



Environment Advisory Committee Meeting

3 May 2023

Minutes

To: Environment Advisory Committee Meeting Members and Councillors.

Here within are the Meeting Minutes of the Environment Advisory Committee Meeting, held on the above-mentioned date in the Shire of Toodyay Council Chambers, 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay WA 6566.



Suzie Haslehurst

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Preface

When the Chief Executive Officer approves these Minutes for distribution they are in essence "Unconfirmed" until the next Committee Meeting, where the Minutes will be confirmed subject to any amendments made by the Committee.

The "Confirmed" Minutes are then signed off by the Presiding Person.

Attachments that formed part of the Agenda, in addition to those tabled at the Meeting are incorporated into separate attachments to these Minutes.

Unconfirmed Minutes

These minutes were approved for distribution on 5 May 2023.



Suzie Haslehurst

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Confirmed Minutes

These minutes were confirmed at a meeting held on 2 August 2023.

Signed: *Philip D. Harder*

Note: The Presiding Member at the meeting at which the minutes were confirmed is the person who signs above.

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1 DECLARATION OF OPENING

Cr P Hart, Chairperson, declared the meeting open at 4.05pm.

1.1 ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

Nil.

1.2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Members

Cr P Hart	Councillor (Chair) <i>(via zoom)</i>
Cr R Madacsi	Shire President
Mrs J Hart	Community Member <i>(via zoom)</i>
Mrs E Hall	Community Member
Mr J Von Perger	Community Member <i>(arrived at 4.09pm)</i>
Mr B Foley	Community Member

Staff

Mr H de Vos	Manager Development and Regulation
Mrs M Rebane	Executive Assistant
Mr G Warburton	Reserves Management Officer <i>(arrived at 5.17pm)</i>

Visitors

Mr W MacMillan	Ranger
Mr L Couper	Ranger

Apologies

Nil.

1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

The Chairperson advised that no disclosures of interest in the form of a written notice had been received prior to the commencement of the meeting.

2 MINUTES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

2.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

2.1.1 Minutes of Meeting held on 1 February 2023

OFFICER'S EAC003/05/23	RECOMMENDATION/EAC	RESOLUTION	NO.
MOVED	Cr R Madacsi		
That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the Environment Advisory Committee Meeting held on 1 February 2023 be confirmed.			
			MOTION CARRIED 6/0

2.2 REVIEW OF STATUS REPORT

2.2.1 Update of Status Report

Attachments:	1. Updated EAC Status Report.
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J Von Perger arrived at 4.09pm.

The status report was reviewed and updated.

2.3 INWARD/OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE

2.3.1. Feral Pig Information - provided by Cr R Madacsi

Attachments:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2022.11.19 Toodyay WAFPAG Intro; 2. EAC TFPWG Report 2023 05 03; 3. JEV Feral Pig Surveillance Program; 4. JEV Feral Pig TONSIL Collection technique; 5. NFPAP Stakeholder Information for Info Hub; and 6. Toodyay article.
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Information was sent in by Cr Madacsi in regard to Feral Pigs (Refer to Attachments 1 to 6).

The Manager Development and Regulation advised that the Rangers were present at the meeting to respond to any questions.

Rangers reported as follows:

We are actively trapping through the biggest areas where the pigs are running. The trapping process can take up to two to three weeks. Sometimes there are 10, sometimes 40. There has been some backlash in response to the methods being used. The main issue is from the perspective of the hunters in the area. Feral pigs have done a lot of damage to the ground along the river. We are working with DPIRD taking blood and tonsils. One of the difficulties is negotiating time with DPIRD vets to make it out to the Shire who are very keen to continue and will provide intel to the territory and will assist with trapping. Since there has been cooler weather and feed coming up, the pigs are still trappable but it involves harder work.

Question

What do pigs get fed?

Response

Rolled oats in strawberry jelly crystals and sometimes sausage buried in the trap.

There is Japanese encephalitis in Broome. We are sending bloods off to the Health Department who have not notified us, as yet, whether there are any encephalitis issues in the Toodyay feral pig population.

Tracking the GPS location of feral pigs has been challenging but the work that has been undertaken has made a small dent in the feral pig population as when sows are caught they are usually loaded with piglets.

The mechanisms to the traps are digitally remote. The Shire of Toodyay is the first local government to implement the trapping.

Question

Are the efforts worthwhile? Are they taking away from normal duties in the shire?

Response

It is better doing something than nothing. We are culling the numbers and making a difference to breeding stock populations. It is a morning routine and is worthwhile. We need more intel to really clarify that further. When you see the damage being done it is like a bulldozer has ravaged the area. The Bindoon-Dewars Pool Road traps recently got 44 pigs. We still know that there are high numbers of feral pigs in that location. This is however, also the biggest area where hunters do not wish us to be there trapping.

Question

Is the main objective to control the spread?

Response

Yes. It is also for the purpose of adding to the research. We need to see how far feral pigs are travelling in the district. We know that they lay low during the day. With more intel we will become more effective. No traps are being put into reserves because there is a risk that the traps will be stolen. Currently, private landholders are preferred and they are in the right location too; where the pigs are. We will be working with residents and landholders to continue to trap as we only really have one opportunity in particular spots, and must wait a long time to go again to those particular spots.

Question

Is there is no way to stop shooters?

Response

No.

Cr Madacsi advised that she will be attending the next National Feral Pig Conference being held in Cairns on 20 and 21 June 2023 that may be used as an opportunity to get assistance for local governments.

Points raised:

- Funding sources.
- Contribution of Shire Officers.
- Collaboration with the Department of Health.
- Resourcing the Shire's endeavours to control feral pigs.
- Management of numbers can be regarded as a measure of success.

2.3.2 Cat Management

B Foley provided an overview of his attendance at a Feral Cat Symposium by reading through an article submitted to the Toodyay Herald Newspaper (refer to the Attachment).

Ranger update on cat management

Traps hired behind the counter are very successful. The Rangers pick up many each week. There needs to be further investment in more traps (each trap costs \$140 but they are good traps). We have come up with a routine and program to move around the suburbs and streets asking the community to use a trap. Cats usually visit residential properties for food sources. If people would allow us to set up traps on their property, as well as state forests and reserves, the management of feral cats would improve.

Points raised:

- Recognition and training program through Ranger Services.
- Applying for funding together with manpower through the Shire will be more effective than through individual groups.
- Community Incentives needed to assist the Ranger Services.
- Animal welfare issue and what is done once trapped.
- Night vision cameras and availability of funding through the Wheatbelt NRM or other sources to get more.

Attachments

- 1 Information on the Cat Symposium.

2.3.3 Regenerative Agriculture

Cr Hart asked whether it would it be feasible to progress the idea of regenerative agriculture within the Shire?

Clarification was sought.

Points raised:

- Policies or guidelines about regenerative agriculture to promote it through the community and education rather than the Shire becoming a regulator.
- Not much scope for Council apart from advocacy.
- Augusta Margaret River sponsoring Regenerative Agriculture Conference in September but they received a lot of support from Perth NRM.
- Educate and look at opportunities the Shire does have.
- It is the same as renewable energy in that most of the information came out as guidance for people to become sustainable. The Shire can assist by working together to come up with fact sheets outlining the benefits etc and (1) put them prominently on the website; and (2) talk to them in the Shire news.

3 BUSINESS LEFT OVER FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (IF ADJOURNED)

Nil.

4 OFFICER REPORTS

4.1 Lot 3 (No. 34) Stirling Terrace, Toodyay - Proposed Tree Removal

Date of Report:	24 April 2023
Applicant or Proponent:	C. Jean
File Reference:	A2120/3STIT
Author:	H de Vos – Manager Development and Regulation
Responsible Officer:	H de Vos – Manager Development and Regulation
Previously Before Council:	Nil
Author’s Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Council’s Role in the matter:	Quasi-Judicial
Attachments:	1. Proposed tree removal and pruning details.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide a recommendation to Council about a proposal to remove two (2) lemon-scented gum trees and to adequately trim a third at Lot 3 (No. 34) Stirling Terrace, Toodyay.

BACKGROUND

Lot 3 (No. 34) Stirling Terrace in Toodyay is located within the Central Toodyay Heritage Area and is part of the Roman Catholic Church group. The property also known as ‘The Ship’ is listed on the State Heritage Area along with other buildings in the Roman Catholic Church Group. Under the Shire of Toodyay’s Local Planning Scheme No. 4, the property is currently zoned Mixed Business, and it is proposed to change to a Mixed-Use zone under the Local Planning Scheme No. 5.

Proposal

The applicant proposes to remove two (2) lemon-scented gum trees and to adequately trim a third. The tree species – Lemon-scented gum (*Corymbia citriodora*), is colloquially known as the ‘widow maker’ due to the constant and unpredictable nature of ‘self-shedding.’

The proposal is a risk mitigation measure to protect the heritage structure of The Ship and any people near these trees.

The applicant also advises:

On speaking to my home insurance provider (NRMA), I was verbally advised that unless there had been an identified weather-related event causing branches to fall, my policy does not cover "natural pruning" from native trees. I was also advised that if a tree should cause loss or damage to my home, my insurance would then act and cover the cost of a qualified

expert to remove debris and remaining stump if tree deemed to be a risk again. Nothing to prevent damage in first instance.

COMMENTS AND DETAILS

Heritage significance

The trees that are proposed to be removed are unfortunately in the front yard and their felling will be very visible. That said, the removal of the trees is supportable on the basis that they are not of heritage significance. The recommendation from the consultant arborist to replant with native species which do not have issues with falling branches or invasive roots is supportable and will ultimately assist with the protection and preservation of the site over time.

Environmental significance

The Lemon-scented gum (*Corymbia citriodora*) is a species endemic to north-eastern Australia, and although it is common in the Toodyay locality – it is an introduced, non-native variety. Gum trees are known to break their branches during the drought season or when there's an insufficient supply of water. Severing tree limbs is their mechanism to conserve water and keep themselves healthy – they break off insignificant parts to save the whole tree.

IMPLICATIONS TO CONSIDER

Consultative:

The Shire has sought informal advice from the Heritage Council of Western Australia and guidance from the Shire's Cultural Heritage Officer.

As this proposal will also require development approval, there will be mandatory advertising to the Heritage Council of Western Australia and to other key stakeholders prior to a determination being made by the Council. Any community consultation will also be in accordance with the Shire's Local Planning Policy – *Advertising of Planning Proposals*.

Strategic:

Shire of Toodyay Strategic Community Plan – Toodyay 2028

Objective 2: Ensure sustainable operating practices

S 2.1 Embed environmental awareness and impact into operational decision making and activities to better understand and minimise negative impacts on natural ecosystems, including erosion and sediment inflow to waterways.

A Council that engages with the community and provides good governance on behalf of the community.

Objective 1: Provide accountable and transparent leadership for the community

S 1.1 Use the Strategic Community Plan as the blueprint for Council policy development and decisions.

S 1.2 Complete the development of a new Local Planning Scheme and related Local Planning Policies;

S 1.3 Provide clear and engaged leadership on behalf of the community.

Objective 2: Consistently improve our governance practices

S 2.1 Build a positive culture of engagement between the Shire and the community.

S 2.2 Improve internal and external communication to maximise transparency.

Shire of Toodyay Local Planning Strategy 2017

Apply design standards and guidelines to encourage retention and enhancement of local character that will contribute to a sense of place and community identity.

Avondown Centre Conservation Plan 2002

Numerous mature trees have been located within both hard and soft landscaped areas of the site as well as to the open area to the immediate north-east of the buildings towards the river. Most of the trees appear to be randomly placed with the exception of a small avenue trees aligned with the central axis of the Mercy House convent building which direct the visitor to its main entry Porch.

Policy related:

Local Planning Policy No. 20 – Central Toodyay Heritage Area

All applications within the Central Toodyay Heritage Area shall have regard to and respect the following principles of development:

- a) All development shall enhance and reinforce the historic character of the Central Toodyay Heritage Area

Trees that shed branches, such as Sugar Gums and Lemon Scented Gums, are to be avoided.

Development proposals affecting places on the State Register of Heritage Places must be referred by the Shire of Toodyay to the Heritage Council for advice.

This policy speaks to buildings particularly in relation to demolition. The policy is silent on the removal of mature trees but does mention that the existing trees identified in the proposal are to be avoided.

