

Work Standard Manual Weeding STD001

Document Control

Version Number	24
Last Review Date	May 2026
Frequency of Review	3 years
Next Review Due Date	May 2029
Responsible Officer	General Manager Corporate Services
Approved by	CEO

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EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY WORK STANDARD STD001

TASK: Manual Weeding

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Objective: Releasing plants from surrounding weeds using a long-handled tool (**handle length of at least 1.2m**) to expose the plant with the minimum use of hands allowing for the spraying of the weeds without damaging the plant.

This document sets a standard expected by the Authority for manual weeding tasks - the Contractor/ Supplier of Services must adapt their Safe Work Procedure to meet or exceed these standards and ensure that a Safe Working Method Statement (SWMS) is completed with reference to the Contractor's/ Supplier of Services' procedures.

This is a Working Outdoors activity- Relevant requirements of the Working Outdoors Standard STD005 apply to this task before the controls specified in this document are applied.

When planning works under this Standard, the requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety (Psychological Health) Regulations 2025 apply and must be considered.

Activity	Hazard Description	Control Measures - Actions to be Taken
Manual Weeding	Risk of Snake bite	<p>IMPORTANT: Snakes are territorial and may return to their habitat after initially moving away during the walk through.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed only in staged areas that have been inspected. Ensure workers commence in the same area and are travelling in the same direction where practicable. • Be aware of surroundings (snakes can be found anywhere, especially under rocks, logs, planks, long grass and near water sources). • Check the immediate surroundings before commencing to weed in the vicinity of the plant. Use the long-handled tool to free/release the plant of weeds, and if required your feet to flatten the weeds. Avoid the use of hands.

Activity	Hazard Description	Control Measures - Actions to be Taken
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in one direction into the plant and avoid moving suddenly or moving to the side or front of the plant. Once the plant has been released of the weeds, workers must remain in a reasonably uniform line before moving to the next plant. • Use a long-handled tool to move stones, sticks etc. if required. • If you see or suspect a snake is present remain still and alert other workers while making sure that they do not approach the snake. Move slowly away while making some noise, watch its movements and be alert for other snakes in the area you are moving towards. Allow the snake to move away. If possible, maintain the higher ground and stay up hill from its last known location as snakes typically travel down slopes/hills when trying to get away from danger. • Never attack or attempt to harm a snake, they will become more aggressive if provoked. Be mindful that they are a protected species. Treat every snake as if it is venomous. Remain aware of its presence and do not approach a snake (dead or alive). • Two Level 2 first aid trained persons to be present at all times. • Carry a snake bite kit within the first aid kit • Avoid known areas of high snake concentration in peak risk periods. • Advice other works groups in the area of multiple sightings or aggressive snakes. • Ensure that contractors have an appropriate method of communication. <p>PPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feet, legs, arms and hands must be protected from a bite. The PPE requirement will depend on the vegetation encountered. The approach to be adopted must be:

Activity	Hazard Description	Control Measures - Actions to be Taken
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In open grazed paddocks or bare ground, boots and long pants are required. ○ In grassed areas below knee height, knee-high gaiters and closely fitted to boots are required. ○ In vegetation areas above knee height (grasses or shrubs), full-length chaps or waders must be worn. ○ If the task requires placing the hands or arms near vegetation, additional PPE such as arm gaiters and gloves (no bare skin permitted), or elbow length gloves of a suitable puncture resistant material must be worn.
<p>Releasing of plants and flattening of grasses</p>	<p>Risk of manual handling injury resulting from use of hand hoe</p>	<p>Personnel must be trained in safe manual handling techniques and complete a risk assessment for the task. Those techniques must be applied to the task.</p> <p>A long-handled tool (minimum 1.2m) should be used to release plants.</p> <p>Avoid excessive pulling, pushing, twisting, or extended repetitive motions, and include regular breaks.</p>

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