

WesCEF Vehicle Hygiene and Weed Management Procedure

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose Statement

This document outlines the methodology in place to prevent the transportation and establishment of weeds, seeds and soil borne pathogens at WesCEF Exploration projects.

Invasive plants often have characteristics that enable them to successfully colonise disturbed ground. These species can spread and alter the bushland by displacement and thereby alter the diversity and interactions of flora and its value for fauna. Once weeds become established, it can take years to eliminate populations, particularly when they become resistant to herbicides. The best method of control is prevention of weed establishment.

Soil borne pathogens are difficult to control. Initial identification is also difficult, and environmental damage can be severe. Quarantine, hygiene and treatment with chemicals are standard practice in areas with an annual rainfall of greater than 600mm; however, can still occur in lower rainfall regions. For example, *Phytophthora boodjera*, a novel species of dieback, occurs at Mt Holland. Work should be avoided where possible in wet soil conditions. In environmentally sensitive areas, this is likely to be mandated by approval conditions.

1.2 Scope

This procedure is intended for use by all employees and contractors working at WesCEF Exploration projects in Western Australia.

2. Legislation

2.1 *Biosecurity and Land Management Act 2007*

The *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (WA) and associated regulations are to prevent new animal and plant pests (vermin and weeds) and diseases from entering Western Australia and manage the impact and spread of those pests already present in the state. A person has a duty to report declared pests to Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) as soon as practicable after finding the pest in the form specified in Section 26(2) of the Act.

2.2 *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*

The *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) and associated regulations make provision for the use, protection and management of certain public lands and waters and the flora and fauna thereof, among other things. Relevant part to this procedure are 'Part VII – Control and eradication of forest diseases' which relates to identifying areas of public land in which trees may be, may become, or are infected with any forest disease, and controlling and eradicating such forest diseases.

3. Guidelines

Declared Plant Control Handbook – Recommendations for Control of Declared Plants in Western Australia", as published by the Department of Agriculture (2002).

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4. Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 Exploration Manager

- Ensure employees are appropriately and adequately trained in this procedure and comply with vehicle hygiene requirements for all Projects.

4.2 Heritage and Environment Advisor

- Communicate environmental requirements for individual projects and tenements to WesCEF Accountable Persons via Permit to Disturb process.
- Review training to ensure environmental requirements for Projects are adequately covered.
- Coordinate weed and dieback monitoring and data management.
- Collect baseline data on weeds and soil borne pathogens prior to commencing work in an area to inform risk assessments (and associated control measures). Refer [Exploration Planning](#) (WCEF-PD-HSE-0039).

4.3 Land Access and Tenure Team

- Ensure this procedure is considered during the Permit to Disturb process.
- Support the Heritage and Environment Advisor in coordinating activities described in this procedure, as required.

4.4 WesCEF Accountable Person

- Inspect vehicles and machinery and complete Site Authorisation section of form.
- Implement Vehicle and Mobile Equipment Hygiene management at all WesCEF Exploration operations.
- Deploy and maintain environmental signage for exploration programmes as required.
- Maintain/ ensure access to vehicle washdown/hygiene points.
- Ensure all contractors and site visitors are aware of the requirements of this procedure and complete required inspection prior to mobilisation.

4.5 All Employees, Contractors and Site Visitors

- Inspect vehicles and machinery.
- Adhere to hygiene management and disease management conditions i.e. exclusion zones, clean down points, soil transfer.
- Report any non-compliances to this procedure to the WesCEF Accountable Person for recording in Cintellate.
- Attend inductions and any other mandatory training.
- Reporting sightings of declared and invasive weeds in Cintellate

5. Procedure

5.1 Weed and Seed Inspections

All vehicles and machinery should be inspected for organic material:

- prior to travelling to site, and
- before travelling from an area where weeds are known to occur to another area.

