

Roadside Weeds and Pests Program Control Plan

1: Council Name: Latrobe City Council

2: Contact Details:

Name:

Position:

Telephone:

Email:

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

Latrobe City Council is located in the southeast of Victoria, approximately 150 kilometres east of Melbourne. The municipality encompasses a total land area of 1,422 square kilometres and consists of four major centres: Moe/Newborough, Morwell, Traralgon and Churchill and smaller rural townships of Boolarra, Glengarry, Toongabbie, Tyers, Traralgon South, Yallourn North, and Yinnar.

The landscape comprises of the broad and relatively flat plain of the Latrobe Valley though the centre, bordered by the foothills of the Great Dividing Range to the north, and the steep slopes of the Strzelecki Ranges to the south. Land use consists of approximately:

- 36% agriculture
- 29% forestry
- 17% reserved for open-cut mining
- 6% urban development, and
- 5% rural living and hobby farming.

Latrobe City Council is responsible for the management of approximately 1478 kms of road network, including 1069 kms of rural roads. Over the past four years Latrobe City has treated weeds on rural roadsides as follows:

2022/23 – 628km

2021/22 – 512km

2020/21 – 533km

2019/20 – 544km

2018/19 – 533km

Latrobe City is maintaining an on-going and dedicated program to reduce infestations of blackberry, gorse, broom, ragwort, and thistles on municipal roads. A range of other weed species have been included in Latrobe City's management programs on a year-by-year basis. These additional weeds have been selected based on requirements under the CaLP Act, risk to assets (i.e., biodiversity), community priorities, State government and industry cooperation. Please refer to Table 1 for a list of current target species.

4: Community Consultation:

Latrobe City's Sustainability and Environment Team maintain regular communication with bushland reserve Committees of Management and Community Asset Committees. Frequent meetings and open lines of communication allow Council to stay informed about weed and pest management issues. Latrobe City Council also stay in touch with the community via phone calls and correspondence from individual community members. Communications may be received through platforms such as Snap, Send, Solve, social media posts and direct contact with Customer Service. Latrobe City Council have also actively sought input from the community about future priorities for weed and pest animal management. The stakeholders listed below have been consulted in preparation of this plan.

5: Stakeholder Consultation:

- Regional Roads Victoria
- Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network
- West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
- Greening Australia
- Friends of Morwell National Park
- Engie
- Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists
- Several Committees of Management / Community Asset Committees
- Contractors operating within Latrobe City Council
- Several community representatives

6: Relevant Policies, Strategies and Submissions:

Australian Weeds Strategy 2017-2027

Invasive Pest Plant and Animal Policy Framework – Module 1: Weeds and pest animals

Victorian Biodiversity Strategy

West Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy 2021-2027

Latrobe City Council Plan

Latrobe City Draft Sustainability Action Plan

Latrobe City RRWPP Control Plan 2017-19

Latrobe City Council Weeds Policy

7: Objectives of the Plan:

Latrobe City Council's objectives for weed control include:

1. Protection of the landscape, including biodiversity and agricultural assets, from the threat of weeds.
2. Strategic allocation of resources to facilitate the management of weed priorities in accordance with regional, state, and national priorities.
3. Engagement with community to ensure a collaborative approach to weed management.

This plan will complement past investment made by Latrobe City Council and State Government funding by facilitating continued roadside weed control, follow-up treatments, mapping/monitoring of infestations and identification of new and emerging weed threats. Investment of funds will be aligned to:

1. Treatment of 'regionally prohibited weeds' (e.g., African Feather Grass) on rural roadsides, with the intention of eradication,
2. Treatment of 'regionally controlled weeds' on rural roadsides with the objective to control and prevent the spread,
3. Supporting community group investment in the control of regionally controlled weeds and rabbits on rural roadsides,
4. Follow-up weed treatment on municipal roadsides where previous investment has occurred,
5. Treatment and monitoring of new and emerging weeds such as African Weed-Orchid,
6. Alignment of control activities for regionally controlled weeds and rabbits on rural roadsides that supports other investment and/or community concerns,
7. Protection of high-value assets such as roadsides of high conservation significance, or roadsides adjoining high value conservation reserves, that are under threat from weed invasion,
8. Treatment of 'restricted' weeds on municipal roadsides where there is a demonstrated widespread concern. Local examples include Angled Onion, Bridal Creeper and Willows.
9. Continued planning, mapping, and community consultation for the control of 'regionally prohibited', 'regionally controlled' and 'restricted' weeds.

8: Term of the Plan:

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

9: Full time equivalent (FTE) resourcing:

Office based staff – 0.2 FTE per year (planning, engaging contractors, auditing, data manipulation [GIS], community consultation and reporting)

Contractors – 1.5 FTE (majority of work is undertaken between November-March by multiple contractors, which averages to approximately 1.5 FTE)

10: Target Species:

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

Common Name	Scientific Name	CaLP Act Classification	Priority Rating <i>1 highest - 4 lowest</i>	Reason for Management
African Feather Grass	<i>Pennisetum macrourum</i>	Regionally prohibited	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support DJPR compliance programs - To ensure this weed does not spread to roadsides from known occurrences on private property
African Boxthorn	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	Regionally controlled	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support previous investment by Council - To protect high quality roadside vegetation
African Lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	Regionally controlled	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support previous investment by Council - To build on significant reduction of this species in previous years
Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus L.agg</i>	Regionally controlled	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In response to ratepayer requests, and to support community and stakeholder action. - To build on the significant reduction of this species achieved in previous years. - To reduce the extent of infestations and prevent further spread.
English Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Regionally controlled	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support previous investment by Council - To build on the significant reduction of this species achieved in previous years.
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Established Pest Animal	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support community and stakeholder action, including industry and/or government initiatives.
Flax-leaved Broom	<i>Genista linifolia</i>	Regionally controlled	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support previous investment by Council

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To build on the significant reduction of this species achieved in previous years.
Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Regionally controlled	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support previous investment by Council - To build on the significant reduction of this species achieved in previous years.
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Regionally controlled	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support previous investment by Council - To protect high quality roadside vegetation
Paterson's Curse	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Regionally controlled	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In response to ratepayer requests - To prevent further spread.
Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Regionally controlled	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In response to ratepayer requests, and to support community and stakeholder action. - To build on the significant reduction of this species achieved in previous years. - To reduce the extent of infestations and prevent further spread.
Spear Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Regionally controlled	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In response to ratepayer requests - To build on the significant reduction of this species achieved in previous years.
Tutsan	<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>	Regionally controlled	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To build on the significant reduction of this species achieved in previous years. - To protect high quality roadside vegetation. - To reduce the extent of infestations and prevent further spread.
Wild Teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i> <i>L.subsp. fullonum</i>	Regionally controlled	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To build on the significant reduction of this species achieved in previous years. - To protect high quality roadside vegetation. - To reduce the extent of infestations and prevent further spread.

