



EAST GIPPSLAND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY TOOLKIT



blackberry action

LAND USE

Far East Community Blackberry Action Group & Landcare employ a project officer who works with landholders to support effective, ongoing and sustainable blackberry control on their properties.

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Blackberry weed infestation in far east Victoria has been recognised as an issue by land holders and government for some time. In order to address this issue a local Landcare group decided they needed a Blackberry Management Plan. A local person was employed by Landcare to map weeds in Goongerah and using a GPS, walked over most of the land in the area, identifying weeds and levels of infestation.

This weed mapping and management plan coincided with changes in government funding on established weeds. The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Pest Management Services now has a major focus on Biosecurity - meaning that the department's efforts are now centred on reducing the impact of new and emerging weeds (rather than established weeds like blackberries).

This situation has resulted in the formation of FECBAG, the Far East Community Blackberry Action Group, a group of community members who are concerned about reducing the impact of blackberries in Far East Gippsland.

Their main aims are to support community action, implement a voluntary program to reduce the growth and spread of blackberry in Far East Victoria and develop strong partnerships with other land managers and agencies.

FECBAG, with support from Far East Victoria Landcare Inc., employ a project officer who works with landholders to support the uptake of effective, ongoing and sustainable blackberry control on their properties.

This community action provides individuals with support and knowledge. The pilot program in 2008/2009 supported many landholders to develop voluntary 3 year action plans. Now in its second year there the program will provide follow-up assistance and continue to build the skills and knowledge of land managers.