Advice on the use of the vehicles for surface earth moving, rehabilitation and exploration activities should be obtained from the Heritage and Environment Advisor. The following steps must be taken prior to the inspection;

1. Park vehicle/machine in a safe position (stable and immobile) on washdown pad if available

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2. Stop engine, apply park brake, chock wheels and lower all implements or secure/chock them if they are required for cleaning
3. Ensure the area is free of obstructions/objects that may cause injury;
4. Examine the item for cleaning to determine extent of mud, dust and plant material build up;
5. Identify any points that require specific attention e.g. behind guards and protective plates, radiators, spare tyres etc;
6. Remove necessary guards/belly plates to access areas for cleaning;
7. Identify areas that may require cleaning with compressed air rather than water – do these first;
8. Clean under guards and underneath machinery/vehicle;
9. Clean the cabin, upper body and implements;
10. Toolboxes and storage compartments may also require cleaning;
11. Wash remaining mud e.g. tyres and tracks;
12. Carry out final inspection to ensure all areas have been cleaned;
13. Replace guards (belly plates and other guards on heavy machinery may need to be replaced prior to moving the machinery);
14. Turn on water supply and high pressure washer;
15. Washdown entire outside of vehicle;
16. Ensure water supply and high pressure washer are turned off once vehicle washdown is complete.

The Vehicle and Mobile Equipment Weed Hygiene Inspection Form should be completed and signed by the WesCEF Accountable Person and the person bringing the vehicle or mobile equipment onsite, and state whether the vehicle is acceptably clean to start works.

Note: When working on third party tenure, additional requirements may apply.

5.2 Vehicle Hygiene

- Use only designated roads, footpaths and established tracks to access work areas within WesCEF Exploration sites
- Schedule activities for low rainfall periods and consider weather limitations, Clearing Permit conditions (if applicable), Reserve Activities Management Plan commitments (if applicable), DBCA Permit (e.g. Regulation 4) conditions (if applicable) prior to entering Environmentally Sensitive Areas.
- Report all unplanned significant drainage/spillage of water to the environment (including fresh water);
- Do not access known dieback infested areas
- Report any unauthorised access to known Dieback infested areas immediately to your supervisor and/or the Heritage and Environment Advisor.

5.3 Working in Designated Infected Zones

1. Clean down footwear when exiting
 - a) Remove as much mud and/or soil dry with a brush over a collection sheet or tray, minimising water use
 - b) Spray 70 percent methylated spirits on boot soles and allow to dry for a few minutes
 - c) Collect all mud and soil removed in a bag or bucket.

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2. Clean down equipment when exiting
 - a) Remove as much mud and/or soil dry with a brush, minimising water use
 - b) Spray with 70 percent methylated spirits over all surfaces and allow to dry for a few minutes
 - c) Equipment can be soaked in a disinfectant such as diluted household bleach or Phytoclean®. Household bleach (typically containing 3-6% Sodium Hypochlorite) should be diluted to one part bleach to 10 parts water for soaking tools. Phytoclean® should be diluted to 200ml per 10L of water for soaking tools. Tools and equipment should be soaked in disinfectant for at least 3 minutes before being rinsed.
 - d) Refer to the manufacturers safety instructions when using disinfecting chemicals.

5.4 Undertake Weed Monitoring and Management Activities

1. Obtain Permit to Disturb for planned activity.
2. Rehabilitation should be monitored for weeds in accordance with '[Drill Pad Rehabilitation](#)' (WCEF-PD-HSE-0011).
3. If weeds are detected, notify the Heritage and Environment Advisor who will record in Cintellate with appropriate corrective actions.

Note: Depending on the location of weed and/or status under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007, external notifications may also be required to third parties (eg. tenement holder, DPIRD, DBCA, DEMIRS)

4. Ensure chemical is approved in ChemAlert. Any chemicals that are intended to be used on site for pest control need to be approved in ChemAlert, accessed via Connect.
5. Carry out weed management activity.
6. Save records of the activity in WesCEF Exploration - General\02. Projects\PROJECT\05 Environment\4 Rehabilitation.

For further details, refer to procedure '[WesCEF Land Management Plan](#)' (WCEF-GM-ENV-022-01).

6. Reference Documents

- [Vehicle and Mobile Equipment Weed Hygiene Inspection Form](#) (WCEF-FORM-HSE-0028)
- [Permit to Disturb Form](#) (WCEF-FORM-HSE-0009)
- [JSA – Spraying Weeds Using Backpack/ Knapsack Sprayer](#) (CSBP JSA_FIELDENG_GARDENING-15)
- [Drill Pad Rehabilitation](#) (WCEF-PD-HSE-0011).
- [Exploration Planning](#) (WCEF-PD-HSE-0039)