Local Planning Policy – Advertising of Planning Proposals

There is a requirement to give notice of certain planning applications under Clause 64 under Schedule 2 of the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015* ('the deemed provisions') which form part of the Shire of Toodyay Local Planning Scheme No. 4.

This Involves development on a site listed on the Register of Heritage Places under the *Heritage Act 2018*, listed on the Scheme Register of Heritage Places, or included in a Heritage/Conservation Area declared under the Scheme, where that application involves the permanent or semi-permanent alteration to the built fabric of any structure on the land.

Shire of Toodyay – Risk Management Policy

This policy is intended to commit to organisation-wide risk management principles, systems and processes that ensure consistent, efficient and effective assessment of risk in all planning, decision making and operational processes.

This policy is particularly relevant in this instance as the proposal to remove and prune the trees is risk driven. Further discussion regarding this will occur in the Risk section of this report.

Financial:

Development Application fee per *Planning and Development Regulations 2009*.

Should Council choose to refuse this application, the applicant has the right of appeal through the State Administrative Tribunal. Were this to happen, the Shire would likely have to commit additional funds to undergo this process, and there is a potential financial implication for loss of productivity due to Officer time required in dealing with such matters.

Legal and Statutory:

[Planning and Development Act 2005](#)

[Planning and Development Regulations 2009](#)

[Planning and Development \(Local Planning Schemes\) Regulations 2015](#)

[Heritage Act 2018](#)

Risk related:

The natural tendency of this tree species to self-prune represents a potential risk to buildings and people in proximity. Whilst it was likely that risk was not a serious consideration when these trees were originally planted, it is a factor which must be considered in the contemporary decision-making process. The ultimate question to determine in this process is what area needs to be given more weight in the decision – preservation of streetscape and amenity, or risk mitigation.

Applying the Shire's Risk Management Policy to this proposal, it is considered that there is a catastrophic level of consequence relating to possible health issues such as a branch falling, as death could result.

Workforce related:

Minimal workforce resources are required.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/EAC RESOLUTION NO. EAC004/05/23

MOVED Mrs E Hall

SECONDED Mr J Von Perger

That the Environment Advisory Committee recommends to Council the following:

That Council supports the proposal to remove two lemon-scented gums and to prune a third as indicated in the Attachment 1 at Lot 3 (No. 34) Stirling Terrace, Toodyay subject to the following condition:

- (a) That the applicant plants and maintains new native species of a non-self-pruning variety, to the satisfaction of the Shire of Toodyay, within three months of the date of the approval.

MOTION CARRIED 6/0

4.2 DRAFT Verge Maintenance Policy

Date of Report:	2 May 2023
File Reference:	COC14
Author:	M Rebane – Executive Assistant
Responsible Officer:	H de Vos – Manager Development and Regulation
Attachments:	1. CURRENT Verge Maintenance Policy; and 2. DRAFT Verge Maintenance Policy, as amended.

PURPOSE

To consider the updated Verge Maintenance Policy (Attachment 1) and make a recommendation to Council.

BACKGROUND

Council resolved to implement a review of all Shire policies at an Ordinary Council Meeting held in February 2022.

In November 2021 Council adopted the Corporate Documents policy, an action arising from the Governance Review action plan. At a minimum, policies have been amended to reflect the newly adopted policy format.

COMMENTS AND DETAILS

A reformatted version of the Verge Maintenance Policy has been attached. The document is track changed so that the members can see the changes that have been made. The current policy is also attached for reference.

Clarification was sought regarding residents or owners/occupiers burning their own verges, and about fire management and burning verges with vegetation on it.

G Warburton entered Council Chambers at 5.17pm.

RMO provided an overview of inspections to do with the verge maintenance spraying program.

Clarification was sought.

The motion was moved and put.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/EAC RESOLUTION NO. EAC005/05/23

MOVED Cr P Hart

That the Environment Advisory Committee recommends to Council the following:

That Council adopts the DRAFT Verge Maintenance Policy, as amended (Attachment 1).

MOTION CARRIED 6/0

5 OTHER BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE

Nil.

6 CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environment Advisory Committee is scheduled to be held on 2 August 2023 commencing at 4.00pm.

7 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 5.32pm.



ATTACHMENTS MINUTES

**Environment Advisory Committee
Meeting**

Wednesday, 3 May 2023

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Feral Cat Symposium 2023

<https://wafocwg.org.au/2023-feral-cat-symposium-program/>

[Article from B Foley, who represented Marsupial Mammals and Pappas Inc as a Community group](#)

The second Feral Cat Symposium was held over two days mid February with 250 people attended from all states and NZ. The speakers were from a range of people from Professors to Aboriginal rangers from the Western Desert. All were good speakers who highlighted the fact what we all know that cats are the main reason for the reduction and species extinction, if you have native bush then you have cats.

Feral cats are among the most significant threats to fauna conservation in Western Australia (WA). Managing the impacts of feral cats on threatened fauna requires flexibility, pragmatism and persistence.

The burden of feral cats on Australian wildlife is unparalleled with an estimated 75 million native animals killed every day.

To control or eliminate feral cats we as a Community, must have the appetite to do this and have the Community on side the best approach found is to ask the question "do you wish to preserve our native fauna by various control methods"

We all know the present cat act does not give Councils the authority they would like, and the State Government have said that they have other priorities and have stated they must work with what you have got. The next review of the Cat Act is not until 2024 and even if it then altered by the time it goes through to be gazetted it will be mid 2025 until Councils could use the new Laws. All Councils would like to have similar Laws that they have for dogs in that Cats have to be contained within the owners property

There are many methods in the Control of Feral Cats, Trapping is one way. A talk by Trish Fleming, Murdoch University, using Artificial intelligence (AI) in conjunction with a cage trap. They will start trial in weeks, using AI the trap will only close when a cat is identified, they hope this will be cost effective for users. Felixer machine seems to be one of the best solutions, it uses AI and only sprays a 1080 liquid onto the cat whose tendency is to lick themselves and clean off the spray thus injecting the poison. The Felixer's have proven to be somewhere between 50 and 80%, further tweaking of the AI in the future, they hope to improve on this.

Eradicat bait is a 1080 poison sausage developed by the Department of Environment Conservation and Attractions in WA, this bait has proved effective with target rates of 45%. Our Native Animals are immune to the 1080 poison so secondary poisoning does not occur.

The best method is by advertising, community involvement, getting people to use FERAL SCAN, This an APP that anyone can download and take note of where a person sees a feral animal, this would also apply to pigs and other non native animals. Once a pattern is evident then steps can be taken to remove these ferals.

Genetic control of ferals was discussed, the scientists are able to change the DNA of an animal, they believe using this technique in mosquitoes will eradicate malaria within 10 years. The control for cats is a long way off, I had lunch with Stephen Frankenberg, University of Melbourne he is working alongside the Thylacine Project., and that is another story. He is not working on cats, but foxes, cane toads and carp, and interesting stories he has. If you started today introducing genetic modified cats, computer modelling shows the release of 20,000 cats would eliminate 50% of all cats in 75 years with total elimination taking 200 years. His method is to change the female animal only to produce males.

Feral Cat Symposium 2023

<https://wafcwg.org.au/2023-feral-cat-symposium-program/>

[Article from B Foley, who represented Marsupial Mammals and Pappas Inc as a Community group](#)

Gene Technology Paul Thomas, University of Adelaide, they are doing this but also, trials, are going to be soon on gene changes for the female to be infertile and this would be passed from one cat to another by the cat herpes virus so this has some merit.

You do not have to remove hundreds of cats to make a difference they are such killers and mobile that by reducing just one cat makes a difference.

Christine Townsend of the Peel Harvey Catchment Council, reported on

“A neighbourhood approach to feral cat management to protect Numbats at Dryandra.” They were able to get the farms surrounding Dryandra to get involved in cat management, this I see working with the farms around some of our reserves and Julimar Conservation Park.

I mentioned appetite and this is what is needed, we need people within the Shire to form a Feral Cat working Group to promote this, come up with a workable plan, the goal would be to be the first Shire in Australia to remove feral cats. This would be a huge benefit to our native animals.

Toodyay was the cleanest town in Australia in 2015, it would be wonderful if Toodyay was known to be the place of NO FERALS, in 2030.

EAC STATUS REPORT
Environmental Advisory Committee

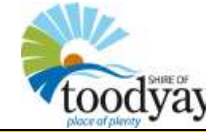
Supporting Officer
Manager Development & Regulation



Meeting Date	Purpose	Resolution / Other Comment	Target date for completion	Actioned by	Completion Date	Meeting Commentary and record of Council Meeting Resolution No.
01/02/2023	4.1 Status of Draft Local Biodiversity Strategy	<p>EAC002/02/23</p> <p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Notes the delays associated with the Draft Local Biodiversity Strategy due to resourcing. Allocates funds for the provision of an Environmental Officer position or services to coordinate the implementation of the Shire's Environmental Strategies and policies. 	ASAP	MRD	T.B.A.	<p>3.5.23 – major milestones reached. Draft LPS and Policy Review is coming to an end. Once the Policies have been completed the MRD will be liaising with the Consultants and be finalising the Draft Local Biodiversity Strategy</p> <p>Clarification was sought in relation to the expected timeline with respect to policy review.</p>
03/05/2023	Verge Maintenance Policy	<p>Points raised during clarification of the policy and verge maintenance were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signage for verges not to be sprayed if the owners wish for it and the resource implications needing to be looked at for the signage; Spraying and the verge management activities. 	ASAP	Cr P Hart / MRD	ASAP	<p><u>Action:</u></p> <p>P Hart to follow up with the Toodyay Naturalists in regard to the progress they may have made in terms of flora identification on verges.</p>

EAC STATUS REPORT
 Environmental Advisory Committee

Supporting Officers
 MDR/RMO



Meeting Date	Purpose	Resolution / Other Comment	Target date for completion	Actioned by	Completion Date	Meeting Commentary and record of Council Meeting Resolution No.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timing of the verge maintenance spraying program (VMSP) before everything seeds. • Types of biodegradable sprays being used. • Verge flora identification. 				
03/05/2023	<i>Regenerative Agriculture</i>	Question Is the target a broadacre or hobby farm? Response The focus is on small landholders as opportunities are different to what broadacre farmers are doing. <u>Points raised:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost effectiveness measures – whether they exist or not. • Livestock affecting topsoil and looking at ways stocking density 	ASAP	J Von Perger / MRD	ASAP	<u>Action:</u> J Von Perger to provide a presentation to the next EAC meeting.

EAC STATUS REPORT
 Environmental Advisory Committee

Supporting Officers
 MDR/RMO



Meeting Date	Purpose	Resolution / Other Comment	Target date for completion	Actioned by	Completion Date	Meeting Commentary and record of Council Meeting Resolution No.
		<p>rates are set for properties and the choice of guidelines for the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livestock provide effective weed control. <p>Question</p> <p>What is in the committee's means to start with in respect of promoting regenerative agriculture?</p> <p>Response</p> <p>Initiate the conversation in the community to get an awareness and follow through with community meetings. See our role more as facilitators rather than doing anything.</p> <p>Question</p> <p>Has the Shire looked at effective ways of getting that information to the community?</p>				

EAC STATUS REPORT
Environmental Advisory Committee

Supporting Officers
MDR/RMO



Meeting Date	Purpose	Resolution / Other Comment	Target date for completion	Actioned by	Completion Date	Meeting Commentary and record of Council Meeting Resolution No.
		<p>Response</p> <p>We can be using our website much better. We are in discussions around this. We need to make time and find resources to improve.</p>				

WAFPAG – Toodyay Website Intro

19/11/2022

Toodyay is predominately an agricultural region situated 85km northeast of Perth. The area retains approximately 48% of its natural vegetation, most within Commonwealth controlled forest, State Park or local government reserves. Small, fragmented remnants are privately owned.

Feral pigs have established a firm foothold in the western half of the shire in the rugged 32,992 hectares of the Julimar State Forest and Avon Valley National Park.

The presence of pigs in the national parks predates 20 years. The intrusion into farmlands and rural residential subdivisions is more recent. Since 2019 there has been a rapid escalation in numbers and distribution at a significant environmental and agricultural cost.

In response, the Shire initiated a feral pig management partnership with the community in 2021. A working group, comprised of farmers, property owners and shire personnel was formed to strategize and collect data. Active management to control the feral pig population included individual farmer programs, a shire managed trapping program and police support. Despite these measures, data collected in 2022, showed pig numbers had escalated and distribution had expanded further south and east.

