

Bankwest Landscape Conservation VISA Card 2003-2004 Application

Mingenew Nature Reserve - Geraldton District

Background

Mingenew Nature Reserve is a 'C' Class nature reserve, vested with the Conservation Commission for the purpose of conservation of flora and fauna. The reserve contains several populations of *Wurmbea tubulosa* (Endangered) and *Grevellia phanerophlebia* (Critically Endangered).

The reserve is located on the western edge of the Mingnew town site. Due to this close proximity the reserve has high visitation from the local community. Historically the access has been by foot, vehicle and motorbike.

One of the current major threats to the populations is weed invasion, in particular from the declared noxious weed *Gorteria personata*. *Gorteria* competes with native vegetation, particularly annual herbs such as everlastings and orchids. It is easily transferred to new locations as the burrs (each containing eight seeds) fall to the ground and may be carried by animals, shoes and vehicle tyres.

During 2002/2003 District staff mapped the location and density of *Gorteria* occurrences within the Nature Reserve. During 2003 all internal and boundary tracks were graded, sprayed and closed (illegal access) to prevent management vehicles from spreading the weed within the reserve. During June 2003 *Gorteria* was spot sprayed around the threatened populations to prevent the weed from competing with the threatened flora and associated native vegetation.

It is apparent that vehicles are still entering the reserve by driving around the barriers. The *Gorteria* occurrences adjoining the tracks and threatened populations are not being controlled

Project Outcomes

This grant application will contribute to the success of protecting the threatened flora populations by controlling the impact of *Gorteria* through:

- chemical control – reduce the weed occurrences on the tracks, within the threatened flora occurrences and within the surrounding vegetation; and
- education – inform the community and other visitors of the declared weed, the impact upon the native vegetation (in particular threatened populations) and how they can help to control the problem.

Timeframe

Activity	Bankwest Landscape Conservation funding required	In kind funding	Completion date
Chemical control via contractor – tracks 15 kilometers	\$450	\$600	Nov 04
Chemical control spot spray around DRF populations and isolated occurrences within the reserve priority given to occurrences near DRF and access tracks.	\$1550	\$400	Nov 04
3 Signs (full colour to allow for accurate images of the DRF, <i>Gorteria</i> weed and aerial photograph of the reserve)	\$500	\$800	July 04
Total	\$2 500	\$1800	

Evaluation of the project

This project will be monitored to determine the success of the chemical control by resurveying the *Gorteria* infestations and density within the areas treated and then comparing them to the 2002/2003 results. The signage will be evaluated by monitoring the occurrence of illegal vehicle entry into the reserve.