

VICTORIAN BLACKBERRY STRATEGY

Revised Edition
2014 - 2019

A partnership approach
is needed to achieve the
outcomes of this strategy.



VBS 2014/2019

Acronyms

CMA	Catchment Management Authority
DEPI	Department of Environment and Primary Industries
VBT	Victorian Blackberry Taskforce
VBS	Victorian Blackberry Strategy

ISBN 978-1-74326-914-5 [pdf]

Contents

Foreword	03
Introduction	04
Context	04
Victorian Blackberry Taskforce	04
Blackberry – the weed	06
How it spreads	06
Distribution	07
Management options	07
Biosecurity and pest management	08
Achievements & Challenges	10
Our vision	12
Objectives	13
Scope	14
Opportunities for innovation, partnerships and investment	16
Framework for action	18
Notes	32



Foreword

The Victorian Blackberry Strategy seeks to reduce the growing threat and impact of blackberry, a Weed of National Significance, on our agricultural industries and environmental assets.

By taking a landscape-scale approach to blackberry management, community-led action is proving to be effective in achieving long-term and sustainable success. This approach recognises that integrated and coordinated action across public and private land is needed which requires the cooperation of state, regional and local organisations as well as communities and private landowners.

Underpinning the approach however is the realisation that effective control of blackberry can only be achieved when local communities assume greater responsibility for action.

Providing support to local communities to develop solutions tailored to suit their landscape and circumstances can be a powerful catalyst for achieving successful control of blackberry, lifting agricultural productivity and protecting significant environmental values.

This approach, together with the support of the Department of Environment and Primary Industries' improved compliance, has led to innovative and integrated community programs and better on ground results.

The importance of having effective biological control options to complement existing control methods cannot be underestimated, and the Victorian Blackberry Taskforce will continue to promote the need for ongoing research in this area.

I encourage you to get involved in control activities and initiatives in your local area and help reduce the spread and impacts of this noxious weed.

Lyn Coulston
Chair – Victorian Blackberry Taskforce

Introduction

Blackberry is one of Australia's 32 Weeds of National Significance due to its highly invasive nature, potential to spread and the economic, social and environmental damage it causes.



Context

First introduced to Australia by European settlers in the mid 1800s, it was recognised as a weed early on and by the 1880s its destructiveness was obvious. In Australia, it is estimated that blackberry infests approximately 8.8 million hectares of land at an estimated cost of \$95–\$103 million in annual control and production losses.¹ This cost does not include the significant social and environmental costs associated with blackberry infestations.

Victorian Blackberry Taskforce

The Victorian Blackberry Taskforce was formed in 2001 to help tackle the spread and impact of blackberry. It has initiated a diverse range of blackberry control programs in partnership with state, regional and local natural resource managers, as well as community organisations and private landholders.

One of three Victorian Community Weed Groups, the Victorian Blackberry Taskforce encourages and supports community participation in blackberry control by adopting new approaches, community capacity building and providing incentives for action.

The Taskforce has six appointed community members, in a voluntary capacity, representing the Catchment Management Authority regions where blackberry is an issue. In addition, there is representation from Parks Victoria and the Department of Environment and Primary Industries and also an independent research scientist providing input into technical aspects of blackberry management.

Since the release of the previous Victorian Blackberry Strategy in 2008, many of its objectives have been achieved and a number of changes in the policies and

institutions involved in weed management have occurred. Consequently, the Taskforce has revised the Strategy to provide direction for 2014–2019. The Taskforce is responsible for coordinating and monitoring implementation of the Strategy.

¹ Page & Lacey, 2006

Blackberry – the weed

The weed

There are nine species of blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* L. agg.) currently recognised as being present in Victoria.²

It reproduces through seed and can propagate through root suckers and by daughter plants when stems contact the soil. Some blackberry plants in Australia are known to produce 30,000 seeds annually.

Blackberry is a successful weed because of its hardiness, vigorous growth, its effective seed distribution by fruit-eating birds and mammals, its ability to propagate vegetatively from cane tips and because its prickliness keeps most grazing animals away.

How it spreads

Blackberry invasion and establishment relies on three factors: it needs a place to grow, a way to get to that site, and it must successfully compete against other plant species.

It usually establishes where competition is removed or reduced to a level where it has an advantage. It can be carried to a site by water, attachment, by birds and other animals that eat it as well as by humans as they move through landscapes.

