



Weed Management Plan

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1. Introduction

Yilgarn Iron Pty Ltd (Yilgarn) is a Western Australian mining company with operations across the Yilgarn region. Yilgarn's tenure spans an area of more than 1500km², encompassing multiple mining domains at varying stages of development, from exploration to active operations and progressive rehabilitation.

Recognising its operational footprint and the potential environmental impacts associated with mining activities, Yilgarn is committed to responsible proactive and responsible environmental management. In alignment with its Environmental Policy, the company applies an adaptive management approach to minimise risk, protect environmental values, and drive continual improvement.

Effective weed management is a key component of this approach. Uncontrolled weed growth can alter native vegetation communities, affect rehabilitation outcomes, and increase long-term management costs. Mining and related activities such as soil handling, vehicle movements and compaction, and vegetation disturbance can inadvertently introduce or spread weed species and reduce native species abundance.

This Weed Management Plan (WMP) provides the framework for preventing, controlling, and monitoring declared weeds and environmental weeds across Yilgarn's operational areas, supporting the company's commitment to maintaining ecological integrity and meeting its regulatory obligations.

2. Purpose, Scope and Objectives

Purpose

The purpose of this Weed Management Plan (WMP) is to establish a consistent, structured approach for the identification, prevention, and control of weed species across Yilgarn's operational areas.

The Plan seeks to minimise the introduction and spread of declared weeds and environmental weeds that may compromise native vegetation, land use capability, of the success of rehabilitation activities.

It also demonstrates Yilgarn's commitment to environmental stewardship and compliance with relevant legislation, regulatory approvals, and internal environmental standards.

Scope

This Plan applies to all Yilgarn Iron operations, including mining, exploration, haulage, processing, and associated support infrastructure throughout the Yilgarn region.

It covers all activities undertaken by Yilgarn employees, contractors, and sub-contractors, and applies to areas along access roads, laydown areas, camps, processing facilities, and rehabilitation sites.

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The WMP applies throughout all throughout the full project life - from construction and operations through to closure and post-closure rehabilitation monitoring.

The following internal documents support the implementation of this Plan:

- Environmental Policy
- Environmental Management System
- Ground Disturbance Procedure
- Environmental Inspection and Monitoring Procedure
- Stockpile Management Procedure
- Dust Management Procedure
- Weed Control Procedure
- Vehicle Weed Inspection Procedure.

Objectives

The objectives of the Weed Management Plan are to:

- Prevent the introduction of new declared or environmental weed species into Yilgarn Iron's operational areas.
- Contain and control existing weed infestations to reduce their extent, density, and potential to spread.
- Monitor and record weed occurrence and distribution to inform adaptive management and compliance reporting.
- Support rehabilitation success by reducing weed competition and promoting native species establishment.
- Ensure compliance with the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* and conditions of approvals issued by the *DMPE* and the *DWER*.
- Promote awareness and accountability among Yilgarn personnel and contractors through induction, training, and ongoing communication.

3. Legal and Other Obligations

Yilgarn Iron operates under a range of legislative and regulatory frameworks that govern the management of weeds and biosecurity risks. The key Acts, Regulations, and relevant standards applicable to weed management are summarised Table 3-1 below. These obligations apply across all Yilgarn operations, and all company representatives, contractors, and site personnel are required to comply with applicable provisions.

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Table 3-1: Environmental Legislative Framework

Legislation	Agency	Application
Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD)	Provides the legal framework for managing declared pests (including weeds) in WA. Establishes responsibilities for landholders and companies to prevent, control, and report declared weed species.
Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Regulations 2013	DPIRD	Prescribes categories and management requirements for declared plants and details control measures applicable to listed weed species.
Environmental Protection Act 1986	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER)	Provides the overarching framework for environmental protection and regulation of activities that may cause pollution or environmental harm, including land disturbance that facilitates weed spread.
Mining Act 1978	Department of Mines, Petroleum and Energy (DMPE)	Governs exploration and mining activities in WA and requires operators to manage environmental impacts, including weed control and rehabilitation obligations.
Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004	DWER	Regulates vegetation clearing associated with mining and related activities, ensuring avoidance and management of weed spread following disturbance.
Contaminated Sites Act 2003	DWER	Requires identification and management of contaminated sites which can include areas impacted by invasive species or degraded due to poor vegetation management.
Work Health and Safety (Mine) Regulations 2022	DMPE	Requires management of risks associated with ground disturbance, dust, and vehicle hygiene to prevent weed spread through soil and equipment contamination.
Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. (DCCEEW)	Provides for the protection of matters of national environmental significance, including listed threatened species and ecological communities that may be affected by weed invasion.
Guideline	Agency	Application
Weed Hygiene – Best Practice Guidelines for Preventing Weed Spread	DPIRD	Provides practical measures for preventing weed spread through machinery, soil, and vehicle movement – relevant to site and contractor hygiene procedures.
Weed Plan for Western Australia (State Weed Plan)	DPIRD	Provides the strategic framework for weed management across WA, including prevention, containment, and eradication priorities.