Wild Watsonia	<i>Watsonia meriana</i> var. <i>bulbillifera</i>	Regionally controlled	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In response to ratepayer requests. - To support previous investment by Council - To support community group investment and protect adjacent high-quality bushland
Angled onion	<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	Restricted	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support community group investment and protect adjacent high-quality bushland
Bridal Creeper	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>	Restricted	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support community group investment and protect adjacent high-quality bushland
Willow	<i>Salix</i> sp.	Restricted	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To build on significant reduction of this weed achieved in previous years

11: Control Measures and Target Roadsides:

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	
African Feather Grass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label. - Ongoing monitoring, recording, and mapping. 	Roadsides in Coalville area	15 km	Nov - Feb
African Boxthorn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Physical removal or application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label. - Ongoing monitoring, recording, and mapping. 	Various roadsides in municipality (refer to map)	20 km	Sep - May
African Lovegrass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label - Monitoring, recording, and mapping 	Yinnar Road (2 locations), Frys Track (2 locations), Old Melbourne Road, Stringer Road, Broomfield Lane, Tramway Road, Blackwood Rise, Hazelwood Rise East.	< 1 km	Oct - Dec
Blackberry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label 	Various roadsides throughout the municipality.	530 km	Nov - Feb

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing monitoring, recording, and mapping. 			
Broom sp.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label. - Ongoing monitoring, recording, and mapping. - Works to coincide with blackberry treatment. 	<p>Various roadsides throughout municipality. Target areas for treatment in 2023/24 include:</p> <p>Zone 1: Barbor Road, Blairs Road, Burnet Park Road, Early Road, Francis Road, Glengarry North Road, Murrays Road, Purvis Road, Quarry Road, Rifle Range Road, South Shore, Sunderland Road, Whittles Track</p> <p>Zone 3: Frys Track and Moe South Road.</p> <p>Zone 5: Braniffs Road, Clarkes Road, Cranwell Crescent, Jeeralang North Road, Munckton Road.</p> <p>Zones 2, 4 and 6 to be mapped in 2023/24 with treatment programmed for 2024/25.</p>	100 km	Nov - Mar
European Rabbit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Warren destruction - Long netting and/or fumigation 	Borrmans Street, Wirraway Street, Old Coalville Road, and unused government road adjacent Traralgon Railway Reservoir Conservation Reserve	3km	Harbour destruction and long-netting - anytime. Fumigations during breeding season.

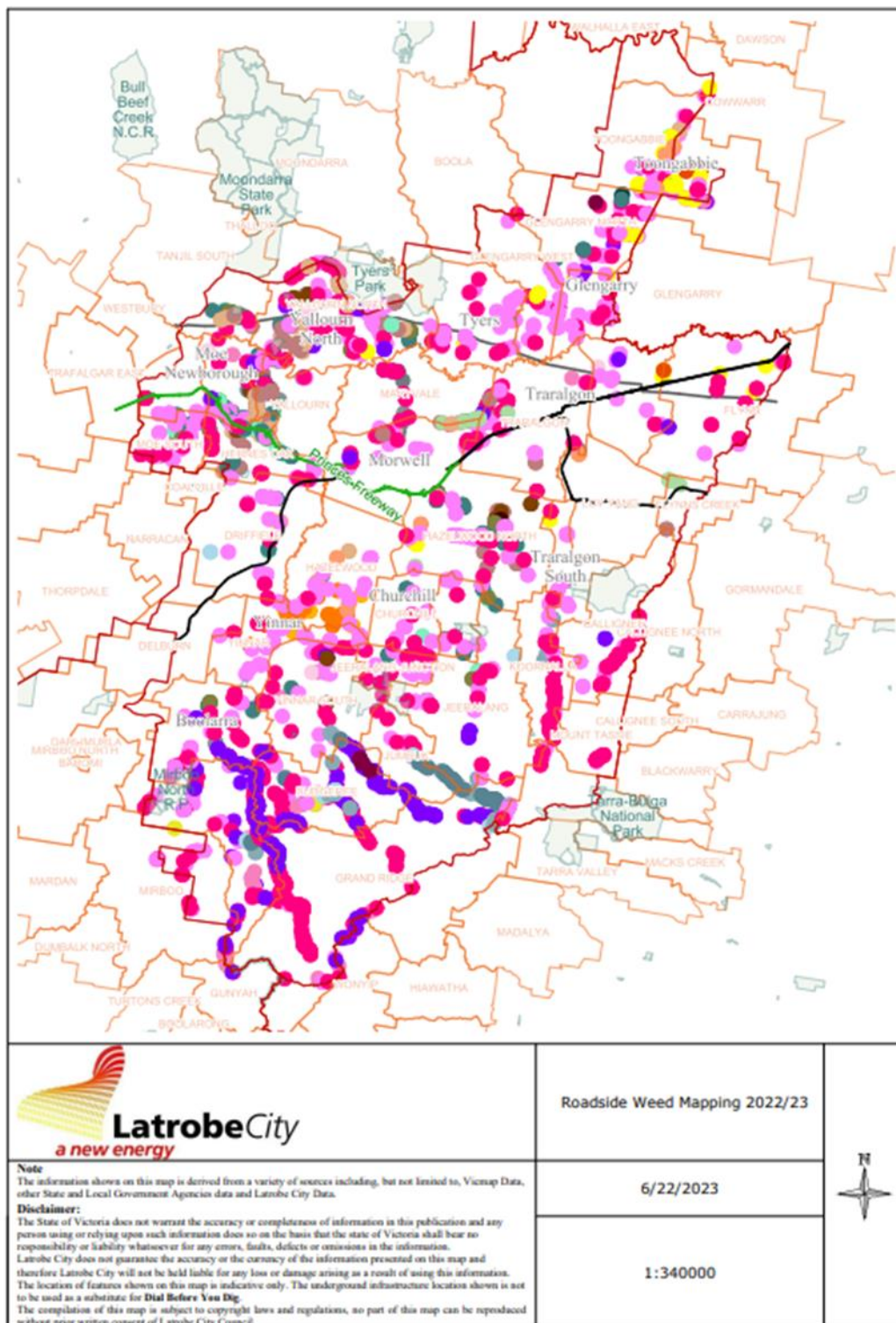
Gorse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label. - Ongoing monitoring, recording, and mapping. - Works to coincide with blackberry treatment. 	Kings Road, Applegates Road, Strettons Track, Andrew Street, Maryvale Road, Old Melbourne Road West	10 km	Nov - Mar
Paterson's Curse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label. - Recording and mapping. 	Various roadsides throughout the municipality.	100 km	Jul - Dec
Ragwort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label. - Monitoring, recording, and mapping. - Works to coincide with blackberry treatment. 	Roadsides within the Callignee, Tyers, and Yallourn North townships.	100 km	Jul - Dec
Spear thistle (and other thistle spp.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label. - Ongoing monitoring, recording, and mapping. 	Various roadsides throughout the municipality.	100 km	Jul - Dec
Tutsan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label. - Ongoing monitoring, recording, and mapping. 	Jeeralang West Road, Taylors Road, Traralgon Creek Road, Morwell River Road, Morwell River East Branch, Upper Middle Creek Road	100 km	Nov - Mar
Wild Teasel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label. 	Zone 3 – Yinnar area. Refer to Map 4.	30 km	Sep - Dec

