

Evidence of Outcomes

The project followed up regeneration works conducted in 2012 at the confluence of the Molonglo and Queanbeyan Rivers, focusing on control of regrowth Crack Willows, Box Elders and Blackberry affecting previous community plantings, native species regeneration and water quality on the Queanbeyan River between the ACT border and the Molonglo River. Contracted regrowth weed control and four community engagement workshops were used to reinvigorate community stewardship at the confluence of the Molonglo and Queanbeyan Rivers and enhanced ecosystem conditions through management of weed regrowth, care of regenerating native species, removal of rubbish and reduction of shooting crack willows and blackberry, prolific seeding box-elders, and resulting leaf litter entering the waterway. The project complemented adjacent government revegetation areas aimed at improving water quality in the Molonglo River between Molonglo Gorge and Oaks Estate.

The following outcomes were achieved:

1. Significant reductions in weed infestations across the site including the treatment of Box Elder, Crack Willows and Blackberry
2. Enabling stewardship by local residents to care for the site with monitoring and Maintenance ongoing.
3. Educational engagement with the Canberra Institute of Technology
4. Removal of rubbish and flood debris from the waterway

1. Significant reductions in weed infestations across the site including the treatment of Box Elder, Crack Willows and Blackberry

The following images show the state of the site prior to and after contractor spraying. There is an evident reduction of weed species, the treated plants were left in situ to continue providing shelter for small birds and to stabilise the river banks. With these landscape changes, there is now an opportunity to promote the regeneration of native species and increase native biodiversity.

Before contracted weed spraying





After contracted weed spraying



2. Enabling stewardship by local residents to care for the site with monitoring and maintenance ongoing.

The following images were taken by volunteers from the Oaks Estate community who regularly visited the site for ongoing weed control along the Oaks Estate River Corridor Heritage Walk. This area was covered with invasive weeds, but when tended to they found large patches of native species. The safeguarding of species were prioritised for further weeding events.



3. Educational engagement with the Canberra Institute of Technology

The following images show the presence of Conservation and Ecosystems Management class from the Canberra Institute of Technology onsite. This class attended the site on three occasions to undertake weeding and maintenance, having established a connection to the landscape and wishing to ensure the native species were thriving in place of the removed weeds. They also attended the Weed Identification workshop with Alison Elvin to better understand the environmental indicators of the present weeds and how to appropriately control them. This class is committed to the site, having agreed to collaborate in the upcoming succession project for the 2023-2024 round of Environment Grants.



4. Removal of rubbish and flood debris from the waterway

The following images show the site being cleaned by community members after a flood event had left rubbish and debris in the environment. Tires, plastic and general waste were collected and appropriately disposed of.