Yilgarn maintains a comprehensive Obligations Register that details all legal requirements and commitments relevant to its operations. This register is maintained by the Environmental Department and is accessible to site personnel to ensure ongoing compliance.

4. Environmental Context

Weed management is an essential component of responsible environmental practice within the mining industry. Uncontrolled weed infestations can significantly impact native vegetation communities, alter habitat composition, compete with local flora, and reduce the success of land rehabilitation. Effective management is therefore critical to maintaining ecosystem integrity and achieving long-term closure outcomes.

Yilgarn's operational footprint spans a diverse area within the Yilgarn region of Western Australia, characterised by arid to semi-arid conditions, low and variable rainfall, and native vegetation communities adapted to the local environment. Mining and exploration activities across these areas - including soil disturbance, vehicle movement, and material handling - have the potential to introduce and spread weed species both within and beyond the site boundaries.

Weed introduction may occur through contaminated soil, seed carried on vehicles, equipment, or clothing, or via materials imported for construction and rehabilitation activities. Once established, weed species can outcompete native vegetation, hinder natural regeneration, and reduce biodiversity values.

Yilgarn's Weed Management Plan provides a framework to identify, prevent, and manage weed occurrences across all sites under its control. The Plan supports compliance with statutory obligations under the environmental approval conditions, while contributing to the company's broader commitment to sustainable and progressive rehabilitation.

Weed monitoring and management activities are undertaken across all operational areas, including active mining domains, haul roads, processing facilities, and rehabilitation zones, ensuring that weed impacts are minimised and controlled throughout the life of mine.

4.1. Existing Weed Presence

The following weed species were identified during the most recent field audit (October 2025). This reflects a point-in-time assessment and does not represent a complete or static inventory. Weed presence will continue to be monitored, and any new species detected will be managed in accordance with this weed management plan.

Species	Common Name	Koolyaanobbing Range	Windarling Range	Mt Jackson Range	Deception Deposit	Haul Road	J4	Carina
<i>Brassica</i> sp.	Mediterranean Turnip							√
<i>Carpobrotus</i> sp	Pigface	√						
<i>Carrictera annua</i>	Ward's Weed	√					√	

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<i>Centaurea melitensis</i>	Maltese Cockspur	√		√		√	√	√
<i>Conyza bonariensis</i>	Flaxleaf Fleabane							√
<i>Hordeum leporinum</i>	Barley Grass							√
<i>Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum</i>	Slender Iceplant	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
<i>Rumex vesicarius</i>	Ruby Dock	√		√				√
<i>Sisymbrium irio</i>	London Rocket	√			√			
<i>Solanum hystrix</i>	Hystrix Nightshade	√	√					√
<i>Solanum sp</i>	Nightshade							√
<i>Sonchus sp</i>	Sowthistle	√	√	√	√		√	√
<i>Trachyandra divaricata</i>	Onion Weed	√						

5. Impact and Risk Assessment

Yilgarn utilises a standardised risk assessment approach consistent with the risk management process established by recognised industry practices and aligned with the DMPE approvals framework. The methodology for undertaking risk assessments is detailed in Yilgarn's Risk Assessment Procedure.

A summary of the risks associated with weed management has been provided in Table 5-1: Risk Assessment Summary

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Table 5-1: Risk Assessment Summary

Potential Impact	Risk Pathway	Inherent Risk	Management Controls	Residual Risk
Introduction of new weed species to disturbed areas	Movement of vehicles, machinery, and equipment carrying weed seeds.	High	- Implement vehicle and machinery hygiene protocols - Conduct weed inspections before mobilisation to site - Restrict access to designated areas only	Medium
Spread of existing weed species within operational areas	Soil movement, water runoff, and wind dispersal	Medium	- Identify and map weed infestations - Schedule targeted weed control programs - Apply erosion and sediment controls	Low
Spread of weeds to adjacent pastoral or conservation land	Poor boundary management or inadequate control near lease boundaries.	High	- Maintain clean buffer zones - Undertake periodic monitoring of boundary zones - Liaise with neighbouring landholders on weed management	Medium
Ineffective weed control measures	Inappropriate herbicide use or inadequate follow up treatments	Medium	- Use approved herbicides and trained personnel - Conduct follow-up inspections to assess control effectiveness - Maintain treatment records	Low
Reduced native vegetation diversity due to weed competition	Proliferation of invasive species in rehabilitated or disturbed	High	- Monitor rehabilitation areas regularly - Apply integrated weed management practices	Medium
Establishment of weeds in rehabilitation areas	Poor soil hygiene or insufficient competition from native species	Medium	- Inspect topsoil and growth media sources prior to use - Include weed control in rehabilitation maintenance schedule - Use locally sourced native seed mixes for revegetation	Low

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6. Environmental Management Strategies

Effective management of weeds within the Yilgarn operational area is critical to protecting native vegetation communities, supporting successful rehabilitation outcomes, and preventing the spread of invasive species to surrounding pastoral and conservation land. Yilgarn adopts a proactive approach that combines mitigation, monitoring, and inspection measures to minimise environmental impacts and ensure compliance with the DMPE requirements.