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing monitoring, recording, and mapping. 			
Wild Watsonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label. - Ongoing monitoring, recording, and mapping. 	<p>As per Map 8.</p> <p>Road in zones 1, 2 and 4 to be treated in 2023/24 and 2025/26. Roads in zones 3, 5 and 6 to be treated in 2025/26.</p>	200 km	Sep - Dec
Angled Onion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label. - Ongoing monitoring, recording, and mapping. 	Borrmans Street, Wirraway Street, Old Coalville Road	2 km	Jul - Sep
Bridal Creeper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spot spray application of a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label. - Ongoing monitoring, recording, and mapping. 	Borrmans Street, Wirraway Street, Old Coalville Road	2 km	Jul - Sep
Hawthorn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Physical removal or drill-fill using a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label. - Ongoing monitoring, recording, and mapping. 	Various roadsides throughout municipality.	>10 km	Sep - Mar
Willow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drill-fill using a registered herbicide in accordance with the product label. - Ongoing monitoring, recording, and mapping. 	Old Melbourne Road and government road near Alamere Drive, Traralgon	1 km	Sep - Mar

12: Maps:

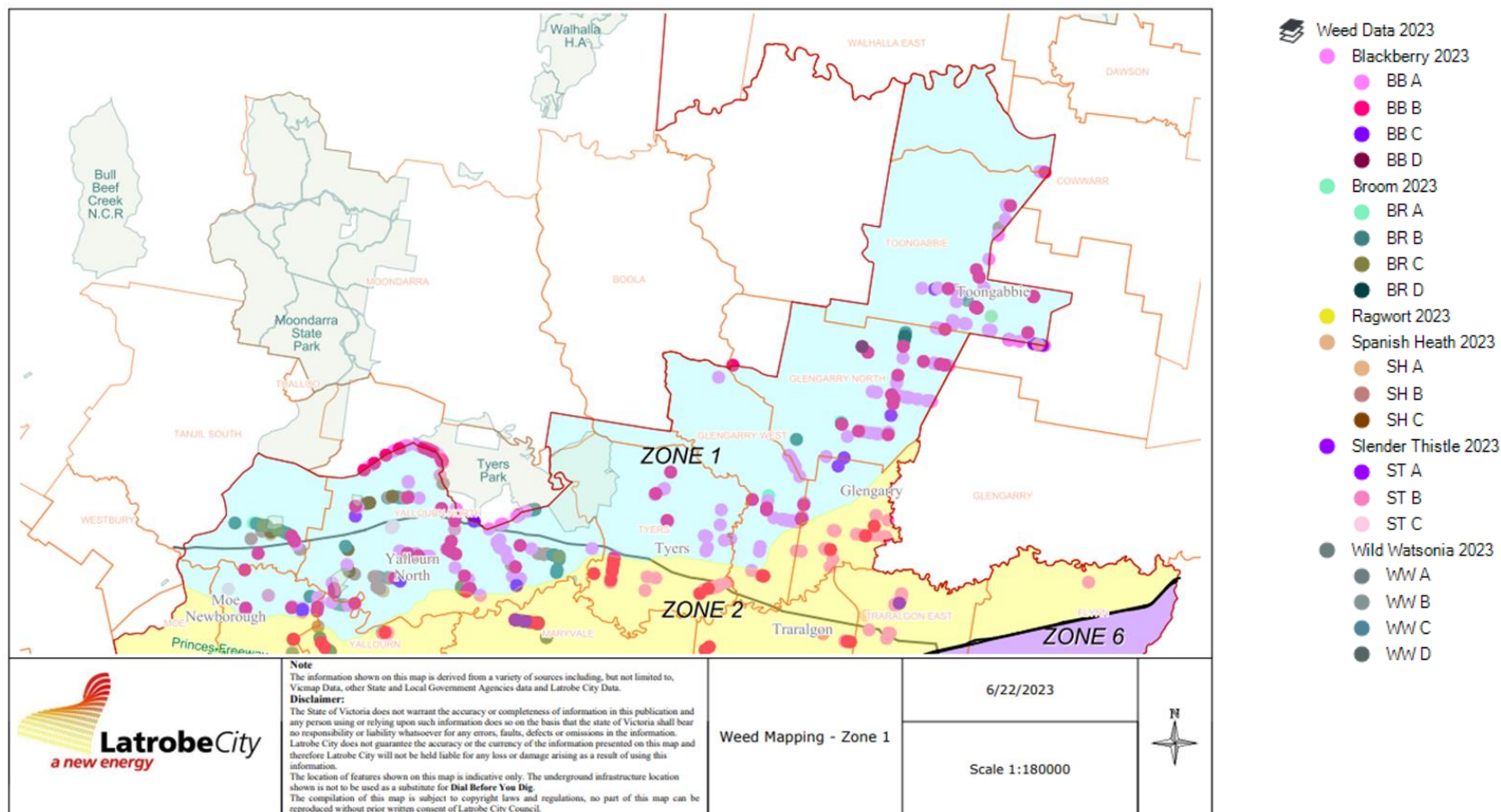
Provide the following maps to support the control plan information:

