

Vehicle Hygiene Protocol



WAP 1.1.2.1

NSW Invasive Species Plan. Goal 2: Eradicate or Contain

Eliminate, or prevent the spread of new invasive species

2.1 Timely detection of new incursion

Regional Weed Strategy. Aim: Preventative Weed Management

No new weeds established over the life of the RWS

1.3.1 Develop vehicle hygiene protocol and promote as best practice

The smallest of seeds can be carried far and wide by vehicles, machinery and equipment potentially spreading weeds to farms and bushland across the Murray. Although preventing the spread of weeds can be difficult, it is the cheapest and most effective method of weed control.

The purpose of this protocol is to ensure a consistent approach across the Murray towards vehicle hygiene. The below details three easy steps to **prevent weed spread!**



Avoid driving through infestations:

- Be aware of weed infestations and avoid Red Guide Posted areas
- Avoid driving in weed infested areas especially in wet & dewy conditions
- Avoid operating in infestations during peak seed production

Inspect and clean clothing and equipment:

- Inspect and clean vehicles, machinery and equipment suspected of carrying weed seed before moving on
- Inspect and clean clothing and footwear before stepping into vehicles
- Inspect and clean vehicles before entering a property

Report suspicious plants:

- Work in clean areas (or areas with least amount of infestation) first and work towards infested or high density areas
- Keep high risk sites and pathways free of weeds
- Maintain buffer zones and encourage 'come clean, go clean'

Desired outcome:

Early detection is the key to effectively controlling weed infestations, and if new sites are found early, eradication may be possible.

Biosecurity is a shared responsibility

Any person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier has a biosecurity duty to ensure that as far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated, minimised and managed.

Current hygiene projects in the Murray region:

START

Red guide posts are being installed along roadsides to:

- Identify known locations of priority weeds
- Alert machinery operators of the site
- Prevent further spread of priority weeds
- Encourage liaison with local council weed officers on each site’s requirements.

If you come across a red guide post on the roadside, please contact the local council weed officer before entering the site. Figure 1 – example of red guide posts. “Start” of infestation and “End” of infestation. No works between the posts!



The ‘NSW – No Space 4 Weeds’ program is a state-wide weed awareness program. It highlights that weeds are everyone’s problem and provides opportunities for the community of NSW to become part of the solution. The

current theme is hygiene ‘make a difference – at home at work at play’. Figure 2 (Boat ramp signage installed across the Murray), Figure 3 (hygiene awareness billboard on display throughout the Murray) and Figure 4 (NSW DPI hygiene poster) are some of the resources from this campaign.



Figure 5. Snowy Valley’s vehicle wash-down bay.

Linkages and resources

- QLD Weed Spread Prevention Strategy
- QLD checklist for Inspection Procedures

Note: All WAP documentation can be downloaded at www.riverinaweeds.org.au

