

WEEDS ACTION FUND

STAGE 2 SMALL GRANTS FINAL PROJECT REPORT

Agreement Number: NRM 291

WAF 178 Greg Taylor, MRRCI

On completion of the project, this form is to be completed and emailed along with images of the completed project, financial acquittal and other documents listed below to waf@nrmnorth.org.au.

Grantee legal name	Mount Roland Rivercare Catchment Inc
Key contact name	Greg Taylor
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Email	gregorytaylor3@bigpond.com

*The information provided above must align with that in the Management Agreement, mostly in Schedule 1.

The Final Report consists of the following parts:

Check box if included in final report	Final Report:	format
1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Summary of activities and outcomes achieved</i>	ProjectSummary section of this MS Word document
2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Photographic evidence of project completion, before & after</i>	Separate pic files (jpeg); format:NRMXXX-P1, etc
3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Photograph details, credits and captions</i>	This document, Attachment 1
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Financial acquittal: Statement of expenditure</i>	Separate Excel file
5 <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Financial acquittal: Statutory declaration</i>	Separate pdf file
	Project outputs:	
6 <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Weed management plan, developed or updated</i>	Provide separately, pdf
7 <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Educational material, fliers, posters etc.</i>	Provide separately, pdf
8 <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Weed survey data, or other weed mapping outputs</i>	Provide separately, Excel file
9 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Other -please specify: awareness raising activities – media and other</i>	Provide separately, pdf

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FINANCIAL ACQUITTAL

You are required to complete and submit:

1. A Statement of Expenditure detailing expenditure of grant funds, reflecting the proposed project activities and budget in the Management Agreement, Annexures A and B; and
2. A Statutory Declaration confirming the state of expenditure as a true record of expenditure.

The two forms can be found on the NRM North website [here](#). Both forms must be completed and emailed with this report to the WAF Coordinator.

A list of who is eligible to sign a Statutory Declaration form can be found [here](#).

PROJECT SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF PROJECT RESULTS

Did you achieve the proposed project objectives as set in the project application? Yes / No

What objectives were achieved?

Annual containment works for control of *Kunzea ericoides* around Gowrie Park successfully completed.

Foxglove control works were successfully completed with objectives achieved as far as possible within the project budget. However in some areas there were far more foxgloves than were possible to control within the budget for the works, meaning that some areas within the project area remain uncontrolled. The Group is currently exploring options for further work – at present Kentish Council is considering engaging contractors to use a drone to spray foxgloves in areas not reached by this grant.

Working bees and media stories were varied a little from the original proposal in line with changing circumstances, but project objectives were surpassed in both areas.

DESCRIBE ACTIVITIES COMPLETED

Please list the key activities undertaken as part of your project, including any variations from the proposed activities (Management Agreement, Annexure A).

Annual implementation of *Kunzea ericoides* containment program in and around Gowrie Park was completed.

Strategic control of foxgloves around Mount Roland at Paradise Plantations, Kings Road and Gowrie Park was completed.

The public working bees were varied a little from our initial planning, partly because of covid concerns and also partly because most foxglove control works required herbicide spraying and this work was not suited to volunteers. Instead the Group worked with and supported six private landowners at Gowrie Park to control foxgloves on their land. Private landowners were provided with on-ground work assistance, management advice and moral support. The Group also provided management advice and substantial support to four private landowners on Kings Road, where most of the contracted weed control works occurred. Overall, this is an excellent outcome. Not only were weeds controlled through on ground actions, but also many landowners are now undertaking effective foxglove management on their own land.

The media stories were also varied a little, as seemed appropriate due to the rapidly increasing profile of foxgloves as weeds. Group member Greg Taylor presented a slide show on Mount Roland

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Weeds to the Kentish Garden Club in April 2021 (approx 70 attendees), and this resulted in a media story in the Kentish Voice highlighting the foxglove problem in the local Municipality. A further article describing the WAF project targeted at the local municipality was inserted in the Kentish Voice in August 2021. A further media story in the Advocate (Dec 2021) was produced as a result of the foxgloves invading properties in the Mount Roland area – specifically Kings Road. Though not directly attributable to this project, this story is relevant. Two letters – one to Min Guy Barnett and one to Min Roger Jaensch – were also sent re the need to make both foxgloves and *Kunzea ericoides* declared weeds in Tasmania. Evidence attached.

HIGHLIGHTS

What do you believe to be the best achievements or highlights of your project?

