



Guide for Engaging Contractors

This guide is for information purposes only. Any person engaging the services of a weed contractor must make their own assessment of the competence of that operator and the suitability of the products or services to their situation.

By law, a person carrying out prescribed chemical control work for a fee must hold a current Commercial Operators Licence (COL) issued by the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.

To obtain a COL the person must have a Certificate of Competency that is relevant to the type of work they perform. Anyone engaging a contractor to undertake chemical control on their property should ensure that the operator has the required certificate and licence to undertake the work.

Before employing a contractor, you and the contractor should be clear on:

- The extent of works to be undertaken, exact areas and sites - walk over the site with the contractor if needed and provide any necessary maps.
- The weed(s) requiring control and what treatment will be used. Operators must only use registered chemicals covered by a label or permit. The Operator should provide any relevant documents such as chemical labels, Safety Data Sheets and off-label permits as required.
- The timing of the works – when and how long it will take.
- The potential for the quote to change. Note: quotes received from contractors should contain an estimate of the cost of control, broken down by person hours, equipment and chemical fees, and travel charges, where relevant).
- What weed hygiene management activities are required. Ensure there is a clear understanding of the practices that will avoid introducing weeds on to your property and preventing further spread of weeds.

If you have any concerns or require any clarification regarding a quote and the works to be undertaken, ensure that you ask the contractor for further details before agreeing the works commence.

Useful Links:

[Codes of Practice – Ground Spraying](#)

[Codes of Practice – Aerial Spraying](#)

[Use of Herbicides near Waterways and Wetlands](#)

[BeeAware Pollination and Pesticides](#)

The Tasmanian Weeds Action Fund is a \$5 million Tasmanian Government initiative funded for five years from 2018-19. The funds provided by the state government will be invested with farmers and other community organisations to tackle weeds that are impacting valuable agricultural and environmental assets.