



## Classifying the Block for Weed Management Purposes

### 1. Access Roads

These areas are a source of weeds as cars travel to the block.

Issues: (i) Tall weeds brush along the underside of cars driving into the block – increasing the chance of seeds coming in.

(ii) Vehicles and equipment may bring new weed species from other sites onto the block via seeds and plant material attached.

**ACTIONS:** (a) *Spray grass along centre swathe and edges of Couch's Road. Check if Robert Couch has a boom sprayer or else investigate paying a contractor.*

(b) *Heat wand/spot spray/ hand weed along the Duffield's Road south of the block.*

(c) *Ensure that vehicles and equipment entering the block do not carry weed seed or plant material that may introduce weeds through proactive discussion of the need for vehicle and equipment hygiene to members, visitors and contractors in newsletters and personal communications.*

Issues: (iii) Cutting and painting English Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) along the drain beside Couch's Road has been done. This saw successful removal of weeds for at least 100m south of the entry to Couch's house - reducing the chance of weed transfer into the block. Broom still occurs further south along the drain.

**ACTION:** *Monitor spread of broom plants along the drain*

### 2. Boundaries to east, north and west

Issues: (i) Water and wind-borne seed has been transferred from farmland north of the block into Judith's Swamp resulting in colonisation by paspalum and other weeds (thistles). Hand weeding over several dry years had limited success. All weeds were lost when the wetland flooded after "normal" winter rains.

**ACTION:** *Regular monitoring required particularly as wetland dries out.*

Issues: (ii) Regular spraying of kikuyu has occurred along the western boundary – this is an unmade public road which acts as a buffer for our block. Two or 3 extensive grass "carpets" have spread from the adjoining farmland. These are most visible during autumn because they remain green when other grasses are dead (brown)

**ACTION:** *Spraying with Round-up has reduced the area substantially but continued spraying needed.*

Issues: (iii) Wind blown thistle seed from surrounding farmland.

**ACTION:** *Regular boundary inspections. Hoeing thistles before seed is mature. Where a neighbour is sympathetic (e.g. Morris Duffield) hoe thistles within say 20 – 25m outside of our boundary fence also.*

### 3. Internal tracks

Issues (i) Fog grass along tracks (particularly on the eastern boundary) near their junction with the boundary.

**ACTION:** *No action has been taken as yet to control this weed. It is an annual and should be sprayed with Fusillade, heat wanded, or hand-pulled before seeding. Fusillade only attacks grasses – not sedges or broad leafed plants.*

Issues: (ii) Animals can carry seed on their fur and also deposit them in their droppings.

**ACTION:** *Monitoring needed along all tracks.*

### 4. Car park/BBQ area

Issues: (i) There are many weeds in this area probably from vehicles, member's lawn mowers and other equipment and decades of seed setting. It has few natural species. Regular mowing and direction of throw of cut grass exhaust (into centre or to edges of area) may be spreading weeds.

**ACTIONS:** (a) *Mark the area of imported crushed stone around the BBQ area and spray to keep free of weeds. It may also be necessary to spread more crushed rock here.*

(b) *Reduce reliance on member's lawnmowers now we have our own slasher. Clean mowers before bringing them to the block.*

(c) *Hand weeding/ spot spraying of weeds such as rat-tail grass, lawn daisy and centaury.*

(d) *Wanted native species in the mown areas should be marked with stakes*

(e) *Review the mowing policy in this area. There should be clear demarcation of areas to be mown with stakes. The need to mow the eastern side of the recreation area should be re-considered.*

(f) *When mowing start on the outside of the area to be mown and spiral toward the centre throwing cut waste in towards the centre to reduce areal spread of weeds.*

### 5. Interior of block

Issues: (i) Hand weeding of blackberry from drainage line south of the recreation area – especially near the access road – and in the southeast corner of the block has been fairly successful.

**ACTION:** *Monitoring needed still with hand weeding as necessary.*

Issues: (ii) Large parts of block are rarely visited – their weed status is unknown.

**ACTION:** *When walking through the block check for weeds. If immediate removal is not feasible mark occurrences with tap. Note all observations in the Weed Diary.*

## Priority Areas for Weed Control

The following areas will be the main focus for weed control:

1. The car park/BBQ area
2. Access roads
3. Internal tracks

### Factors to Consider When Timing Weed Control

Spraying when wetlands contain water can harm invertebrates.

Weeds should be treated before they set seed - for most species this means in Spring.

**ACTION:** *A roster should be developed during October, November and December so the block is visited once a fortnight to check on and control weeds such as fog grass.*

Kikuyu should be sprayed in summer and autumn when it is actively growing.

**ACTION:** *Plan for this activity in at least one working bee*

Adopted by the Board 18 June 2013  
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