

Roadside Weeds and Pests Program Control Plan 2023-2026

1: Council Name: Mansfield Shire Council

2: Contact Details:

Name: [REDACTED]

Position: Environmental and Sustainability Officer

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

3: Regional context of noxious weed and pest animal management:

Mansfield Shire is situated in the north-eastern region of Victoria, encompassing an area of about 3,843 square kilometres. Renowned for its elevated terrains such as Mount Buller, Mount Stirling, and the largest lake in Victoria, Lake Eildon, Mansfield Shire is positioned in the south-eastern part of the Goulburn Broken Catchment. The High Country encounters chilly winters marked by snowfall and an average annual rainfall exceeding 1600mm. In contrast, Mansfield township experiences an average rainfall of approximately 730mm annually. The primary urban centre within the shire is Mansfield Township.

Over 60% (244,466 hectares) of the Shire is designated as Crown Land, with approximately 30% (125,885 hectares) being privately owned. Of the private land, 90% is categorized for agricultural use. While 75% of the farming-zoned parcels fall below the 40-hectare subdivision limit, they only

constitute about one-third (38,600 hectares) of the entire farming zone. The remaining farming land is predominantly utilized for seed cultivation, cattle rearing, and sheep production.

In recent times, there has been a growing trend, particularly post Covid, for people to choose Mansfield Shire as their residence due to lifestyle preferences and interest in hobby farms. This trend has led to the subdivision of farming land, which is then sold and converted into smaller rural living blocks. The private land designated for rural living now exceeds 10,000 hectares.

Concerning public land, the Victorian Government manages over 60% of the Shire's total land. Historically, public land has primarily been utilized for hardwood timber production, high country grazing, and alpine recreation.

The Mansfield Shire Council is tasked with administering weed control on council-managed land, spanning 13,800 hectares, as well as managing approximately 800 kilometres of the local road network. Managing roadside weeds in Mansfield Shire presents a challenge, given the substantial areas of adjacent weed-infested Crown land. Furthermore, engaging non-resident ratepayers is challenging, especially in an environment where the allocation of State Government resources for invasive weeds compliance depends on active ratepayer-led programs.

Despite these challenges, Mansfield Shire Council is committed to supporting local community action and the tireless work of the community in managing and controlling weeds across the Shire.

4: Community Consultation:

Mansfield Shire Council will undertake Community Consultation the following ways:

- Continue to meet regularly and update the Up2Us Landcare Alliance in a two-way approach to being informed of their priorities and sharing how Council's priorities align;
- Use advice from our customers as to the location of weeds on roadsides and add this to our mapping database regularly;
- Attend community meetings (or similar) on an as needed basis or upon invitation;
- Use Landcare Networks and Landcare Groups as a conduit to gaining greater understanding of community pest plant and animal priorities and projects;
- Work with the Regional Weed Forum including Up2Us Landcare Alliance and state government agencies such as DEECA, Parks Vic, RRV, HVP, Goulburn-Murray Water and GBCMA to ensure an integrated, collaborative approach and effort is made to weed management generally in Mansfield Shire.
- Utilise media/ communications to ensure Community knowledge and support in this area.

5: Stakeholder Consultation:

List key stakeholders who have been consulted in the development of this plan.

- Up2Us Landcare Alliance, Delatite Landcare, Fords Creek Landcare, Howqua Valley Landcare.
- Weed Spraying Contractors
- Goulburn Broken CMA
- Parks Victoria
- Agriculture Victoria
- Regional Roads Victoria
- Mansfield Shire Council's Field Services and the Planning and Environment Teams

6: Relevant Policies, Strategies and Submissions:

State

- Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (CaLP ACT)
- Catchment and Land Protection Regulations 2022 (CaLP Regulations)
- Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1992
- Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006
- Biological Control Act 1986
- Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987
- Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978
- Environment Protection Act 2017
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)
- Fences Act 1968
- Firearms Act 1996
- Fisheries Act 1995
- Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988

