



20 March 2017

## **Seymour Swamp Ecological Restoration Project**

Seymour Swamp is a freshwater wetland located at Seymour on the East Coast of Tasmania. The report entitled Break O Day Coastal Lagoon Assessment December 2009 North/Barker contains information on various aspects of the Swamp (pages 165-169). The Report recommends to “Implement a weed control program”. This recommendation was made on the basis that there is a considerable infestation of in particular Gorse (as well as other weeds such as Blackberry) around parts of the Seymour Swamp area.

In Aug 2016, a fuel reduction burn was carried out around Seymour Swamp. This created an opportunity to deal with the weed problems present. In relation to Gorse it was a chance to control the regrowth including much of the seedbank which was germinated post fire.

The Seymour Community Action Group incorporated in 2016 to protect and restore the natural environment around Seymour. They decided that the restoration of the Seymour Swamp would be one of their priority actions.

The group is an incorporated association which has Public Liability and Volunteer Workers insurance.

They asked me to advise them on what would be the best methodology to restore the Seymour Swamp area back to native vegetation.

They also contacted Phil Thompson at Crown Land Services and sought funding and formal authorisation to carry out land management at Seymour Swamp.

Crown Land Services gave \$2,000 to the group as well as formal authorisation to carry out conservation land management activities on the site.

The group has also applied for \$5,000 through a NRM Community Grant program to assist with follow up weed management over part of the Reserve. In addition, the group has applied to the Break O Day Council for funds through its Community Grants program to reinstate an interpretive sign and re gravel a small pull off for car parking.

## Brief Summary of Methodology

1. Areas of good native natural regeneration identified.

Weeds in these areas will be carefully spot sprayed or cut and painted to assist natural regeneration and minimise damage to native vegetation. Weeds and natural regeneration will be monitored. Follow up weed control will be carried out where necessary. If natural regeneration is inadequate some planting or direct seeding of local provenance plants may be considered.

2. Areas that are dominated by Gorse identified. These areas will be “munched”. The purpose of the munching is to knock down the standing dead or reshooting Gorse bushes so that access for follow up weed maintenance is much easier. After munching, the area will be monitored for weed regrowth and will be sprayed at the appropriate time seeking to avoid impact to any native regrowth where possible. It is anticipated that follow up will be required for a few years afterwards to exhaust the seedbank. Once the Gorse has been satisfactorily controlled revegetation strategies include protecting any natural regeneration, encouraging the spread of natural regeneration from the good areas into the munched areas, direct seeding and planting of local provenance species.
3. There are some other areas of Blackberry infestation which are accessible and need to be sprayed.
4. Professional contractors will be employed to undertake the munching and most of the spraying.
5. Some smaller more manageable areas will be used by the Group to conduct working bees/Field Days (i.e. cut and painting small areas where there is Gorse growing in predominantly native vegetation)

An onsite meeting with a Parks representative to develop a plan and costings for management of the whole reserve is recommended.

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