Good Neighbour Program

Matthew Zanini – Forest Planning Officer, DELWP Gippsland
Good Neighbour Program

Background

• Commenced in the early 1990s
• Aim: protect private land from impacts of weeds and pest animals
• Primarily occurs at the public/private land interface, on land managed by DELWP or Parks Victoria (66,000 km of interface across all public land in Victoria)
• Partnership with community groups is common
• Successful projects funded for up to three years
• Projects are based on applications by local staff
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Nomination & Approval Process

• Projects are submitted onto an internal database
  - all feature maps, community engagement, budget, target species, control plans

• GNP Guide provides information on process

• Projects assessed in May/June

• 6 Regional technical assessment panels decide on projects to fund, with CMA representation. Project prioritisation is based on many factors

• $1.344M scheduled state-wide in 2016-2017
## Good Neighbour Program

### Statewide Projects – 2016/17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>DELWP</th>
<th>Parks Victoria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gippsland</td>
<td>$132,303</td>
<td>$86,235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hume</td>
<td>$227,928</td>
<td>$122,410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loddon-Mallee</td>
<td>$133,250</td>
<td>$74,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Phillip</td>
<td>$40,915</td>
<td>$162,851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grampians</td>
<td>$122,900</td>
<td>$88,272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barwon South-West</td>
<td>$34,834</td>
<td>$118,690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$692,130</strong></td>
<td><strong>$652,658</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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GNP in Gippsland

- Running since early 1990s
- 100s of projects have been completed to date
- Historic budget have reached heights of $600,000 p.a.
- 14 projects nominated by Parks Victoria, 31 for DELWP (totalling $262,988), approx. $90,000 available for treatment
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Past works
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Pest Plants vs Animals

- 75% of nominations for weed treatment; 25% for pest animals
- Commonly treated plants include: Blackberry, Broom spp., Gorse, Ragwort, St John’s Wort, Patterson’s Curse
  - in 2016/17, 68 projects aligned to Blackberry control across the State
- Commonly treated pest animals include: Rabbits, Foxes, Goats, Pigs
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What do I do if I have a problem adjoining me?

- Talk to your local DELWP or Parks Victoria Officer
  - if the problem is on private property, contact Agriculture Victoria (formerly DPI)
- Your concern is important to us
- Immediate funding is rarely available to consider works.
- Not all projects can be funded, projects funded reduce by 30% each year that allows new projects to be funded.
- Projects that have strong community support usually rate higher than project with little interest.
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Can I do the work over the fence myself?

• Short Answer is NO

• Historic trials where landholders engaged to treat pests/weeds on adjacent land.

• In an integrated approach, some farmers are undertaking wild dog baiting on areas of public land with approval of Wild Dog Control Program

• Local issues should be discussed with local staff and other solutions may be possible.
Other Funding Areas

- Weeds and Pests on Public Land (WPPL) team may
- Engage with local Landcare, CMA or Agriculture Victoria
- Eden Projects
- Weeds at the Early Stage of Invasion projects - i.e. Dolichos Pea, Himalayan Honeysuckle, African Scurf-pea in East Gippsland
- Again, chat to your local PV or DELWP office
Questions?