



Blue Mountains Conservation Society Inc.

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Nature Conservation Saves for Tomorrow

31st July 2022

Ms Tracy Abbas,
Bushcare Officer,
Blue Mountains City Council,
Katoomba 2780

Dear Tracy,

Report re Red Gum Park, Bullaburra

Here is a report, weed map, flora and weed species lists for the vegetation assessment carried out by Plant Study Group in Red Gum Park, Bullaburra on Saturday 18th June, 2022.

The North West corner of Red Gum Park that we accessed from Genevieve Road was regenerating around a degraded site (see map). There had been soil disturbance and weed invasion that was control burnt by the RFS & BMCC during summer 2018.

The Woodland boundaries, estimated as being 30 metres wide, around the degraded weedy area are relatively intact and regenerating well, with a good seeding and presence of *Entolasia* sp., *Echinopogon* sp., *Dichelachne* sp. and *Rhytidosperma* sp. native grasses. Also present are *Dianella caerulea*, *Eucalypt* and *Corymbia* seedlings, *Lomatia silaifolia*, *Leucopogon lanceolatus*, *Lomandra species*, *Patersonia glabrata*, *Pimelea linifolia* and *Pomax umbellata* amongst the grasses. *Pittosporum undulatum* is in abundance in the boundaries of the good bush/degraded area and could be considered an inappropriate native species in these regenerating woodlands.

The NSW and Local Priority Weeds on site are Broom, Cotoneaster, Montbretia, Agapanthus and Watsonia. Watsonia and Agapanthus are present in numbers that require early treatment. Five plants of W.A. Bluebells were observed. Weed grasses are abundant in the central degraded area. *Pinus radiata* is now reduced to 8 trees, 3 are dying and new seedlings up to one metre are present. A total of 13 weed species were observed plus a variety of weed grasses. The impact of the BMX bike track is still evident and brush matting would assist flora recovery.

We also assessed the adjoining area of burnt natural bushland, mapped as *Corymbia gummifera* - *Eucalyptus racemosa* (was *sclerophylla*) Open Forest Woodland (11D) *Corymbia gummifera* - *Eucalyptus sieberi* Open Forest Woodland (11E).

This bushland is recovering well from a cool mosaic burn. Proteaceae flora species were diverse with fire recovery predominantly by re-sprouting. A good representation of Fabaceae species were observed although seedlings were not abundant and population numbers were low, possibly because the burn was not hot enough to trigger germination. A *Lepidosperma concavum* specimen was sent to the Royal Botanic Gardens for confirmation as it is a coastal species.

There was good native flora diversity in the entire area with a total of 101 species observed. As four years of plant growth has occurred during two high rainfall years, it was difficult to determine if some plants were regenerating by seedling or re-sprouting. Invasive weeds were not observed in this area of good bush.

Given the good diversity of native flora species we do consider that early intervention in the treatment of *Watsonia* and *Agapanthus* would maximise ecological recovery following the control burn and considerable work undertaken by volunteers and council staff.

Native fauna are present in the woodlands with wallaby scats observed and various species of native birds were heard. Reptiles were not sighted as it is winter.

The weed map has modest suggestions for weed treatment given that Bushcare is not our area of expertise, however we do like to support volunteers and BMCC in this important work and hope the map will be helpful.

We are happy for BMCC bushcare unit and the bushcare group to use our research information for the management of Red Gum Park. If it is used we would appreciate acknowledgement of Plant Study Group and Blue Mountains Conservation Society.

This has been an interesting and enjoyable project for Plant Group members, so thank you for this opportunity to support BMCC's Natural Area Restoration of Red Gum Park.

Attachments are:

Native Flora list for Red Gum Park

Weeds List for Red Gum Park

Weeds Map for Red Gum Park

Yours sincerely,

Meredith Brownhill
For BMCS Plant Study Group