardine regional council and neighbouring river catchments, and help prevent weeds from entering Barcardine Regional Council Area and the Central West Local Government area. The Barcardine Regional Council good neighbour program is based on the Muttaborra GNP case study that has been successfully implemented by Flinders Shire Council.

The benefits of participating in the program is containing the spread of weeds from property to property. The establishment of property boundary weed-free buffer zone is one of the key elements of the Barcardine Regional Council Good Neighbourhood Program. The weed-free zones between property boundaries have been observed to be effective in reducing the spread of weed seed between properties. The boundary protection zone

The observed benefits from the establishment of weed-free zones along property boundaries in the Flinders Shire GNP were

- Facilitated an immediate reduction in weed-seed movement between properties
- Provided an incentive for landholders whose properties are weed-free or who are aiming to progress their properties or some paddocks to weed free status
- Ownership by graziers of weed management plans and ownership of results
- Increased the aspirations landholders to manage weeds
- Awareness of landholders of new control methods and provided data on likely costs

Another benefit of the program is establishing a best practice control of weeds within watercourses. This has been particularly effective where paddocks are watered by watercourses, and where joining properties share the same watercourses. In the Flinders GNP, research and observations have shown that weeds throughout the paddock are spread by livestock camping and watering on watercourses infested with weeds such as prickly acacia and Parkinsonia.

### **Good neighbour Program Key Actions and Terms of Participation**

The Barcardine Regional Council Good Neighbourhood Program is a community-based participation program in which landholders can participate by signing a participation agreement that gives responsibility and ownership to the landholder for containing the spread of weeds. This applies to all invasive plants referred to in the Barcardine Regional pest management plan. The key elements of the Barcardine regional Council are:

1. Landholders agree to maintain a declared weed-free buffer zone that is an effective weed-free buffer between properties and an effective weed-free buffer from watercourses. All stock routes are to be kept free of invasive weeds

2. Landholders agree provide a weed hygiene declaration for all stock leaving a property and request one for stock entering a property, and use best practice measures to minimise the spread of weed-seed by livestock
3. Landholders agree to participate in other invasive plant and animal control programs such as the Wild dog control program
4. Landholders agree to complete a property boundary management plan and commit to achieving its objectives.

## **The Good Neighbour Program Agreement Form**

The Good neighbour Program Agreement form is a formal agreement with the Barcaldine regional Council that commits landholders to the above terms of participation. Please contact the Good Neighbour program Coordinator for assistance or advice on completing the form.

## **Barcaldine Regional Council Good Neighbour Program Property Boundary Weed Management Plan**

Please provide an overview of the types of invasive weeds which occur on your property. If you can provide specific details of the distribution density and area, this information will be of assistance to developing your weed management plan. Contact the Good Neighbour program Coordinator for assistance or advice on completing the table.

## **Legislative compliance with the Biosecurity Act 2014**

The Good Neighbour Program complies with the Biosecurity Act 2014. The biosecurity Act defines the responsibility towards managing invasive plants and animals. Please contact the Good Neighbour program Coordinator or Barcaldine Regional Council Rural Lands Officers for assistance or advice on your responsibilities under the Biosecurity Act 2014.

The GNP has been developed by landholders in collaboration with the expertise of state and regional stakeholders through an extensive consultation process; Local Government Area Pest Management Plan (LGAPMP) Stakeholder planning, Barcaldine Regional Council & sub catchment landholder groups GNP workshops.

The GNP has been strategically designed to form an integrated participation, incentive & compliance strategy which directs finite stakeholder resources to protect catchment and industry values, prevent weed seed spread impacting neighbours and fulfil legislative responsibilities of Local Government and Shire landholders under the Land Protection (Pest & Stock Route management) Act 2002 (The Act) and linking planning frameworks. The GNP was developed in consideration of issues and constraints of stakeholders to meet obligations under current legislative frameworks.

The GNP consists of Key actions & linking procedures (derived from the Barcaldine Regional Council (RPMP), defined to set a minimum standard for the management of pest plants across the Shire. The GNP provides an opportunity for all landholders (regardless of tenure) to adopt & commit to the delivery of its actions through a voluntary Weed Management Participation Agreement and a Property & Boundary Weed Management Plan.

Landholders who commit to the GNP and its actions will become eligible to receive potential incentive funding and stakeholder support services.

Landholders who do not commit to the GNP will be considered for Local Government enforcement and compliance procedures (as described in the Wild dog toolkit). State guidelines for declared pest plants will be used as systematic criteria for assessing a landholder's commitment against their legislative responsibilities under the Act.

