



REGIONAL WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

1.1 PLAN TITLE: Sydney Regional Bridal Creeper Management Plan

1.2 PLAN PROPONENTS

Regional Weeds Advisory Committee: **South West Sydney Regional Weeds Committee; Sydney West ~ Blue Mountains Regional Weeds Committee; Sydney North Regional Weeds Committee; Sydney Central Regional Weeds Committee**

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Signature:..... Date:

1.3 NAME OF PLANT(S)

WONS Y

Botanical name: *Asparagus asparagoides*

Common names: Bridal Creeper,

Also known as: *Myrsiphyllum asparagoides*

Bridal Veil

1.4 PLAN PERIOD (not to exceed five years)

Starting date: **July 2004**

Completion date: **June 2009**

1.5 AREA OF OPERATION:

This plan applies to Hurstville City Council, Strathfield Council, Ku-ring-gai Council and the Local Control Authorities (LCAs) represented on the South West Sydney and Sydney West ~ Blue Mountains Regional Weeds Committees.

1.6 AIM:

To reduce the occurrence of Bridal Creeper within the Sydney region on both public and private land, and assist in the conservation of the Cumberland Plain Endangered Ecological Communities.

1.7 OBJECTIVES:

1. The declaration of Bridal Creeper as a W4c noxious weed in the Local Control Authorities (LCAs) covered by this plan.
2. A reduction in the spread of Bridal Creeper from private property.
3. Bridal Creeper on public land strategically controlled using integrated weed management methods.
4. Increased awareness of Bridal Creeper and its identification, impacts and control methods.
5. A significant reduction in the propagation and sale of Bridal Creeper plants and cut stems for floral displays.

2.0 STAKEHOLDERS

LCAs, Department of Environment and Conservation – Parks Service (DEC), Sydney Water Corporation (SWC), Rail Infrastructure Corporation (RIC), Department of Lands (DOL), NSW Agriculture, Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA), Department of Defence, Nursery Industry Association, and relevant private landholders.

3.0 BACKGROUND and GENERAL FACTS

3.1 Weed Biology/Ecology

Bridal Creeper is a dense woody scrambler or climber up to 3m long. A native vine of South Africa, it was brought to Australia as a garden plant, but has escaped to become a major weed of bushland in southern Australia. It is already widespread in Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria, and is spreading in New South Wales and Tasmania.

Compared to other weeds, Bridal creeper has a short-lived seedbank. Seeds germinate in autumn and winter in leaf litter and at soil depths of up to 10 cm. Most buried seed germinates and the remainder rot within two years. However, seeds on the soil surface may be viable for at least three years.

Bridal creeper shoots typically emerge from the soil in autumn, but earlier emergence can occur in years of high summer rainfall. The shoots scramble across the ground and climb shrubs and trees and branch extensively. The leaves are reduced to scales, with shiny green leaf-like stems (cladodes) occurring along the length of the wiry green stems. The cladodes are small and ovate to lanceolate, 4-30 mm wide and 10-70 mm long.

Sprays of sweet smelling white to pink flowers appear in August and September. They are 6-petalled and 5-8 mm in diameter, and occur along the length of the shoots. Each petal has a distinctive central green stripe. Bridal creeper plants take at least three years to reach flowering age, and only shoots which emerge in the first few weeks of the growing season produce flowers.

Green berries are then formed, 5-10 mm in diameter. These contain an average of 2-3 black seeds, and turn red in late spring-early summer. Over 1000 berries per square metre may be produced. There can be large differences in fruit production between years and sites. Early autumn rains allow a longer growing season, which favours high fruit production. Fruit set is significantly greater where shoots are able to grow vertically. Fruit production is lower where bridal creeper is heavily shaded, suffers water stress (e.g. shallow soils in full sun), or where there is a high level of competition with other Bridal creeper plants.

In late spring-early summer, Bridal creeper leaves turn yellow and fall and stems die back, as temperatures rise and soils become dry, such that a severe bridal creeper infestation may largely escape notice during the summer. Fruiting shoots tend to die back last. Some shoots may persist or new shoots may emerge in areas that receive reliable summer rainfall.