Highlight of the project was the rapidly increasing community awareness of the foxglove weed problem, both within the project area and more widely. Many across Tasmania have contributed to this growth in awareness – but certainly this project has made a significant contribution. Another highlight was the strong support and involvement from local landowners in foxglove control, and their appreciation of works implemented under this grant program. This was very evident in both the Kings Road sites, and also throughout Gowrie Park, where most landowners are now very aware of the issues, and actively control foxgloves on their land. A further major highlight was the substantial voluntary contributions to this project by MRRCI, its Committee, and Group members, and further cash or inkind contributions by Weed Contractors, Kentish Council, PWS and Sustainable Timbers Tasmania. These contributions more than matched the WAF funds, and demonstrate strong and diverse support for the project.

CHALLENGES

What challenges (if any) did you have in implementing your project?

The astonishingly rapid spread of foxgloves within the target area was a huge challenge, meaning that the control of foxgloves in late 2021 was a much larger job than was anticipated when the application for WAF was prepared in October 2020. The unusually wet and windy spring delayed weed spraying works and promoted exuberant weed growth. Illness of key community group members delayed organization of some project activities.

ONGOING MAINTENANCE

What activities will you implement for the ongoing management of your project's outcomes?

The Group will continue to seek funding to continue the annual containment of *Kunzea ericoides* in the Gowrie Park area, although no funds to support 2022 works have yet been identified. The Group has also written to Minister Barnett asking for an update on its nomination of *Kunzea ericoides* as a Declared Weed, and will continue raising awareness of this problematic weed. Works under this grant have resulted in more learning about methodologies for controlling foxgloves, and that knowledge will inform future maintenance works and increase their chances of success. The Group will continue to develop, document and promote guidelines for effective management of foxgloves and support private landowners as they struggle with the problem. This grant has also highlighted the foxglove problem locally, and more widely in Tasmania, and there is a rapidly growing awareness amongst the community that the problem needs urgent

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action. The Group will also continue to seek funding to support ongoing foxglove control works, although at this stage no further funding support has been identified.

COLLABORATORS

If you collaborated with other landowners, managers or stakeholders as part of this project, who were they?

The private landowners of Kings Road (Luyten, Lamont, Kelly, Goodwin) each made large contributions to this project. They are faced with an overwhelming problem and they greatly appreciated the support provided by these grant works. Six Gowrie Park landowners have supported control of foxgloves and *Kunzea ericoides* in the Gowrie Park area, doing what they can to assist the achievement of Grant objectives by controlling weeds on their 'own patch'. Parks and Wildlife Service supported the *Kunzea ericoides* containment program with contracted works to maintain a section of the containment zone. Sustainable Timbers Tasmania gave permission and provided permits for control of foxgloves to be implemented on lands they manage.

FEEDBACK ON WAF PROGRAM

Are there any other comments you would like to make about your project, or more generally about the delivery of Weeds Action Fund Stage 2 – Small Grants program by NRM North?

It's great to see a five year commitment to funding weed control works. However, to be effective there needs to be prioritisation based on transparent criteria, with strategic and predictable goals. Weed management is only meaningful when it is sustained – year after year. Priorities should be consistent – we shouldn't be wondering what next year's priorities will be.

It would have been helpful to the administration of this project if the Management Agreement was initially provided to the community group in digital form, as well as hard copy. This would make record keeping and sharing of the Management agreement easier.

As the authorised representative of [Legal Entity Name] I/we certify that the information provided above is true and correct; that the project was executed in accordance with the Management Agreement and that the Management Agreement was complied with in all respects.

Name		Witness Name	
Position		Position	
Signature		Signature	
Date		Date	

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Attachment 1 -Photograph details (supplied as separate document)

Provide photographic evidence of project works undertaken, including before and after photographs of project activities. Image copyright remains the property of the photographer and photo credits will be applied, however, by agreeing to these Terms & Conditions, you permit the use of these images by NRM North in any future Weeds Action Fund promotional material, online and other marketing purposes including website, social media, flyers and publications.

Check box if file supplied no	Credit & details	Suggested caption	File names
<i>example</i>	<i>photographer's name: Cam Errawiz location: Weed Haven date: 2/2 2021 talent names (left-right): Jane and Jack Doe</i>	<i>e.g. Volunteers at a weed blitz working-bee at Lilydale Farm e.g. Site 1, before photo</i>	<i>NRM[XXX]_P1.jpg NRM[XXX]_P2.jpg [contract no.]</i>
1 <input type="checkbox"/>	photographer's name: location: date: talent names (left-right):		
2 <input type="checkbox"/>	photographer's name: location: date: talent names (left-right):		
3 <input type="checkbox"/>	photographer's name: location: date: talent names (left-right):		