A major problem with containment has been lack of resources, and both poor visibility and accessibility. The western half of the shire is distinguished by steep hills and gullies, interconnected to reserves and many vegetated remnants by drainage lines.

Control of feral pigs in DBCA managed lands is an imperative to overcome the obstacle to successful feral pig control.

Word 239

EAC Feral Pig Working Group Report

October 18, 2022,

Rangers reported prolific feral pig activity from the Julimar State Forest and Avon National Park extending to Toodyay Road in Morangup and the Avon River and Bindi-bindi Road from the state forest and reserves. Only affected farmers are involved and the rangers. Trapping in these locations successfully ranging from 10 – 40 pigs at a time.

Once trapped pigs are humanly euthanised the following day. Best practice is to bury on site, if this is not viable then they are transported to the Toodyay Waste Facility and buried.

The two traps the Shire have were designed and engineered by the Rangers. The traps are remotely viewed and operated, the door can be set by a simple text message to the trap door.

Rangers are currently in discussion with the Department of Health and Sean Cope EHO regarding obtaining blood samples and removal of tonsils for testing from the next catch and placing tracking collars with the assistance of DIPID. DPIRD are very interested in what we are doing and when as if FMD enters Australia, Feral pigs will be the biggest and fastest carriers.

The only impact on the trapping program are hunters coming to the area to specifically chase pigs and residents taking pot shots to scare them from their property which in turn ruins our traps.

November 19, 2022

Provided the WA Feral Pig Advisory Group website the following (attached)

- Toodyay website introduction
- NFPAP Info Hub – Stakeholder Required Information
- NFPAP Toodyay article

January 30, 2023

Rangers had just recommenced for the season (generally December to June at the latest) With the two traps set at Jingaling Brook property in numerous locations and Waters Road, Coondle on private. DPIRD fitting tracking devices The EHO and Department of Health have trained the Rangers to take bloods and remove tonsils for any detection of FMD, Japanese Encephalitis and any other parasites carried by pigs. This is being undertaken.

April 2, 2023

Reports of fresh activity in all areas adjacent to reserves and parks. A feral pig was sighted in Drummond Street near the bridge. Clearly using the river as a thoroughfare. Shooting and pig fencing with some trapping being undertaken on the most affected farm. Yesterday sighted 40 and shot 27 in the crops. JEV now detected in the Kimberly. The problem is exceeding our capability to control and current methods are hindered by financial and human resources.



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Japanese encephalitis virus

Feral Pig Surveillance Program



health.wa.gov.au

Sample Collection Data



Medical Entomology
 Ph: (08) 9285 5500
medical.entomology@health.wa.gov.au

JEV Feral Pig Surveillance Data Collection Sheet

Primary Sample Collector Name: _____

Contact Number: _____ Email: _____

Date	Pig Number	Sample ID Number	Location	Male/Female	Age	Comments
25/09/2022	1	Blood01	Liverina Station	M	Adult	
25/09/2022	1	Tonsil01	Liverina Station	M	Adult	
25/09/2022	2	Blood02	-33.38°lat,115.696°long	F	Juvenile	
25/09/2022	2	Tonsil02	-33.38°lat,115.696°long	F	Juvenile	

- Each pig to have a blood sample and tonsil sample taken.
- Blood and Tonsil **Sample ID Number** to correspond to **Pig Number**.
- Continue numbering system so no two Sample ID Numbers are ever the same.
- Location to be as accurate as possible.
- Latitude/longitude preferred.

Occupational Health and Safety

Zoonotic Disease

- Whilst rare, feral pigs can transmit zoonotic diseases e.g. Leptospirosis, Q fever (*Coxiella burnetii*), hepatitis E and influenza A.
- JEV is spread through the bite of an infected mosquito, not generally through direct transmission from feral pigs.
- Infectious organisms are transmitted through blood, urine and bodily fluids.
- **Protect yourself:**
 - Cover skin abrasions or cuts with waterproof dressings.
 - Wear disposable gloves (*provided), protective clothing and washable boots.
 - Store biological waste in 'Biological Waste' bags and send to laboratory for disposal (e.g. used blood tubes and pipettes if separating serum).



3

Occupational Health and Safety

Knife Injuries

- Take care to prevent knife and other incision injuries.
- Always wear cut resistant gloves to reduce incidence of injury.
- **Gloves provided:** advise DoH of glove sizing requirements.



Blood Collection Techniques

Images courtesy: Agriculture Victoria



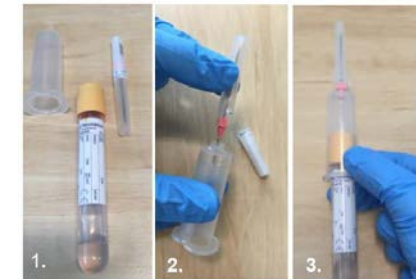
Free Capture: Collect pooling blood directly into tube.



Free Capture: Use 10mL syringe to suck up pooling blood



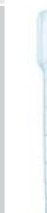
Free Capture: Use plastic pipette to suck up pooling blood



Sterile: Use needle/vacutainer to suction blood directly from heart.

Blood Collection Techniques

Technique	Method	Comments
Free capture: Knife incision under forearm OR throat (jugular)	Collect pooling blood directly into tube by scooping it up. Take care not to scoop up contaminants (e.g. soil, hair).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple but messy, blood gets over tube and hands/gloves. Can have issues with sample contamination. Risk of knife injury.
	Use 10mL syringe (no needle) to suck up pooling blood. <u>Gently</u> and slowly squirt blood cleanly into tube.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleaner, no blood over tube or hands/gloves. Can have issues with sample contamination. Risk of knife injury.
	Use plastic pipette to suck up pooling blood. <u>Gently</u> and slowly squirt blood cleanly into tube.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleaner, no blood over tube or hands/gloves. Can have issues with sample contamination. Risk of knife injury.
Sterile: Needle/vacutainer	Insert needle into rib space. Suction from vacutainer causes blood to flow directly from heart into tube.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleanest. Requires some practice. Less issues with sample contamination. Risk of needle-stick injury.



Feral Pig Tonsil Sampling

Step 1:

Place pig on its back.

Make incision under one or both forearms to ensure carcass lays flat.



Image courtesy: DPIRD



Image courtesy: Agriculture Victoria

Feral Pig Tonsil Sampling

Step 2:

Using a knife, cut through the midline of the bottom jaw, from throat to snout.
Separate the jaw, exposing the tongue.
Pull the tongue out/down, towards the rear of the pig.



Images courtesy: DPIRD

Feral Pig Tonsil Sampling

Step 2 (alternative method):

Alternatively, using pruning shears to cut through the midline of the bottom jaw.
Separate the jaw, exposing the tongue.
Pull the tongue out/down, towards the rear of the pig.



Images courtesy: Agriculture Victoria

Feral Pig Tonsil Sampling

Step 3:

Retract tongue from mouth as far as possible.
Cut tongue off at base using a knife to give a clear view of tonsils.



Image courtesy: DPIRD



Image courtesy: Agriculture Victoria

Feral Pig Tonsil Sampling

Step 4:
Visualise the tonsils.

