

# **Bankwest *Landscape* Conservation Visa Card**

## **Project Completion Report**

### **Project Title: Removal of blackberry (*Rubus sp.*) at Neaves Road Nature Reserve**

The removal of blackberry was undertaken at Neaves Nature Reserve in April 2008. In the funding application (Attachment 1) it was proposed that the weed control occur in two stages. Stage 1 has been completed however some small patches still exist within the occurrence and these will need to be removed. A contractor was engaged to remove the biomass manually.

#### Prior to removal of biomass

The ‘critically endangered’ mound spring occurrence at Neaves Nature Reserve contained a number of infestations of blackberry which could potentially spread into the remaining areas of the occurrence and the reserve. Weed control was required at the reserve so that the TEC isn’t adversely impacted and remains intact.



*Figure 1: Photo point showing invasion of blackberry prior to removal of the biomass.*

#### After removal of biomass

The Bankwest *Landscape* Visa Card funding granted for this project contributed towards the cost of the blackberry removal within the nature reserve. Photo points were established prior to treatment so that its effectiveness can be visually monitored over time. In the following growing season it is intended that the re-sprouting blackberry be chemically controlled.



*Figure 2: Photo point showing reduction of blackberry due to removal of the biomass.*

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### **Project application for funding**

Submissions of grants for small projects that should directly and clearly benefit a species currently ranked as Critically Endangered or Endangered or Vulnerable or an ecological community that is databased and ranked as Critically Endangered or Endangered or Vulnerable, or produce information on species or communities thought to be Critically Endangered or Endangered or Vulnerable so their listing and ranking can be undertaken. Projects on species that are under consideration for ranking as CR will also be considered.

**Project Title:** Removal of blackberry (*Rubus sp.*) at Neaves Road Nature Reserve

**Proponents:** Melissa Hoskins, Fiona Felton

#### **Introduction / Summary:**

Neaves Road Nature Reserve, 9 hectares, is located in the Shire of Swan and contains an occurrence of the 'Critically Endangered' Threatened Ecological Community known as 'Communities of Tumulus Springs (Organic Mound Springs, Swan Coastal Plain)'. Blackberry occurs in patches throughout the 3ha mound spring occurrence and has the potential to spread into the remaining areas of the occurrence and the Reserve. Implementing ongoing weed control is essential to protect the mound spring from this threatening process.

#### **Background:**

Neaves Road Nature Reserve contains one of six known occurrences of the tumulus mound spring TEC, which is mostly in 'excellent' condition. The Swan Coastal District has implemented weed control of the blackberry throughout this TEC occurrence in previous years with a reduction in the area of the blackberry noted. On-going weed control is required throughout the TEC occurrence to ensure that the infestation does not spread, with the aim of eliminating it entirely.

It is proposed that weed control will be undertaken in two stages: Stage 1 - In the Summer of 2008 the biomass will be manually removed and taken off site. Stage 2 - In the following growing season the re-sprouting blackberry will be treated using chemical weed control as appropriate. By removing the biomass, which currently engulfs sections of the occurrence, chemical weed control will be more targeted therefore reducing the risk to non-target species. It is acknowledged that ongoing weed control will be required in subsequent years.

**Conservation Outcome:** Protection of the 'Critically Endangered' TEC by controlling blackberry throughout the occurrence.

**Project Timing:** Summer 2008

**Project Budget:** \$2,500 from Bankwest *Landscape* Conservation Visa Card to undertake the removal of the biomass. The balance will come from the District's Nature Conservation budget.