

Master Specification

Part PR-MA-M1

Herbaceous and Woody Weed Control

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Government of South Australia
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Contents

Contents	3
PR-MA-M1 Herbaceous and Woody Weed Control	4
1 General	4
2 Documentation	5
3 Weed and vegetation control	5
4 Fauna protection	7
5 Disposal of cut material	7
6 Prevention of suckering and regrowth	8
7 Stump removal	8
8 Damage and nuisance	8
9 Records and reporting	8
10 Appendix 1: Example herbaceous and woody weed control schedule	10

PR-MA-M1 Herbaceous and Woody Weed Control

1 General

- a) This Master Specification Part specifies the requirements for control of herbaceous and woody weeds, and the control of vegetation on roadsides for maintenance purposes, including:
- i) the documentation requirements, as set out in section 2;
 - ii) the weed and vegetation control requirements, as set out in section 3;
 - iii) the fauna protection requirements, as set out in section 4;
 - iv) the requirements for disposal of cut material, as set out in section 5;
 - v) the requirements for prevention of suckering and regrowth, as set out in section 6;
 - vi) the stump removal requirements, as set out in section 7;
 - vii) the damage and nuisance requirements, as set out in section 8; and
 - viii) the records and reporting requirements, as set out in section 9.
- b) The control of herbaceous and woody weeds, and the control of vegetation on roadsides for maintenance purposes must comply with:
- i) the Reference Documents, including:
 - A. Department Vegetation Impact Assessment Guideline (VIAG);
 - B. Department Environmental Weeds List (available from: <https://dit.sa.gov.au/standards/manuals>);
 - C. Department Rail and Roadside Significant Sites Environmental Instruction (available from: <https://dit.sa.gov.au/standards/manuals>);
 - D. Department Herbicide Resistance Environmental Instruction (available from: <https://dit.sa.gov.au/standards/manuals>);
 - E. Department Phytophthora (Dieback) Control Environmental Instruction (available from: <https://dit.sa.gov.au/standards/manuals>); and
 - F. Department Herbicide Resistance Environmental Instruction (available from: <https://dit.sa.gov.au/standards/manuals>); and
 - ii) all relevant Laws, including:
 - A. *Agricultural and Veterinary Products (Control of Use) Act 2002 (SA)*;
 - B. *Controlled Substances Act 1984 (SA)*;
 - C. *Controlled Substances (Pesticides) Regulations 2017 (SA)*;
 - D. *Dangerous Substances Act 1979 (SA)*;
 - E. *Environmental Protection Act 1993 (SA)*;
 - F. *Landscape South Australia Act 2019 (SA)*;
 - G. *Native Vegetation Act 1991 (SA)*; and
 - H. *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (SA)*.
- c) For the purposes of this Master Specification part, environmental weed species are those listed in the Department Environmental Weeds List.

- d) For the purposes of this Master Specification Part, “Roadside Significant Sites” refers to sites that are of natural and cultural significance and are marked on the roadside by white and blue signs affixed to star droppers.
- e) Herbaceous and woody weed and vegetation control works within a Roadside Significant Site must be undertaken in accordance with the Department Rail and Roadside Significant Sites Environmental Instruction.
- f) The Contractor must prepare a Herbicide Rotation Program for the Maintenance of Roadside Vegetation as required by the Department Herbicide Resistance Environmental Instruction if herbicide is intended to be used over an extended period of time
- g) Prior to commencing herbaceous and woody weed and vegetation control works on Site, the Contractor must undertake a Phytophthora risk assessment to determine the required hygiene procedures and disposal requirements for the works. The Phytophthora risk assessment must be undertaken in accordance with the Department Phytophthora (Dieback) Control Environmental Instruction and submitted to the Principal if not already undertaken as part of the Construction Documentation or the CEMP (as applicable).
- h) The Contractor must ensure that, where required under the *Controlled Substances Act 1984* (SA) and the *Controlled Substances (Pesticides) Regulations 2017* (SA), workers undertaking pest control work must hold a current Pest Management Technician’s License. The Contractor must provide evidence of the Pest Management Technician’s Licenses prior to commencement of a spraying program, as part of the Quality Management Records.

2 Documentation

2.1 Construction Documentation

In addition to the requirements of PC-CN3 “Construction Management”, the Construction Documentation must include:

- a) if not included in the CEMP, a Phytophthora risk assessment, as set out in section 1g);
- b) copies of the Approvals required by section 3b);
- c) preferred methods of herbaceous and woody weed control for the specific Project as set out in section 3n);
- d) any Approvals and agreements obtained from the relevant Authority for the transportation and disposal of weeds, in accordance with sections 5.1b) and 5.1d); and
- e) details of the most suitable method of preventing suckering and regrowth, in accordance with section 6a).