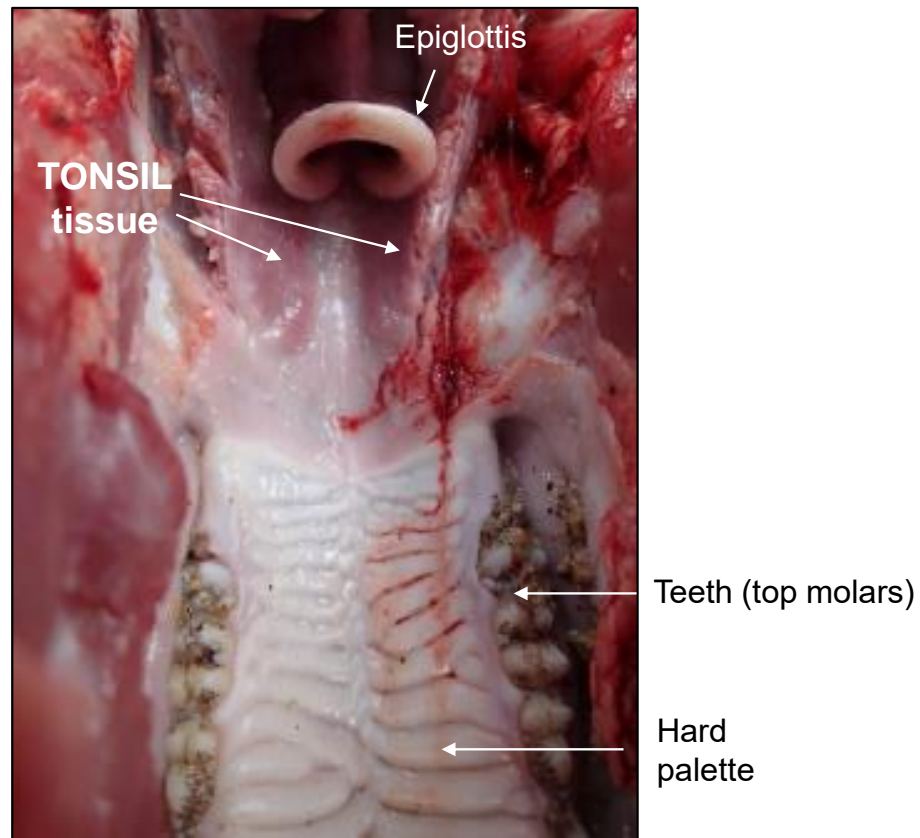


Image courtesy: Agriculture Victoria

Feral Pig Tonsil Sampling

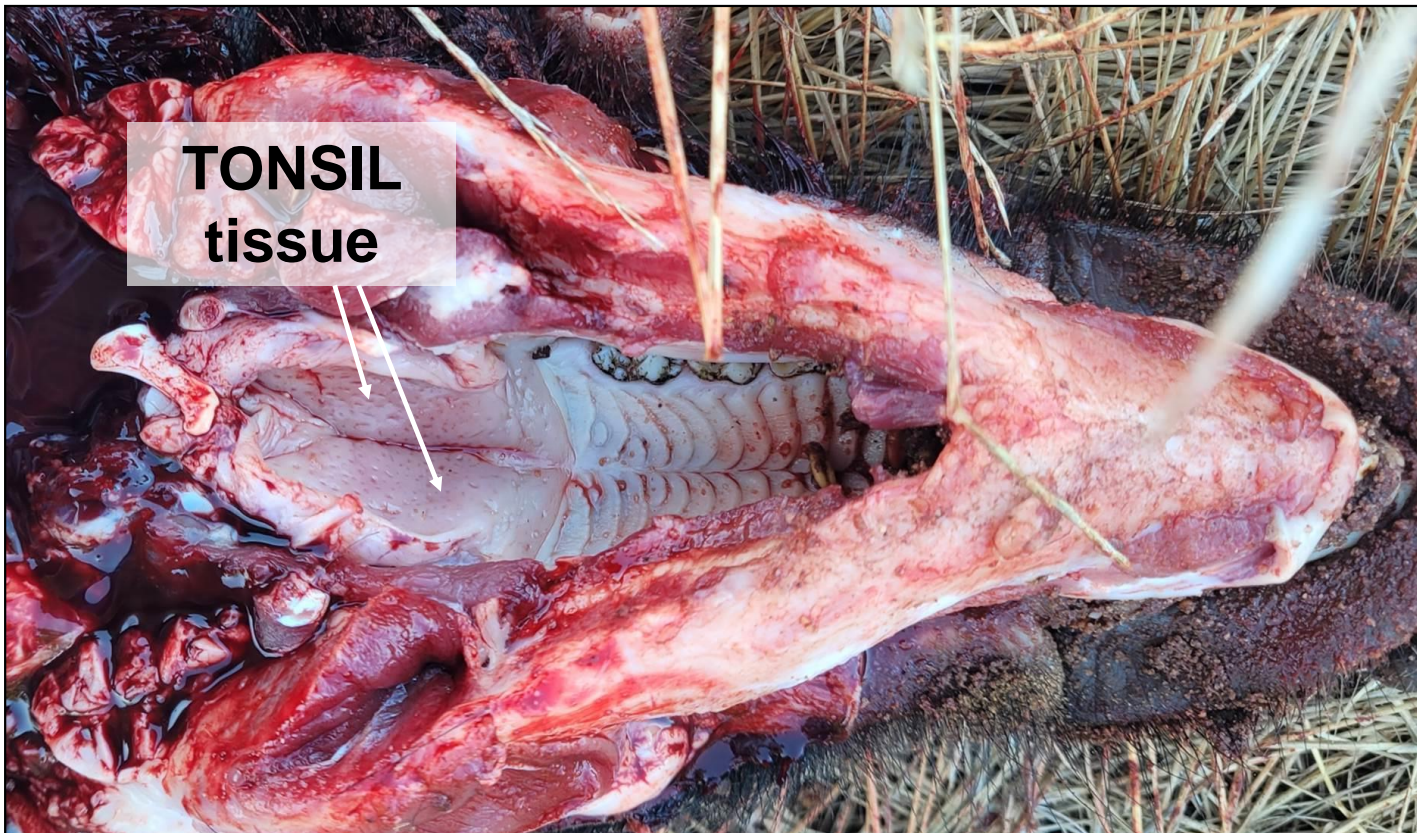


Image courtesy: Wayne Heal

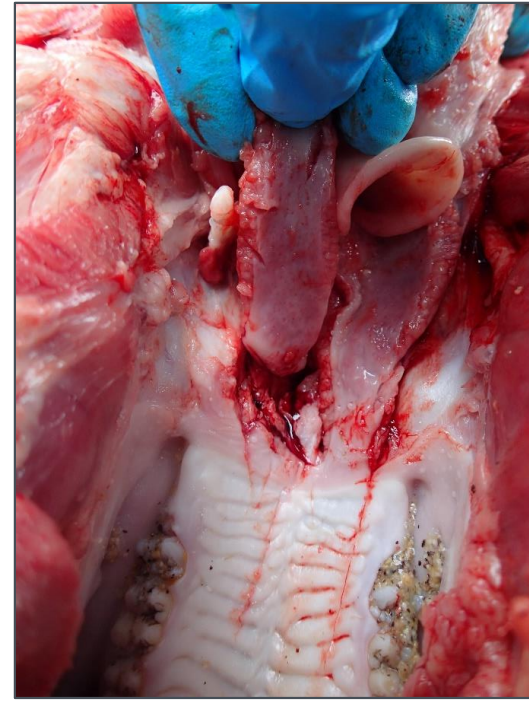
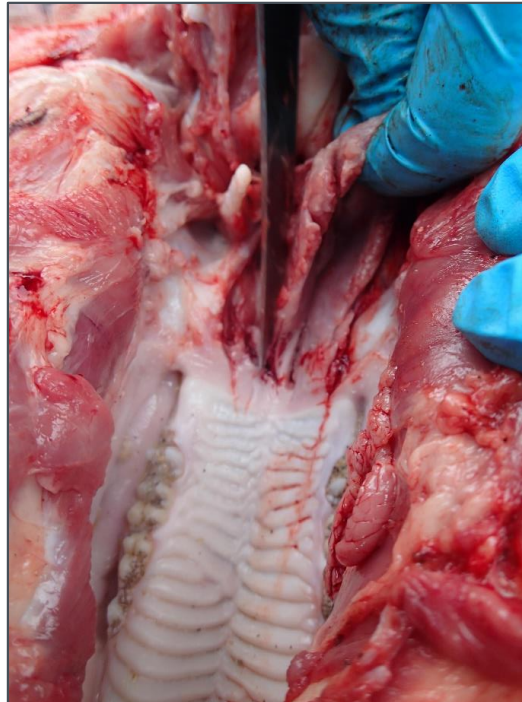
Feral Pig Tonsil Sampling

Step 5:

Cut the tonsils out using scissors or a scalpel.
Place tonsils into a sample collection bag/pot.



Left Image courtesy: DPIRD



Centre and Right Images courtesy: Agriculture Victoria

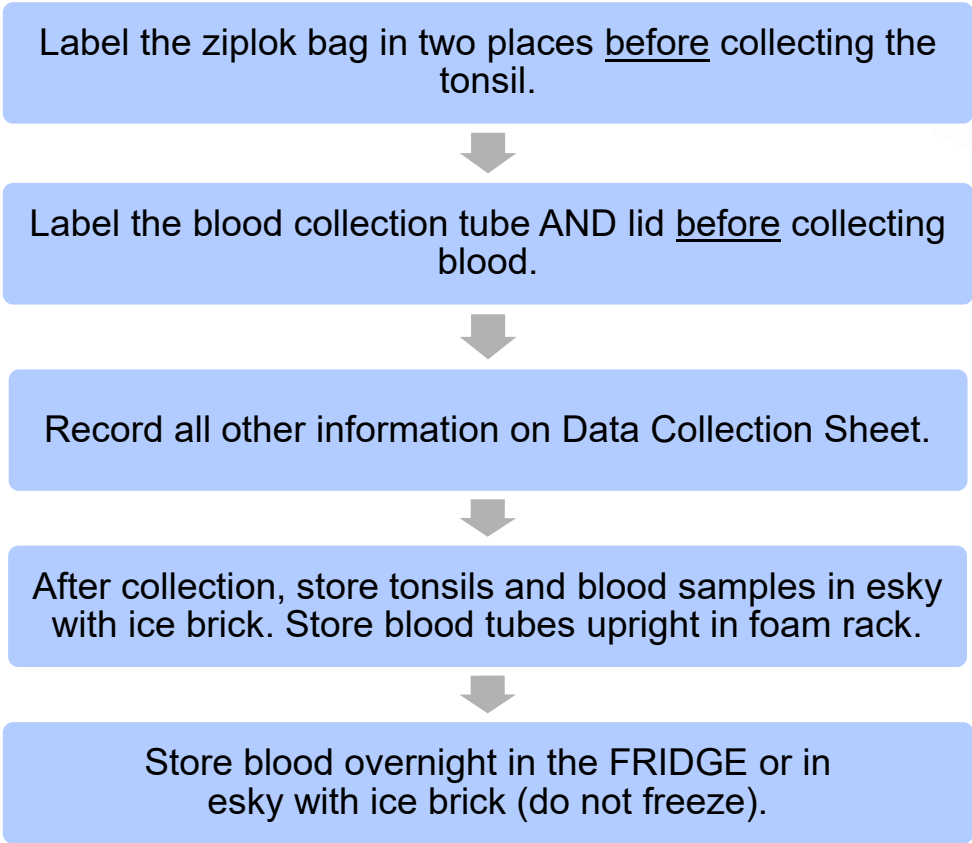
Feral Pig Tonsil Sampling



Image courtesy: Agriculture Victoria

Collect a minimum of 1cm of tonsil from both sides.

Collecting a Blood and Tonsil Sample



Sample Transport to Perth



Place ALL blood tubes into ONE biohazard bag.

Fold Data Collection Sheet and place into front pocket of blood tube biohazard bag.

Place tonsils into a separate biohazard bag.

Place both biohazard bags into the same esky (with ice brick if possible).

Include your waste biohazard bag to be disposed of at the laboratory (if you have any).

Place address label on top of esky, tape up and deliver to nearest PathWest drop-off point (collect another esky!)

Notify abbey.potter@health.wa.gov.au when samples are on their way.

For More Information

- *Thankyou to DPIRD, Agriculture Victoria and Wayne Heal for the provision of images for this presentation.*
- WA Dept of Health will provide all equipment and organise sample transport.
- For more information or to request a sample collection kit, please contact:



9285 5500



Abbey.potter@health.wa.gov.au

Feral Pig Tonsil Sampling



1
Place pig on its back.
Make incision under one or both forearms to ensure carcass lays flat.



2
Use knife



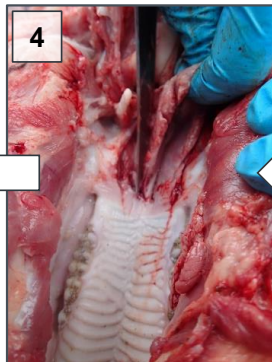
Pruning shears

OR

Cut through midline of bottom jaw, from throat to snout. Separate jaw, exposing tongue. Pull tongue out/down, towards rear of pig.



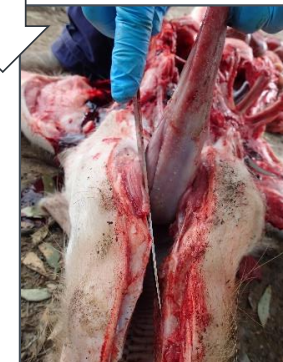
5
Tonsil sample should be ~1cm in length. Place into sample collection bag/pot.



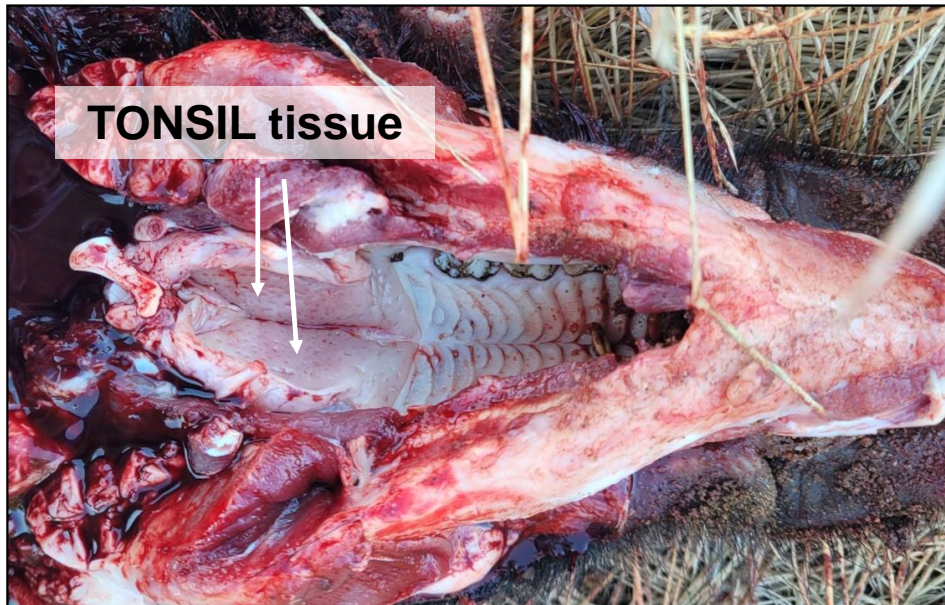
4
Cut tonsils out using scissors or scalpel.



3
Retract tongue from mouth as far as possible. Cut tongue off at base to give a clear view of tonsils.



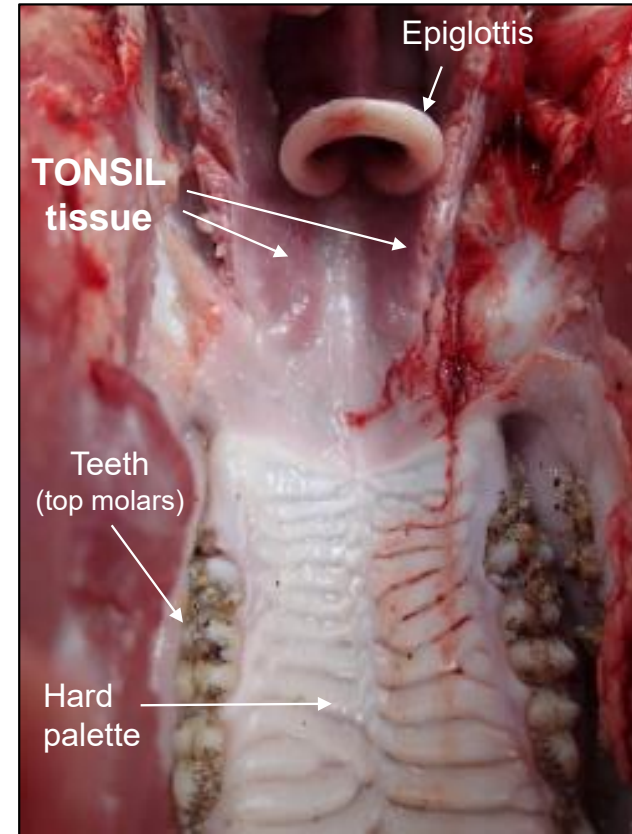
Feral Pig Tonsil Anatomy



For further information on tonsil sampling or the feral pig surveillance program, please contact:

P: (08) 9285 5500 or 0408 949 983

E: medical.entomology@health.wa.gov.au

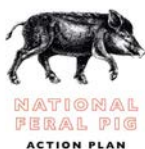


Thankyou to DPIRD, Wayne Heal and Agriculture Victoria for the provision of images used in this resource