6.1. Mitigation

Mitigation measures are implemented to prevent the introduction and spread of weeds across the site. All vehicles, machinery, and mobile plant are required to undergo washdown prior to site entry, and contractors must provide hygiene declarations confirming compliance. Clean fill and topsoil are sourced from verified, weed-free locations, and soil or material from known infested areas is avoided. Weed control programs are scheduled throughout the year, targeting high-risk and disturbed areas before seed set. Herbicides are applied by trained personnel following approved chemical handling procedures and label directions. During rehabilitation, weed suppression measures are undertaken prior to seeding, and locally sourced native seed mixes are used to promote competitive ground cover and reduce the likelihood of weed establishment.

6.2. Monitoring

Monitoring activities support early detection and continual improvement of weed management performance. Regular site inspections and seasonal monitoring are conducted to identify new infestations, assess the effectiveness of control measures, and verify compliance with hygiene and treatment requirements. Records of washdowns, herbicide treatments, and weed control activities are maintained and reviewed as part of the Environmental Management System. Rehabilitation areas are also monitored to track vegetation development and detect any emerging weed issues that may threaten long-term revegetation success.

6.3. Inspections

Inspections are undertaken routinely and following rainfall or ground disturbance events to identify any weed growth or spread. High-risk areas such as access roads, laydown yards, stockpiles, and boundary zones are inspected at regular intervals. Where weeds are detected, corrective actions are implemented promptly, and follow-up inspections are scheduled to ensure effectiveness.

This integrated strategy ensures that weed risks are identified, managed, and monitored consistently throughout all phases of Yilgarn's operations, aligning with the company's broader environmental management objectives.

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Table 6-1: Summary of Management Measures

Objective	Management Strategy	Monitoring	Frequency	KPIs
Prevent introduction of new weed species	Implement vehicle and machinery washdown procedures prior to site entry. Require hygiene declarations from contractors and suppliers.	Review washdown records and contractor compliance documentation.	Ongoing during mobilisation and site entry.	Process: 100% of vehicles/ machinery have a completed weed inspection record on entry. Response: All new weed detections are assessed and appropriate control actions implemented as soon as reasonably practicable. Supporting: 100% of contractors complete weed hygiene induction prior to mobilisation.
Minimise spread of existing weed species within operational areas	Undertake targeted weed control programs in disturbed areas before seed set. Restrict movement of soil and equipment from known infested zones.	Conduct seasonal weed monitoring surveys and inspect high-risk areas (haul roads, laydown yards, borrow pits)	As required guided, guided by operational conditions and risk assessment.	Process: Weed control actions implemented as soon as reasonably practicable following detection. Outcome: Reduction or containment of existing weed infestations over time. Compliance: Key inspections, monitoring results, and significant weed control actions are documented and retained in accordance with Yilgarn's Environmental Management System procedures.
Prevent spread of weeds to adjacent land	Maintain buffer zones and control weeds along lease boundaries and access roads. Restrict movement of soil and equipment from known infestation zones.	Inspect boundary tracks, fence lines, and haul roads for weed presence.	As required guided, guided by operational conditions and risk assessment	Process: Buffer zones maintained and inspected. Outcome: No evidence of established weed populations spreading beyond site boundaries. Compliance: Key inspections, monitoring results, and significant weed control actions are documented and retained in

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Objective	Management Strategy	Monitoring	Frequency	KPIs
Support rehabilitation success through weed suppression	Control weeds prior to topsoil resspreading and seeding. Use clean topsoil and locally sourced native seed mixes.	Monitor rehabilitation areas for weed emergence and native vegetation establishment.	Biannual (autumn and spring) until vegetation stabilises, or as required.	accordance with Yilgarn's Environmental Management System procedures. Process: Weed suppression and control measures implemented as part of rehabilitation activities. Outcome: Weed cover in rehabilitation areas is minimised; native vegetation establishment progresses over time. Compliance: Weed monitoring and rehabilitation records maintained.
Ensure effective and compliant chemical use	Apply approved herbicides by trained personnel in accordance with label directions and site procedures.	Maintain herbicide usage records and assess treatment effectiveness.	Ongoing during treatment campaigns and reviewed periodically.	Process: All chemical applications are recorded and comply with label and site procedures. Outcome: Targeted weed species controlled effectively. Compliance: Treatment records maintained and reviewed through Environmental Management System.

