



Department of Primary Industries

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Procedure for the control of blackberry and woody weeds on fire-affected properties

1. We (the Department of Primary Industries) will visit your property to assess the extent of woody weeds.
2. We will prepare a grant agreement to cover the cost of the contractor. This agreement binds the Government to pay up to the amount specified in the agreement. As part of this agreement, you will be required to follow up control over the next three years at least.
3. You will employ the contractor. Attached is a list of contractors we know about. You may chose one of these or someone else, but you will need to ensure that:
 - the contractor has a Commercial Operators Licence issued under the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992 and Public Liability Insurance that covers weed control activities
 - the contractor is clear that the spraying is only for the weeds listed in the agreement. Native species are not to be sprayed except where it is impossible to avoid spraying non-target species. We will not pay for spraying of any other weed species.
 - the contractor uses a dye to show where the spraying has been done.
4. We can provide details of your site to your chosen contractor if requested. This could include maps (or shape files for contractors with mapping facilities).
5. When the work is complete, contact your DPI extension officer and we will come out to inspect the works to ensure they satisfy with the grant agreement. We will prepare and ask you to sign payment forms at this visit.
6. When you receive an invoice from the contractor, send a copy of the invoice to your DPI extension officer as soon as possible. We will send this with the payment papers for payment by the Goulburn Broken CMA as soon as possible. You should receive payment within 6 weeks but we will be pushing for payment as early as possible so that you or the contractor is not financially disadvantaged for too long. **Please note:** The signed agreement binds the CMA/Government to pay up to the amount specified, so you and the contractors can be sure that the payment will come. We will arrange payment according to the invoice, which may be less than amount specified in the grant agreement. If the invoice exceeds the grant amount, we will review the arrangements with you.
7. You pay the contractor.
8. You will need to follow up with control measures over the next few years to control any weeds that have been missed during the initial control programme or have germinated since the initial programme. This initial weed control will reduce the severity of weed infestations and should make follow-up much easier. It will create the opportunity for you to achieve 'controlled' or 'weed free' status, provided you follow up with control measures of emerging plants in the coming years. Please note that vigilance is required to continue monitoring new germinants from the soil seedbank and invasion from incoming weed seed.