Land is particularly susceptible to blackberry invasion following a disturbance such as bushfire, and the greater the disturbance the more likelihood of invasion. The worst blackberry problems often occur in areas that feature bare, soft soil, high nutrient availability, moist conditions and high light intensity.

Expected changes in Victoria's temperature and rainfall, based on climate modelling, indicate a reduction in the potential distribution of blackberry in the long-term, although large areas of the state will remain climatically suitable for its establishment (Steel et al., 2008).

Distribution

Blackberry is found in areas with greater than 760 mm annual rainfall, mainly on fertile soils, and in irrigation areas. While the blackberry aggregate has probably reached the climatic limits (rainfall and temperature) of its potential range in Victoria, individual species have not.

Figure 1 illustrates the potential distribution of blackberry in Victoria if left unchecked.

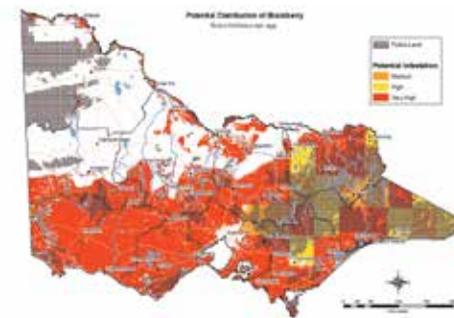


Figure 1: Potential distribution of blackberry

Source: Victorian Resources Online, vro.depi.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/site.nsf/pages/pot_dist_blackberry

Management options

Effective management of blackberry requires an integrated approach using a combination of control measures. These include slashing, grazing, fire, 'grubbing,' herbicides and biological control. The key aim of a blackberry management plan should be to prevent new infestations, reduce current infestations and rehabilitate infested land.

For more information on blackberry and management options, visit:
www.vicblackberrytaskforce.com.au
www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/blackberry

² www.dpi.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/weeds/other-declared-weeds/blackberry

Biosecurity and pest management

The Victorian and Australian governments have recently adopted a biosecurity approach to the management of pests.



Informed by the pest invasion curve (see Figure 2), this approach adopts a risk-based strategy to intervention featuring four key responses: prevention, eradication, containment and asset protection.

An objective of this approach is to ensure early detection of and rapid action against new pest problems. Preventing serious new introductions is significantly cheaper and less time consuming than waiting until a species spreads to a larger area. The approach also considers the level of economic, environmental and social impact of a particular species.

For widespread weeds such as blackberry, gorse and serrated tussock which cause significant social, environmental and economic impacts,

the biosecurity approach indicates that the most cost-effective response is to target these weeds to protect priority assets. Assets include things like rivers, wetlands, productive agricultural land, popular fishing areas, parks with high cultural or historical significance, threatened species or vegetation communities or stands of intact native vegetation.

Another element of the biosecurity approach is the use of partnerships between government departments and agencies, industry and the community. This is an essential component to effective pest management as it increases the impact of management programs through sharing knowledge, information and resources, working across land tenures and decreasing management costs through better coordination.

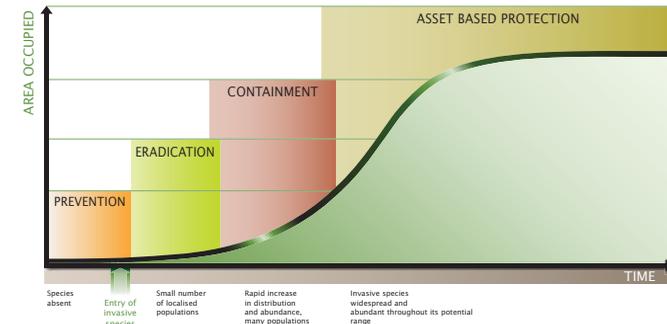


Figure 2: Generalised invasion curve for invasive plants and animals



A review of the Victorian Blackberry Strategy 2008–2013 identified the achievements and progress made in tackling blackberry in Victoria as well as further challenges to be addressed.

From over a decade of experience with community-led control programs, the Taskforce has great confidence in the ability of communities to achieve effective blackberry control. The Taskforce believes strongly in the importance providing flexible and local support for land managers and their communities which reflect their individual circumstances and experiences. This offers the best opportunity to deal with blackberry (and pest management in general) at a local level and to contribute to broader landscape sustainability.