- Impounding of Livestock Act 1994
- Meat Industry Act 1993
- Land Act 1958
- Local Government Act 1989
- National Parks Act 1975
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- Parks Victoria Act 2018
- Planning and Environment Act 1987
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986
- Road Management Act 2004
- Road Safety Act 1986
- Sale of Land Act 1962
- Wildlife Act 1975
- Victorian Government (2010) Invasive Plants and Animals Policy Framework, DPI Victoria, Melbourne
- Victorian Government (2017) Victorian Government Land Use Policy and Guidelines, DELWP Victoria, Melbourne
- Victorian Government (2017) Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037, DELWP Victoria, Melbourne

Regional

- GBCMA Regional Catchment Strategy 2021-27
- GBCMA Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2019-2025
- Goulburn Broken Catchment Roadside Biodiversity Risk Management Protocols

Local

- Mansfield Shire Council Plan 2020-2024
- Mansfield Shire Council Roadside Management Plan 2020
- Mansfield Shire Community Vision 2040

7: Objectives of the Plan:

Support the Shire's continuous roadside weed and rabbit management initiative, enhancing previous investments facilitated by Mansfield Shire through State Government funding. Contribute to efforts aimed at preventing the spread and introduction of invasive plant and animal species throughout the Shire and the broader region.

Provide a general overview of council's objectives, activities, outputs and expected outcomes, ensuring that investment of RWPP funds will be aligned to:

- treating 'regionally prohibited weeds' on municipal rural roadsides;
- controlling and preventing the spread of 'regionally controlled weeds' and the control of rabbits on municipal rural roadsides that align with DJPR compliance project areas and/or support community-led weed and pest control activities;
- follow-up treatment works for projects funded in councils' previous roadside weeds and pests control plans;
- control activities for 'regionally controlled weeds' and rabbits on municipal rural roadsides that support other investment for integrated landscape protection projects or address community concerns.
- control activities for 'restricted weeds' on municipal rural roadsides where there has been demonstrated widespread community concern;
- undertaking planning, mapping, and community consultation for the control of 'regionally prohibited weeds', 'regionally controlled weeds' and 'restricted weeds'
- Assess known weed location and update GIS mapping data

8: Term of the Plan:

The plan will run for a three year period from 1st July 2023 to 30 June 2026.

9: Full time equivalent (FTE) resourcing:

Provide an estimate of the full time equivalent (FTE) number of staff and contractors who will be working on achieving control plan outcomes. Include both office and field based staff and contractors.

- Currently three contractors spraying the Mansfield Shire.
- One Mansfield Shire Council Employee.
- Total FTE for contractors and Council staff equals 0.4

10: Target Species:

List the species that will be targeted during the duration of this control plan; eg.

Serrated tussock *Nassella trichotoma* Regionally Prohibited Weed 1 To support Agriculture Victoria compliance programs

Common Name	Scientific Name	CaLP Act Classification	Priority Rating	Reason for Management
			<i>1 highest - 4 lowest</i>	
Goose	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	1	To support other investment for integrated landscape protection projects or address community concerns. Follow-up treatment works
Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus (agg.)</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	1	To support other investment for integrated landscape protection projects or address community concerns. Follow-up treatment works
Cape,English Broom	<i>Genista monspessulana</i> <i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	1	To support other investment for integrated landscape protection projects or address community concerns. Follow-up treatment works

Chilean Needle Grass	<i>Nassella neesiana</i>	Weed of National Significance	1	Only one known location.
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	2	In response to stakeholder feedback and to support previous investment by Council
St John's Wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	In response to stakeholder feedback and to support previous investment by Council
Rabbits	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Established Pest Animal	3	In response to stakeholder feedback. No known burrows.
Paterson's Curse	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	Support community coordinated programs
Sweet Briar	<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	In response to stakeholder feedback and to support previous investment by Council
Horehound	<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	Regionally Controlled Weed	3	In response to stakeholder feedback and to support previous investment by Council

11: Control Measures and Target Roadsides:

List the control measures and target roadsides; eg.