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



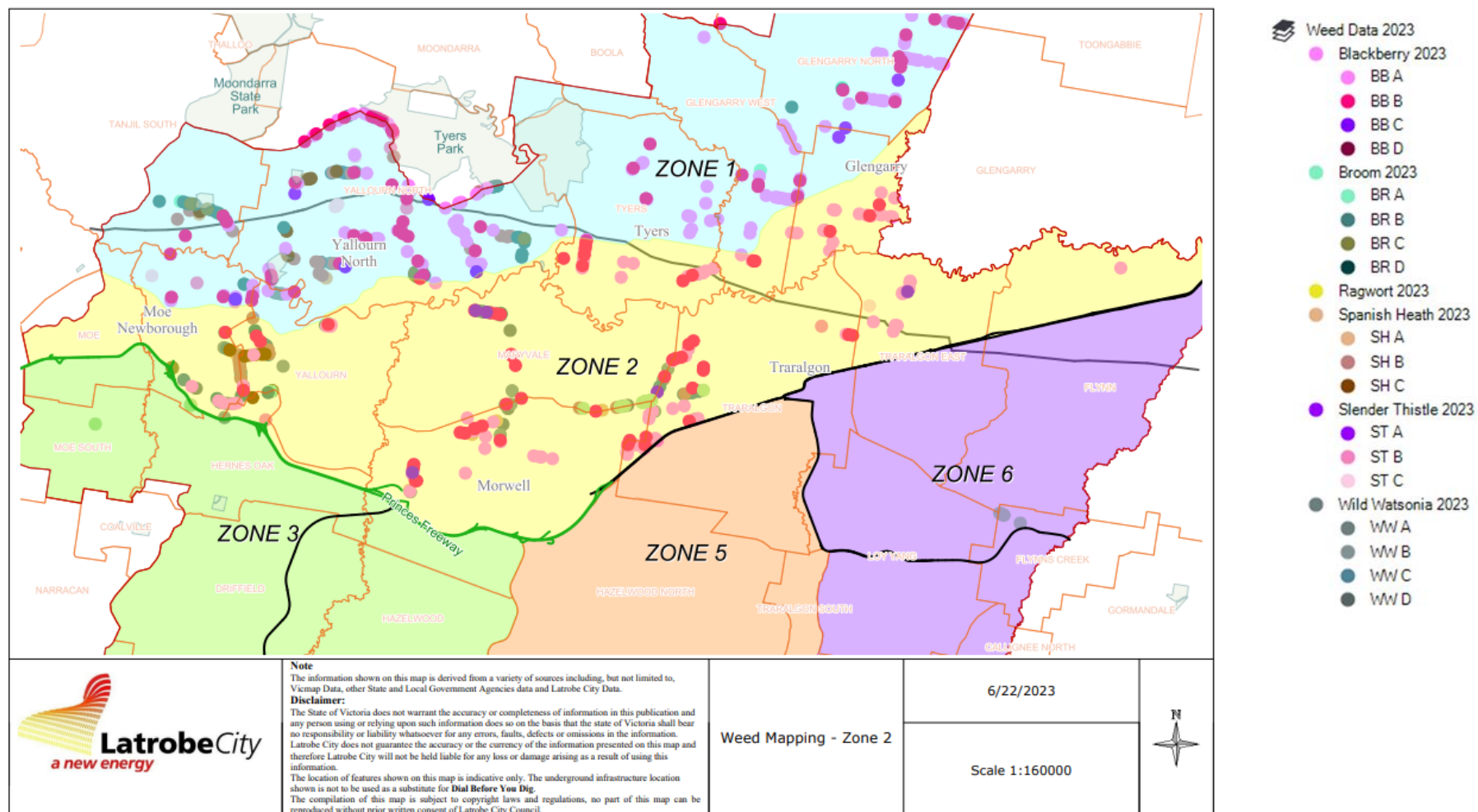
- Weed Data 2022**
- Blackberry 2022
 - BB A
 - BB B
 - BB C
 - Boxthorn 2022
 - BT A
 - BT B
 - BT C
 - Broom 2022
 - BR A
 - BR B
 - BR C
 - Spanish Heath 2022
 - SH A
 - SH B
 - SH C
 - SH D
 - Tutsan 2022
 - TS A
 - TS B
 - TS C
 - TS D
 - Wild Teazel 2022
 - WT A
 - WT B
 - WT C
- Weed Data 2023**
- Blackberry 2023
 - BB A
 - BB B
 - BB C
 - BB D
 - Broom 2023
 - BR A
 - BR B
 - BR C
 - BR D
 - Ragwort 2023
 - Spanish Heath 2023
 - SH A
 - SH B
 - SH C
 - Slender Thistle 2023
 - ST A
 - ST B
 - ST C
 - Wild Watsonia 2023
 - WW A
 - WW B
 - WW C
 - WW D

Map 1: Proposed locations of weed control to occur in Latrobe City Council between July 2023 – June 2026 (Note: not all target species are included on map).