NFPAP Info Hub – Required Information

Project/Program Title	Feral Pig Working Group			
Name of Organisation	Shire of Toodyay			
Contact person and email (NFPAP records only)	Rosemary Madacsi Cr.madacsi@toodyay.wa.gov.au			
Agency Category (please circle or highlight relevant)	Research	Industry	Indigenous	Landholder
	Local Government	State Government	Federal Government	RBG
	NRM	Landcare	Conservation and Biodiversity	Hunting Organisation
	Other (please specify):			
Location (e.g. region, town, national park)	Avon Valley			
Partners/collaborations	Shire of Toodyay in partnership with the Toodyay Agricultural Alliance and affected residents.			
GPS coordinates for pinpoint (latitude and longitude e.g. - 24.8589, 145.0767)	-31.5509, 116.4657			
Website address for project or organisation	www.toodyay.wa.gov.au (Biosecurity page not yet up)			
Summary of the project/program <i>Key points to address:</i>	<p>The pig management program started in 2021 after impacted farmers appealed to the Shire, the only authority available due to the closure of the local LCDC in 2016 and absence of an RGB.</p> <p><i>Who's involved/collaborators and size of group</i> Key personel involved are the Shire rangers, reserves manager, farmers, impacted residents and invested Councillors. The group has 24 listed members.</p> <p><i>Area being covered</i> Approximately 847 km², half of the Shire's 1,693.8 km² area</p> <p><i>Assets being protected</i> Assets are broadacre grain farms, rural living properties, shire infrastructure and shire managed conservation reserves, natural drainage linkages. Local investment in the DBCA managed the Julimar state Forest and Avon Valley National Park.</p>			

	<p><i>Methods/ integrated approach</i> Individual resources and time available vary. Periodic meetings are used to assess the effectiveness of varied approaches, to report and centralise data. The shire provides the coordination, GIS mapping, data repository and advocacy.</p> <p>Landowner methods are reactive and adhoc, varying in application from shooters to baits and traps and pig fencing along boundaries to DBCA managed land. Rangers run a coordinated bait and trap program along waterways from reserves and DBCA lands based but effectiveness is limited by minimal resources.</p> <p><i>Current activities</i> The initial approach has been restrained due to time and resource availability. Traps are being made on site.</p> <p><i>Who's funding</i> All funding is from individual investment or the shire rangers budget allocation.</p> <p><i>Key outcomes of activities</i> Toodyay is losing the battle. There is a clear understanding of the magnitude and extent of the problem. Reporting has identified a southern and eastern incursion from bushland into residential subdivisions and farmlands.</p> <p><i>How viewing what success looks like/measures taking</i> Success is measured by reported distribution and numbers, these are confirmed (kills) or unconfirmed (sightings without supporting evidence), both GIS mapped.</p>
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Tackling Toodyay's feral pigs



Toodyay is predominately an agricultural region situated 85km northeast of Perth. The area retains approximately 48% of its natural vegetation, most within Commonwealth controlled forest, State Park or local government reserves. Small, fragmented remnants are privately owned.

Feral pigs have established a firm foothold in the western half of the Toodyay Shire region in the rugged 32,992 hectares of the Julimar State Forest and Avon Valley National Park.

The presence of pigs in the national parks predates 20 years. Their intrusion into farmlands and rural residential subdivisions is more recent. Since 2019, there has been a rapid escalation in numbers and distribution at significant environmental and agricultural cost. In response, the Shire initiated a feral pig management partnership with the community in 2021. A working group, comprised of farmers, property owners and Shire personnel was formed to strategise feral pig management actions and collect data. Active management to control the feral pig population included individual farmer programs, a Shire managed trapping program and police support. Despite these measures, data collected in 2022 showed that pig numbers had escalated and their distribution had expanded further south and east.

A major problem with containment has been a lack of resources, and poor visibility and accessibility. The western half of the Shire is distinguished by steep hills and gullies, interconnected to reserves and many vegetated remnants by drainage lines.

Coordinated control of feral pigs across both private and DBCA-managed lands is an imperative to overcome the obstacle to successful feral pig control.



Website: www.feralpigs.com.au

Questions? Email us at contact@feralpigs.com.au
January 2023

records@toodyay.wa.gov.au

ATTENTION: Maria Rebane.

I am contacting the Conservation Committee in reference for consideration of my request to remove two (2) lemon scented gum trees and adequately trim a third. (Corymbia Citriodora). (Also know as window makers due to the unpredictability of the self pruning). These trees are situated in my front yard close to my home and with the constant "self pruning" action, branches, some quite large, are often falling into my yard. My home is known as THE SHIP 34 Stirling Terrace and a part of the Catholic Heritage Precinct.

On speaking to my home insurance provider (NRMA), I was verbally advised that unless there had been an identified weather related event causing branches to fall, my policy does not cover "natural pruning" from native trees. I was also advised that if a tree should cause loss or damage to my home, my insurance would then act and cover the cost of a qualified expert to remove debris and remaining stump if tree deemed to be a risk again. Nothing to prevent damage in first instance.

In support of my request, I have attached the page from my Product Disclosure Statement from NRMA showing this detail.

I have also attached a 2nd document which is an extensive risk assessment undertaken by a reputable expert in these matters in relation to the safety of these trees.

My intention is to plant more appropriate trees and flower beds in my yard to replace the trees being removed.

Thankyou for considering my application.

Regards,

Cheryl-Jean

0417 772 201

CHERYL-JEAN NEMA HOME INSURANCE POLICY

- Your Family;
- anyone who normally lives in Your Home including a tenant; or
- anyone who enters Your Home or the Site with the consent of You, Your Family or anyone who normally lives in Your Home; or
- loss or damage which results from scorching or melting where there is no flame.

- costs to cut down or remove a tree if it didn't cause any loss or damage to Your Home or Contents.

Lightning

We cover loss or damage caused by:

- lightning; and
- power surge only as a result of lightning.

Flood or Rainwater Run-off

We cover loss or damage caused by:

- Flood or Rainwater Run-off; and
- landslide or subsidence that happens immediately and as a direct result of Flood or Rainwater Run-off.

We will not cover:

- loss or damage to:
 - retaining walls;
 - gates, fences or free-standing walls if the loss or damage was caused because they were not structurally sound or well-maintained;
 - pontoons, jetties or bridges;
 - gravel driveways;
 - swimming pool covers or spa covers that are more than 5 years old; or
 - pool and spa solar covers or liners;
- erosion, deterioration, collapse, shrinkage or any other earth movement;
- Actions of the Sea; or
- loss or damage caused by escape of water or liquid, Storm, Storm Surge or tsunami.

Riot or civil commotion

We cover loss or damage caused by a riot, civil commotion or industrial or political disturbance.

We will not cover loss or damage caused by:

- You;
- Your Family;
- anyone who normally lives in Your Home including a tenant; or
- anyone who enters Your Home or the Site with the consent of You, Your Family or anyone who normally lives in Your Home.

Storm

We cover loss or damage caused by:

- Storm; and
- landslide or subsidence that happens immediately and as a direct result of Storm.

We do not cover:

- loss or damage caused by escape of water or liquid, Flood, Rainwater Run-off, Storm Surge or tsunami;
- erosion, deterioration, collapse, shrinkage or any other earth movement;
- Actions of the Sea; or
- loss or damage to:
 - retaining walls;
 - gates, fences or free-standing walls if the loss or damage was caused because they are not structurally sound or well-maintained;
 - pontoons, jetties or bridges;
 - gravel driveways; or
 - swimming pool covers or spa covers that are more than 5 years old; or
 - pool and spa solar covers or liners.

Impact

after event.

We cover loss or damage caused by the impact of:

- external aerials, masts, flagpoles and satellite dishes;
- aircraft, vehicles and watercraft;
- debris from space, aircraft, rockets and satellites; and
- trees and branches.

If You have 'Building' insurance and a tree at the Site causes loss or damage to Your Home and a qualified expert agrees it needs to be removed, We will pay the costs to:

- cut down and remove the tree; and
- treat the stump so it doesn't grow.

We will not cover:

- loss or damage caused by tree cutting, lopping or felling at the Site unless the cutting, lopping or felling is performed by a professional;
- costs to remove the stump; or

Storm Surge or tsunami

We cover loss or damage caused by:

- Storm Surge or tsunami; and
- landslide or subsidence that happens immediately and as a direct result of Storm Surge or tsunami.

We do not cover:



2609020010000210

260797135

for loss or damage occurring during the Period of Insurance caused by any of the Listed Events as set out below.

You are only insured for Contents when they are inside Your Home except as specifically provided for under any additional benefits or optional benefits that You are entitled to.

If You have cover for:



'Building Plus'; or



'Contents Plus'.

You will also automatically have cover for:

- loss or damage occurring during the Period of Insurance caused by Accident as set out in the 'Accidental damage' optional benefit; and
- burnout of an electrical motor that is part of Your Home if You have 'Building' insurance or part of Your Contents if You have 'Contents' insurance as set out in the 'Electrical motor burnout' optional benefit.

Listed Events

Accidental breakage of glass

We cover Accidental breakage with a fracture through its entire thickness of:

- glass panels in fixtures, cooktop and oven doors and vitreous china or acrylic or fibreglass fixed shower bases, baths, spa baths, sinks, toilets, bidets and sanitary fixtures in Your Home if You have 'Building' insurance; and
- fixed glass in Your furniture including outdoor furniture, fixed glass in a light fitting, fixed glass in a mirror or picture and the frame of a broken mirror or picture at the Site if You have 'Contents' insurance.

We will also cover the reasonable costs to reconnect any electrical components to a damaged item We have agreed to cover.

We will not cover:

- water or sewerage pipes; or
- any loss or damage caused by the broken item.

Animal damage

We cover loss or damage caused by animals not kept at the Site, but We will not cover loss or damage by any animal that You or anyone who lives at the Home or Site has permitted to be at the Site.

Deliberate or intentional act

We cover loss or damage by a deliberate or intentional act (including vandalism and a malicious act).

We will not cover any deliberate or intentional act by:

- You;
- Your Family;

- anyone who normally lives in Your Home including a tenant; or
- anyone who enters Your Home or the Site with the consent of You, Your Family or anyone who normally lives in Your Home.

You must report any deliberate or intentional act to the police and provide Us with the report number and details of when and where the report was made.

Earthquake

We cover loss or damage caused by:

- earthquake; and
- landslide or subsidence that happens immediately and as a direct result of earthquake.

Escape of water or liquid

We cover loss or damage caused by:

- water or liquid leaking or escaping from gutters, drainpipes or pipes at the Site;
- water or liquid leaking or escaping from water mains, water supply pipes, baths, spa baths, sinks, toilets, bidets, sanitary fixtures, appliances, aquariums, water tanks or swimming pools;
- liquid leaking from a fixed heating system or sealed portable heater; and
- landslide or subsidence that happens immediately and as a direct result of liquid leaking as covered in this event.

We will not cover:

- the cost of repairing the item that caused the leak or escape or the item that the water or liquid leaked or escaped from;
- the cost of fixing or finding leaks that have not caused loss or damage to Your Home or Contents;
- loss or damage caused by Flood, Rainwater Run-off, Storm, Storm Surge or tsunami;
- erosion, deterioration, collapse, shrinkage or any other earth movement; or
- loss or damage caused by water or liquid leaking or escaping from a shower recess or shower base.

Explosion

We cover loss or damage caused by:

- explosion; and
- landslide or subsidence that happens immediately and as a direct result of explosion,

provided there is physical evidence of the explosion.

Fire

We cover loss or damage caused by fire or bushfire.

We will not cover:

- any fire that was started with the intention to caused damage by:
 - You;

260797135



C Jean
34 Stirling Terrace,
Toodyay WA 6566

Dear Cheryl,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to conduct a risk assessment on the 3 Lemon Scented Gums also known as *Corymbia Citriodora* located at Lot 3/34 Stirling Toodyay, Toodyay.

This species of gum tree *Corymbia Citriodora*'s is most commonly found in the northeast of Australia and is an introduced species to Western Australia. *Corymbia*'s typically grow to a mature height between 25-40m. The 3 that are situated in your front yard would be described as being in their adolescent stage and in the height range of 16.6m to 17.8m.

I have categorised your *Corymbia*'s for illustration purposes as tree A, B & C.