Serrated tussock *Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label* *Smith Road, Smithville* *5km* *Feb – Oct*

Common Name	Control Measures	Location of Proposed Works	Estimated Length of Roadside to be Treated Annually	Approximate Annual Timing of Treatment
	To be based on accepted best practice management of the target species	Location of proposed works should be specified, and a map where possible should accompany the plan	Km = length of road along which both sides are treated. Where only one side is treated halve the figure	
Gorse	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	Merton, Barjarg, Tolmie	20km	October-March
Blackberry	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	Whole Shire	200km	December-March
Cape/English Broom	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	Tolmie, Merton, Merrijig, Jamieson, Mansfield, Goughs Bay	20km	September-March
Chilean Needle Grass	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide	Mansfield - monitoring	1km	March-September

	in accordance with the product label			
Hawthorn	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	Tolmie, Merton, Merrijig, Jamieson, Mansfield, Goughs Bay	15km	September-March
St John's Wort	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	Tolmie, Merton, Merrijig, Jamieson, Mansfield, Goughs Bay	15km	September-March
Rabbits	Mechanical ripping of warrens limited to roadsides with exotic grass cover only Fumigation of warrens at all other sites	No known sites, monitor		
Paterson's Curse	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	Bonnie Doon Area	20km	May-September
Sweet Briar	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label	Tolmie, Merton, Merrijig, Jamieson, Mansfield, Goughs Bay	15km	September-March
Horehound	Spot spray application of a registered herbicide	Tolmie, Merton, Merrijig, , Mansfield, Goughs Bay	10km	September-December

in accordance with
the product label

12: Maps:

Provide the following maps to support the control plan information:

- Map 1 Proposed location of control works.
- Map 2 Known infestations of Regionally Prohibited Weeds, Regionally Controlled Weeds, established pest animals and Restricted Weeds.

13: Declarations:

Council will:

- Currently three contractors spraying the Mansfield Shire.
- Publish this approved plan (or approved variation to this plan if relevant) on its website within 28 days of approval and ensure copies are available for public inspection at Council's office(s). Any personal information contained in the control plan should be redacted prior to publishing. The signatures on the approved control plan may also be redacted prior to publishing.
- Coordinate the implementation of this plan on council managed roadsides in accordance with the investment principles stated in this plan and the control measures specified.
- Implement best practice weed hygiene principles and protocols.
- Maintain accurate records sufficient to provide evidence that the plan has been carried out and provide these on request.
- Obtain approval from Agriculture Victoria before substantially modifying or varying the plan.
- Carefully consider any proposals from Agriculture Victoria to modify or vary the plan in response to changed circumstances.

Council Declaration

I declare that I am an authorised representative and the information given on this form is complete and correct

Key Council Contact Name: Environmental Officer 

Date: 26/01/2024

Signature: 

Council CEO Name: Kirsten Alexander

Date: 1 February 2024

Signature: 

Agriculture Victoria Endorsement

I declare that I am an authorised representative and that this plan has been reviewed and aligns with eligible activities.

Agriculture Victoria Regional Biosecurity Manager – Plants, Chemicals and Invasives

