



## Grassy Eucalypt Woodlands Stewardship Program

### Standards for Rabbit Management

Rabbits pose a major threat to native vegetation, in particular to the recruitment of young plants, and should be managed. Employing a combination of complementary control techniques will achieve the best outcomes, as different methods will pick up different sections of the rabbit population at different times of the year.

For more details on integrated rabbit control, visit Agriculture Victoria:

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/pest-animals/invasive-animal-management/integrated-rabbit-control>

### Burrow Fumigation and Hand Collapse

- Collapse burrows by hand following fumigation. Avoid disturbance to native vegetation when hand-collapsing burrows.
- Mechanical ripping of burrows is generally not permitted within riparian zones or areas of cultural sensitivity due to the potential for impacts to items of cultural heritage (refer to fact sheet Aboriginal Cultural Heritage).
- Mechanical ripping of burrows is generally not permitted in areas of native vegetation. This is to minimise damage to native understorey and prevent further soil disturbance.

### Shooting

- Shooting is appropriate, as part of an integrated approach to control, where rabbit numbers are low.
- Shooting can be carried out year-round.

### Rabbit-proof Fencing

- In native vegetation that is highly sensitive to grazing by rabbits, and where there is a high risk of rabbit invasion from areas adjoining the site, you may choose to build a rabbit-proof fence.

- The minimum standard for rabbit-proof fences is 1050mm width, 40mm mesh diameter and 1.4mm wire diameter rabbit-proof netting.
- Rabbit netting should be fixed so that it reaches at least 900mm above the ground and either buried (to 150mm depth) or laid down and secured with pegs, rocks or timber.
- Support the fence to withstand stock or native animal forces.

### Removal of Harbour

- Remove harbour provided by rubbish onsite and from weeds (e.g. Blackberries, Gorse etc.), where access is available.
- Ensure that any harbour to be removed is also not providing habitat for native animals (e.g. ground-dwelling mammals, reptiles or small birds). If necessary, consider options for providing supplementary habitat using revegetation with indigenous species.
- Removal of native vegetation to reduce rabbit harbour is generally not permitted.

### Baiting

- If chemicals are being used, you are required to comply with the current legislation (Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994).
- Free-feed first to determine whether the rabbits are feeding in the paddock or eating native vegetation.
- Use only hand-trail baiting, with due care taken to minimise impacts on non-target species.
- Take appropriate precautions to minimise risk to the user and others (including notification to neighbours, warning signage, minimum distances to dwellings and waterways, etc.).
- Where predatory birds are using the area, monitor for and dispose of rabbit carcasses as soon as possible after baiting to reduce the risk of poisoning to the birds.

### Health and Safety

You are responsible for ensuring all works required in implementing the management actions are conducted in a safe manner and comply with the lawful requirements of any Authority, and with all Acts, regulations and other laws which may be applicable to the Native Vegetation Management Agreement.

*healthy and productive lands and waters  
cared for by thriving communities*