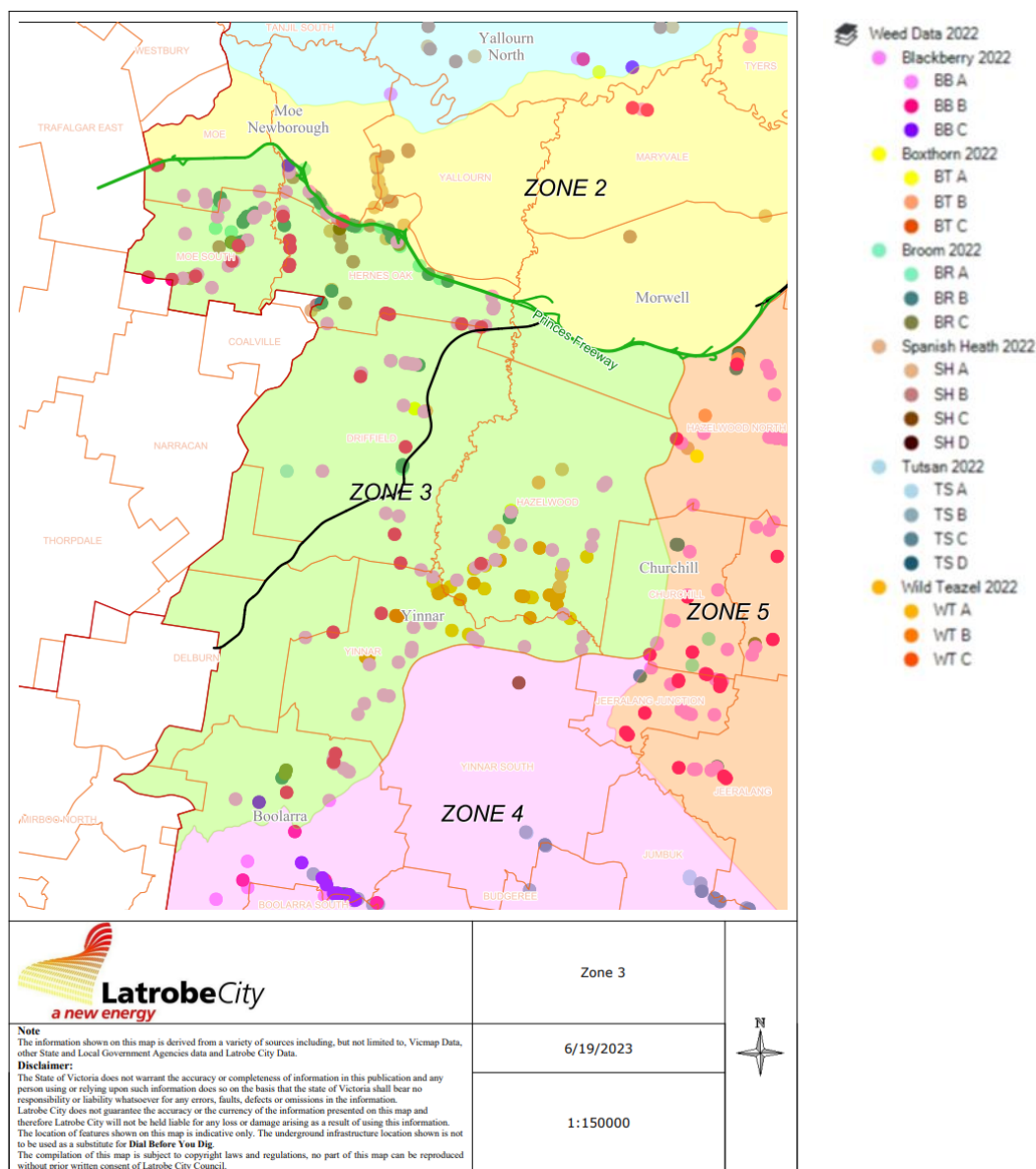
Map 2: Zone 1 (184.5 kms of municipal roads)

Mapped weeds to be treated in 2023/24. Inspection and treatment of ragwort, thistle, and watsonia also to be undertaken in 2023/24. Follow up mapping to occur in 2024/25. Re-treatment of zone in 2025/26.



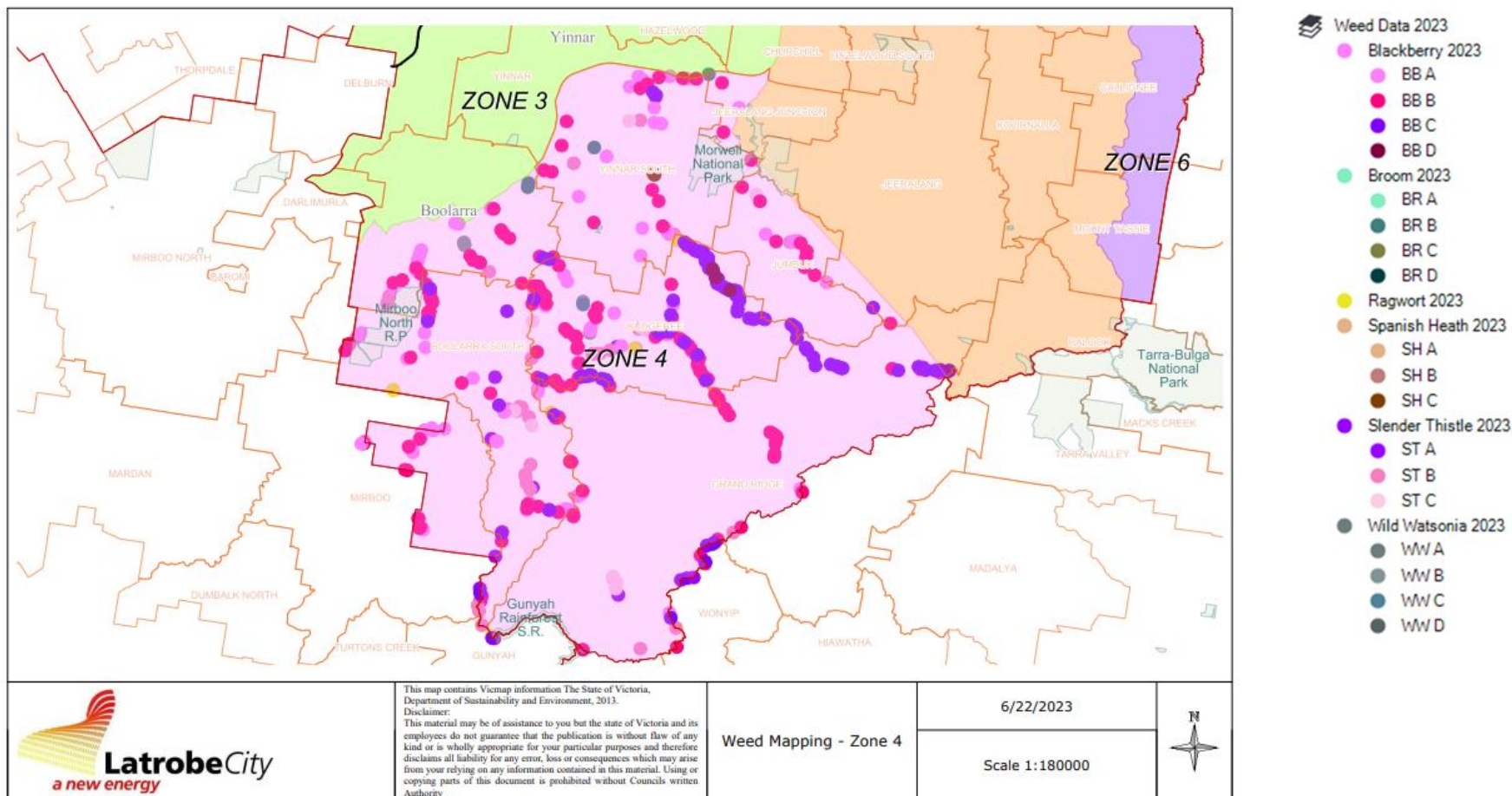
Map 3: Zone 2 (106.7 kms of municipal roads)