2.2 Quality Management Records

In addition to the requirements of PC-QA1 “Quality Management Requirements” or PC-QA2 “Quality Management Requirements for Major Projects” (as applicable), the Quality Management Records must include:

- a) current Pest Management Technician’s Licenses, in accordance with section 1h); and
- b) daily records of herbicide applications, as required by section 9c).

3 Weed and vegetation control

- a) The Contractor must control declared weeds and those identified on the vegetation survey within the areas specified in the Design Documentation.
- b) The Contractor must obtain all Approvals required in accordance with relevant legislation including the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* (SA) and *Native Vegetation Act 1991* (SA), and the Department Vegetation Impact Assessment Guideline (VIAG) prior to

- commencing herbaceous and woody weed and vegetation control work and provide these to the Principal as part of the Construction Documentation.
- c) The Contractor must avoid impacting all non-target vegetation.
 - d) All herbaceous and woody weed and vegetation control activities must be carried out by personnel who:
 - i) are trained and qualified to the appropriate level for the type of work being performed; and
 - ii) have a full appreciation of the principles, techniques, hazards and safety procedures involved.
 - e) All equipment used for herbaceous and woody weed and vegetation control activities must:
 - i) comply with any applicable standard (including noise and spark arrestor requirements);
 - ii) be properly maintained and in good working order; and
 - iii) be appropriate for the type of works being undertaken.
 - f) The Contractor must carry out the herbaceous and woody weed and vegetation control activities in a manner which:
 - i) minimises disturbance to soil and watercourses; and
 - ii) does not spread weeds, Phytophthora or other soil borne pathogens.
 - g) The Contractor must determine the most suitable methods of herbaceous and woody weed and vegetation control.
 - h) The Contractor must undertake the herbaceous and woody weed and vegetation control at the optimum time to prevent further weed spread (e.g. before seed set).
 - i) Herbicide use must be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of relevant legislation including the *Agricultural and Veterinary Products (Control of Use) Act 2002 (SA)*, *Controlled Substances Act 1984 (SA)*, *Dangerous Substances Act 1979 (SA)*, and *Environmental Protection Act 1993 (SA)*. The Contractor must refer to PIRSA, Biosecurity SA Division, Rural Chemicals webpage (available from: http://pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/rural_chemicals) for further information.
 - j) Herbicide use must be undertaken in accordance with the Department's Herbicide Resistance Environmental Instruction, including the described herbicide types, locations for allowable use and rotation requirements.
 - k) All chemicals must be used according to the registered label requirements or permit conditions, including the appropriate selection of chemicals for use in the vicinity of waterbodies.
 - l) Where herbaceous and woody weed control is to be undertaken in and around waterways and wetlands, Roundup Biactive (or equivalent) must be used.
 - m) A herbicide marker dye must be added to the herbicide mix when the spot spraying method is used.
 - n) The Contractor must recommend the preferred methods of herbaceous and woody weed control for the specific Project, and chemicals and application rates to be used, and submit these details to the Principal in the schedule set out in Appendix 1: Example herbaceous and woody weed control schedule as part of the Construction Documentation. Where the Contractor has submitted such details as part of a tender process, those details must be incorporated in the schedule set out in Appendix 1: Example herbaceous and woody weed control schedule. Each location must be detailed separately if there are differences in chemicals used.
 - o) Appendix 1: Example herbaceous and woody weed control schedule must be updated by the Contractor and submitted to the Principal when any items on the schedule are changed during the contract period.

4 Fauna protection

- a) The Contractor must implement all reasonably practicable measures to minimise disturbance to fauna and prevent injury to fauna.
- b) If fauna is injured by the Contractor's activities or any injured fauna is found on the Site, the Contractor must contact Fauna Rescue SA, the RSPCA or a veterinarian for advice.
- c) The Contractor must, under the supervision of a suitably qualified ecologist or native wildlife management specialist, relocate any native fauna to a similar habitat if that fauna's habitat will be destroyed by the Contractor's work. Small fauna should be relocated in close proximity in similar habitat.
- d) The Contractor must notify the Principal if the Contractor's activities have injured or killed native fauna on the Site.

