



2023-24

RCI Weeds Program



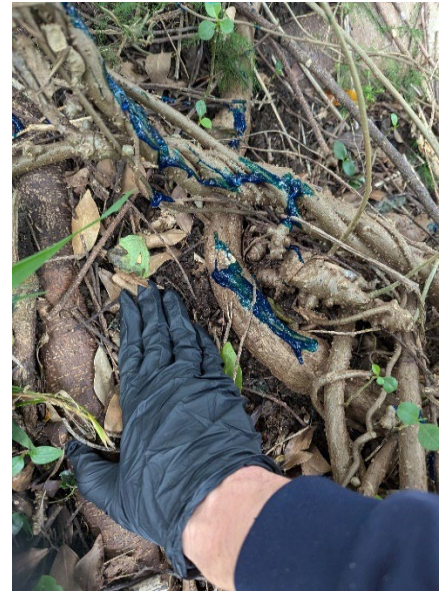
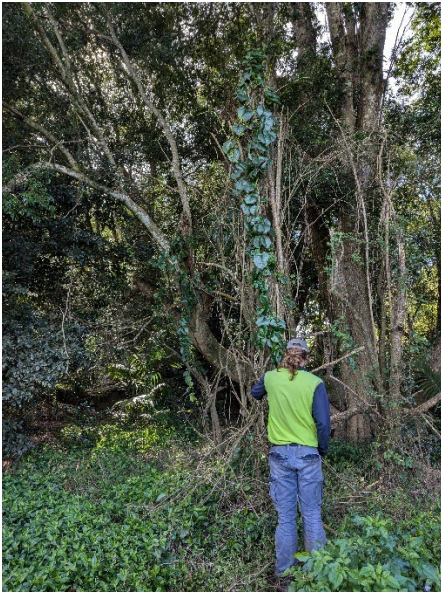
CBP2324-019 Riparian Condition Improvement (Weeds)

The long-running weed program continued this year with some minor changes. Madeira vine and Cats Claw Creeper infestation management was prioritised over Celtis control which was restricted to immature infestation control rather than costly mature tree removal. Although Madeira is widely spread throughout the catchment, it is often located along road corridors, urban areas and in association with human habitation, which suggests the key mode of spread. It is regularly found in riparian zones but has not spread to the extent expected. This means that there is a realistic chance of achieving local control at levels that do not significantly threaten catchment waterways, but not eradication.

Celtis management was limited this year, but a more intensive effort will be implemented once Madeira and Cats claw vines are sufficiently under control. Birds are the key spreader of this large woody weed and thickets of seedlings can occur just about anywhere so when found associated with vine weeds they are controlled. This is currently a very cost-effective method of management.

Cats claw vine in the Lake Baroon catchment is limited to several smaller infestation sites. Two new sites were located this year, with neither of these sites being located near any previously identified infestations. This highlights the importance of being continuously vigilant for new infestations. Fortunately, neither of these sites had vines at a level of maturity to be flowering and seeding, but further investigation is required to determine if there are any more established infestations nearby. No further Cats Claw infestations were sighted during surveillance of the surrounding areas in flowering season. Although a lower priority for LBCCG, one Salvinia infestation was treated in 2023/24. Salvinia control is problematic as many landholders are incapable of treating the weed (elderly, lack equipment, poor skills, lack of financial resources). The site treated was considered a high priority and has a realistic chance of eradication or able to be maintained at low infestation levels (smaller isolated infestation).

Following the treatment of Bacopa in partnership with the Department of Agriculture & Fisheries and CSIRO, LBCCG has used the now commercially available herbicide to conduct a follow up treatment. The continued treatment of Bacopa was conducted throughout several dams on a property in North Maleny. While the results were initially promising with successful dieback, significant regrowth was observed a few months after treatment highlighting the difficulty of treating this water weed. It was postulated that the infestations were at a level of density that meant only the top layer of Bacopa received the herbicide, with the surviving lower layers quickly re-merging when exposed to sunlight.



Spraying germinating Madeira tuberlings after initial treatment of vines in trees

RCI (Weeds) Budget vs Expenditure

Budget		Activity	Expenditure
Brought fwd from 2022/23	2023/24 funding		
(\$ 1,424.88)	-	Brought forward from 2022/23	-
	\$ 74,000.00	Madeira vine	\$ 73,492.00
	\$ 1,000.00	Cats claw vine	\$ 440.00
	\$ 10,000.00	Celtis	\$ 2,212.00
	\$ 0	Salvinia	\$ 550.00
	\$ 5,000.00	Emerging aquatic weeds (Rotala & Bacopa) ¹	\$ 371.35

¹ Bacopa was treated by LBCCG staff – cost was for appropriate PPE and Bacopa herbicide – Fluroxypyr.

	\$ 0	Herbicide (Vigilant Gel)	\$ 8,403.60
	\$ 0	Other costs ²	\$ 4,070.00
	\$ 46,000.00	Project management	\$ 46,000.00
(\$ 1,424.88)	\$ 136,000.00	Sub-total	\$ 135,538.95
-		<i>Adjustments</i>	\$ 0
\$ 134,575.12		Total	\$ 135,538.95
Balance @30 June 2024 (carry forward to 2024/25)³			(\$ 963.83)

Other Contributors & Programs

The following figures may rely on estimates of landholder and volunteer time and value. The figures are conservative and are a reliable estimate of the true value of the projects LBCCG delivers.