Mapped weeds to be treated in 2023/24. Inspection and treatment of ragwort, thistle, and watsonia also to be undertaken in 2023/24. Follow up mapping to occur in 2024/25. Re-treatment of zone in 2025/26.



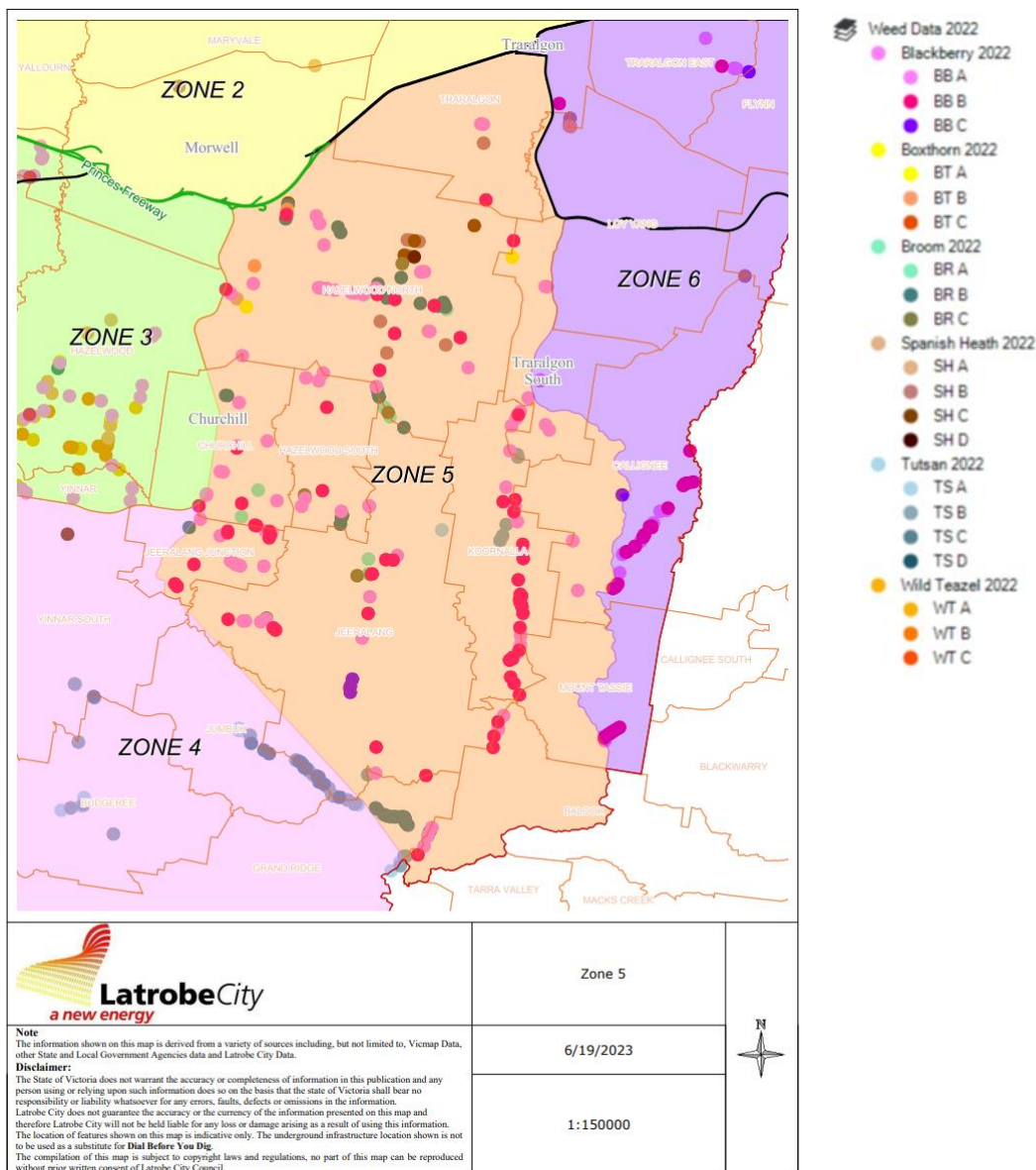
Map 4: Zone 3 (190.3 kms of municipal roads)

Inspection and treatment of ragwort, thistle and watsonia to be undertaken in 2023/24. Updated mapping of zone to occur in 2023/24. Mapped weeds to be treated in 2024/25. Follow up mapping to occur 2025/26.