Tree "A" is the smallest of the 3 at approximately 16.6m in height and is approximately 11m from your house. This tree would be suitable for a crown reduction and target pruning down to a height of around 12m. In doing so this would remove 3 large vertical limbs leaving sufficient light weight foliage in the remaining canopy to retain an aesthetic look while reducing weight and minimising the risk of limb shedding.

Tree "B" stands approximately 17.8m and approximately 12.6m from your house. It is in close proximity to tree "C" and this coupled with the canopy pattern suggests both trees are competing for sunlight as the foliage is concentrated at the top of the crown. Midway down the trunk of tree "C" there is bulging vertical limb union. In my opinion this type of union is the result of each limb putting lateral growth against each other rather than growing cohesively which can result in either limb to separate at this point due to a high weighted canopy.

Due to the top-heavy canopy with virtually no foliage below the pruning height. This tree in the future if it does survive will be laden with epicormic growth. Epicormic growth is a response of pruning where spores under the bark of tree sprout, which will not only need constant pruning maintenance every few years but are extremely unstable and weak.

Tree "C" in my opinion is comprised, this tree has a co-dominant stump base which appears it may have been poisoned at some stage. Tree "C" has also undergone some poor pruning techniques in past that may suggest the tree is struggling to put on growth. A little over

halfway up the tree there appears to be a scar on the trunk. This scar is showing signs of decay and will result in a pocket of wood rot and will severely compromise the integrity of this tree.

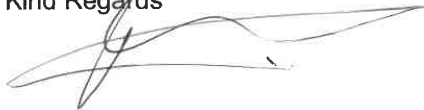
In my opinion the best course of action for these trees would be as follows:

- Tree "A" to undergo a crown reduction and target prune.
- Trees "B & C" to be removed and replaced if desired with a variety of tree that more conducive to the area. For example:
 - York Gum (Eucalyptus Loxophelba),
 - Marri (Corymbia Calophylla) or
 - Rose of the West (Eucalyptus Macocarpa)

Interesting enough the state government of Western Australia conducted a study in conjunction with the education department in 2013 of trees to avoid around buildings and people and the lemon scented gum was the number one tree on the list.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information or clarification.

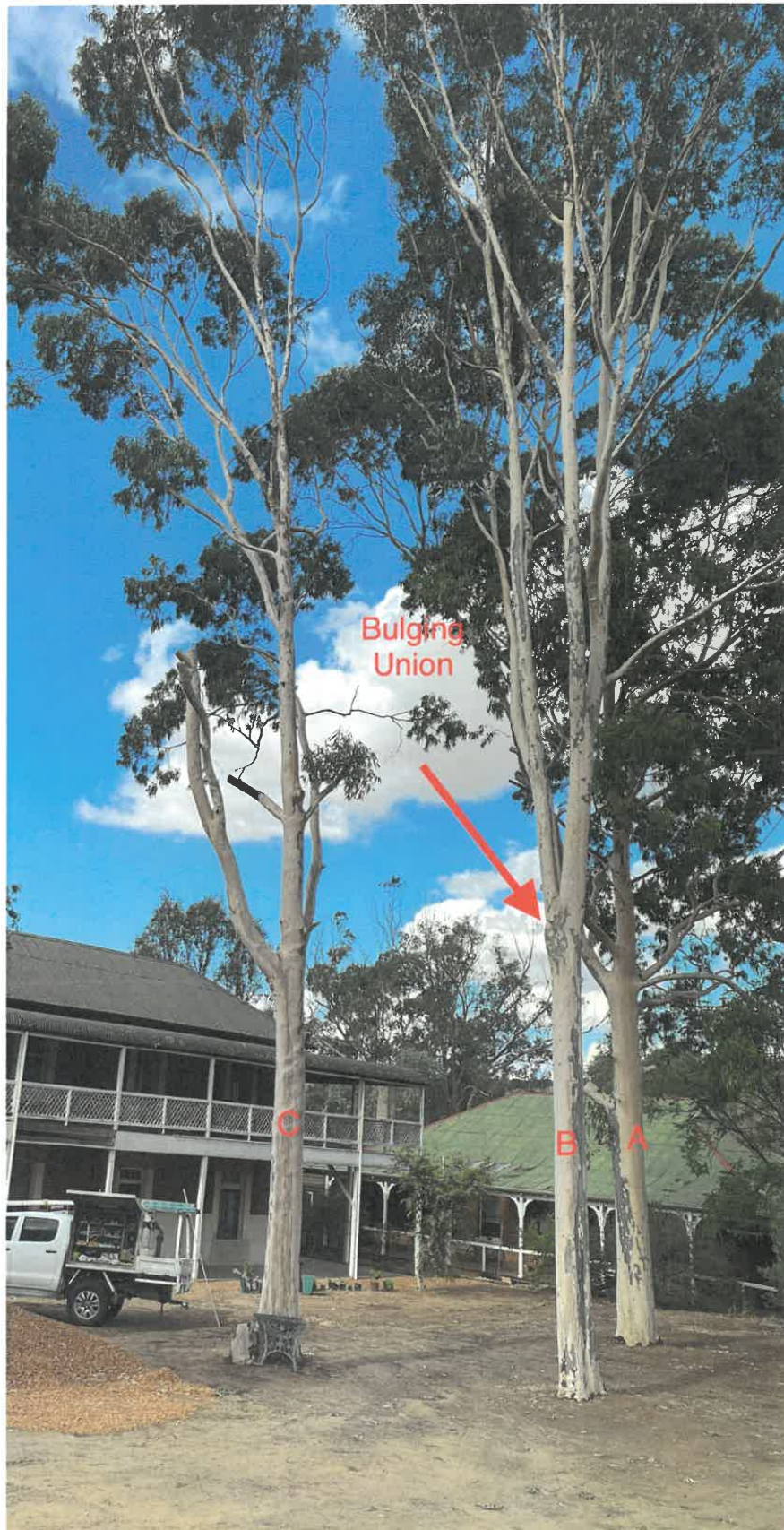
Kind Regards

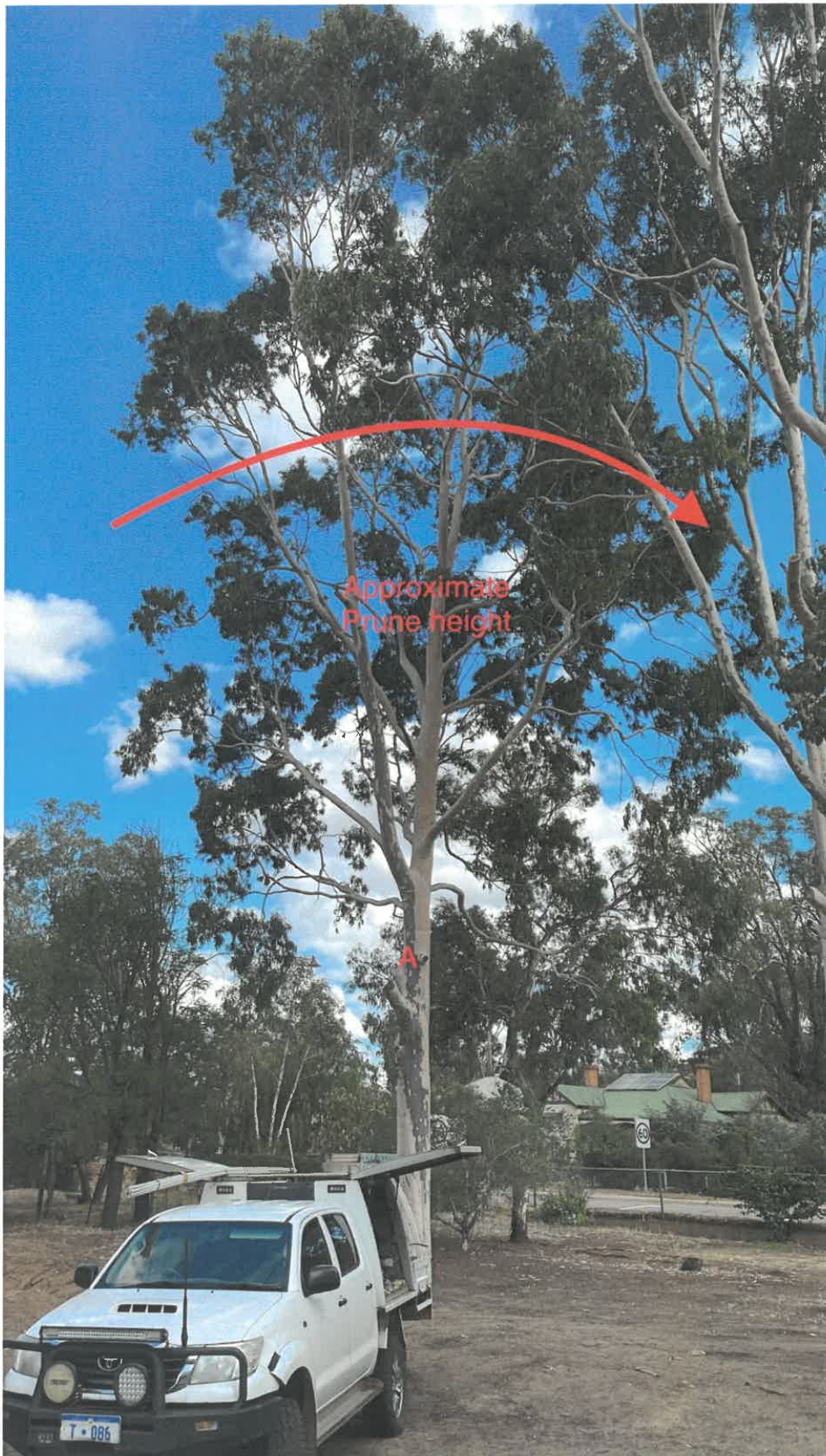


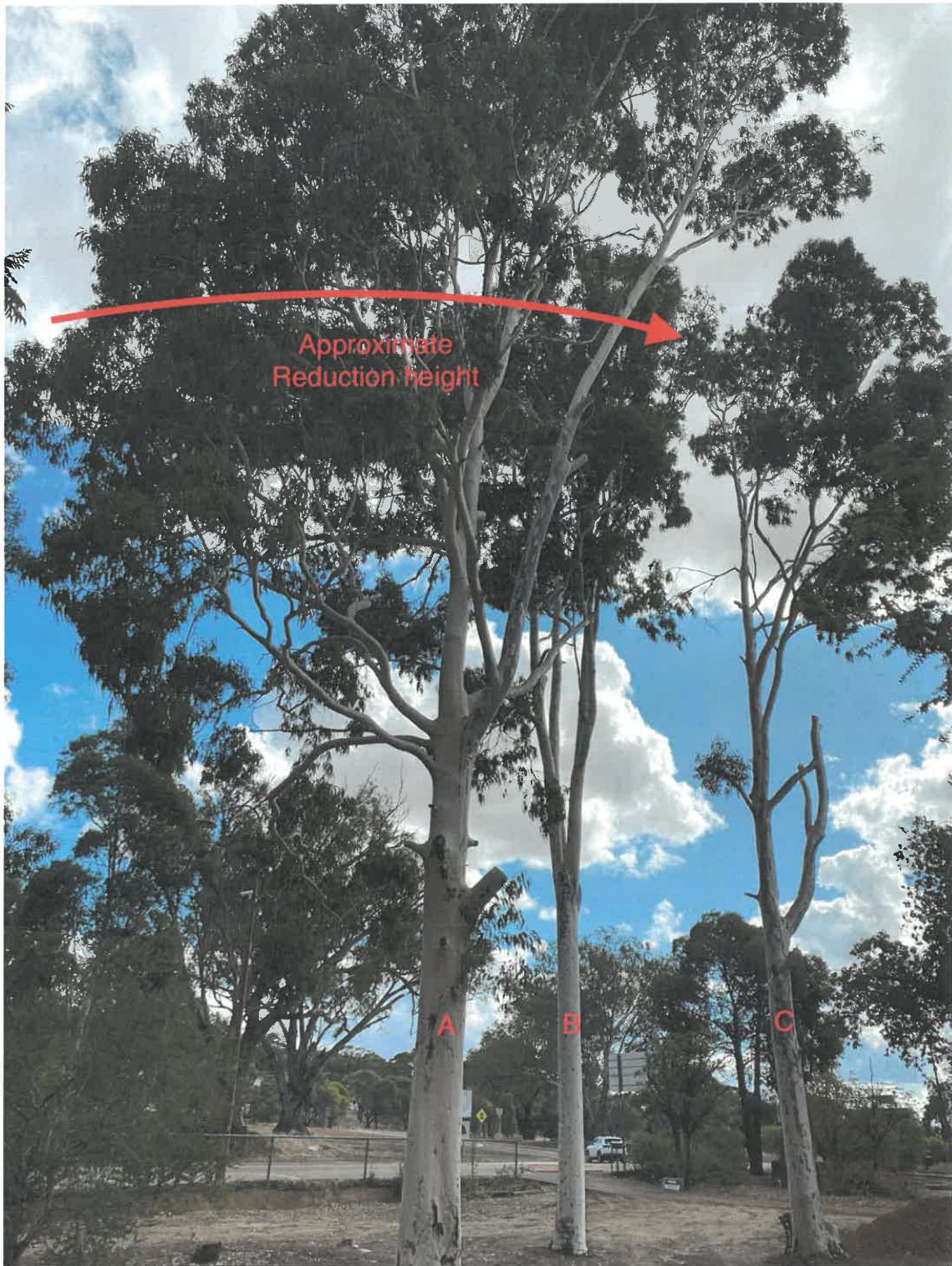
Darren Prater.