The root system is a complex of white starch-storing tubers attached to a horny flat crown which eventually grows into an extensive "mat" of branching rhizomes and numerous fleshy tubers. This mat, 5-10 cm below the soil surface and up to 10 cm thick, actually makes up most of the biomass of Bridal creeper plants. The tuber reserves provide water, energy and nutrient reserves to enable the plant to survive over summer and allow rapid new shoot growth in autumn. The tubers also provide a physical barrier that outcompetes other vegetation for space.

3.2 Method of Spread

Birds play a critical role in helping to spread Bridal creeper, by feeding on the attractive berries and later excreting the seeds at perch sites, enabling wide dispersal over long distances. Foxes and rabbits are also known to eat the berries.

Bird dispersal of Bridal creeper seed has enabled rapid spread within and between remnant native vegetation reserves. Infestations often also occur along bushland edges as a result of garden dumping and escapes.

The rhizomes have numerous shoot buds along their length, but most do not grow into shoots each autumn. Rather, they provide a 'buffer' against adverse events, growing when existing shoots die prematurely (e.g. due to cultivation, fire, hand-pulling or knockdown herbicides). This 'bud bank' allows bridal creeper to persist for decades, compensating for the weed's short lived seedbank.

3.3 Description of the Problem

As a climber, Bridal Creeper smothers and kills native plants even in dense vegetation. And as it can tolerate a wide range of soil and climatic conditions, Bridal creeper can invade healthy undisturbed bushland areas where many other weeds cannot persist. Compounding this, the thick mats under the soil surface formed by the tubers and rhizomes prevent native seedling establishment and growth. Bridal creeper has the potential for further spread and increased density in all southern states.

Bridal creeper has been declared a Weed of National Significance in Australia (WONS). According to the National Bridal Creeper strategy, Bridal creeper poses a major threat to biodiversity and conservation in Australia's temperate natural ecosystems. Unless effective and efficient management is implemented and maintained, rare or threatened plant species are at risk of extinction, and the Aboriginal, tourism and recreational uses of native vegetation will significantly decline.

In the Sydney region, Bridal Creeper has been identified by NPWS as a major weed threat to Cumberland Plain vegetation, which includes six Endangered Ecological Communities - Cumberland Plain Woodland, Shale/Sandstone Transition Forest, Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest, Cooks River / Castlereagh Ironbark Forest, Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest and Shale/ Gravel Transition Forest – all listed under the *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* and the *Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The recovery of these ecological communities is being addressed as part of the draft Cumberland Plain Endangered Ecological Communities Recovery Plan, which is currently under preparation.

Bridal Creeper is a declared noxious weed in only three (3) local government areas covered by this plan: Campbelltown, Parramatta and Ku-ring-gai. In the remainder, Councils are unable to act on private property complaints received. In addition, Bridal Creeper can be legally purchased at nurseries, garden centres and markets in these areas. Adding to this problem, Bridal Creeper is also known to be used by florists for floral arrangements.

3.4 Reason for the Plan

This plan has been developed to coordinate a regional, strategic approach to Bridal Creeper in the Sydney region, in an effort to manage and reduce its environmental impacts.

There is considerable community concern about the spread and impacts of bridal creeper in native vegetation. According to the National Bridal Creeper strategy, in large parts of New South Wales Bridal creeper is still eradicable with sustained effort. The challenge in these areas is educating the community of the impending threat and motivating them to take early action. This document seeks to manage existing infestations in the region to reduce their impacts, to limit future spread of bridal creeper and to inform and motivate the local community.

It is the intention of the regional weed committees for Bridal Creeper to be declared as a noxious weed in all LCAs covered by this plan, to facilitate more consistent control and management and prevent its propagation, sale and distribution. This plan has been developed to support this, and to demonstrate what actions will be undertaken once it is declared in all these areas.