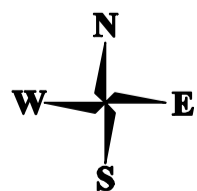
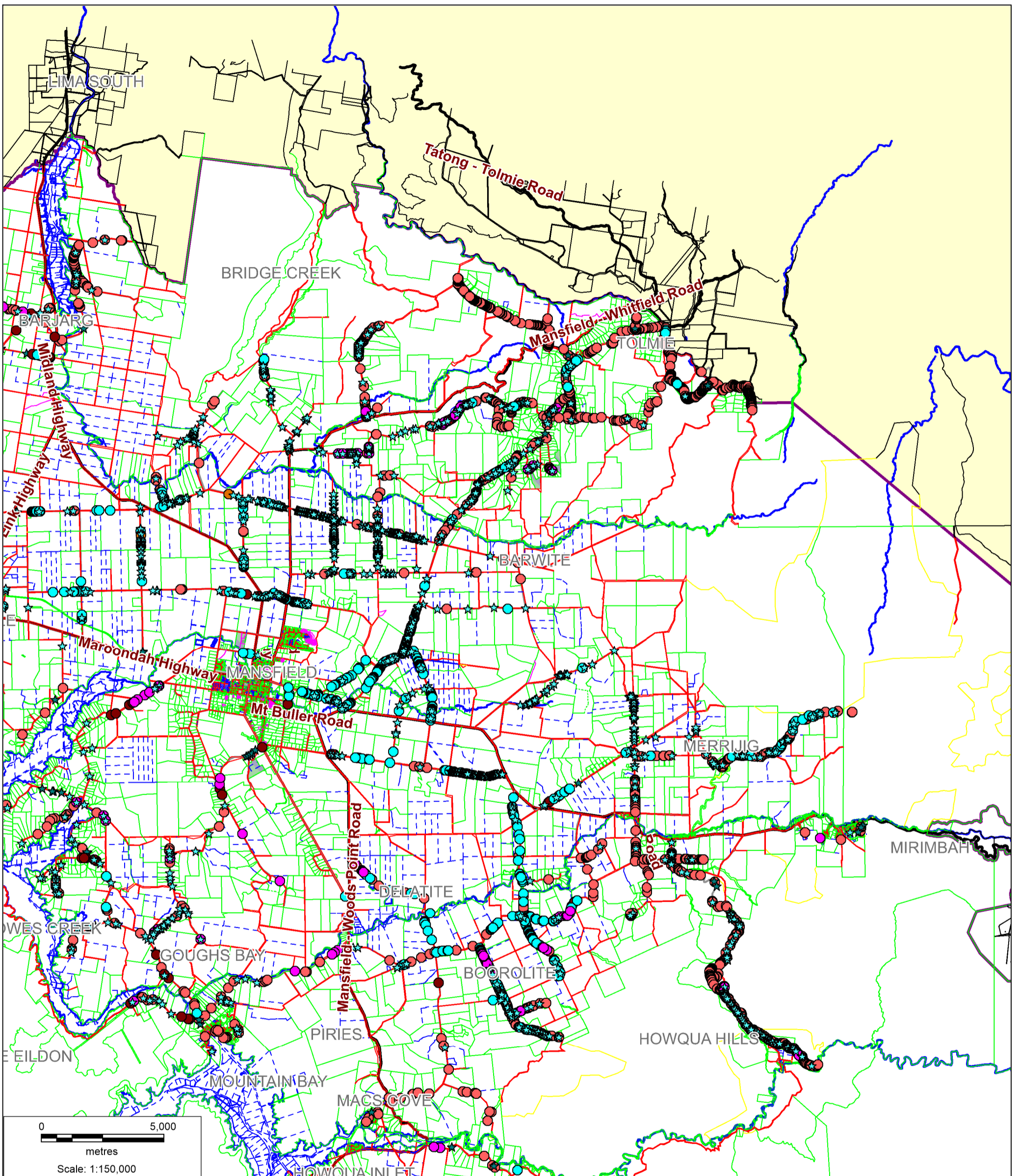
Name: Ben Perry

