



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Between the
SHIRE OF DENMARK
And the
DENMARK WEED ACTION GROUP Inc.

WEED AND BUSHLAND MANAGEMENT OF SHIRE MANAGED RESERVES

Purpose of MoU

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to set out the terms of a cooperative and effective management agreement between Denmark Weed Action Group (DWAG) and the Shire of Denmark to assist with the management of weeds and bushland on nominated reserves (excluding road reserves) managed by the Shire of Denmark.

Parties to MoU

DWAG is a not for profit organisation whose primary purpose is to control weeds in Crown Reserves around Denmark using a manual, minimum disturbance method (Bradley method) of Weed Control.

The Shire of Denmark has approximately 80 reserves which require ongoing monitoring and management to maintain the biodiversity, environmental and/or landscape asset.

Background

- Integrated weed management employs a number of techniques including physical/mechanical, chemical and biological methods to manage weeds in order to conserve and enhance biodiversity and environmental assets.*
- The Shire of Denmark staff and contractors use integrated weed management to control weeds in Reserves.*
- Physical and mechanical weed removal reduces disturbance of areas of high conservation and can be an effective way to manage weeds. However it is time consuming and therefore costly in terms of labour resources relative to alternative techniques.*
- DWAG uses manual techniques to achieve its stated objectives.*
- DWAG seeks external funding to conduct works within Reserves managed by the Shire.*
- DWAG seeks letters of support from the Shire for funding applications where the Shire is the management authority for the Reserves so that it will be aware of where DWAG might be working and what it might be doing.*
- There is a need for a formal communication mechanism between the Shire and DWAG as to who will be doing what, where and when to ensure compatibility of effort.*
- This Memorandum of Understanding describes this mechanism.*

Nature of the Collaboration

- This MoU describes the framework for the future management of works within Reserves by DWAG, dependant on contract renewal.*
- DWAG is required to maintain its legal identity, public liability and workers compensation insurance policies.*
- DWAG are encouraged to seek grant funding on behalf of the Shire from Federal, State and/or other agencies to work in Denmark's Reserves to help maintain biodiversity.*
- To facilitate communication between DWAG, contractors and Shire employees working in Reserves to ensure that all works are conducted in a manner that maximises the resources used to fund and conduct works within Reserves on a priority basis.*
- To ensure that contractors and Shire employees are aware of the location and extent of works conducted by DWAG and funded by Federal, State and Local Government bodies.*
- To ensure that integrated weed management is effective.*

Procedure

- Funding available to complete the objectives of the agreement will be determined by Council on an annual basis in adopting the Municipal Budget.
- Any grant funding applications being lodged by DWAG on behalf of the Shire to be initially discussed with the Planning & Sustainability Directorate as early as possible in the grant application process, to ensure that the project works are consistent with the Shire’s objectives and priorities accordingly.
- A meeting will be held annually attended by representatives of DWAG, the Shire of Denmark Infrastructure and Planning & Sustainability Directorates to establish proposed schedule of works in Shire reserves for the year ahead.
- Any areas of overlap or incompatibility will be clarified by the Shire of Denmark.
- DWAG will notify the Shire of Denmark of their daily activities in the Reserves noted in the Weed Action Plan document via email and if not possible on the day with a text message.
- It is the responsibility of DWAG to comply with all Occupational Health and Safety requirements in fulfilling on ground works.
- The Shire of Denmark will notify DWAG when works are to be undertaken on Reserves contained within their contract of agreement documentation.

Review

A review at a set period of 5 years, from signing date, will occur.

Notwithstanding the above either party has the right to request a review of the MoU where it is considered the MoU is not in line with the respective roles of either party.

Terms of Agreement

The MoU will commence once all parties have signed the MoU.

MoU may be terminated at the agreement of the parties or by either party giving at least 3 months notice to the other party.

Settlement of Disputes will be resolved by negotiation.

Shire of Denmark

Signed _____
Mr Dale Stewart, Chief Executive Officer

Signed _____
Cr Ross Thornton, Shire President

Date _____

Date _____

Denmark Weed Action Group Inc.

Signed _____

Signed _____

Date _____

Date _____