Under this plan, each agency will be required to complete a Local Control Plan detailing how it will strategically manage Bridal Creeper in its area of responsibility. This will include, for example, how each agency will encourage / enforce Bridal Creeper control on private land, and what priorities and measures will be undertaken on public land to control and reduce infestations (for example, gradual removal in target areas such as contract sites, Bushcare groups, designated sub-catchments, areas of high conservation significance etc.). Allowance for sufficient maintenance of sites after initial removal will be essential.

It is also hoped that this plan will assist the committees in future grant applications for strategic Bridal Creeper control and management projects.

3.5 Distribution of the infestations

Bridal Creeper is widely distributed across all the LCAs participating in this plan and no specific mapping has been carried out. Instead, general descriptions of infestations in each LCA are provided.

South West Sydney

Bankstown

- Airport Reserve, Bankstown Airport - Melaleuca Wetland (sporadic infestations)
- Amberdale Reserve, Picnic Point - Sydney Sandstone Woodland (low level sporadic infestations)
- Ashford Reserve, Milperra - mainly Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest (sporadic infestations)
- Bellevue Reserve, Georges Hall - Cumberland Plain Woodland (low level sporadic infestations - rust released)
- Boggabilla Reserve, Bass Hill / Lansdowne - Cumberland Plain Woodland (low level sporadic infestations)
- Carysfield Reserve, Bass Hill- Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest (low level sporadic infestations)
- Churchill Reserve, Padstow Heights- (low level sporadic infestations)
- Deepwater Park, Milperra (medium level infestations in centre of reserve - rust & leafhopper release sites)
- Dilke Reserve, Padstow Heights- Sydney Sandstone Woodland (low level sporadic infestations)
- East Hills Park, East Hills - Shale/Sandstone transition forest (low level sporadic infestations)
- Flood Reserve, Revesby – Cumberland Plain Woodland (low level sporadic infestations)
- Lambeth Reserve, Picnic Point (low level sporadic infestations)
- Lansdowne Reserve, Lansdowne - mainly Cumberland Plain Woodland (low level sporadic infestations - rust released)
- Little Salt Pan Creek, Padstow/Revesby - Sydney Sandstone Woodland (low level sporadic infestations)
- Louisa Reserve, Bass Hill - Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest (low level sporadic infestations)
- Manahan Reserve, Condell Park - Cumberland Plain Woodland (medium level sporadic infestations - rust released)
- Marion St Reserve, Condell Park - Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest (low level sporadic infestations, higher infestation along Marion St.)
- McClean Reserve, Bass Hill - Cumberland Plain Woodland (low level sporadic infestations)
- Milperra Drain, Milperra - Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest/ freshwater wetland (low to medium level sporadic infestations throughout drain)

- Mirrambeena Reserve, Lansdowne - Cumberland Plain Woodland (low level sporadic infestations - rust released in northern end "Shortland Brush")
- Norfolk Reserve, Greenacre- Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest (low level sporadic infestations)
- Picnic Point Reserve, Picnic Point - Sydney Sandstone Woodland and Casuarina forest (low level sporadic infestations)
- River Reserve, Revesby Heights - Sydney Sandstone Woodland (infestation level unknown)
- Roma Reserve, Padstow Heights - Sydney Sandstone Woodland (low level sporadic infestations)
- Ruse Park, Bankstown - Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest (medium level infestations - rust released)
- Salt Pan Creek Reserve - North, Padstow - Casuarina Forest/revegetation area (high level infestation throughout northern area of reserve - rust released)
- The Crest Reserve, Georges Hall - Cumberland Plain Woodland (low to medium level sporadic infestations - rust released)
- Thomas St Depot Reserve - Sydney Sandstone Woodland (Morgans Creek Reserve) Revesby Heights (low level sporadic infestations)
- Thornton Reserve, Bass Hill - Cooks River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest (low level sporadic infestations)
- Virginius Reserve, Revesby - Shale /Sandstone Transition Forest (low level sporadic infestations throughout northern part of reserve)

Campbelltown

All major reserves are infested with Bridal Creeper. Some specific locations include:

- Ingleburn Reserve (UBD map 308 F9, F10, G9, G10).
- Pembroke Park (UBD map 327 E8, D8).
- Council land at Kentlyn and Minto Heights (numerous locations).
- Council land at Menangle Park
- Large areas of privately owned land across the LGA (numerous locations).
- Noorumba Reserve, Rosemeadow (UBD map 366 A8, A11, E11)

The majority of these infestations are scattered.