Landholders may negotiate on agreed variations to the GNP although negotiated actions must include critical actions (2, 3 & 4 or similar) to fulfil legislative responsibilities under the Act and agree to actions (1-6) to become eligible to receive potential incentive funding and stakeholder support services.

### **Good Neighbour Program Key Actions & Terms of Participation;**

To participate in the GNP, landholders are required to complete a Good Neighbour Program Weed Management Participation Agreement (GNPWMPA) which commits landholders to the adoption of GNP actions listed below. Landholders who commit to GNP actions (1-6) within the agreement will become eligible to receive potential incentive funding and stakeholder support services.

#### **1. Complete a basic Property & Boundary Weed Management Plan (P&BWMP) and/or a detailed Property Pest Management Plan (PPMP) that commits to the implementation of actions 2, 3 & 4 in the GNPWMPA.**

\*Landholders are to review this plan and its achievements annually. Catchment groups & Flinders Shire Council (FSC) representatives will collect, collate and review P&BWMP's to monitor commitment to the adoption of actions (2, 3 & 4) and define catchment priorities for potential incentive programs. This plan must be complete and adopted before becoming eligible to receive potential incentive funding and stakeholder support services. An initial two year transition period will be instated from the start of the (GNPWMPA) agreement date for landholders to achieve objectives identified within this plan.

#### **2. Implement an appropriate level of control to maintain a Weed free, boundary protection zone at a minimum of 10m from all boundaries, including within the defined bed and banks of a water course, 10m either side of a water course and 250m upstream from a boundary.**

\* Boundary Protection Zone limits are to be reviewed annually by the Flinders Shire Council (FSC) and Weed Advisory Group (WAG). Implementation of the Boundary protection zone will fulfil responsibilities under (S77) and State guidelines for declared pest plants. The GNPWMPA requires commitment to the adoption of this action within the B&PWMP.

#### **3. Implement an appropriate level of control to maintain a Weed free stock route &/or transport corridors including rail networks & State, Local & private access road reserves that are under my responsibility.**

\*Maintenance of the stock routes and transport corridors will fulfil responsibilities under the Act (S77) and State guidelines for declared pest plants. The GNPWMPA requires commitment to the adoption of this action within the B&PWMP.

#### **4. Implement an appropriate level of control to maintain high priority pest plants defined within the Barcaldine Regional Council Pest Management Plan (RPMP).**

\*High priority pest plants are recognised as containing strategic value under National pest plant strategies as they pose the greatest risk to potentially threaten production and environmental values within their identified catchments. Control of high priority pests will yield the greatest return on investments and will be the focus of Local Government compliance and enforcement procedures for those who do not commit to the GNP are commit to fulfil responsibilities under (S77) and State pest plant guidelines. The GNPWMPA requires

commitment to the adoption of this action within the B&PWMP.

**5. Provide and request Weed Hygiene Declaration forms for the sale, supply or transportation of any “Thing” that may contain weed seed leaving or entering the property.**

\*The Queensland Government Weed Hygiene Declaration form has been adopted as a component of the Good Neighbour program and supports best practice management to prevent weed seed spread and new incursions / prevention principles. This is a voluntary action, although spread of class 2 pests as defined under the Land Protection (Pest & Stock Route management) Regulation 2002 (S5) is a requirement under the Act. Prevention of spread for species listed under regulation (S5)

**6. Participate in local catchment group pest planning and projects, including state, commonwealth and regional funding applications for the benefit the whole catchment.**

\* Catchment groups will assist BRC representatives to collect, collate and review P&BWMP's to monitor commitment to the adoption of actions (2, 3 & 4) and define catchment priorities for potential incentive programs. Participating in catchment group pest planning and projects, including pest funding applications will greatly increase the success of applications, ensure access to successful incentive funding and contribute to achieving catchment objectives.

## **Glossary;**

### **Weed (within the GNP) relates to;**

- All State Declared pest plants (Class 1, 2 & 3) in the State of Queensland and Pest plants described as high priorities within the Flinders Shire Local Government Area Pest Management Plan that has reached its reproductive ability; that is, having the ability to produce viable seed or similar reproductive material.

### **Water course relates to the Queensland Water Act 2000 (S5);**

- A **watercourse** is a river, creek or other stream, including a stream in the form of an anabranch or a tributary, in which water flows permanently or intermittently, regardless of the frequency of flow events

### **Outer bank relates to the Water Act 2000 (S5a);**

- The **outer bank**, at any location on one side of a watercourse. (See the full description in (S5a) of the Water Act)

### **Key Action;**

- An action within the GNP (1-6) which a landholder must agree to adopt within the Good Neighbour Program Weed Management Participation Agreement (GNPWMPA) to receive potential incentive funding and stakeholder support services.