The Taskforce has been instrumental in motivating, inspiring and supporting local communities to see that they can make a difference but to do so, they must lead and take responsibility themselves for blackberry control.

Land previously overrun by blackberry is becoming productive again which is motivating communities to long-term control that will see blackberry diminish as a threat to agricultural land and environmental values.

Blackberry control groups have identified the critical importance of financial support from the Taskforce to enable them to engage local project officers. These project officers act as a catalyst for getting landholder participation in blackberry control and are responsible for managing planned and coordinated control programs.

The resources, information and support provided by the Taskforce, and via its website, help existing groups but also encourage new community groups to see what is possible.

Because of the Taskforce's landscape approach, local action groups are encouraged to have cross-agency membership, including the Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Parks Victoria, VicRoads, local governments and water authorities. Through this, the Taskforce gains a greater understanding of agency approaches as they are felt 'on the ground' together with the implications for blackberry management.

Finally, in addition to the economic and environmental outcomes of blackberry control, there is emerging evidence of the positive social impact. Control groups have reported on the community building that has occurred where control programs have brought neighbours together to get to know each other, to help each other out and to develop a shared ownership of the blackberry problem.

Looking ahead, the potential advances in biological control options for blackberry demand ongoing investment in research and development, and this is a topic of great interest to the Taskforce.

The network of blackberry control groups across Victoria has a wealth of information and experience of significant value to other communities dealing with local land management issues, if it can be captured and accessed simply and easily. There are opportunities to use social media more effectively for this purpose.

Providing both ongoing support to existing control groups as well as assistance to newly-formed groups will present a challenge to the Taskforce under its current level of resources.

The development of new invasive species legislation in Victoria presents an opportunity for the Taskforce to communicate its insights on successful approaches to control of widespread, established weeds.

Our vision

'The wider community accepts responsibility for blackberry control and contributes to ongoing protection of social, environmental and economic assets through reducing the impact of blackberry in Victoria.'



Our vision

The vision of the Victorian Blackberry Taskforce is a future where the community understands the impact of blackberry on biodiversity and land productivity, and takes action.

A partnership approach is needed to achieve the goals and objectives of this Victorian Blackberry Strategy.

This new Strategy confirms the integral role of the Taskforce in its advisory role to the Victorian Government, the opportunities for investment and partnership and the planned achievements it will deliver.

Objectives

The Victorian Blackberry Strategy has six objectives:

1. The Victorian Blackberry Taskforce provides effective state-wide leadership on blackberry management.
2. The community, stakeholders and government understand the benefits of managing blackberry in Victoria.
3. Community control programs reduce the local impact of blackberry on agricultural, environmental and social values.
4. Community capacity is enhanced and supported through the state-wide network of blackberry control groups.
5. Development of innovative solutions for cost-effective blackberry management.
6. Outcomes of the Victorian Blackberry Strategy are monitored and reported.



Scope

The Victorian Blackberry Strategy recognises that a community-led approach on blackberry requires a state-wide strategic framework.

It aims to encourage the involvement of other agencies and groups as well as increased support, incentives and investment in sustainable land use in Victoria, and particularly the control of blackberry. It should guide future partnerships and help us work together to achieve healthy catchments with an integrated approach across regions and catchments as well as at the local and farm levels. Particular consideration is given to production, environmental and social factors affecting blackberry control.

Direction and guiding principles for this Strategy are informed by legislation and key documents:

The Invasive Plants and Animals Policy Framework presents the overarching Victorian Government approach to the management of existing and potential invasive species within the context of the Biosecurity Strategy for Victoria. The framework is underpinned by the recognition of the importance of partnerships and building capacity and confidence of land managers in achieving effective invasive species management.

The Biosecurity Strategy for Victoria outlines the vision for biosecurity management in Victoria and seeks to protect Victoria from biosecurity threats that affect primary industries, environment, social amenity and human health.

Victorian Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 – The Act is Victoria’s primary legislation for invasive plants and animals. The Act requires all land owners, including the Crown, public authorities and licensees of Crown lands, in relation to their land, to take all reasonable steps to:

- Eradicate regionally-prohibited weeds
- Prevent the growth and spread of regionally-controlled weeds on their land.

