


The Committee Manager

Standing Committee on Environment and Planning

Parliament House Victoria

Dear Sir/Madam,

We thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the invasion of woody weeds in our Glenelg Shire.

We are an incorporated volunteer group working at eradicating woody weeds in our environment, namely native forests, parks, reserves and shire roads. We have been incorporated for 16 months and in that time have spent 1400 hours at the coal face, focusing on sweet pittosporum and to a lesser extent boneseed. We have walked through a considerable amount of the Cobboboonee Forest, principally in the Gorae and Heathmere area 15 ks from Portland.

Unfortunately the problem in this shire is far larger than we can handle. DELWP are employing contractors but in our view not keeping pace with the spread of sweet pittosporum, boneseed, polygala and worst of all, Italian buckthorn.

All these woody weed create a monoculture completely choking out native plants, thus impacting on biodiversity.


Italian buckthorn in particular is the 'smoking bomb' in this area. It is spread quickly by birds and very difficult to eradicate once established. DELWP are doing virtually nothing to address the italian buckthorn problem.

Roads act as a conduit for their spread. VicRoads and the Shire do nothing!

Also, approximately 20 years ago the state government decreed that crown lands along our coastal fringe, which had hitherto been grazed by stock, should be fenced off from stock. The result is that native shrubs, once controlled by aboriginal burning and subsequently by grazing, are colonising these areas quite quickly, becoming mono or duo cultures at the expense of biodiversity, not to mention fire hazards.

Far greater resources need to be allocated to all these weeds. Happy to be contacted directly on the above number/email.

Yours sincerely


Garry Kerr

President of SWAT (South West Woody Weeds Action Team Inc.)