

## Sydney Trains Weed Management Update- July 2020

In the past quarter 3 programs of work relating to weed management have been progressing, these programs focused on priority weeds, asset protection and ecosystem resilience. A short summary of each is provided below.

### Priority Weeds

Teams have been working on priority weeds in the north, west and southern regions of our network. Areas to be treated were identified from the draft Sydney Trains Weed Management Plan, requests and notices from councils. Teams have spent 66 days working on these activities in the past quarter. Weeds treated by region are as follows:

West: Boneseed, *Ludwigia peruviana* and Alligator weed, Lantana and Cats Claw creeper. Blackberry, Butterfly Bush, Cotoneaster, Privet, Spanish heath, Himalayan Honeysuckle, Scotch broom, Holly and Tutsan

North: Boneseed and Pampas grass.

South: Madeira vine, Boneseed, Cape broom, Coolatai grass, African Boxthorn, Mysore thorn and Groundsel bush.

Challenges included access to some boneseed at St Leonards and Water Hyacinth at Tuggerah, many species not being in flower/less noticeable this time of year and that it is a poor time to treat many species.



Photo 1. Contractors removing Boneseed at St Leonards



Photo 2. Contractors treating pampas grass between Tuggerah to Wyong.

## Asset Protection

These works aimed primarily at protecting biodiversity assets in accordance with established management plans and focused on the following:

- Blue Gum High Forest on the North Shore Line
- Grey-headed Flying-foxes Camps at Wollie Creek and Clyde
- *Acacia Pubescens* populations at Rookwood

Teams have spent 67 Days working on these activities in the past quarter.



Photo 3. Before cut and paint of woody weeds at Clyde



Photo 4. After cut and paint of woody weeds at Clyde



Photo 5: Before manual removing exotic vines



Photo 6. After manual removal of exotic vines

## Resilience

These works were funded by our biodiversity offsetting process that seeks to develop or improve resilience of native vegetation communities. Projects continuing this quarter included works at *Acacia pubescens* populations at Lidcombe, Villawood & Warwick Farm. The works included:

Warwick Farm: Boundary fencing around 3 existing *A. pubescens* vegetation patches, weed control and bush regeneration over the entire site, expansion of revegetation area with priority to join 3 patches of native vegetation with revegetation works.

Villawood and Lidcombe: Boundary fencing to be installed along access track edge to protect existing *A. pubescens* vegetation patches. Weed control over the entire site targeting all invasive woody weeds, remove remaining mother of Mother of Millions including on the roadside. Weeding around *A. pubescens* including removing pittosporum, parasitic vines and grasses. Treating kikuyu in fenced area at station end of site.

Tenders were also completed for 4 Blue Gum High Forest sites at Artarmon, Turramurra, Pymble & Warrawee with works commenced in June and July 2020. The planned works include secondary bush regeneration and planting of locally indigenous species within the project areas.



Photo 7. Planting at Warwick Farm



Photo 8. Weeding in preparation for planting at Turramurra