



General weeds management

These guidelines describe how Murrumbidgee Irrigation manages weeds in our waterways and on our land, and what customers can do to assist with weed management.

What we do

One of our highest priorities is to ensure the efficient delivery of water to all customers through our irrigation network of over 5,000 kilometers of supply and drainage channels. This requires management of weeds that restrict water flows as well as weeds on the associated access ways that form part of routine maintenance activities.

Sections of our irrigation supply channels are treated with the herbicide Acrolein. Drainage channels and access ways are treated throughout the year with various methods including slashing, the use of Roundup herbicide and the use of machinery during de-silting and de-weeding processes.

Our annual weeds management schedule is determined by our monitoring programs as well as by notifications from MI staff, customers, local Councils and the community.

Due to our large area of operation, and the costs involved in managing weeds, we prioritise our weed control activities by considering:

- Safety issues (safe access for maintenance staff and interference with the vision of road users)
- The noxious classification of the plant species
- Weed invasiveness
- Water flow impedance, and
- Water quality.

Our trained and licenced vegetation control officers:

- Keep a chemical spray diary in accordance with MI's Environmental Protection License (EPL) requirements
- Liaise with local Council's weeds officers
- Report quarterly to the Riverina Regional Weeds Committee
- Report on weed management in our Annual Compliance Report, and
- Manage noxious weeds under the direction of the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* and the *Pesticides Act 1999*.

What can you do to help?

Many customers like to control weeds on land adjacent to their property boundary which may include areas around MI infrastructure.

If you are considering weed control on MI land, please contact us first, so we can work together:

- Your safety is essential, so we need to discuss work health and safety practices around waterways and to ensure you understand the risks associated with the use of weed control chemicals
- To ensure you understand your responsibilities around the potential risk for contamination of irrigation water and your liability for damage to neighbouring properties
- We can advise you on methods to keep debris out of waterways to avoid restricting water flows or blocking infrastructure downstream that affect irrigation flows for other customers
- We can provide further information on your local environment or sensitive areas that need to be avoided, such as stands of native vegetation, and
- We can work together and advise if any weed management works are scheduled for your area.



Where can I get more information on weed control?

The NSW Government, through the Department of Primary Industries, provides extensive information on their **NSW WeedWise** website and phone app. They have information on over 300 weeds, describing weed profiles, control methods and legal requirements.

See www.weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/ or download the NSW WeedWise app to your smartphone.

For information on your individual responsibilities regarding noxious weeds and chemical use, see the *Pesticides Act 1999* and the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*, available on the NSW Government website.

Further information

We have associated fact sheets available on our website. For further information contact Customer Services on (02) 6962 0200.



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