Camden

Widespread infestations, particularly occurring along fencelines in rural areas, and in many reserves containing remnant bushland, particularly Gundungurra Reserve, Narellan (Cumberland Plain Woodland & Sydney Coastal River-flat Forest). Also common along the banks of the Nepean River.

Fairfield

Small infestations of Bridal Creeper are located at the following locations:

- Indigenous Flora Park, Christie Street, Prairiewood (rust released June 2003).
- Cabramatta Creek, behind 46 Links Ave, Cabramatta (rust released June 2003).
- Bossley Road Bush Reserve, Bossley Road, Bossley Park.
- Prout Park, Oliphant Street, Mt. Pritchard.

Liverpool

Bridal Creeper is found at Lieutenant Cantello Reserve in Hammondville, which has excellent examples of several different ecological communities such as Riparian Forest and Sydney Freshwater Wetlands.

Sutherland

From a general perspective, Bridal Creeper is scattered throughout the Sutherland Shire in areas of bushland adjacent to residential areas. Biological controls (leaf hopper and rust) have been released at Menai Park.

The following reserves have light to moderate infestations of Bridal Creeper. All have some kind of active Bushcare group except for Elouera Road Reserve.

- Menai Park - Menai
- Odeon Street Reserve - Heathcote
- Arthur Place Reserve - Bonnet Bay
- Forest Road Reserve - Miranda
- The Crescent - Woronora
- Matson Crescent Reserve - Miranda
- Elouera Road Reserve - Cronulla
- Burnum Burnum Sanctuary - Janalli
- Rutherford Reserve - Burraneer
- Hall Drive - Menai
- River Road - Sutherland

Wollondilly

Sydney Central

Hurstville

There are two Bridal Creeper infestations in Hurstville Council:

1. "Frogs Hollow" in Oatley Park, Oatley. This is a small infestation that has been hand weeded, and sprayed where hand weeding was not possible. Appears to have been controlled, and is regularly monitored.
2. Peakhurst Foreshore, at the start of the fire trail, off Pamela Avenue, Peakhurst. This infestation occurs above and below the fire trail - both sections have been sprayed. The full extent of the infestation was not known at the time of writing - it is expected to be found further along the trail.

Strathfield

Sydney North

Ku-ring-gai

Bridal Creeper has been identified as a problem across all areas in Ku-ring-gai. It is hoped that a focus on education, biological control and gradual removal by staff and volunteers, will reduce the problem.

Leaf hoppers were released in 2002 at one heavy infestation in St Ives, however, the population had little continuity over winter and into the next year. It is suggested a poor sample of leafhoppers was released. In May 2003, Council released the leafhopper and the rust at the same site. The infestation is monitored closely.

Sydney West ~ Blue Mountains

Blue Mountains

Hawkesbury River

Blacktown

Baulkham Hills

Other government agencies

Department of Environment and Conservation – National Parks Service

Georges River National Park - on land adjacent to houses in Allwood Crescent, Lugarno, close to Evatt Park bushland in Hurstville LGA.

Royal National Park - Bridal Creeper is found mainly in Audley which has a history of garden plantings. It is also found near East Heathcote again as a result of garden escape.

Nattai National Park – Bridal Creeper is found.

Sydney Water Corporation

State Forests

Roads and Traffic Authority

Rail Infrastructure Corporation

Department of Defence

4.0 LEGISLATIVE and REGULATORY SITUATION

4.1 Current Declaration

In the Sydney region, Bridal Creeper is declared a W4c noxious weed under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993, in the following LCAs:

- Campbelltown
- Parramatta
- Ku-ring-gai
- Hornsby
- Hunters Hill
- Ryde
- Willoughby
- Lane Cove

A W4c weed “must not be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed and the weed must be prevented from spreading to an adjoining property”.