The National Blackberry Strategic Plan 2012–17 sets the vision for the effective management of blackberry to prevent its spread and reduce impact across Australia. It sets the direction for state planning and establishes a coordinated process for managing blackberry across the nation. The Victorian Blackberry Strategy will contribute to achieving the three key goals of the National Blackberry Strategy:

1. Prevent new infestations from establishing
2. Strategically manage existing blackberry infestations
3. Increase the capability and commitment to effectively manage blackberry.

The **Australian Weeds Strategy 2007** is prepared by the Australian Weeds Committee and recognises that weed management is essential to the sustainable management of natural resources, the economy, the environment, human health and amenity and that it requires an integrated whole-of-government and community-wide

approach. The Strategy was based on seven principles, three of which are most relevant to the Victorian Blackberry Strategy:

- Combating weed problems is a shared responsibility that requires all parties to have a clear understanding of their roles.
- Weed management requires coordination among all levels of government in partnership with industry, land and water managers and the community, regardless of tenure.
- Building capacity across government, industry, land and water managers and the community is fundamental to effective weed management.

The **Growing Food and Fibre Initiative** of the Department of Environment and Primary Industries seeks to increase the productivity and profitability of Victoria’s key food and fibre sectors. One aspect of the initiative is to support community-led action on effective management of established weeds and pests.

The Victorian Blackberry Taskforce has contributed to the outcomes of various strategies and believes integration is critical for achieving the large-scale goals for blackberry management.



Opportunities for innovation, partnerships and investment

Our partnerships across the Victorian Government and with local governments, catchment management authorities, community groups and industry are essential to developing a coordinated approach to blackberry management and will continue to evolve. Effective partnerships can occur between government and the community where this is a common commitment to working together on dealing with blackberry, and this can be independent of any funding arrangement.

Significant potential exists to work with other Victorian groups, agencies, organisations and departments on blackberry control. We will build new partnerships and links with innovative projects to share resources, knowledge, ideas and creative energy. These partnerships will save costs and see new technologies and strategies developed for sustainable resource use in Victoria.

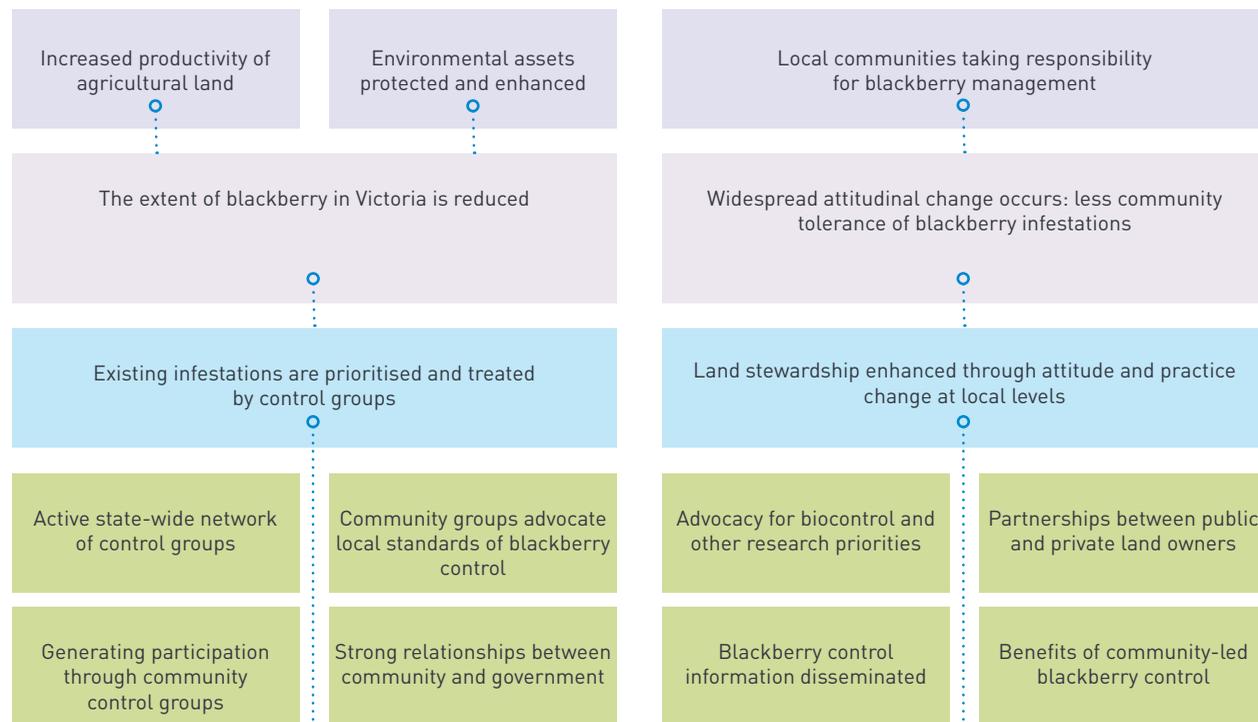
A collaborative approach is essential across all levels of government with different land tenures. The variety of activities undertaken to implement this Strategy represents a focus on weeds as the problem as well as sustainable land management as the solution.



