Land

Management

Plan

# Land Management Plan

Land Management Planning involves the process of planning a property’s uses, activities and management of a site’s natural values. It includes the enhancement of the biodiversity, waterway health and on-farm productivity (if relevant) and the land owners vision and aspirations.

Land Management Plans can take many forms and include Whole Farm Plans, Property Management Plans and Conservation Management Plans.

These plans set the goals and priorities for successful land management and should take into account:

* Property goals and business plan
* Planning overlays and zones
* Land use capabilities and soil management
* Water supply
* Weed management plan
* Pest animal management plan
* Biodiversity and native vegetation

## Landowner Details

|  |
| --- |
| Name of Landowner: |
| Trading names (if applicable): |
| Property name (if applicable): |
| Property address:  Postcode: |
| Postal Address (if applicable): |
| Phone (AH): |
| Phone (Business): |
| Mobile: |
| Email: |

#### List any relevant qualifications relevant to the development and implementation of your property plan

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| List your knowledge and experience e.g. completed ACAP course, undertaken whole farm planning course. |  |
| List any membership with any environmental and landcare groups |  |

## Property Details

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Property Size (hectares) |  |
| CMA Catchment | □Goulburn Broken  □North Central  □Port Phillip and Westernport |
| Bioregion |  |
| Ecological Vegetation Class/s (EVCS) |  |
| Significant Landscape Features |  |

#### 1. What is the primary use of the property?

E.g. Garden, dwelling, conservation, agriculture, cattle, horse, sheep etc.

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#### 2. What are your aims for your property?

E.g. To improve the biodiversity on the property? To have strong and healthy horses? To build a sustainable home?

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#### 3. What are the main land management issues of the site?

E.g. noxious weeds, soil erosion, pest animals

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#### 4. Describe the aims for your property:

* Manage weeds
* Develop a revegetation/restoration plan for the site
* Build a dwelling

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#### 5. What are the planning zones and overlays for the property?

What planning zones and overlays exist on your property? Do you need to apply for a permit for any work? To find out visit: <https://mapshare.vic.gov.au/vicplan/>

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#### 6. Site Plan

Please include detailed site plan(s) showing existing conditions and all proposed works. Divide the property into zones that define the main areas including, e.g. dwelling & recreational zone, conservation zones, agriculture zones, windbreaks, waterways/dam and bores.

The plans are to include:

* Existing native vegetation patches/scattered trees
* Exotic trees
* Proposed and existing structures
* Areas of pest plants and animals (e.g. rabbit warrens)
* Waterways
* All vegetation proposed for removal
* Any proposed fencing
* Any proposed planting (windbreaks etc.)
* Any revegetation
* Methods of protecting existing vegetation
* Proposed alignment of any services (power etc)
* Proposed dams and bores

#### 7. Description of land use zones

Describe each land use zone in more detail as identified in your site plan, e.g. defendable space, conservation zone, riparian waterway zone, agricultural zones, revegetation zone, recreational zone (including the dwelling). In each zone, include boundary fencing\*, the type of vegetation present including the Ecological Vegetation Plant Community (EVC) (see Appendix 1), exotic trees and weed species present.

\*Wildlife friendly fencing is preferred (see appendix for more information).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Land zone | Description including native and exotic vegetation | Proposed land use |
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#### 8. Soils

**What type of soils are present on your property?**

Soils of the Macedon Ranges Shire are predominately e.g.

* Well-drained sedimentary rock soils, e.g. sandstone, mudstone etc. with shallow gravelly red brown earths.
* Moderately drained granite soils with coarse sands and yellow duplex soils.
* Imperfectly drained volcanic basalt rock with stony earth dark clay soils.
* Gilgai soils
* Attach soil report

Describe the soils of your site. Resources to assist in describing soils are available at: <http://vro.agriculture.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/soil-home>

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**What were your soil test results?**

Please provide your results of P, K, pH and salinity

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**Does the soil change across your property? What does the soil test indicate to you about land use? Are there any erosion issues?**

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#### 9. Farming Activity (if applicable)

Outline your proposed farming activity (cropping, stock etc.) and intended stock rotation.