4.2 Declaration Changes

It is proposed that Bridal Creeper be listed as a W4c noxious weed under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 for the following LCAs:

Sydney North region:

- Manly
- Mosman
- North Sydney
- Pittwater
- Warringah

South West Sydney region:

- Bankstown
- Camden
- Fairfield
- Liverpool
- Sutherland
- Wollondilly

Sydney Central region:

- Hurstville
- Strathfield

Sydney West ~ Blue Mountains region:

- Blue Mountains
- Hawkesbury River
- Blacktown
- Baulkham Hills

The above declarations will result in Bridal Creeper being managed in a more consistent and strategic manner across the Sydney region, and further restrict its sale and distribution.

It is anticipated that this declaration will result in increased workloads and pressure to control Bridal Creeper for the agencies involved, however, community support and demand is already increasing for such measures to be undertaken. In addition, one of the actions within this plan is for each LCA and state agency to develop and implement its own Local Control Plan which will prioritise and target Bridal Creeper control programs according to available resources, and which can be used to justify inaction in other areas. It is also anticipated that this plan will assist in attracting additional funding from both within agencies and other funding sources, for example, from the commonwealth under the National Weeds Strategy.

5.0 CONSIDERATIONS and OPPORTUNITIES

5.1 Opportunities to be exploited

To assist in implementation of this plan, funding will be sought from various state and federal government agencies, including NSW Agriculture and the Catchment Management Authorities through their regional funding programs for Catchment Blueprint implementation, for on-ground works, incentives programs and developing education and awareness raising material such as brochures, posters etc. In particular, funding will be sought from Environment Australia through any relevant Weeds of National Significance and National Weeds Strategy grants. As Bridal Creeper is a significant threat to the remnant Cumberland Plain Woodland, threatened species funding may also be available from the Department of Environment and Conservation.

5.2 Species Management

This plan encourages the coordinated, integrated and sustained implementation of a variety of control techniques. Bridal creeper is a particularly difficult weed to control in natural ecosystems.

If possible, Bridal Creeper plants can be removed manually, making sure the whole root system is removed, including the flattened horny crown, the stems are cut away and all berries are carefully bagged. This can be laborious and often ineffectual as it readily re-grows from the underground rhizomes.

Currently, the only effective control is the careful use of two herbicides, glyphosate and metsulfuronmethyl (Brushoff).

Two biological control agents, a leafhopper and a rust, have been recently introduced to many reserves in the Sydney Region. Although their long-term effectiveness is not yet known, as it may take a few years for results to show, some early reports are encouraging.

5.3 Extension and Education

The main focus for education and extension activities will be to increase the awareness, identification and control of Bridal Creeper by both residents and local and state agency staff. This will be achieved through numerous means such as:

- local media articles when this plan is endorsed by councils;
- Media blitz when Bridal Creeper is declared noxious. Local newspapers, SMH, gardening magazines, gardening TV shows will all be approached to do articles;
- Articles in ratepayer newsletters;
- Articles in Mayoral columns;
- Awareness raising of agency staff in Bridal Creeper identification and management, especially health and building / development control officers (ie. DA process) and parks staff;
- Contact with local nurseries and florists when Bridal Creeper is declared – in mean time, education of same;
- Including Bridal Creeper in weed displays;
- Including Bridal Creeper in regional weed brochures and the committees' website.

5.4 Links to other Strategies

The vision of the **National Bridal Creeper strategy** is that:

“Bridal creeper is managed effectively to stop further spread and to reduce its impacts on Australia's natural assets”. This document is a strategic plan to contain the spread and minimise the impacts of bridal creeper in Australia. Cooperation, commitment and funding are sought from private and government stakeholders at the local, regional, State/Territory and Commonwealth levels to tackle this weed.