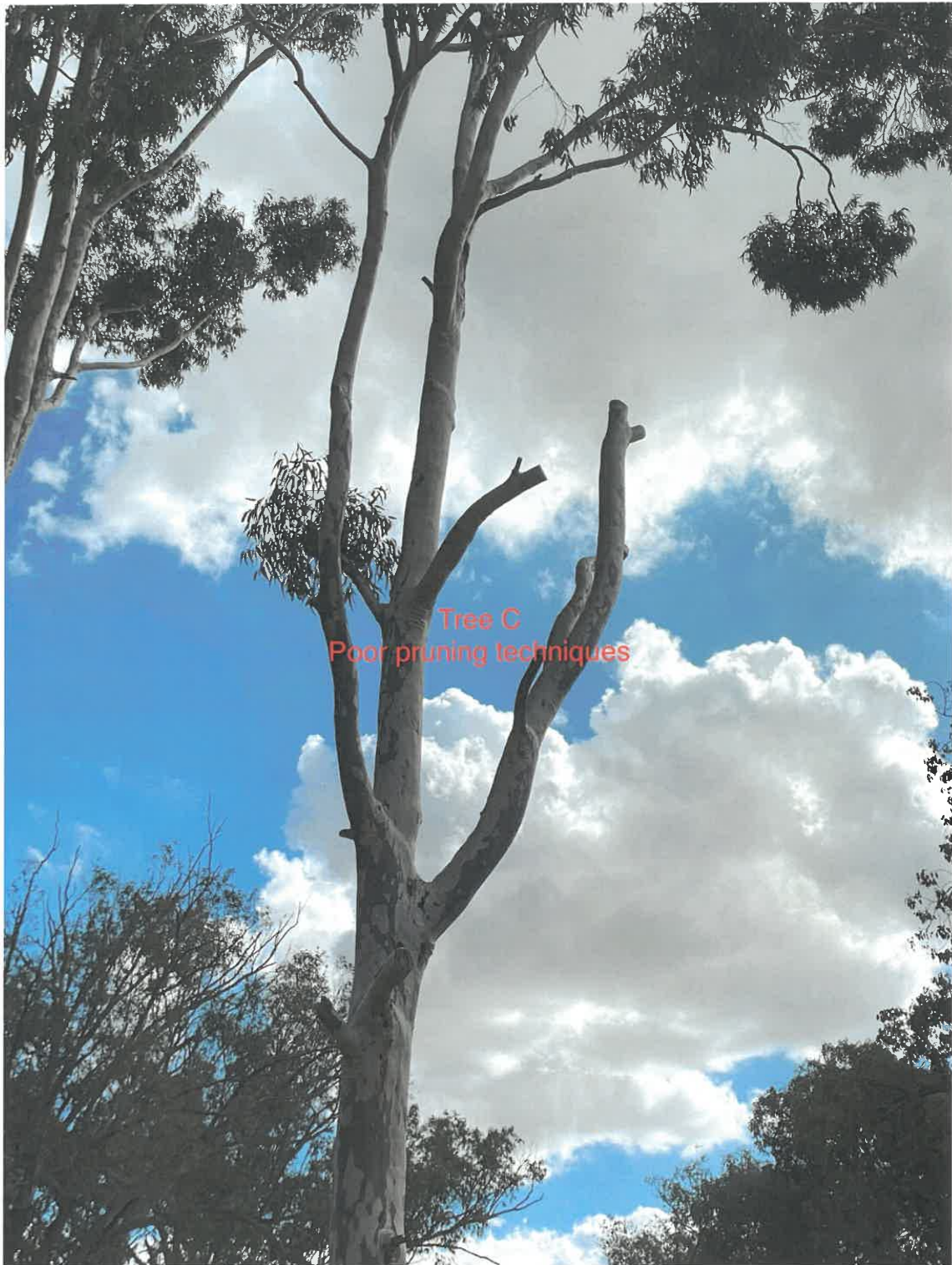
Landworx WA.

14 April 2023



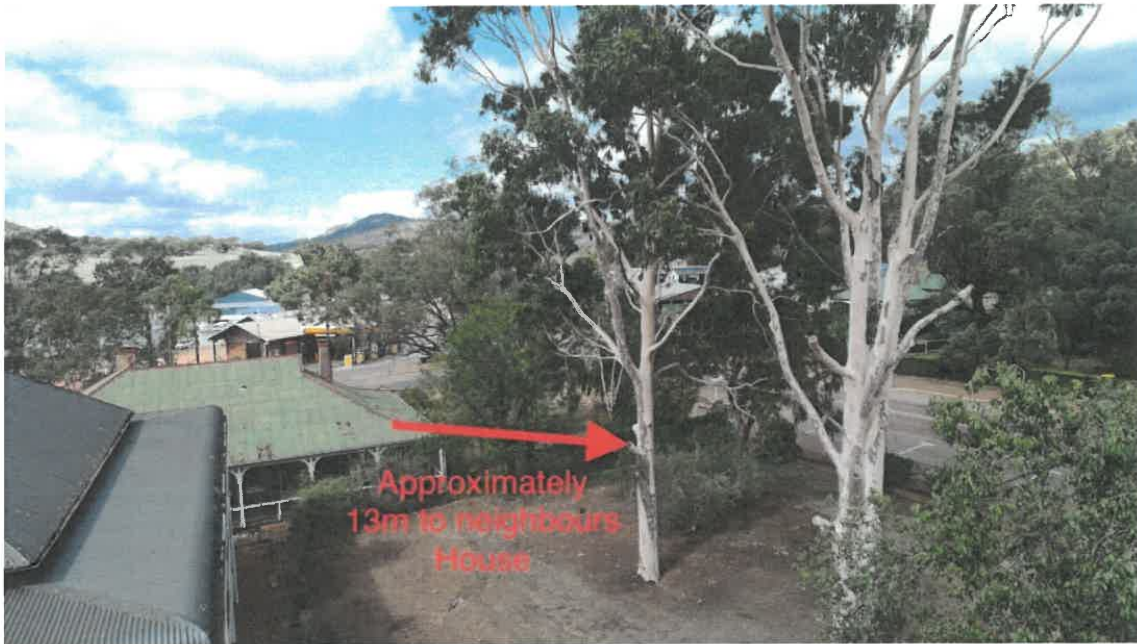


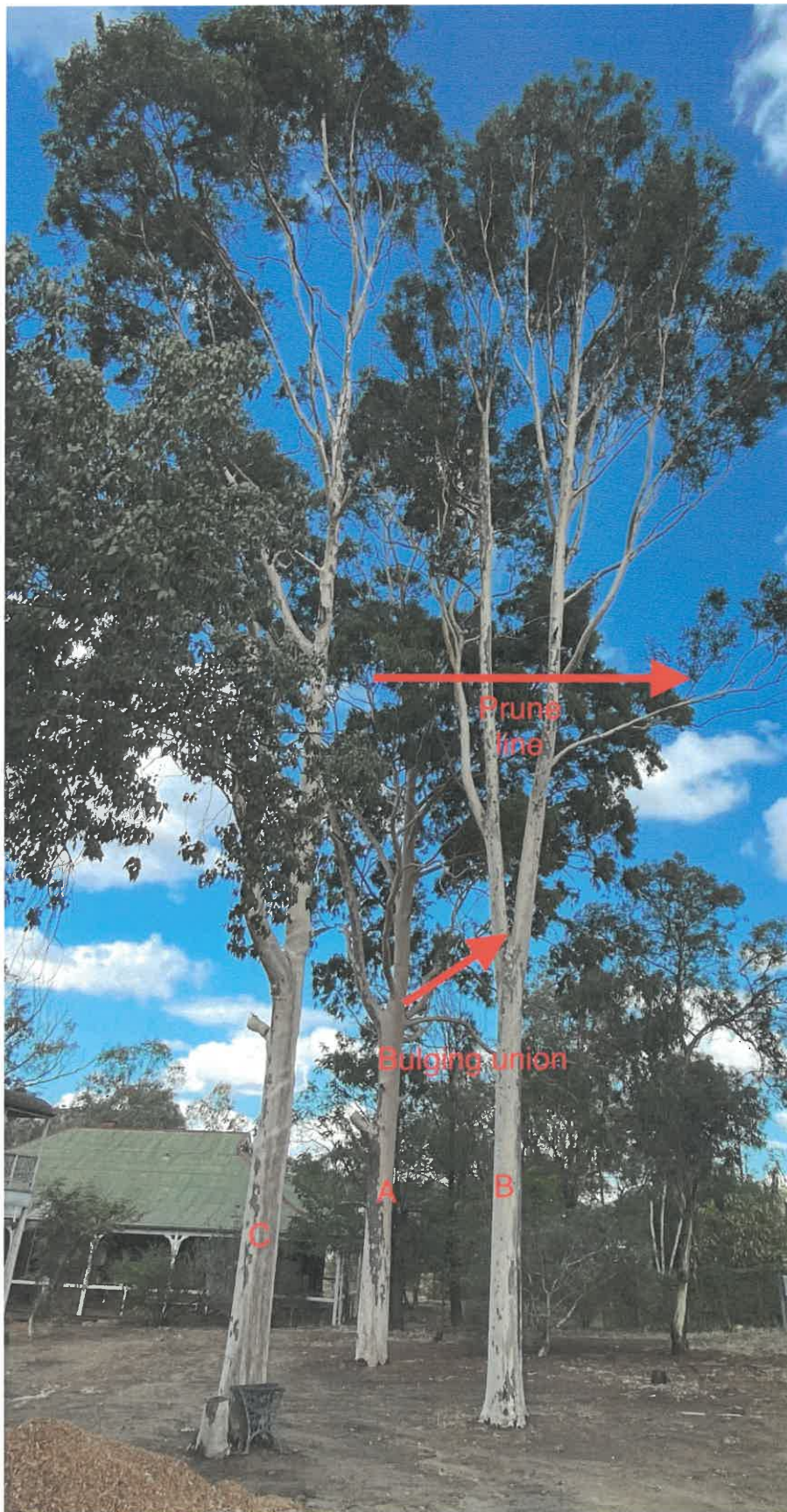














Verge Maintenance Policy

Introduction

As under Section 55(1) of the *Land Administration Act 1997*, the land comprising a road is the absolute property of the Crown and, subject to the *Main Roads Act 1930* and the *Public Works Act 1902*, the local government within the district of which a road is situated has the care, control and management of the road. This care, control and management includes not only the road, drainage, footpaths and supporting infrastructure but also the naturally occurring vegetation contained within.

The verge area is generally considered to be the area within the road reserve between the edge of the road infrastructure and adjacent private property.

This policy is intended to outline Councils expectations, responsibilities and the extent to which verge maintenance services will be provided by the Shire in the overall management of the road reserve and verges within the Shire of Toodyay.

Application

The Shire recognises that the appearance of street verges is important to owners / occupiers, due to the aesthetic impact on their properties and dwellings.

The following policy is provided to maintain safety to the community whilst enabling owners / occupiers to improve the aesthetics and amenity of street verges adjacent to their properties.