**Grazing Stock**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Area currently used for grazing (Ha) |  |
| Area of proposed grazing (Ha) |  |
| Current stock numbers\* |  |

\* Stock numbers are calculated using theDry Sheep Equivalent (DELWP) stocking rate system where the carrying capacity of the land is equated to ‘dry sheep equivalents’ or how many dry (non-breeding) sheep of average condition can be kept on the land without weight loss or handfeeding.)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Stock type (including horses) | Number of animals | Seasonal variation in stock numbers | Feeding requirements (stock feed supply including the percentage of imported feed). |
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**Cropping**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Area currently under cropping (Ha) |  |
| Current crop/s |  |
| Area of future cropping (Ha) |  |

**Pasture renovation**

Explain the method and timing of any pasture renovation/improvement works

Eg. Using perennial plants as crops, protecting remnant vegetation, fencing off vegetation, rotational grazing, resting paddocks, eliminating the use of herbicides.

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#### 10. Water

Water assets must be identified on the site plan.

**What is the current water supply?**

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| --- | --- |
| Domestic water supply |  |
| Current number of dams and bores |  |
| Creeks, wetlands or watercourses |  |
| Annual rainfall |  |
| Fire water supply |  |
| Water supply for Stock and/or cropping |  |

## Describe your current and proposed water requirements

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**Outline the steps you will take to ensure the protection and enhancement of your waterway** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

#### 11. Native Plants and Animals

**Describe the native vegetation on your site.** **Links to resources;**

<http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/revegetation/>

<http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/environment-and-wildlife/biodiversity/evc-benchmarks>

Do you have bushland or scattered paddock trees on your property?

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How will you protect and enhance your remnant vegetation? Have you considered a conservation covenant or a program such as Bush Broker? Refer to the appendix for more information.

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What native animals have you found on your property?

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#### 12. Pest plants

Include the weeds present on your site plan. Useful information and resources about pest plants is provided in appendix 1.

# Ten Year Targeted Weed Management Plan \*shaded rows are examples

| **Year** | **Weed and Action** | **Location** | **Timing/Frequency** | **Who** | **Technique** | **Completed** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Control Blackberry | Creek line | January | Contractor | Chemical | January 2029 |
| 1 | Control Patersons Curse | Paddock 1 | As germination takes place | landowner | Manual removal/  chemical | On going |
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#### 13. Pest animals

Useful information and resources about weeds is provided in appendix 1.

**Management Techniques**

A combination of methods including:

* Poisoning
* Fumigation
* Ripping of burrows
* Destruction of harbor
* Fencing
* Shooting

**Identify any pest animals and the proposed management on your property**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Zone** | Pest animal species | Evidence - found on site of pest animals such as burrow/dens, scats, diggings | Control method(s) for an integrated approach | Monitoring techniques | Timing of treatment/control | Treatment Options over 3 years. |
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## 14. Revegetation

If revegetation is proposed, refer to the additional information in the Appendix.

| **Scientific Name** | **Common Name** | **Numbers** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Trees** | | |
|  |  |  |
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|  |  |  |
| **Sub Total** | |  |
| **Medium Shrubs & Understorey Trees** | | |
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| **Sub Total** | |  |
| **Small and Prostrate Shrubs** | | |
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| **Sub Total** | |  |
| **Grasses/Ground Cover** | | |
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| **Sub Total** | |  |
| **Total** | |  |

## 15. Land Management Works Plan

Provide a summarised action table of the identified key works to be undertaken. This will incorporate actions from the weed table (section 12), pest animals (section 13) and native vegetation (section 14). This table will be a perpetual action table for the life of the property so future landowners have a management tool to maintain and enhance the biodiversity on the property.

**The shaded rows are examples – produce a action plan for your property.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Zone** | **Action** | **When** | **Who** | **How** | **Complete** |
| **Year 1** | | | | | |
| **Zone 1** | Control Blackberry | January | Contractor/ landowner | Chemical | Complete in 12 months |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Year 2** | | | | | |
| **Zone 1** | Revegetation along creek line to replace Blackberry | Winter | Landowner | Tube stock | Complete by Spring of year 2 |
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|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Year 3** | | | | | |
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|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Year 4** | | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Year 5** | | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Ongoing actions** | | | | | |
| **Zone 1** | Monitor & check revegetation sites for weed species and general growth. | Yearly | Landowner | Observational/manual removal | Yearly basis |
| **Zone 2** | Control Patersons Curse | As germination takes place | Landowner | Manual or chemical | Yearly basis |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
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### Appendix 1 – Additional Information

#### Ecological Vegetation Community (EVC)

To grow the correct indigenous plant species for your property, you should follow the plant species list of the Ecological Vegetation Community (EVC). The Environment Unit can assist in providing the information you require or visit the DELWP website below:

<https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/bioregions-and-evc-benchmarks>

#### Native Vegetation – Conservation Protection Zones

Native vegetation conservation zones are required to be fenced to ensure protection from overgrazing from cattle, horses and sheep. It is recommended that wildlife friendly fencing is used to allow native fauna to migrate through the property.