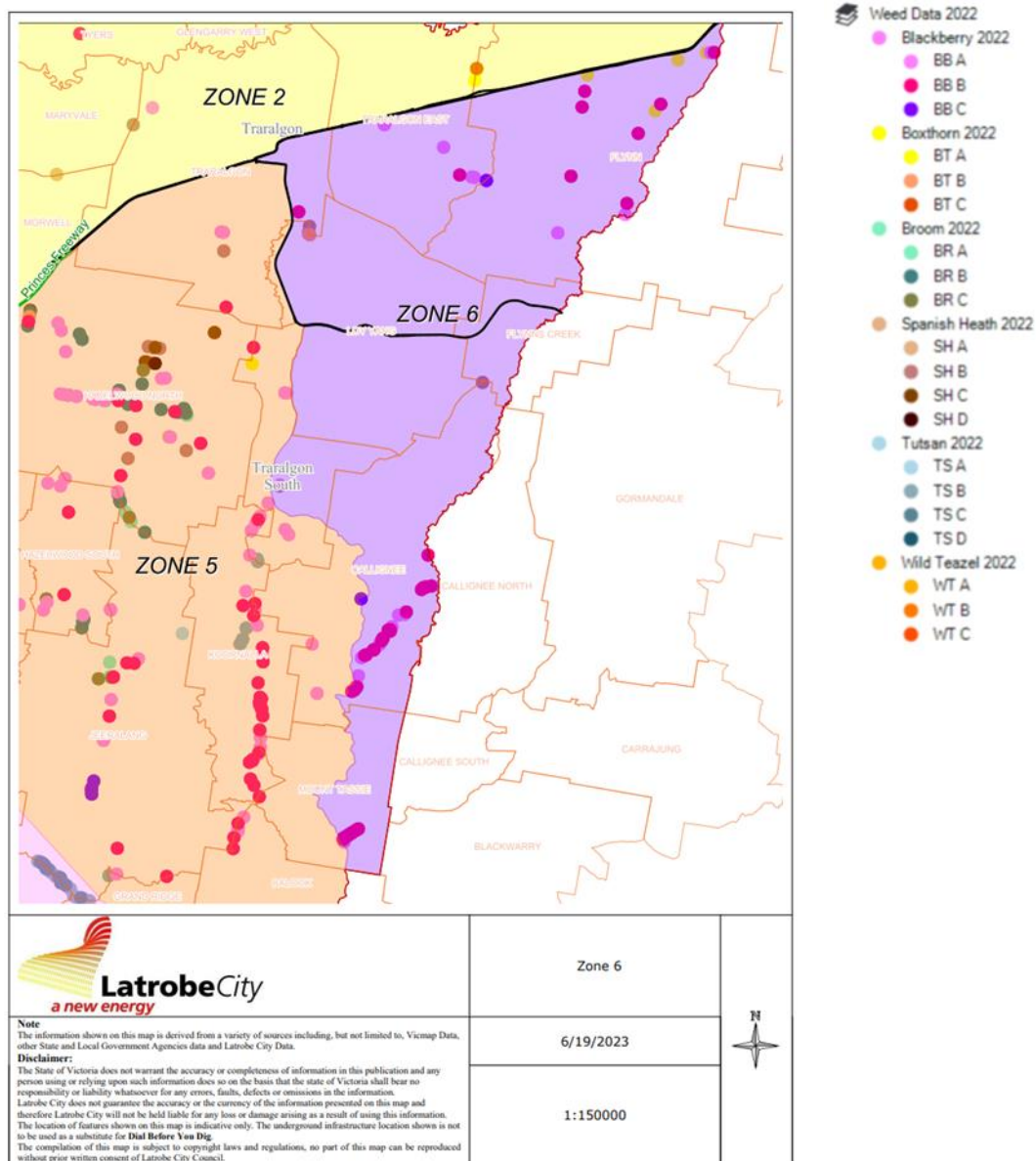
Map 5: Zone 4 (271.8 kms of municipal roads)

Mapped weeds to be treated in 2023/24. Inspection and treatment of ragwort also to be undertaken in 2023/24. Follow up mapping to occur in 2024/25. Re-treatment of zone in 2025/26.



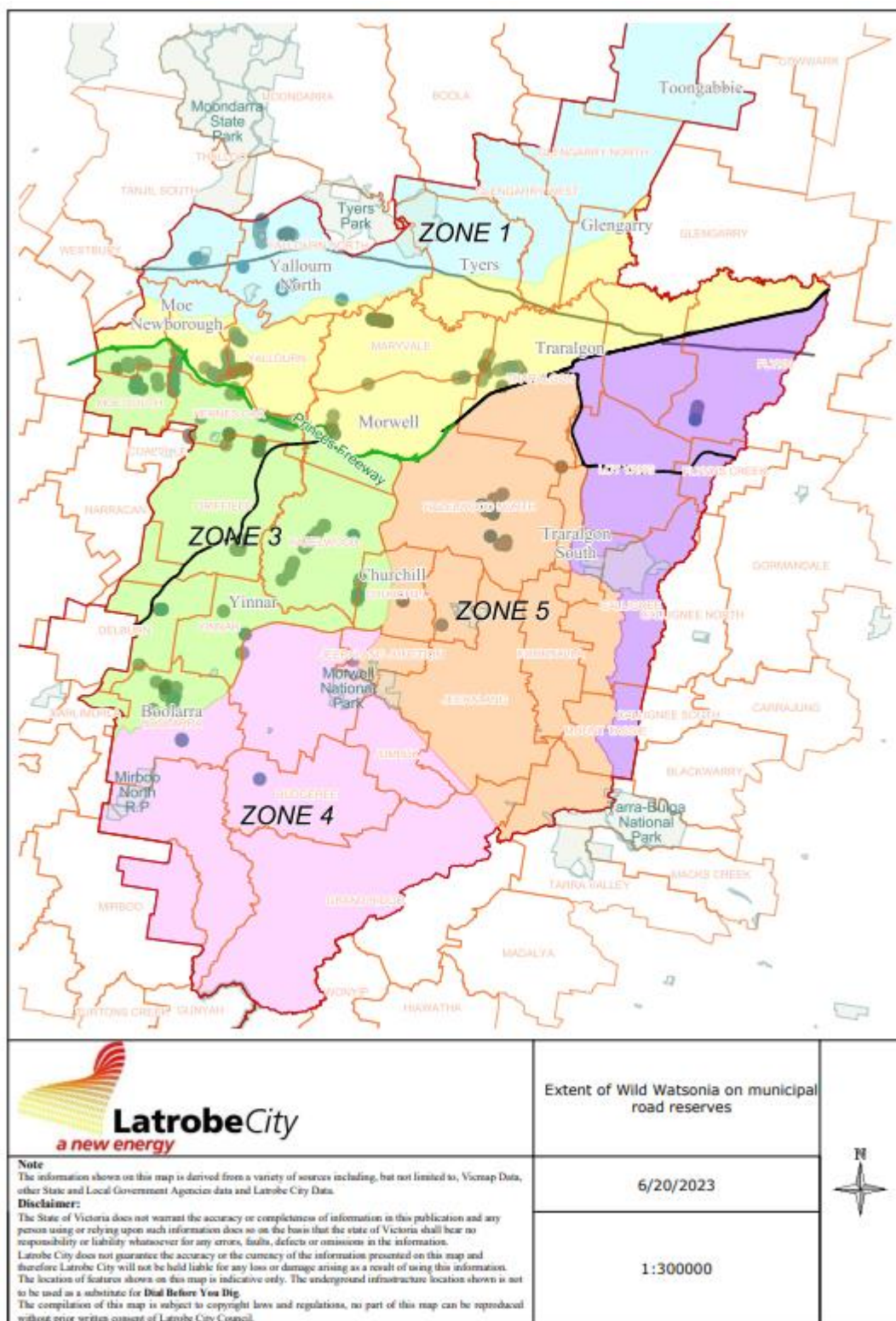
Map 6: Zone 5 (223.7 kms of municipal roads)

