



FINAL REPORT

CRDC - CFOC1304: Environmental Weed Control

Project Title: Environmental Weed Control to contribute to ongoing conservation and protection of biodiversity

Contact Details

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A group of cotton growers along the Comet River identified a problem with the infestation of weeds such as parkinsonia, parthenium and rubber vine. The areas of significant infestations were mapped and included tributaries to the Comet River. We identified an area of approximately 1500ha from the mapped areas of significant infestations, the total areas included:

- Parkinsonia Weed Control is approx. 350 ha.
- The total length of riparian weed control for Parkinsonia is approx. 106.1 km.
- The total length of riparian weed control for Parthenium is approx. 80 km.
- The total length of riparian weed control for Rubber Vine is approx. 2.3 km.

The group, through the Comet Sustainable Farming Association, decided to undertake an environmental weed control program that would not only control these weeds, but also contribute to the ongoing conservation and protection of biodiversity of this area.



Prior to commencement of control a general survey was conducted by landholders to determine areas of highest priority. Generally it was evident that the major infestations were along the smaller waterways rather than the river as there was less competition with other trees and vegetation. Generally across all tributaries to the Comet River on Goonoo, Adelong, Kronje, Arcturus and Willoughby the Parkinsonia were mostly young developing plants ranging from 20cm in height to 2.5metres with some older trees also present.



The control method used was the basal bark technique mixing Access with diesel. On average over the entire area there would have been approximately four plants per 150m. However there were areas with a much higher density with one site seeing close to 200 Parkinsonia plants scattered over just a few hectares. This particular site was located at the junction of an anabranch and the main river system where previous flood events had washed away vegetation making it an optimal location for infestation.



The total area that was treated was estimated to be approximately 85km of waterways and included the Comet River, Anabranes of the Comet River, Springsure Creek, Station Creek, Orion Creek and minor tributaries of these waterways.