Contribution	Type of contribution	Source	In-kind \$	Cash \$
Stanley River Weed Program	Cash	Healthy Land and Water		10,560
Main Road weed control	Cash	Department of Traffic & Main Roads		2,915
Project planning, negotiation & development	In-kind labour	Landholders	10,500	
Weed management	In-kind labour, materials & equipment	Landholders	62,000	
Monitoring	In-kind labour	Landholders	17,500	
Review of LBCCG plans, reports & implementation progress	In-kind	LBCCG Management Committee	3,360	
Totals			\$93,360	\$13,475

² Other costs include training (\$440.00), extraneous administration (\$165.00), treatment of other weeds in Madeira vine sites to enable effective management (\$1,540.00), mapping of new infestations (\$330.00) and engagement of extra resources to complete program (\$1,595.00).

³ Deficit balance will simply be carried forward into the 2024/25 Weed Program.

2023/24
Riparian Condition Improvement Program
- Weeds

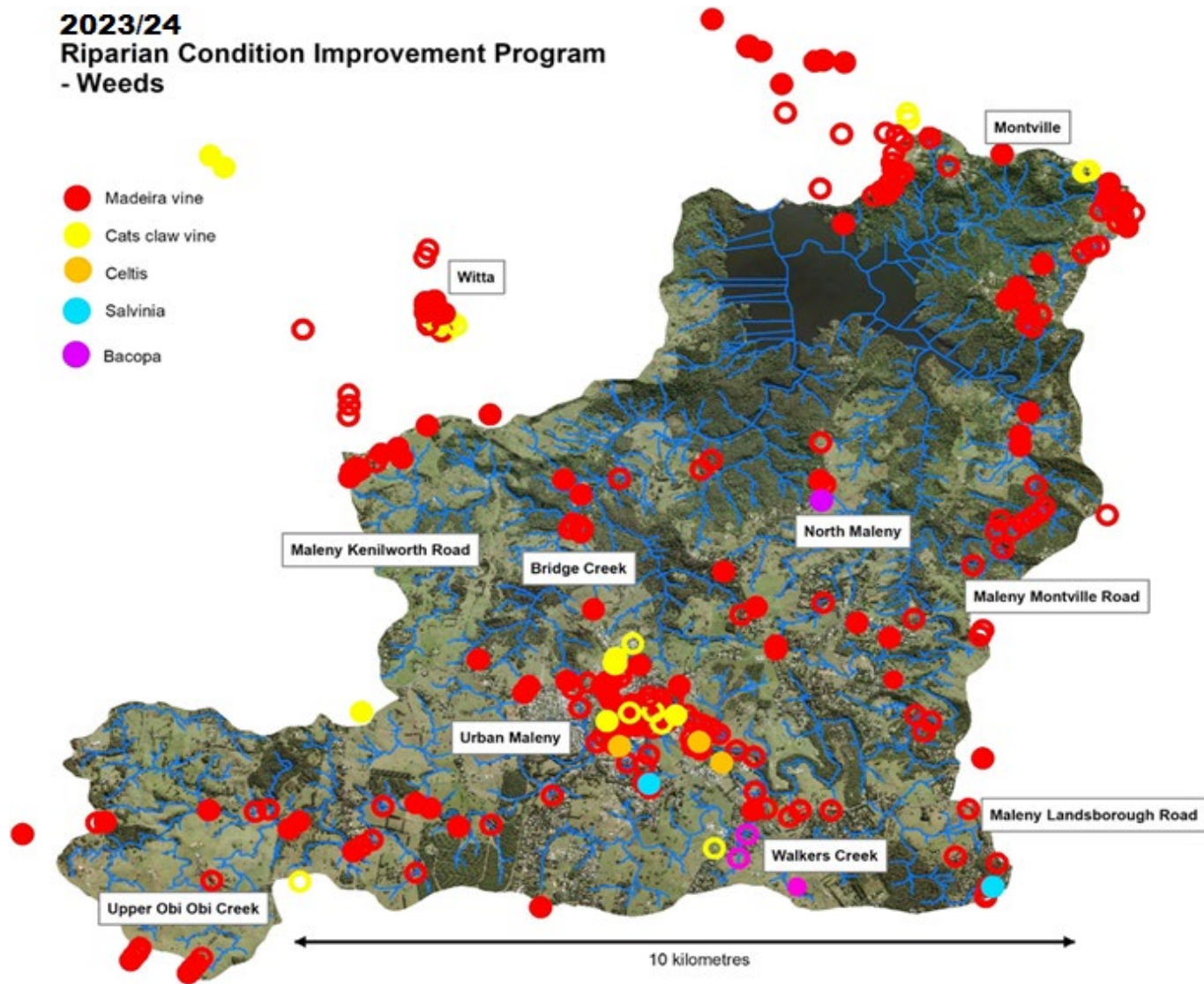


FIGURE 1: RIPARIAN CONDITION IMPROVEMENT (WEEDS) – SITES IDENTIFIED TREATED

RCI (Weeds) Planned Project Outputs v Actual

Planned	Activity	Delivered
0.5 hectare	Cats claw vine management	0.25 hectare
7 hectares	Madeira vine management	7 hectares
0.25 hectares	Celtis management	0.25 hectares
0 hectares	Salvinia management	0.25 hectares
1 hectare	Emerging aquatic weed management - Rotala	0 hectares
0.25 hectares	Emerging aquatic weed management - Bacopa	0.25 hectares

Project Outcomes

Outcome	Achieved
Area of environmental weed management	8 hectares
Area under improved management	8 hectares
Stakeholders engaged (e.g. Sunshine Coast Council)	3 stakeholders
Landholders & community engaged	210 landholders