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7. Roles and Responsibilities

All personnel within the organisation have defined roles, responsibilities and authorities relating to the safe management of weed management. These include responsibilities for implementing environmental controls, complying with regulatory obligations, and ensuring action plans and programs are effectively applied. Accountabilities are summarised in Table 7.1.

Table 7-1: Key Accountabilities

Role	Accountabilities
<i>Executive Team</i>	- Accountability for the compliance of all operations and activities undertaken by Yilgarn. - Commit to provide resources (including human resources, organisational infrastructure, technological and financial) essential to the implementation and control of the EMS. - Demonstrate effective leadership with respect to matters concerning environmental management and compliance.
<i>Environmental Department</i>	- Ultimate responsibility for the implementation of the Weed Management Plan. - Review and update the Weed Management Plan as required. - Maintain legal obligation registers. - Provide timely and accurate advice on all matters concerning weed management and environmental compliance. - Conduct environmental inspections and monitoring.
<i>Department Managers</i>	- Communicating relevant matters of the EMS to employees and others working on behalf of the organisation. - Accountability for environmental performance and compliance within their department. - Engage with the Environmental Department for advice and guidance when the need arises. - Demonstrate effective leadership with respect to matters concerning environmental management and compliance.
<i>Employees and Contractors</i>	- Actively identify environmental risks and hazards in the workplace and appropriately report them. - Adhere to the requirements of this document. - Undertake tasks and provide services in a manner that minimises harm to the environment. - Comply with the requirements of EMS, including the Weed Management Plan, as a minimum standard.

8. Reporting

Any occurrence where there is a deviation from management controls, practices, or performance indicators, represents a non-conformance.

It is a requirement of all personnel that any non-conformances, including environmental incidents, are reported via the online reporting portal and investigated in accordance with Yilgarn's *Incident Reporting and Investigation Procedure*.

Yilgarn recognises that certain incidents which have impacted, or have the potential to impact, the environment, or which result in a breach of licence or tenement conditions, may require reporting to external regulators. The Environmental Department is responsible for assessing incidents against statutory and licence requirements and ensuring all mandatory reports are submitted within the required timeframes.

Yilgarn has developed an *Incident Response and Notification Procedure* to ensure timely and compliant reporting. Table 8-1 provides examples of events that may trigger external reporting.

Table 8-1: Events Triggering External Reporting

Event / Trigger	Stakeholder	Notes / Guidance
Discovery of a new species of declared or environmental weed within the project footprint	DWER	Report findings but include an assessment of likely causation. Document whether the occurrence is plausibly proposal-attributable (e.g., introduced via vehicles, soil, or construction activities) versus naturally dispersed (birds, wind, water). Isolated seedlings or naturally occurring plants may be noted without formal remediation if judged not attributable.
Detection of a significant increase in abundance or distribution of existing weed species that may be attributable to project activities	DWER	Use monitoring data and operational records to determine if the change is likely due to mining activities. Record the assessment rationale. Only report areas where the increase is reasonably attributable to the proposal.
Completion of baseline or follow-up weed monitoring showing proposal-attributable adverse changes in weed cover or type	DWER	Only triggers reporting if monitoring indicates a measurable, negative change linked to operations. Include supporting data and site observations.
Implementation of weed control or rehabilitation measures in response to monitoring findings	DWER	Report the nature and extent of control/rehabilitation measures implemented but note any areas where natural factors may also influence outcomes.
Completion of ongoing remedial measures under the Ministerial Statement or if CEO approval is sought to cease remedial actions	DWER	Document the rationale for cessation, including justification based on monitoring results and proposal-attributable risk assessment.

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9. Corrective Actions

The outcomes of audits, inspections, and internal reporting will determine the need for corrective actions. These actions may include revised training programs, updates to operational controls, and amendments to existing procedures and practices. Corrective actions will be applied on an as-needs basis, with the level of response proportionate to the significance of the issue and the potential or actual environmental impact.

The Environmental Department is responsible for coordinating and implementing corrective actions, communicating requirements to relevant personnel, and ensuring that all changes are reflected in the appropriate documentation, systems, and procedures. This process ensures that lessons learned are integrated into day-to-day operations, supporting continuous improvement in dust management and ongoing compliance with environmental and regulatory obligations.

10. Review

This management plan will be reviewed biennially or earlier if there are significant changes to project scope, regulatory requirements, or operational practices.

All revisions will be documented and controlled in accordance with Yilgarn's *Document Control Procedure*.

The review process will ensure that the plan remains current, effective, and aligned with best practice by incorporating:

- New information or research outcomes,
- Updates to legislation, standards, or licence conditions,
- Advances in technology, methods, or management techniques,
- Lessons learned from incidents, audits, or industry developments.

11. Version Control

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