Vision

The wider community accepts responsibility for blackberry control and contributes to ongoing protection of social, environmental and economic assets through reducing the impact of blackberry in Victoria.

Strategic framework



Indicators of success

- Farm asset value is increased
 - Landscape change is highly visible
 - The community is empowered to manage blackberry effectively (i.e. not dependent on government support)
-
- Blackberry is contained and prevented from establishing in new areas
 - Land managers voluntarily preventing the growth and spread of blackberry on their properties
 - Less time and expenses incurred controlling blackberry
-
- The density of existing blackberry infestations is reduced on public and private land
 - Satellite infestations at a local level are controlled /eradicated
-
- Increased awareness of the impacts of blackberry
 - Increased knowledge and skills of best practice management
 - Increased private and public landholder participation
 - Research into biological control of blackberry occurs
 - Community groups supported to manage blackberry

OBJECTIVE 1 THE VICTORIAN BLACKBERRY TASKFORCE PROVIDES EFFECTIVE STATE-WIDE LEADERSHIP ON BLACKBERRY MANAGEMENT

- ADDRESSING THE IMPACTS OF BLACKBERRY AT A STATE-WIDE LEVEL REQUIRES A SINGLE BODY TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP AND TO COORDINATE EFFORT ACROSS GOVERNMENT, STAKEHOLDERS AND THE COMMUNITY.

ACTION	PARTNERSHIPS	WHEN	OUTCOME
1.1 Drive implementation of the Victorian Blackberry Strategy via effective relationships with government and stakeholders on blackberry management.	VBT, DEPI, community	Ongoing	The vision, goals and objectives of the Victorian Blackberry Strategy are achieved.
1.2 Contribute to the development of the new Victorian invasive species legislation and supporting implementation tools (e.g. regulation, codes of practice, accreditation systems, management plans, etc.).	VBT, DEPI	2014-2015	The goals and objectives of the Victorian Blackberry Strategy are supported by new invasive species legislation in Victoria.
1.3 Seek funding for an Executive Officer position responsible to the Victorian Blackberry Taskforce and for implementation of the Community Partnership Program.	VBT, DEPI	2014	The Victorian Blackberry Taskforce is funded and the VBS is successfully implemented.
1.4 Provide Taskforce members and project staff with appropriate training to perform duties that help achieve the aims of the Strategy.	VBT, DEPI	Ongoing	Taskforce members and project staff are suitably skilled to perform their respective duties.

OBJECTIVE 2 THE COMMUNITY, STAKEHOLDERS AND GOVERNMENT UNDERSTAND THE BENEFITS OF MANAGING BLACKBERRY IN VICTORIA

- SUCCESSFUL CONTROL OF BLACKBERRY CAN LIFT THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY OF LAND, PROTECT ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES AND ENHANCE SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL VALUES OF THE LANDSCAPE, HOWEVER LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO BLACKBERRY CONTROL IS REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS.
- THE VICTORIAN BLACKBERRY TASKFORCE HAS A CRITICAL ROLE IN RAISING AWARENESS OF THE SCALE OF THE BLACKBERRY PROBLEM AND THE SOLUTIONS AVAILABLE TO ADDRESS IT.

