



Appendix 11 - Weed Control – Spraying Herbicides - Risk Assessment Form

For each project site, a Project Risk Assessment Report must be completed by the Landcare Support Staff. If an accident occurs, the Project Risk Assessment may be required for legal proceedings. A sample risk assessment form is below and can be adapted to suit the site conditions and activities.

PROJECT RISK ASSESSMENT FORM

Project Name Weed Control – Spraying Herbicides

Group Name _____ **Project Location** _____

Project Coordinator _____ **Assessment Date** _____

TASKS INVOLVING HAZARDS	RISK LEVEL * (prior to mitigation)	MITIGATION (CONTROL) STRATEGIES	RISK LEVEL * (after mitigation)	PROCEED Yes / No
Preparation Herbicides <i>Spillage and Contamination</i> <i>Poisoning of personnel and plants</i> <i>Trips and falls</i>		- Wear appropriate PPE as advised on the MSDS. Note that the use of certain PPE may accelerate the onset of heat stress. - Ensure that the correct herbicide is being used for the application. - Check the equipment for damage including the hoses. (If damage is found remove the applicator from service and apply a "Do Not Use" tag.) - Inspect the work area for hazards. (Example – Tripping hazards caused by excess material, hoses and leads.) - Ensure the MSDS is on hand and the operator is familiar with its recommendations. - Ensure the applicator or spray tank is on a stable, even surface. - Check the herbicide container for cracks or leaks. - Check the applicator or tank for leaks or damage. - Ensure spill kit is on hand. - Ensure water and herbicide ratios are mixed according to the recommendations labelled on the container. For backpack sprayers - Ensure all fittings are sealed, straps and levers are in good working condition For spray tanks - Ensure tank is securely fitted, check seals, fittings and hoses are in good working condition		
Application of Herbicides <i>Over Spray</i> <i>Herbicide coming in contact with people or fauna</i>		- Wear appropriate PPE as advised on the MSDS. - Ensure that no over spray is affecting waterways, people or public areas. - Always stand upwind to the target zone. - Provide adequate washing facilities.		
Working near Roadsides		- Eliminate or minimise the need for participants to work near roadsides. - For major roads consider the development of a Traffic Management Plan and hiring a Traffic Management Company to undertake the Traffic Management. - Place signs e.g.: SLOW DOWN, WORKERS NEAR ROADSIDE etc., and/or witches hats to indicate to drivers that there are workers ahead. (Note: This should not be done without proper training and authorisation by the appropriate roads management authority). - Wear high visibility vests. - Maintain direct and continual supervision.		



		• Check that all participants understand the signals to be used, and that the signals are clear and unambiguous. • Work upwind or out of fume and dust range.		
Manual Handling		• Explain and demonstrate how to use, carry and store correctly. • Set weight limits for lifting that take account of the skill and physical stature of the team Persons. (Do not allow demonstrations of strength.) • Reduce the weights lifted or carried, or the force applied, when working on uneven or slippery surfaces. • Avoid, or limit the duration of, tasks that require the adoption of biomechanically unsound postures e.g. slouching or over reaching. • Check that equipment to be used is appropriate for the tasks to be undertaken and properly maintained.		
Bites and Stings		• Ensure that all participants are appropriately dressed e.g.: long sleeves and trousers, sturdy footwear, thick socks. • Tuck trousers into socks, and wear gloves, when working in areas where there is a known, or suspected, higher risk of spider/insect bites. • Provide insect repellent. • Re-deploy to another task or location, any participants who have known allergies to bites or stings. • Conduct a visual inspection of the worksite to identify and flag high risk areas e.g.: ant nests, stinging plants. • Walk heavily in suspected snake habitat.		
Slips, Trips and Falls		• Avoid any obvious hazards such as slippery logs, loose rocks, steep embankments etc. • Remove trip hazards from the worksite by filling holes, removing unnecessary objects etc. • Flag, or cordon off, immovable trip hazards. • Allow at least 2 metres 'visibility space' between participants when walking along tracks. • Ensure that boots are firmly laced. • Exercise additional caution when walking downhill, e.g. walk across the slope, and have a strong leader control walking speed. • Avoid carrying heavy or awkward sized, objects on uneven ground. • Identify, and closely supervise, workers with pre-existing back, knee or ankle injuries.		
Working in Hot/ Conditions		• Maintain hydration by providing adequate drinks and regular drink breaks. • Take advantage of, or create, shaded work areas. • Schedule, or reschedule, work to avoid heavy exertion during the most intense heat of the day. • Reinforce the need for long trousers and long sleeves, broad-brimmed hats and sunglasses. • Provide and encourage the regular use of a SPF 30 sunscreen on any exposed skin. • Closely monitor participants for signs of fatigue, particularly those who are less fit, inexperienced or not acclimatised.		
Working in Cold/ Conditions		• Make ample food and fluids available, including warm drinks if possible. • Demonstrate and encourage simple warm up stretches before commencement, and after breaks. • Rotate tasks to avoid prolonged exposure. • Identify shelter area and use this during periods of inactivity e.g.: breaks or extreme conditions. • Structure work to avoid the coldest times of the day. • Encourage participants to wear layered clothing that enables them to adjust their body temperature according to weather conditions and activity level. • Wear a warm hat (the head is a major heat loss area).		
Snake Habitat.		• wear long pants and long sleeves to minimise insect attack,		

***EXPLANATORY NOTE S ON RISK LEVELS (see page 9 of OHS Management Plan)**

[illegible]