### **Critical Action;**

- An action within the GNP (2, 3 & 4) that the Barcaldine Regional Council considers to fulfil responsibilities under (S77) of the Land Protection (Pest & Stock Route management) Act 2002 and addressing State guidelines for declared pest plants.

### **Boundary Protection Zone**

- A Boundary Protection Zone is the outer boundary of a landholder's property and defined area along the property boundary in which is targeted for weed control to prevent the spread of weed & seed onto neighbouring lands. The Boundary Protection Zone is defined within the GNP as 10m from all boundaries, including within the defined bed and banks of a water course, 10m either side and 250m upstream from a boundary. Boundary Protection Zone limits are to be reviewed annually by the Barcaldine Regional Council assisted by the Weed Advisory Group.

## **Acronyms;**

(BRC) Barcaldine Regional Council

(GNP) Good Neighbour Program

(GNPWMPA) Good Neighbour Program Weed Management Participation Agreement

(P&BWMP) Property & Boundary Weed Management Plan

(LGAPMP) Local Government Area Pest management Plan

(WAG) Weed Advisory Group

(PPMP) Property Pest Management Plan

(The Act) Land Protection (Pest & Stock Route management) Act 2002

**Barcaldine Regional Council**  
**Good Neighbour Program**  
**Weed Management Participation Agreement**

**Date:**

**Property Name:**

**PIC:**

**Catchment Group(s):**

**Contact Name(s):**

**Phone & e-mail:**

I declare that I am the person responsible for the management of the property described above and hereby agree to participate in the Barcaldine Regional Council Good Neighbour Program and commit to adopting its actions (Listed below) to help control and minimise the spread of pest plants in the shire.

I/We agree to:

- 1. Complete a basic Property & Boundary Weed Management Plan (P&BWMP) and /or a detailed Property Pest Management Plan (PPMP) that commits to the implementation of actions 2, 3 & 4 in the GNWMPA.**
- 2. Implement an appropriate level of control to maintain a weed free, boundary protection zone at a minimum of 10m from all boundaries, including within the defined bed and banks of a water course, 10m either side of a water course and 250m upstream from a boundary.**
- 3. Implement an appropriate level of controls to maintain a weed free stock routes &/or transport corridors including rail networks & State, Local & private access road reserves that are under my responsibility.**
- 4. Implement an appropriate level of control to maintain high priority pest plants defined within (sub catchments) the Flinders Shire Local Government Area Pest Management Plan (LGAPMP).**
- 5. Provide and request Weed Hygiene Declaration forms for the sale, supply or transportation of any “Thing” that may contain weed seed leaving or entering the property.**
- 6. Participate in local catchment group pest planning and projects, including state, commonwealth and regional funding applications for the benefit the whole catchment.**

**Signed:**

**Date:**

**Barcaldine Regional Council  
Good Neighbour Program  
Property & Boundary Weed Management Plan**

Date:

Property Name:

PIC:

Catchment Group(s):

Contact Name:

Phone & e-mail:

**Targeted Weeds:**

- *Prickly Acacia*
- *Mesquite*
- *Parkinsonia*
- *Mother of Millions*
- *Calotrope*
- *Rubber Vine*
- *Bellyache Bush*
- *Parthenium*
- *Coral Cactus*
- *Harrisa Cactus*
- *Lantana*
- *Tiger Pear*
- *Sticky Florestina*
- *Any Other Identified Weed*

**List all Weeds that occur on your property.**

Weeds Present	Distribution <small>(Localised or Widespread)</small>	Density <small>(Occasional, Common or Abundant)</small>	Area <small>(ha)</small>	Comments <small>(Creek, Paddock or Entire property)</small>

**\*Please provide a map showing the distribution of weeds on your property.**





**Describe proposed controls to address agreed critical actions 2, 3 & 4 within the  
Good Neighbour Program Weed Management Participation Agreement (GNPWMPA)**

<b>Target Weeds</b>	<b>GNP Action</b> 1. Boundary, 2. Stockroute 3. Road 4. Property	<b>Target Area</b>	<b>Area To Be Controlled</b> (ha or m)	<b>Control Method to be Applied</b>	<b>Cost - 2013</b> (Plant, labour & material)	<b>Control Method to be Applied</b>	<b>Cost - 2014</b> (Plant, labour & material)

I/we agree to commit to the adoption proposed control programs described within this plan and review its achievements annually. I/we also agree to participate and cooperate with relevant local catchment groups and Barcaldine Regional Council representatives to collect, collate and review P&BWMP's to monitor commitment to the adoption of actions (2, 3 & 4) and to define catchment priorities for potential incentive programs.

**Signed:**

**Date:**

**Signed (BRC):**

**Date:**