ACTION		PARTNERSHIPS	WHEN	OUTCOME
2.1	Build effective communication with government, stakeholders and the wider community to promote the Victorian Blackberry Strategy and its implementation.	VBT, DEPI, CMAs, industry, local governments, community groups	Ongoing	Comprehensive communication networks are established and functioning effectively between all stakeholders.
2.2	Investigate and pursue investment from a variety of sources, including agricultural and forestry industries, to support long-term planning, incentives and resources for blackberry management.	VBT, community action groups, industry	Ongoing	Industry supports and contributes to blackberry management, including rehabilitation and revegetation.
2.3	Support current and new landscape change projects that require blackberry to be controlled and which enhance the environmental, social and productive capacity of land and water.	VBT, DEPI, CMAs, Landcare networks, community groups	Ongoing	Increased effectiveness of investment in landscape change projects.

OBJECTIVE 3 COMMUNITY CONTROL PROGRAMS REDUCE THE LOCAL IMPACT OF BLACKBERRY ON AGRICULTURAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL VALUES

- THE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM AUSPICED BY THE VICTORIAN BLACKBERRY TASKFORCE HAS PROVEN VERY SUCCESSFUL IN ACHIEVING LONG-TERM CONTROL OF BLACKBERRY AND REALISING ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL BENEFITS.
- THE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM IS BASED ON A PHILOSOPHY THAT COMMUNITIES CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE WHEN THEY TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR BLACKBERRY MANAGEMENT IN THEIR LOCAL LANDSCAPE.

ACTION	PARTNERSHIPS	WHEN	OUTCOME
3.1 Implement an ongoing program of community education and awareness about the costs of blackberry infestations in the landscape.	VBT, Landcare, CMAs, DEPI	Ongoing	Higher community awareness of the need to control blackberry.
3.2 Community groups identify and map areas with high productive, environmental or social (community support) values and develop management strategies to suit their respective communities.	Community groups, DEPI, VBT, CMAs, public land managers	Ongoing	The density of blackberry is reduced in priority areas across the state.
3.3 Encourage public land managers to participate in community control programs and allocate resources and demonstrate good land management practice.	VBT, public land managers	Ongoing	Blackberry control on public land supports the goals of community groups.
3.4 Implement the Community Partnership Program where community groups demonstrate commitment and capacity to work effectively together and engage other stakeholders in land management.	VBT, community groups	Ongoing	Effective investment in community groups.
3.5 Strategic enforcement of the Catchment and Land Protection Act, to protect land and resource assets and investment. Compliance action will also occur to support community group action, integrated project outcomes and local government incentives.	DEPI, VBT	Ongoing	Improved compliance programs through integrated approaches with community and other key stakeholders.

OBJECTIVE 4 COMMUNITY CAPACITY IS ENHANCED AND SUPPORTED THROUGH THE STATE-WIDE NETWORK OF BLACKBERRY CONTROL GROUPS

- SINCE 2001, OVER 10 COMMUNITY GROUPS HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED TO MANAGE BLACKBERRY INFESTATIONS. THESE GROUPS HAVE DEVELOPED A HUGE RANGE OF KNOWLEDGE ON WHAT MAKES COMMUNITY-LED ACTION SUCCESSFUL. THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO HARNESS THAT KNOWLEDGE FOR BOTH EXISTING AND NEW COMMUNITY GROUPS.
- COMMUNITY GROUPS CAN FACE SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES IN PROVIDING LEADERSHIP ON WEED MANAGEMENT AT A LOCAL COMMUNITY SCALE.

ACTION		PARTNERSHIPS	WHEN	OUTCOME
4.1	Strengthen networks between community groups via social media and the Victorian Blackberry Taskforce website.	VBT, community action groups	Ongoing	Community groups maintain their capacity to lead their management programs.
4.2	Facilitate field days and other forums for community groups to participate in and share knowledge.	VBT, community action groups	Ongoing	Community groups enhance their knowledge and skills in community-led action on blackberry management.
4.3	Arrange opportunities for the community group project officers to network together.	VBT, community action groups	Ongoing	Project officers enhance their knowledge and skills in supporting community groups.
4.4	Recognise and reward community achievements in blackberry management.	VBT	Annually	Communities increase their efforts in the control of blackberry.
4.5	Build the capacity of community groups to attract funding and resources for blackberry control.	VBT	Ongoing	Increased self-sufficiency of community groups to control blackberry.
4.6	Support the establishment of new blackberry control groups.	VBT, community groups	Ongoing	Increased local community capacity to develop and implement coordinated blackberry management plans.

