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ALIEN MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

FOR THE

PERIODIC MAINTENANCE AND RESEALING OF TRUNK ROADS 33/4 AND 34/2 BETWEEN DE RUST AND PRINCE ALBERT.

Produced as part of a Basic Assessment EIA Application for Environmental Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) and the amended (April 2017) Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014

PROJECT INFORMATION	
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All vegetation clearance must be undertaken with utmost care to ensure that only that vegetation, which needs to be removed, is removed.

Eradication of alien plants must be completed in such a manner that indigenous vegetation is not damaged.

It is important to remove both young plants (saplings) and old trees that are seed bearing. Different strategies can be employed to remove different species, but all methods will involve manual labour as mechanical means other than chain saws and brush cutters, should be used where necessary. It is important to tackle the smaller, more dispersed plants first, and then the larger stands of alien vegetation.

To ease the removal of the alien plants present on the site, it is recommended that all alien plants be removed during the initial site clearing activities at the start of the construction process rather than during the operational phase of the development.

1. Clearing of small alien plants

The best method of clearing small plants is by hand pulling them. They must then be stacked for removal to a recognised waste site, or alternatively mulched on site. Mulched material can be used as a ground cover where necessary.

2. Clearing of alien trees

Alien trees must be cut down with chain saws and then chopped into smaller portions. Some species of alien plants like Black Wattle trees are coppicing species and will re-grow from roots and stumps. This means that a chemical such as Roundup or Garlon will need to be used to prevent the trees from re-sprouting. These chemicals can either be sprayed onto the stump with a knapsack sprayer or painted on with a paintbrush. Another alternative to prevent re-growth is to strip the bark from the remaining part of the stump.

3. Methods for controlling alien vegetation

Biological control, chemical control, mechanical clearing, and burning have all been used with varying results. Each method has been successful but nearly all require follow-up control. The most successful clearing projects have included an integrated approach to account for initial clearing and continued management.

3.1 Mechanical control:

- Mature non-coppicing trees must be cut as low as possible and no herbicide treatment is needed on the cut stumps.
- Debris may be removed immediately from site to be burned in a safe area, mulched or used as firewood.
- Large branches should be used as firewood.
- Smaller branches should be mulched.
- Alien material containing seed must be removed from the site and burned.
- Should debris be left on site:
- In sparser areas, where felled debris will not hinder follow-up operations, plants can be felled and left in situ.
- In dense areas, stack debris in rows five metres apart parallel to the contours to facilitate follow-up operations.
- Low density seedling regeneration must be hand pulled.

- Hand pulling around pockets of indigenous vegetation (1m swathe around clumps) is important so as to not damage indigenous vegetation pockets.

3.2 Chemical control

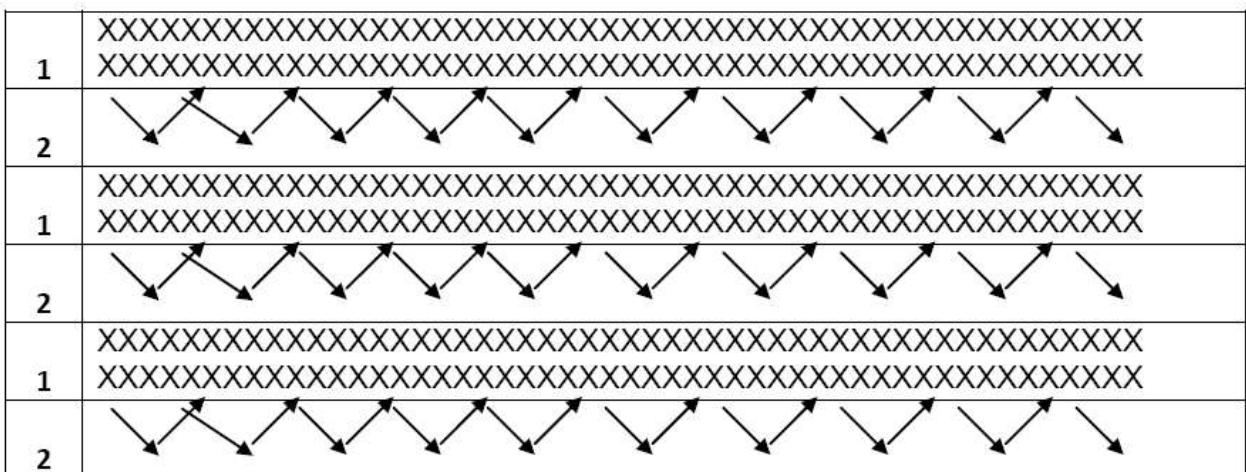
- Follow-up visitation no later than three months after initial operation.
- Follow-up control will be needed because soil stored seed may stay dormant in soil for up to 50 years.
- Follow-up control will involve a combination of hand pulling and foliar spraying.
- Seedlings, saplings and coppice can be foliar sprayed.
- Follow-up spray operation when sufficient regeneration has taken place.
- Blanket or foliar spray.

3.3 Tools

- Loppers, bow saws and chainsaws
- 12 –15 litre back pack spray units
- Flat fan nozzles or solid cone and 1 bar constant flow valves.

3.4 Team composition

- 6 persons, each being equipped with a lopping shear, bow saw and herbicide applicator, must first sweep through the area in individual lanes 5 metres apart. These persons target all plants less than 8 cm in basal diameter, felling, stacking and applying herbicide. De-branching should only be used to facilitate stacking of larger branches.
- 2 chainsaw operators thereafter follow through these lanes felling all plants more than 8 cm in basal diameter. Two assistants are responsible for stacking and herbicide application.
- For the denser areas, methodology must follow the illustration below. All rows are five metres wide. Swathes labelled 1 must be cut first and the debris placed back into these swathes. Thereafter debris generated in swathes labelled 2, must be placed into swathes labelled 1.



3.5 Follow up

Once the source of the problem has been removed, namely the seed bearing trees, it is important to follow up on any seedlings and saplings that may have grown in the interim. If this is not done the effort of the removal of the adult trees will have been wasted, as the alien vegetation problem will intensify.

Author of document:

This Alien Management Programme was compiled by *Sharples Environmental Services cc (SES)*. The company has over 20+ years combined experience in the field of environmental management on a variety of differing landuse applications ranging from large-scale residential estates and resorts to golf courses, municipal service infrastructure installations and the planning of major arterials.

