compared to the liquid treatments.

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Community involvement in Phytophthora dieback management - looking back and forward

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The south west corner of Western Australia is internationally recognised as a biodiversity hot spot. The federal and state governments recognise *Phytophthora cinnamomi* as one of the biggest threats to this biodiversity. The community has being playing an important role in the management of Phytophthora dieback since 1993. By the early 1990s the State Government environment department and large mining companies were routinely implementing prescriptions to minimise the spread and impact of *P. cinnamomi*. These prescriptions were based on nearly 30 years of research that had discovered that this introduced pathogen spreads during soil movement and in the surface runoff of water from infested sites. The successful use of phosphite to protect susceptible plants from *P. cinnamomi* had also been demonstrated. Meanwhile, no management of Phytophthora dieback was taking place in natural ecosystems being managed by other state government departments, local governments and private landowners. The spread of disease in these ecosystems was termed 'inadvertent' - 'inadvertent' because the land managers did not know about the disease or how to minimise its spread and impact. It was the community that mobilised to address this knowledge gap. In 1993 and 1994 the education of two local governments was completed. In 1995 the community-based Dieback Working Group formed and the program to facilitate the adoption of Phytophthora management policies and prescriptions commenced in earnest. Nineteen years later no management plan for a local government bushland reserve would be submitted without Phytophthora dieback management being addressed. Project Dieback was launched in 2004 to ensure integrated management of threats to biodiversity at the regional scale regardless of land tenure and to address gaps in strategic, regional, dieback planning. Community has guided and embarked on protecting native vegetation from Phytophthora infestation in a number of regional priority areas. The talk will focus on the list of successes, the reasons for the successes but also highlight the current gaps that still need to be plugged – our work is not done!

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