Inspection and treatment of ragwort, thistle, and watsonia to be undertaken in 2023/24. Updated mapping of zone to occur in 2023/24. Mapped weeds to be treated in 2024/25. Follow up mapping to occur 2025/26.

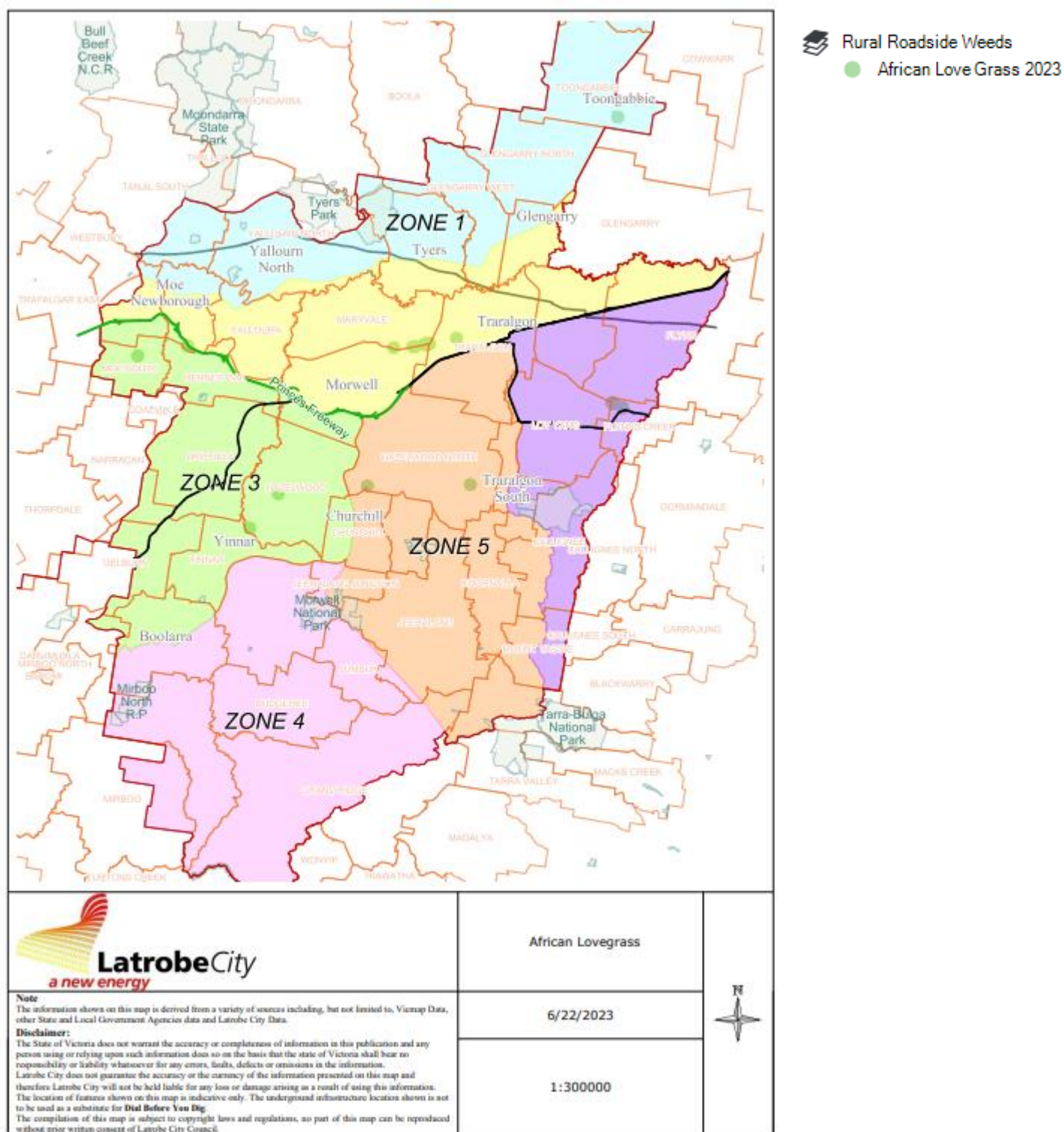


Map 7: Zone 6 (92 kms of municipal roads)

Inspection and treatment of ragwort, thistle, and watsonia to be undertaken in 2023/24. Updated mapping of zone to occur in 2023/24. Mapped weeds to be treated in 2024/25. Follow up mapping to occur 2025/26



Map 8: Extent of Wild Watsonia in Latrobe City Council. Zones 1, 2 and 4 to be treated in 2023/24 and 2025/26. Zones 3, 5 and 6 to be treated in 2024/2025.



Map 9: Extent of African Lovegrass in Latrobe City Council. All infestations to be treated during each year of the control plan.

13: Declarations:

Council will:

- 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:

Date:

Signature:

Council CEO Name:

Date:

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:

Date:

Signature