The strategy has three main outcomes:

1 Commit and coordinate

- Co-ordinate bridal creeper management at national, state and regional levels.
- Enable the community to recognise bridal creeper and the threats its poses to natural assets.
- Establish long-term community and government commitment to fund and implement actions listed in the strategy.

2 Eradicate and prevent spread

- Prohibit cultivation, distribution and sale of the plant across southern Australia.
- Map bridal creeper infestations.
- Identify and prioritise natural assets for protection from bridal creeper.
- Develop and implement regional containment strategies.
- Contain other, newly-emerging asparagus weeds.

3 Reduce existing impacts

- Gain land manager adoption of the most effective and appropriate management practices for bridal creeper infestations (including rehabilitation), based on current knowledge.
- Distribute biocontrol agents to regions where eradication of bridal creeper is not technically feasible.
- Refine and promote best management practices for bridal creeper infestations where biocontrol agents are established.

Also the formation of steering committees at the regional, State/Territory and national levels, and the employment of a project officer to manage and report on the progress of the strategy. Find out who project officer is.....and seek input....

This plan also meets several 'Desired Outcomes' of the **NSW Weeds Strategy**:

- The development and implementation of programs to reduce environmental degradation and the loss of biodiversity through weed invasions.
- The implementation and monitoring of weed control programs on public and State-owned and Crown Land to ensure that objectives are achieved in an efficient and cost effective manner.
- An effective and efficient system for delivery of noxious weeds control and the enforcement of weeds legislation.

This plan falls within the Southern Sydney, Sydney Harbour, and Hawkesbury Lower Nepean Catchment Management Board (CMB) regions and assists in the implementation of the following Catchment Blueprints:

- The **Hawkesbury Lower Nepean Catchment Blueprint**, in particular:
Management Target 12: Weeds and pests:
By 2006 implement adequately funded and closely linked strategies and effective actions plans for all major and potential terrestrial and aquatic weed/pest species; and
Prioritised Management Actions for Biodiversity 6:
Resource and implement closely linked strategies and effective action plans developed on a catchment basis for all major aquatic and terrestrial weeds and pests using environmentally appropriate management practices, and develop contingency plans for potential invasive weeds and pests.
- The **Southern Sydney Catchment Blueprint**, in particular:
Management Target 14:
By 2012 the threats posed to aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems by pest species are measureably reduced; and,
Management Action 4:
Implement closely linked strategies and effective action plans, supported by government for all major aquatic and terrestrial weeds, pests and pathogens using environmentally appropriate management practices, and develop contingency plans for potential invasive weeds and pests.
- The **Sydney Harbour Catchment Blueprint**, in particular:
Management Action 33:
Develop and implement integrated pest/weed/pathogen management plans for the Board area (aquatic and terrestrial).

5.5 Barriers and Contingencies

More effective regional management of Bridal Creeper will be achieved by overcoming the following barriers through the implementation of the respective Actions detailed in Section 6.0:

1. Inconsistent management – Bridal Creeper only declared in 1 out of 7 LCAs in the region (Actions 6.1 & 6.2)
2. Reluctance of landholders to control Bridal Creeper (Action 6.3 & 6.4)
3. Extent of Bridal Creeper infestations significant – widespread across region, difficult to map, significant resources required for control (Actions 6.3 to 6.5);
4. Control often not coordinated with neighbouring landowners, which reduces effectiveness (Actions 6.3 & 6.5);
5. Cost of control on public land is significant due to extent of infestations (Action 6.5)
6. Limited resources and need to prioritise Bridal Creeper control (Action 6.5)
7. Lack of awareness of Bridal Creeper and its environmental impacts by residents and some authority staff (Action 6.6);
8. Bridal Creeper easily spread by birds and need for control before it seeds (Action 6.4);

9. Bridal Creeper plants being sold by some nurseries and markets (Action 6.6);
10. Some florists using Bridal Creeper in floral arrangements (Action 6.6)

