



Kedron Brook Catchment Remnant Vegetation Prioritisation and Weed Mapping Project

Final Report



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

Prepared by

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Executive Summary

The catchment of Kedron Brook occupies an area of approximately 110km² and is the third largest creek catchment in Brisbane. The majority of the catchment is highly urbanised. Only around 28% of the catchment remains as bushland or wetland, the majority of which is found in the steep, upper reaches in Brisbane Forest Park and adjoining private properties.

Kedron Brook is a significant ecological corridor and is classified as being of State Significance in Brisbane City Council's Ecological Corridor mapping. Management of remnant vegetation in the catchment is fundamental to the maintenance of this corridor and associated ecological values. Remnant vegetation, particularly riparian vegetation, also plays an unquestionable role in the protection of water quality values and associated aquatic habitat.

Weeds species are one of, if not the primary, threatening process impacting on these areas.

There are over 400 weed species present in Brisbane, and many of these are found in the catchment of Kedron Brook. A number have a significant impact on bushland, parks and waterways in the Kedron Brook catchment. Their ongoing control, often with limited resources, is a challenge that all involved with the management of these areas face.

This report prioritises areas of remnant vegetation on public land within the catchment in order to assist with the direction of these limited resources for weed control.

These high priority areas were determined to be

- Arbor St Parkland, Ferny Grove
- Mercer Park, Kedron
- Redgum Place Park, Mitchelton
- Wahminda Grove, Ferny Grove
- Grange Forest Park, Grange and
- Brook Park, Ferny Hills.

Sites were prioritised by scoring each site against a set of weighted criteria. These criteria were

- Vegetation Condition
- Biodiversity Significance
- Feasibility
- Level of Threat
- Presence of Existing Group
- Visibility / Education Value

The priority setting method is transparent and could be re-applied to the raw data with changes in criteria and weighting should changes occur, for example, if new weed control technologies become available.

A rapid field survey technique, in conjunction with aerial photo interpretation, was developed to accurately identify and map weed infestations in areas of remnant vegetation. Much of this mapping was undertaken with volunteer community labour.

Many of the people involved were members of bushcare groups and the Kedron Brook Catchment Branch of WPSQ.

Detailed management actions have been recommended for those areas of vegetation that were considered high priority. In general these actions aim to address the causes of weed invasion by taking an ecosystem restoration approach, as opposed to simply controlling weeds.

The report also identifies small, isolated infestations of highly invasive weed species that should be targeted for control on a single species basis. The infestations that have been identified are not well established (often only a few individual plants) and can be controlled with minimal effort and expenditure. The isolated nature of these infestations means that the risk of reinfestation is low.

Isolated infestations of the following species have been identified.

- Madeira Vine,
- Dutchman's Pipe,
- Cats Claw Creeper
- Balloon Vine
- Broad Leaved Pepper,
- Camphor Laurel
- Groundsel and
- Salvinia

Precise infestation locations are listed in [Table 6](#)..

Responsibility for implementation of the management actions is identified and includes the Brisbane City Council, Pine Rivers Shire Council and community groups.

At a site level, the report will assist those involved in managing remnant vegetation by documenting those weeds present and listing their priorities in relation to the respective local government pest management plan.

Acknowledgments

This report is the culmination of 18 months of work by the Kedron Brook Catchment Branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland and Brisbane City Council.

The project has been a major undertaking and would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of the members and executive of the Kedron Brook Catchment Branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland.

Volunteers from the Wahminda Park, Ferny Grove, Brook Park, Sparkes Hill and Benelong Bushcare groups and the Greenbrook Association, participated in the field surveys at their respective sites. These groups, and other community bushcare groups in the catchment, play a crucial role in the ongoing management of remnant vegetation in the catchment through their dedicated involvement in on ground weed control and revegetation.

Over 200 hours of volunteer time was contributed to the project via participation in field surveys and ongoing project management.

Various Brisbane City and Pine Rivers Shire Council staff were involved in designing the initial project concept and methodologies, in the undertaking field surveys and in commenting and collating the final project report and recommendations. Their input is acknowledged and thanked.