Policy Intent

- To value the verge as an important component of the streetscape;
- To encourage ownership by owners/occupiers to improve and maintain verge presentation;
- Define the extent of general verge maintenance activities undertaken by the Shire;
- Reduce the impact of unwanted plants on agriculture, conservation and landscape values in the Shire;
- Ensure Council meets its legal responsibilities under the Local Government Act 1995 (WA) and to control unwanted plants within the Shire under the Agricultural and Related Resources Protection Act 1976

1. General Maintenance

- (a) Owners/occupiers are encouraged to maintain the verge area/s adjacent to their property.
- (b) Shire involvement is limited to 'significant hazards', obstructions to road users or Shire infrastructure and/or private works requests (i.e. paid for by the requesting party).
- (c) The Shire will maintain verges adjacent to Shire owned property and important public places, as and when required.

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- (d) The Shire does conduct annual fire mitigation works both in reserves and road reserve areas (i.e. within the verge), however, these works are identified and conducting in areas deemed a strategic fire risk by the Shires Community Emergency Services Manager. Ad-hoc requests for fire mitigation in isolated areas will not be considered.
- (e) The Shire does not become involved in verge maintenance issues involving the presentation or perceived levels of neglect when an adjoining landholder does not maintain the adjoining verge.

2. Verge Trees

Verge trees can be classified into three main categories with the following responsibilities:

1. Approved street trees/vegetation

These are trees planted in the road verge with the appropriate permit/approval from the Shire under the Shire of Toodyay Thoroughfares Local Law. Following establishment of the trees/vegetation, the Shire accepts responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of these trees.

2. Non-approved street trees/vegetation

These are trees planted in the road verge without the appropriate permit/approval from the Shire. The Shire will not maintain these trees/vegetation and may remove or order the removal of them.

3. Naturally occurring trees/vegetation

It is a common misconception that the Shire owns all naturally occurring verge trees. Naturally occurring trees are growing on Crown Land, the Shire simply manages the trees when and where necessary and does not take ownership of a particular tree or trees. Should a verge tree fall or be damaged as a result of a storm or high winds, and cause damage to a resident's infrastructure, the Shire cannot be held responsible for any damages as this is a naturally occurring event and part of living in the hills and a heavily treed environment.

As per general maintenance considerations, Shire involvement is limited to 'significant hazards' and/or obstructions to road users or Shire infrastructure.

What constitutes a hazard?

- o *A dead or dying tree (or limbs) that is close to a crossover, road, footpath and/or infrastructure.*
- o *A tree that is severely diseased and of poor structure.*
- o *A tree that has become unstable at the base where root ball heave is present.*
- o *A tree or limb/s that is causing sight line problems when exiting a driveway, gateway or an intersection.*
- o *A tree that is deteriorating in health (photographic evidence to be captured)*
- o *A tree with severe termite infestation.*
- o *A limb/s that is cracked or damaged.*
- o *A limb/s that is encroaching over infrastructure or the road with the potential for failure or injury or causing damage to a vehicle permitted to use the road.*

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What does not constitute a hazard?

- *A tree simply shedding leaves, bark and fruits. This is a natural occurrence.*
- *The height of a particular tree.*
- *The proximity to infrastructure if the tree is in good health and structure.*
- *The species of a particular tree.*
- *A limb/s encroaching over a fence that has no impact on infrastructure.*
- *The size of a limb/s.*
- *A particular limb/s shedding leaves, bark and fruits, this is a natural occurrence.*
- *Limb/s encroaching into a paddock where no infrastructure is present.*

Residents are entitled to prune limbs of a tree that is overhanging their fence line.

It is the resident's responsibility to ensure compliance with the local Fire Break Order, therefore Residents will be required to prune trees encroaching their firebreak, regardless of whose land the tree may be on.

The removal of any vegetation, whether it be in private property or the road reserve, needs to be undertaken in compliance with the *Environmental Protection Act 1986, Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004* and the Shire of Toodyay Thoroughfares and Trading in Thoroughfares and Public Places Local Law.

3. Weed Control

The *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976* places an obligation on all landholders to control 'Declared Plants' on their properties. A list of Declared Plants can be obtained from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

The *Shire of Toodyay Pest Plant Local Law 1979* places an additional requirement on Shire of Toodyay landholders to control further pest plants identified in the First Schedule of this Local Law.

In addition to the Shires obligations to also control the above Declared Plants and Pest Plants on Shire managed land, the Shire will conduct annual roadsideverge management activities addressing weeds and vegetation within the road shoulder, drains and batters (generally covering 3-5m from the trafficable edge or the road).

4. High Conservation Roadsides

The Shire is committed to identifying and preserving high conservation roadsides and shire managed reserves for the protection of flora and fauna.

This should be assisted by identifying and implementing verge management activities that preserve, support and enhance the conversation value of the high conservation roadsides.

Revegetation on high conservation roadsides must be undertaken with local provenance species.

The Shire promotes its verge management activities on a regular basis, through local public notice as per Council Policy.

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Verge Management Activities undertaken on high conservation roadsides and shire managed reserves for the protection of flora and fauna require approval by the Chief Executive Officer under delegated authority.

Reference Information

Related Documents Shire of Toodyay Thoroughfares Local Law
Shire of Toodyay Pest Plant Local Laws 1979
Refer to the Roadside Conservation Value Schedule

Related Legislation Local Government Act 1995 (WA)
Agricultural and Related Resources Protection Act 1976
Pest Plants Local Law 1986
Environmental Protection Act 1986
Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004

Associated Forms and Attachments

Version Control Information	Version No.	Issue Date	Nature amendment	of	Developed By	Approved By
	V0					

Document Control Information

Document Theme	Governance
Document Category	
Document Title	
Document ID	
Document Owner (position title)	
Author (position title)	
Date of approval	
Approving authority	
Access restrictions	
Date Published	
Date of last review	
Date of next review	
Archived antecedent documents and previous versions	

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Verge Maintenance

Introduction

As under Section 55(1) of the *Land Administration Act 1997*, the land comprising a road is the absolute property of the Crown and, subject to the *Main Roads Act 1930* and the *Public Works Act 1902*, the local government within the district of which a road is situated has the care, control and management of the road. This care, control and management includes not only the road, drainage, footpaths and supporting infrastructure but also the naturally occurring vegetation contained within.

Objective

- To value the verge as an important component of the streetscape;
- To encourage ownership by owners/occupiers to improve and maintain verge presentation;
- Define the extent of general verge maintenance activities undertaken by the Shire;
- Reduce the impact of unwanted plants on agriculture, conservation and landscape values in the Shire;
- Ensure Council meets its legal responsibilities under the *Local Government Act 1995* (WA) and to control unwanted plants within the Shire under the *Agricultural and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*

Deleted: The verge area is generally considered to be the area within the road reserve between the edge of the road infrastructure and adjacent private property.¶

Scope

The Shire recognises that the appearance of street verges is important to owners / occupiers, due to the aesthetic impact on their properties and dwellings.

The following policy is provided to maintain safety to the community whilst enabling owners / occupiers to improve the aesthetics and amenity of street verges adjacent to their properties.

Definitions

Term	Definition
Act	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> .
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
Council	The local government, responsible for making decisions in formal meetings held under the auspices of Part 5 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> and under the <i>Shire's Standing Orders Local Law 2008</i> .
Regulations	Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996.
Shire	the Shire of Toodyay.

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Term	Definition
<u>Verge area</u>	<u>the area within the road reserve between the edge of the road infrastructure and adjacent private property.</u>
Verge Management Activities	Means activities undertaken on high conservation roadsides and shire managed reserves for the protection of flora and fauna require approval by the Chief Executive Officer under delegated authority.

Policy Statement

This policy is intended to outline Councils expectations, responsibilities and the extent to which verge maintenance services will be provided by the Shire in the overall management of the road reserve and verges within the Shire of Toodyay.

1. General Maintenance

- (a) Owners/occupiers are encouraged to maintain the verge area/s adjacent to their property.
- (b) Shire involvement is limited to 'significant hazards', obstructions to road users or Shire infrastructure and/or private works requests (i.e. paid for by the requesting party).
- (c) The Shire will maintain verges adjacent to Shire owned property and important public places, as and when required.
- (d) The Shire does conduct annual fire mitigation works both in reserves and road reserve areas (i.e. within the verge), however, these works are identified and conducting in areas deemed a strategic fire risk by the Shires Community Emergency Services Manager. Ad-hoc requests for fire mitigation in isolated areas will not be considered.
- (e) The Shire does not become involved in verge maintenance issues involving the presentation or perceived levels of neglect when an adjoining landholder does not maintain the adjoining verge.

2. Verge Trees

Verge trees can be classified into three main categories with the following responsibilities:

- (a) Approved street trees/vegetation
 These are trees planted in the road verge with the appropriate permit/approval from the Shire under the Shire of Toodyay Thoroughfares Local Law. Following establishment of the trees/vegetation, the Shire accepts responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of these trees.
- (b) Non-approved street trees/vegetation
 These are trees planted in the road verge without the appropriate permit/approval from the Shire. The Shire will not maintain unapproved street trees or vegetation and may remove or order their removal.

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(c) Naturally occurring trees/vegetation

It is a common misconception that the Shire owns all naturally occurring verge trees. Naturally occurring trees are growing on Crown Land, the Shire simply manages the trees when and where necessary and does not take ownership of a particular tree or trees. Should a verge tree fall or be damaged as a result of a storm or high winds, and cause damage to a resident's infrastructure, the Shire cannot be held responsible for any damages as this is a naturally occurring event and part of living in the hills and a heavily treed environment.

As per general maintenance considerations, Shire involvement is limited to 'significant hazards' and/or obstructions to road users or Shire infrastructure.

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(i) What constitutes a hazard?

- o *A dead or dying tree (or limbs) that is close to a crossover, road, footpath and/or infrastructure.*
- o *A tree that is severely diseased and of poor structure.*
- o *A tree that has become unstable at the base where root ball heave is present.*
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- o *A limb/s that is cracked or damaged.*
- o *A limb/s that is encroaching over infrastructure or the road with the potential for failure or injury or causing damage to a vehicle permitted to use the road.*

(ii) What does not constitute a hazard?

- o *A tree simply shedding leaves, bark and fruits. This is a natural occurrence.*
- o *The height of a particular tree.*
- o *The proximity to infrastructure if the tree is in good health and structure.*
- o *The species of a particular tree.*
- o *A limb/s encroaching over a fence that has no impact on infrastructure.*
- o *The size of a limb/s.*
- o *A particular limb/s shedding leaves, bark and fruits, this is a natural occurrence.*
- o *Limb/s encroaching into a paddock where no infrastructure is present.*

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It is the resident's responsibility to ensure compliance with the local Fire Break Order, therefore Residents will be required to prune trees encroaching their firebreak, regardless of whose land the tree may be on.

The removal of any vegetation, whether it be in private property or the road reserve, needs to be undertaken in compliance with the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004* and the *Shire of Toodyay Thoroughfares and Trading in Thoroughfares and Public Places Local Law*.

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3. Weed Control

The *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976* places an obligation on all landholders to control 'Declared Plants' on their properties. A list of Declared Plants can be obtained from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

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This should be assisted by identifying and implementing verge management activities that preserve, support and enhance the conservation value of the high conservation roadsides.

Revegetation on high conservation roadsides must be undertaken with local provenance species.

The Shire promotes its verge management activities on a regular basis, through local public notice as per ~~Council Policy~~, Community Consultation and Engagement Policy.

Reference Information

- *Shire of Toodyay Thoroughfares Local Law*
- *Shire of Toodyay Pest Plant Local Laws 1979*

Legislation

- *Local Government Act 1995*
- *Agricultural and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*
- *Pest Plants Local Law 1986*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1986*
- *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004*

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Associated documents

Refer to the [Roadside Conservation Value Schedule](#).

Version control information

Version No.	Date Issued	Review position	Developed by	Approved by
V1	27/10/2020 (CRN: 300/10/20)	Adopted	Manager Infrastructure and Assets	Council
V2	<u>02/05/2023</u>	Review	<u>Executive Services</u>	

Document control information	
Document Theme	Governance
Document Category	Infrastructure and Assets
Document Title	Verge Maintenance
Document ID	INF5
Document Owner (position title)	Manager Infrastructure and Assets
Author (position title)	Manager Infrastructure and Assets
Date of approval	t.b.a.
Approving authority	Council
Access restrictions	Nil
Date Published	t.b.a.
Date of last review	27 October 2020
Date of next review	t.b.a.
Archived antecedent documents and previous versions	Adopted 27 Oct 2020 OCM

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