5 Disposal of cut material

5.1 Material containing woody weeds

Where treated plant material contains woody environmental weed species and woody weed species declared under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019 (SA)* or the Department Environmental Weeds List, the Contractor must:

- a) consult, obtain the required authorisations and comply with the requirements of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019 (SA)*, in regard to declared animals and plants, including control, transport and disposal (advice can be obtained from the relevant landscape board established under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019 (SA)* and PIRSA BiosecuritySA <https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity>);
- b) remove the plant material from the Site and dispose of it at a licensed waste depot unless agreed otherwise by the relevant Authority;
- c) facilitate effective control by undertaking removal off Site at a time subsequent to the original herbicide treatment; and
- d) obtain all required Approvals (and comply with all conditions of the Approvals) for transportation of declared weed species from the relevant Authority; and
- e) provide any Approvals and agreements obtained from the relevant Authority in accordance with sections 5.1b) and 5.1d) to the Principal as part of the Construction Documentation.

5.2 Other (non-propagating) vegetative material

- a) Where treated plant material does not contain woody weeds declared under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019 (SA)* or the Department Environmental Weeds List, and will not propagate, the plant material must be retained, or chipped, and spread on the Site by the Contractor.
- b) The retained plant material and chippings must:
 - i) pose no risk to public safety or property;
 - ii) not be spread on pedestrian paths, shared paths, vehicle access tracks or the road shoulder;
 - iii) not be spread on turf areas or lawns;
 - iv) be evenly spread at a depth not exceeding 100 mm;
 - v) not obstruct drainage infrastructure such as swales, culverts, and open drains;
 - vi) not cause negative impacts to watercourses and downstream environments;
 - vii) not significantly increase the current bushfire fuel load;

- viii) avoid native and amenity vegetation, including indigenous grasses and ground covers; and
 - ix) not be spread or disposed of within any Roadside Significant Site.
- c) If there is excess plant material, the Contractor must remove that excess plant material from the Site.

6 Prevention of suckering and regrowth

- a) The Contractor must determine the most suitable method of preventing suckering and regrowth and supply this information to the Principal in the schedule set out in Appendix 1: Example herbaceous and woody weed control schedule, as part of the Construction Documentation.
- b) The Contractor must ensure that suckering or regrowth of removed or treated vegetation does not occur within the greater of:
 - i) 12 months of its removal or initial treatment; or
 - ii) the duration of the Defects Liability Period.

7 Stump removal

In relation to tree stump removal:

- a) where the stump location will be unpaved or unsealed and no landscaping is to occur, the Contractor must cut the stump to existing ground level, ensuring no trip hazards remain;
- b) where the stump location will be paved or sealed, the Contractor must grind the stump to at least 300 mm below the underside of the pavement level and backfill to a pavement standard so that the surface does not present a hazard;
- c) the Contractor must not undertake stump removal of a tree utilising a method that will affect the health or stability of surrounding trees that are to be retained;
- d) the Contractor must not disturb underground Utility Services during tree stump removal; and
- e) stump grindings must not obstruct drainage infrastructure or cause negative impacts to watercourses or downstream environments.

8 Damage and nuisance

- a) The Contractor must ensure that the herbaceous and woody weed and vegetation control work is carried out with minimal disruption and nuisance to the public.
- b) The Contractor must repair or reinstate any damage caused by the Contractor's activities to existing non-target vegetation and infrastructure assets (including roadside furniture).

9 Records and reporting

- a) The Contractor must keep daily records of herbicide applications.
- b) The Contractor must notify the PIRSA of any reportable weed encountered during the works. The Principal must be notified of any reported weeds provided to the PIRSA.
- c) A copy of the records required by section 9a) must be provided to the Principal as part of the Quality Management Records and whenever requested by the Principal.
- d) The records required by section 9a) must include the following:
 - i) name of Contractor and operators;
 - ii) contract reference, including contract number; date, spray start time and finish time;

- iii) weather conditions including temperature, wind speed, wind direction and rainfall (relative humidity and Delta T may also be recorded);
 - iv) locations, including road reserve details (road number and name, section (start and finish road maintenance markers), side of road) or the property address;
 - v) details of application method including equipment type, nozzle type and flow rate, spray pressure, spray volume, and travel speed;
 - vi) details of chemicals used including product and adjuvant names (e.g. herbicide, surfactant or dye), application rate, area treated, situation including weed species controlled; and
 - vii) and any supporting notes, such as weed growth stage, plant condition, water source, and reasons and length of any delays.
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10 Appendix 1: Example herbaceous and woody weed control schedule

METHOD:

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HERBICIDE DETAILS:

DESCRIPTION	APPLICATION RATE	
Chemicals to be used for broadleaf weeds	Rate per litre	
Chemicals to be used for foliar spray	Rate per litre	
Chemicals to be used for herbaceous weed control, if applicable	Rate per litre water	Litres per hectare

.....
Contractor's signature

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Date
