

## What resources are there for me?

Council has a suite of opportunities available for landowners to increase their knowledge of and skills in sustainable land management.

Council's Rural Engagement Team run a series of events and workshops throughout the year. These are advertised through various Council media avenues.


Weed fact sheets providing species-specific information on control methods and timing, are available from Council's website and from the Rural Engagement Team.


Council offers a number of sustainable land management incentive programs for eligible rural landholders.

In extenuating circumstances, Council can arrange a site visit and provide a strategic control plan for the landowner.

A list of environmental weed control contractors operating in the municipality is available from Council for those land managers unable to undertake the work themselves.

**For more information about Council's Weed Education and Compliance Program please contact Council's Sustainability Engagement Team:**

 9205 2200

 ruralenvironment@hume.vic.gov.au

 hume.vic.gov.au/Weeds

## HumeLink

Multilingual telephone  
information service

Enquiries 9205 2200

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## Connect with us

 9205 2200

 ruralenvironment@hume.vic.gov.au

 hume.vic.gov.au

  HumeCityCouncil

For more information scan QR code or  
visit [hume.vic.gov.au/weeds](https://hume.vic.gov.au/weeds)



HUME CITY COUNCIL

## Weed Education and Compliance Program



## Why a Weed Education and Compliance Program?

**Council is committed to ensuring that the City's natural heritage, environment and rural spaces are protected, enhanced, maintained, and valued.**

For this reason, Council supports and invests in a range of programs and projects that support rural residents to manage their land sustainably. This includes field days and workshops, fauna monitoring, technical assistance and a range of incentive programs.

**The Weed Education and Compliance Program (WECP) aims to work with rural landholders on making a reasonable effort to control noxious weeds on their land.**

## Why are noxious weeds an issue?

Noxious weeds are a threat to the natural environment and primary production. Noxious weeds compete with native vegetation and can impact on ecological connectivity by reducing the extent of native vegetation and the quality of habitat patches. This problem is further compounded by climate change. Weed infestations are expected to be a major consequence of climate change due to their response to disturbance regimes.

**The program is recommended in recognition of the high impact that landholders who do not control weeds are having on their neighbours and provides an important avenue for Council to engage with these people.**

## What is the objective of the Program?

The objective of the program is to reduce noxious weed infestations across rural Hume. The program seeks compliance against Section 33 of the Hume City General Purpose Local Law No. 1 2023:

**An owner or occupier of land must take all reasonable steps to control, reduce and manage noxious weeds and pest animals on their land.**

This local law is made in accordance with section 111(1) of the Local Government Act (1989).

The Noxious Weed Local Law gives Council the authority to direct a landowner or occupier to eradicate noxious weeds and enables the issuing of an infringement penalty where a landowner or occupier fails to do so.

## How will the program work?

**All landholders will be notified of each upcoming seasonal Weed Education and Compliance program through advertising in Council's Re-Source Rural Environment Newsletter publication, Councils E-News portal and direct mail. Each seasonal program will focus on one or several noxious weeds.**

### **Weed Advisory Notice (WAN)**

Council issues this notice as a courtesy in advance of the control period for the target species.

The notice informs the landholder that a pest plant has been identified and is required to be eradicated under the local law.

### **Notice to Comply (NTC)**

A Notice to Comply is the first notice issued in the compliance process.

Landowners are directed to eradicate the subject species and given 14 days to comply.

Timing is crucial for best results, and to achieve landscape-wide weed control, the aim is to have everyone undertake their work at the same time. However, in some circumstances, a request for more time to undertake control can be granted at this stage.

### **Penalty Infringement Notice (PIN)**

Where no work is undertaken, as directed in the Notice to Comply, or is deemed unsatisfactory, an infringement against the property owner is issued.

A Penalty Infringement Notice is issued in accordance with the Infringements Act 2006.

### **Further legal proceedings**

In circumstances where Council has taken all reasonable steps to work with the landholder to undertake weed control, Council can take the matter to the Magistrates Court.

