

MR14/0112

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8,903 HECTARES OF INVASIVE WEEDS CONTROLLED

Significant weed control across the ACT has been accomplished over the last three years with a total of 8,903 hectares of invasive weed species controlled, Steve Taylor, Senior Weeds Management Officer within ACT Parks and Conservation Service, said today.

“The ACT Government works diligently to control and remove invasive weed species from nature conservation areas to protect biodiversity,” Mr Taylor said. “It’s always pleasing to see sites that have received weed control treatment thriving with good regeneration of native plants.”

“The ACT Government allocated an additional \$2.1 million in 2011-12 bringing the total weed control program budget to \$3.5 million.”

Weed control from 2009 to 2011 included:

- 1,963 hectares of Blackberry;
- 1,618 hectares of Serrated Tussock;
- 1,598 hectares of St John’s Wort;
- 895 hectares of African Lovegrass;
- 615 hectares of Paterson’s Curse;
- 576 hectares of Chilean Needlegrass;
- 375 hectares of Sweet Briar;
- 269 hectares of Willow;
- 56 hectares of Tall African Lovegrass; and
- 938 hectares of other invasive weeds such as Nodding Thistle, Black Alder, Hawthorn and Cotoneaster.

Mr Taylor said weeds that can spread at a rapid rate with the greatest environmental impact are the highest priority for control including Blackberry, St John’s Wort, Broom, African Lovegrass, Serrated Tussock and Chilean Needlegrass. New weed incursions are also a high priority with recent examples in the ACT including Mexican Feather Grass, Pink Pampas, Spanish Heat, African Fountain Grass and Madagascan Fireweed.

“Without ongoing management, invasive weeds can have harmful impacts on native vegetation and biodiversity, rural enterprises and public amenity,” Mr Taylor said.

“The highest priority areas for control work are endangered ecological communities and areas with rare and threatened species impacted by environmental weeds. These locations include native grasslands, Yellow Box-Red Gum Grassy Woodlands, Namadgi National Park, Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, Googong Foreshores and the Murrumbidgee River Corridor.

“Flooding experienced in early 2011 led to large amounts of Willow debris flowing into ACT lakes and waterways. A program is now underway to control Willows and remove debris across the ACT, with a focus along the Molonglo River including Jerrabomberra Wetlands. Willow control work will also be carried out along Murrumbidgee River, Gudgenby River and Googong Foreshores.”

For more information on weed control work in the ACT visit www.tams.act.gov.au

Statement Ends

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