Date: 31/1/24

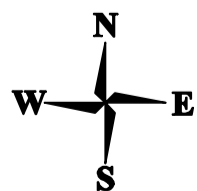
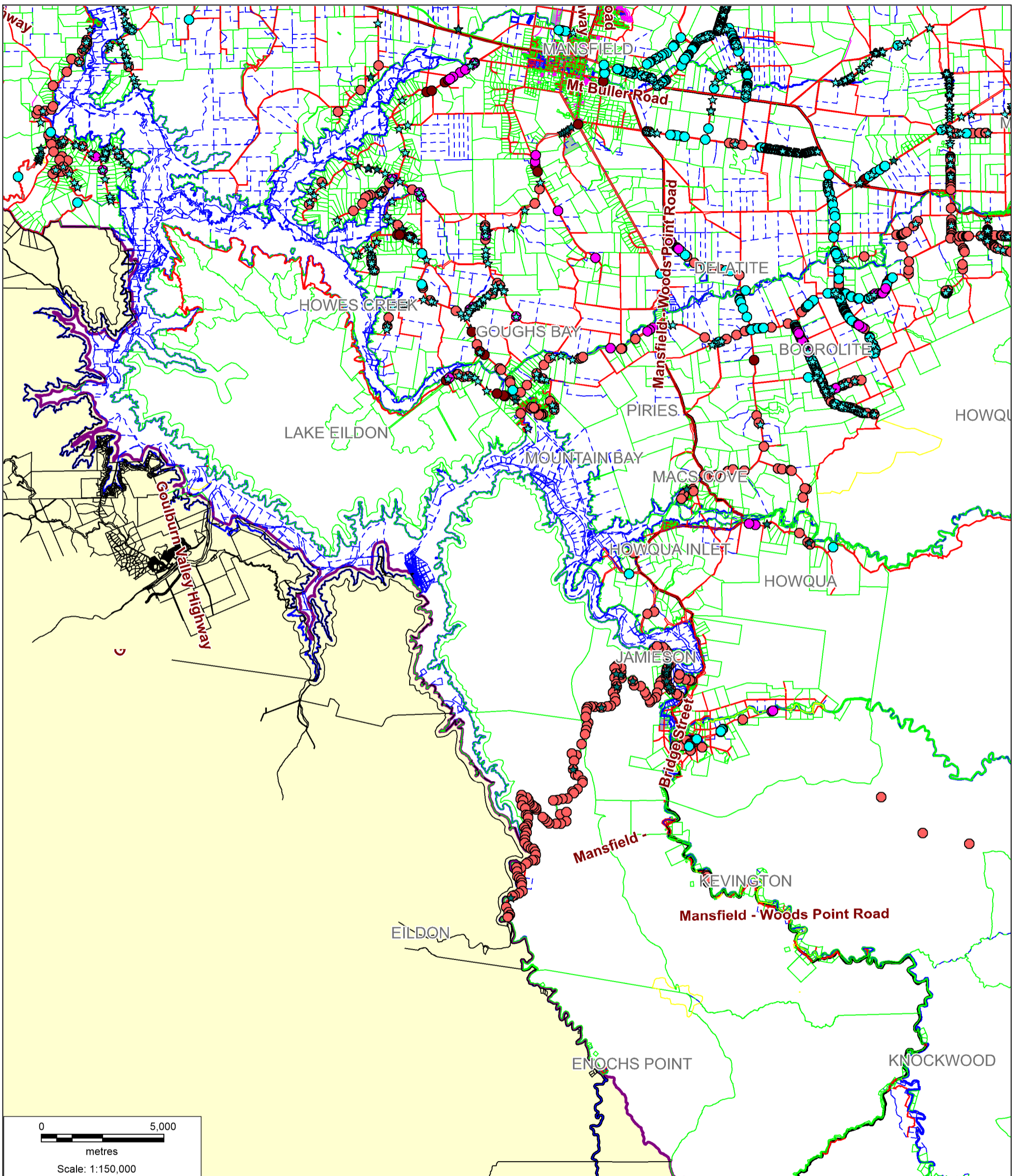
Signature:



Mansfield Shire Council - North East



Mansfield Shire Council - South



Mansfield Shire Council - North West

