



**Emu Creek Catchment Landcare Group**

**Report on the**

**Removal, Containment and Continuing**

**Management of**

**Cat's Claw Creeper (*Macfadyena unguis-cati*)**

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**Cost Assessment Trial**

**Emu Creek - “Boggy” Waterhole**

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## **Cat's Claw Creeper (*Macfadyena unguis-cati*) Infestation Emu Creek Waterhole known locally as "Boggy Waterhole"**

Concern for a well established Cat's Claw Creeper (*Macfadyena ungui-cati*) infestation along a section of Emu Creek locally known as "Boggy Waterhole", was raised at an Emu Creek Catchment Landcare Group meeting late 2009. The raising of this matter prompted much discussion and debate as this section of Emu Creek is a prominent and locally well known permanent water hole, with established platypus inhabitants.

The infestation of Cat's Claw Creeper (*Macfadyena ungui-cati*) has gradually



been established over a long period of time, resulting in severe strangulation, over shadowing and the domination of the native flora. Naturally occurring flora such as Callistemons and She-Oaks, have suffered under the sheer weight of the Cat's Claw Creeper (*Macfadyena ungui-cati*) and have broken down, falling into the creek creating litter and free flow problems.

Discussions on the environmental decline of Emu Creek, led to a commitment from the Emu Creek Catchment Landcare Group to fund an assessment trial to establish if an eradication program would be both cost effective and sustainable

for the ongoing management of the natural environment and health of the creek and its inhabitants.

It was decided that the site locally known as “Boggy Waterhole” along Emu Creek was an area of significance as it had long been regarded in the community as a prominent and permanent area of water in Emu Creek. A variety of control methods were discussed as were recommendations from a number of trials recorded from other areas.

With funding approval from South East Queensland Catchments – Bruce Lord and Emu Creek Catchment Landcare Group – committee, SEQ Vegetation Management – David Madden was selected and agreed to carry out a five day trial which would be then assessed by Emu Creek Landcare Catchment Group as to the cost effectiveness of the trial. The trial was conducted between February and March 2010.



The method used at this time involved

“Stems were cut as low as possible and treated with the cut stump mixture detailed below. The stems were then cut at approximately one metre above the cut stumping cut. This middle portion of the stem was then removed with a pinch bar and hands to aid in the detection of re infestation. The larger gap in the stem cut also allows for maximised foliage growth and ultimately, higher chemical uptake for re treating”.

“Chemical used – Glyphosate 360 Biactive (Nufarm Weedmaster Duo) @ 100mL/L with Pulse penetrant (for foliar applications) and Envirodye”

as quoted from David Madden’s report to Emu Creek Catchment Landcare Group on the finalization of the trial. Although this method worked well, and the trial successful, the labour required for the area treated proved to be extremely costly and unsustainable.

Review by the Emu Creek Catchment Landcare Group committee found that the labour and time dedicated to each individual tree to be seemingly time and cost excessive and therefore not viable.

Further review and discussion concluded that the project and possible environmental outcome was worthy of further treatment and assessment and funding approval from South East Queensland Catchments – Bruce Lord and Emu Creek Catchment Landcare Group – committee was provided for a second trial. Discussions focused on better use of labour and a change of method could prove to be more productive and cost effective.

In the second trial, which was carried out mid May 2010, the method decided upon used the cutting out of only 15cm of the stem to allow chemical application instead of 1metre as in the first trial. A chain saw was used to make the cuts on the larger vines and tree pruners were used on the smaller vines. As in the first trial, five days was allocated to complete the trial. This trial utilized Westbrook Prison Crew labour units plus two labour units provided by the property owner.





The second trial was also very successful in the suppression of the Cat's Claw Creeper (*Macfadyena ungui-cati*), but unlike the first trial, the second trial was seemingly very cost effective with the overall costs for the five day period being halved and the area treated being tenfold that of the first trial, with a similar "kill" resulting in both trials.

In conclusion the second trial has provided a good result in helping to suppress the invasion and ongoing impact of Cat's Claw Creeper (*Macfadyena ungui-cati*) at "Boggy Creek" waterhole.



While it is still critical for follow up treatments to control any below ground, secondary or isolated tuber systems and roots, this trial has been important to integrate control techniques and has been a valuable tool to the landholder, making available information and strategies to provide continuing control and monitoring of Cat's Claw Creeper (*Macfadyena ungui-cati*), the ongoing

control being an important weapon in the sustainable health and environmental longevity of this prominent



section of Emu Creek.



Before Trial

After Trial