6.0 ACTIONS and PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

| ACTION PLAN FOR CONTROL: | PERFORMANCE INDICATORS | WHO | ADDRESSES WHICH OBJECTIVES |
|--|--|---|--|
| 6.1 Seek individual Council endorsement of this Regional Weed Plan and proposed Bridal Creeper W4c declaration. | Endorsed by all councils by June 2004. | LCAs | 1. The declaration of Bridal Creeper as a W4c noxious weed in the Local Control Authorities (LCAs) covered by this plan. |
| 6.2 Send submission to NSW Agriculture / NWAC for Bridal Creeper W4c declaration in all LCAs across the region. | Bridal Creeper declared by June 2005. | Regional Weed Committees | 1. The declaration of Bridal Creeper as a W4c noxious weed in the Local Control Authorities (LCAs) covered by this plan. |
| 6.3 Strategically coordinate the control and reduction of Bridal Creeper on private land through inspections, notifications and enforcement of Noxious Weeds Act, 1993. This will be integrated where appropriate with control works on public land. | The number of inspections and notifications per annum will be recorded and compared to previous years. | LCAs, private landholders | 2. A reduction in the spread of Bridal Creeper from private property. |
| 6.4 Implement incentives programs to encourage proactive private property control of Bridal Creeper (eg. Asparagus Out Days) | The number of landholders involved/registered in incentives programs will be recorded. Programs will undertaken in accordance with specific project timeframes. | LCAs, private landholders | 2. A reduction in the spread of Bridal Creeper from private property. |
| 6.5 Strategically manage Bridal Creeper on public land according to Local Control Plans for each LCA and state agency, using an integrated approach combining chemical, physical and biocontrol techniques, and coordinate between agencies whenever possible. | The production and implementation of Local Control Plans. Increase in coordination of control between landowners. | LCAs, DEC SWC, DOL, Bushcare volunteers, RTA, RIC | 3. Bridal Creeper on public land strategically controlled using integrated weed management methods |
| 6.6 Undertake education and awareness raising activities for Bridal Creeper identification and appropriate control. | One local media article when this plan is endorsed by each council. | LCAs, DEC, NSW Ag, Regional | 4. Increased awareness of Bridal Creeper and its identification, impacts and control methods. |

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| | <p>Media blitz when Bridal Creeper is declared. Local newspapers, SMH, gardening magazines, gardening TV shows approached to do articles.</p> <p>Articles in ratepayer newsletters, 1 or 2 times annually (esp. during fruiting season)</p> <p>Mayoral column (once or twice annually)</p> <p>Training of other agency staff in Bridal Creeper ID</p> <p>Contact made with nurseries and florists after Bridal Creeper is declared, followed by regulatory action as required.</p> <p>Weed displays include Bridal Creeper – annually in October during Weedbuster Week and at other times in conjunction with local festivals, tree giveaways, etc.</p> <p>Bridal Creeper included in regional brochures and on committees' website.</p> | <p>Weed Committees</p> | <p>5. A significant reduction in the propagation and sale of Bridal Creeper plants and cut stems for floral displays</p> |
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7.0 MONITOR and REVIEW PROCESS

All participants in this plan will monitor and review the progress of the plan against the performance indicators in annual reports. The plan will also be reviewed as required to allow for any additional/new information.

Twelve months following the declaration of Bridal Creeper, all participating agencies will be surveyed to determine the outcomes of the declaration, the success of their Local Control Plans and whether any alterations are required.

8.0 BENEFITS

It is envisaged that the implementation of this regional plan will greatly assist in reducing the significant environmental impacts caused by Bridal Creeper in the Sydney region and reduce its spread.

Controlling Bridal Creeper will assist in the conservation of biodiversity in natural areas, particularly in the Cumberland Plain endangered ecological communities, as well as improve the recreational values of bushland.

9.0 RESOURCES

Agriculture & Resource Management Council of Australia & New Zealand, Australian & New Zealand Environment & Conservation Council and Forestry Ministers, (2000) **Weeds of National Significance Bridal Creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*) Strategic Plan**. National Weeds Strategy Executive Committee, Launceston.

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