#### Revegetation

Revegetation is an important part of your property plan and provides the following benefits:

* Habitat for local fauna
* Native vegetation structure and character
* Erosion control
* Enhancing existing biodiversity values by restoring shrub and grassy understorey
* Address salinity issues
* Shelter belts

If you are planning to undertake revegetation, develop a revegetation plan and identify these areas on your site plan. We recommend the use of local native plant species, refer to your Ecological Vegetation Community type as a guide.

Weeds and pasture grasses will need to be spot sprayed prior to planting to reduce competition with tube stock. Once weeds show visible signs of brown off (dying) then individual holes can be made with mattock, crow bar or Hamilton Tree Planter.

#### Pest Plants

Declared noxious weeds in Victoria are listed under the Catchment and Land Protection (CaLP) Act 1994. These plants cause environmental or economic harm or have the potential to cause such harm. All weed treatment with herbicides/chemicals is to be conducted in accordance with the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemical Code Act 1994. They can also present risks to human health. The Act defines four categories of noxious weeds:

* State Prohibited Weeds (SPW)
* Regionally Prohibited Weeds (RPW)
* Regionally Controlled Weeds (RC)
* Restricted Weeds (R)
* Environmental Weeds (EW)
* Agricultural Weeds (AW)

Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) were prioritised using a series of questions that measured each weeds invasiveness, impacts, potential for spread and socio and economic impacts.

**Useful Resources**

Weed Spotters Victoria website to learn about new and emerging weeds and for more information about weeds in your local area.

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/weeds/weed-spotters>

Weeds of Central Victoria – A booklet about the main weeds occurring in Macedon Ranges.

<https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/Live-Work/Environment/Weeds-Native-Plants/Weed-Control>

#### Pest animals

Pest animals include rabbits, cats, deer, hares, foxes and other declared pest animals in accordance with the CaLP. Rabbits and foxes are typically associated with blackberry and gorse for food and shelter, and as such an integrated weed approach is required. Pest animals degrade land quality and agricultural productivity.

The management principles for pest animals are:

* Reduce numbers
* Destroy burrows and harbor
* Prevent reinvasion

#### Rotational Grazing – Biodiversity Enhancement

Planned grazing is an effective tool to reduce grassy fuel loads. It is best to occur in late summer to allow indigenous plants to set seed. Ensure trees/shrubs are large enough to cope with the pressure of animals being included into the zone. You could install tree guards/temporary fencing around small plants and regenerating areas so they are not overgrazed. If possible, eucalypt plants should be a minimum of 1.2-1.5m in height; this allows strong root systems to cope with the pulling action of browsing by stock.

NOTE: the number of cattle/sheep/horses is subject to the size of your conservation zone. Contact the Environment Unit to assist in determining the number of animals.

Grazing Plan for Conservation Zones

* Mid Summer (February)- 1 week to 10 days
* Late Summer (May) – 1 week to 10 days
* Horse/Cattle/Sheep excrement to be picked up at end of week (to reduce weed outbreaks)

#### Wildlife friendly fencing

Wildlife friendly fencing is a recommended option to protect patches of native vegetation from impacts caused by stock and will enable local fauna to migrate through your property. To obtain a brochure about how to construct Wildlife Friendly Fencing, visit the Macedon Ranges website at the link below to download the brochure.

<https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/Live-Work/Environment/Native-Pest-Animals/Living-With-Wildlife>

#### Permanent protection/covenants

Have you considered a conservation covenant for the protection of native vegetation such as the Trust for Nature program? You can also permanently protect and restore native vegetation on your property in conjunction with the native vegetation offset program coordinated by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). Visit the Trust For Nature website and DELWP for more information.

<https://www.trustfornature.org.au/>

<https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation/native-vegetation/offsets-for-the-removal-of-native-vegetation/i-want-to-establish-a-native-vegetation-credit-site>