OBJECTIVE 5 DEVELOPMENT OF INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR COST-EFFECTIVE BLACKBERRY MANAGEMENT

- THERE IS AN ONGOING NEED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW CONTROL TECHNIQUES, PARTICULARLY BIOLOGICAL CONTROL, TO COMPLEMENT EXISTING CONTROL METHODS.
- THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE MANAGEMENT OF BLACKBERRY BY INCREASING LAND MANAGERS' AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE OF NEW RESEARCH AND INFORMATION.

ACTION	PARTNERSHIPS	WHEN	OUTCOME
5.1 Work in partnership with research institutions and other stakeholders to promote the development and uptake of innovative, cost-effective best management approaches to blackberry control.	VBT, DEPI, CSIRO	Ongoing	The result of research is integrated in blackberry management programs and effectively communicated to community.
5.2 Advocate for ongoing research into biological control options for blackberry.	VBT, CSIRO, DEPI	Ongoing	Effective research provides for best management of blackberry across all land tenures.
5.3 Support community groups to trial best management approaches, especially in areas with complex issues relating to blackberry control, such as non-arable and steep marginal land, riparian and upper catchment areas.	VBT, community groups, Landcare, CMAs	Ongoing	Improved management of blackberry on complex sites is achieved through increased knowledge.
5.4 Strengthen the community-led approach to blackberry management by incorporating knowledge of the social drivers and barriers to blackberry control.	VBT, DEPI, community groups	Ongoing	Greater awareness of the social barriers to participation inform development of blackberry programs.
5.5 Capture and disseminate new research and information on blackberry control to increase community group and land manager understanding.	VBT, DEPI, CSIRO, community groups	Ongoing	Research results are integrated into blackberry management approaches by land managers.

OBJECTIVE 6 OUTCOMES OF THE VICTORIAN BLACKBERRY STRATEGY ARE MONITORED AND REPORTED

- THE VICTORIAN BLACKBERRY TASKFORCE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING AND MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VICTORIAN BLACKBERRY STRATEGY WHICH INCLUDES REPORTING ON PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS. TARGETS WILL BE SET ANNUALLY ONCE THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET OF THE TASKFORCE IS CONFIRMED.
- THE TASKFORCE NEEDS TO BE ABLE TO DESCRIBE THE COSTS AND BENEFITS FROM INVESTMENT IN THE STRATEGY.
- INFORMATION GENERATED THROUGH MONITORING ENABLES THE TASKFORCE RESPOND TO OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OVER THE LIFE OF THE STRATEGY.

ACTION	PARTNERSHIPS	WHEN	OUTCOME
6.1 Publish annual reports on the progress of this Strategy (and annual work plan targets – see Action 6.2).	VBT	Annually	Blackberry management is reported annually to key stakeholders and investors.
6.2 Conduct an annual review of progress on the Strategy to inform the next year's priorities, targets and the Executive Officer work plan.	VBT	Annually	Victorian Blackberry Taskforce maintains its focus on strategic priorities over the life of the Strategy.
6.3 Develop case studies to describe the economic, environmental and social impacts of the Community Partnership Program.	VBT, community groups	2014	Improved understanding of the broad range of benefits from supporting community-led action on blackberry management.
6.4 Ensure the Victorian Blackberry Taskforce website provides ready access for the community and stakeholders to current information and progress of the Strategy.	VBT	Ongoing	Community and stakeholder access to up-to-date information on blackberry management.

Notes

Victorian Blackberry Taskforce membership

Lyn Coulston – Chairperson

Robin Adair – Research scientist

Nigel Ainsworth – Department of Environment AND Primary Industries- Policy

Alex Arbuthnot – National Blackberry Council Chair

Andrew Edgar – Glenelg Hopkins region

Ben Fahey – Parks Victoria

Terry Hubbard - Goulburn Broken region

Anthony Jarvis – North East Victoria

Shane O’Loughlin – Northern Central Victoria

Dawn Parker – East Gippsland

Barton Roberts - Acting Executive Officer DEPI 2014

References

Page, A. & Lacey K. (2006). Economic impact assessment of Australian weed biological control. Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management, Technical Series, No. 10, Adelaide.

Steel, J. Kohout, M. & Newell, G. (2008). Climate change and potential distribution of weeds: Whither the weeds under climate change? Department of Primary Industries, Frankston, Victoria.

Websites

www.depi.vic.gov.au

www.depi.vic.gov.au/vro

www.vicblackberrytaskforce.com.au

www.weeds.org.au

