

Tapitallee escarpment Lantana access track – Photo guide

As part of the Tapitallee Project for weed & feral animal control federally funded by “Caring for Country” over the past year, a Shoalhaven Landcare subcommittee decided to construct a foot track totalling about 3 kms across 4 properties below the escarpment east of Emery’s Rd. where dense lantana had prevented access to spray herbicide. Two operators of small rubber tracked excavators, whom we had previous experience of operation in similar terrain, were selected and the properties entered by Flannery Lane & Ironbark Rd.



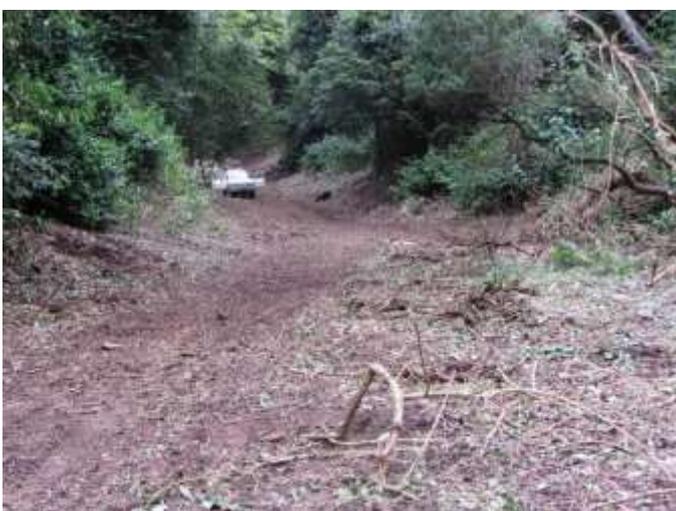
The Northern operator, used a bucket to remove lantana whilst the Southern operator, had a slasher mounted on the boom of the excavator. The work was carried out in 4 days by each operator.

The photos below north from Flannery lane show the Native bush together with an area that had been sprayed and parts of the track. Whilst parts of the track appears were initially accessible by a vehicle the tracks will only be maintained by future spraying to allow foot access.





The photos below show progress through a steep area south of Flannery Lane where a switchback was constructed since an approach gully was too steep. The photo on the right below shows lantana used as a silt trap at the base of this gully.



The photo below shows the switchback under construction and the following photos were taken after 250mm of heavy rain over 4 days that caused widespread flooding in the Shoalhaven. There was minimal erosion from the rain.





Photos on the steep northern spur below a home on Emery's Rd.



View over Tapitallee from Emery's Rd home.



Contour track below the home providing access for spraying lantana.

Photos along the southern spur and a fence along the cleared track connecting to both Emery's Rd and Ironbark Rd by existing tracks through private property.



A tractor with a post driver owned & used by one of the landholders to construct the fencing required to prevent cattle from crossing property lines after lantana removal. Landcare provided some of the fencing material whilst labour was provided by the landholders.

