

# BUSHCARE SITE ASSESSMENT PLAN

## **SITE LOCATION: GOVERNMENT RD BUSHCARE**

### AIMS

- To enhance the genetic integrity and biodiversity of the bushland
- To reduce weed impacts throughout site
- To create a green corridor for native wildlife
- To establish a sense of place and community engagement in bushcare activities.
- To stabilise embankment

### SITE DESCRIPTION AS AT DECEMBER 2010

#### **General Description**

Location: Between Government Road and Marsala St

Aspect: Located on a steep North facing slope

Soil: The soil is mapped as Hawkesbury Soil Landscape. It contains Hawkesbury Sandstone rocky outcrops but also has areas of disturbance due to dumped land fill on the northern section of the reserve. The soil is classed as sandy clay loam on the upper southern slopes of the reserve. Other sections of the reserve containing miscellaneous fill. (Flora and Fauna Survey 2006-07)

Catchment: Pearl Bay and Middle Harbour

Vegetation Community: Sydney Sandstone Gully Forest (Flora and Fauna survey 06-07).

Canopy species: *Angophora costata*, *E.botryoides*, *Glochodion ferdinandi* var *ferdinandi*

Other: Open concrete channel directs runoff from Marsala St into a stormwater inlet pit in the bottom of the gully. (Flora and Fauna Survey 2006-07)

#### Site Management Issues:

- Steep land fill battered slope
- Weed infiltration from adjoining properties
- Excess nutrients from storm water runoff
- Erosion in disturbed areas
- Weeds invasion into better areas
- Low presence of midstorey species.

## MANAGEMENT PLAN February 2010 – December 2012

### Weed Management

#### Priority Weeds:

- Morning Glory (*Ipomea indica*)
- Trad (*Tradescantia fluminensis*)
- Ehrharta (*Ehrharta erecta*)
- Bidens (*Bidens pilosa*)
- Madiera Vine (*Anredera cordifolia*)
- Turkey rhubarb (*Acetosa cordifolia*)
- *Crassocephalum crepidioides*

	<b>Task</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Bushcare Support</b>
<b>2011</b>	Sweep through fill embankment Zone 2	Feb	Supervisor to follow-up spot spray where needed.
	Follow – up maintenance sweep through zone 2	March	Contract support to Work on corner of Marsala Rd and Beauty Point Rd. (Zone 1) With extra support for Zone 4 and 5
	Maintenance of zone 2 and planting. Terrace embankment where needed	April	Supply logs and stakes for terracing. Supply plants
	Continue sweep through zone 2 and 3 Undertake planting 1 tray of plants (mainly ferns)	May	Supervisor to spot spray where needed. Supply plants
	Zone 2. Sweep for emerging annuals	June	Supervisor to follow-up spot spray where necessary.
	Zone 2 Maintenance. Consider jute matting small areas where required	July	Jute matting equipment and pegs.
	Zone 2 and 4 Maintenance	August	Bushcare support – sweep through zone 1 and 4 for follow-up maintenance and push back primary area in zone 3. Continue to terrace

			embankment in zone 2
	Sweep through Zone 2 and plant area with shrubs and ground covers	September	Supply plants
	Maintenance sweep zone 2 and 3. Continue planting	October	Supply of plants
	Planting – Zone 1 & Zone 5	November	Bushcare Support – Weed control zone 1, 4 and 5
	Planting (continued) sweep for weeds Zone 1 & 2	December	
<b>2012</b>	Break	Jan	
		Feb	Bushcare Support – Zone 1,3,4 & 5
	Group restarts – Sweep zone 2 and 3.	March	Supervisor to undertake spot spray where needed.
	Sweep through Zone 2, 3 and 4. Undertake planting in all three zones where necessary.	April	Supply plants
	Planting and maintenance sweep in zone 2,3 & 4. Thickly plant out along open drainage line with ferns.	May	Supply plants Supervisor to undertake spot spray where necessary
	Consider jute matting small areas where needed. Logs embankment where necessary. Maintenance zone 2.	June	Jute matting, pegs, logs and stakes
	Maintenance zone 2, 3 and 4	July	
	Maintenance sweep zone 2 and 3. Contractors to terrace areas in need of stabilisation	August	Bushcare Support weed control zone 1, 3, 4 & 5 – supply of logs and stakes.
	Planting in zone 2, 3 and 5.	September	Supply plants Supervisor to

	maintenance zone 2 & 3		follow-up spray.
	Planting zone 2, 3 and 5. Maintenance sweep through zone 2 & 3	October	Supply Plants
	Planting and maintenance zone 2, 3 & 5	November	Supply plants Supervisor to follow-up spot spray.
	Break	December	Bushcare support zone 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5

Note: Work plan may change due to seasonal fluctuations and volunteer numbers. Bushcare support work may vary due to changed priority and budgetary limitations.

### Native Vegetation Management

The General health of the site is expressed in the 06/07 Flora and Fauna survey as 10 – 30% weed cover throughout the entire unmade road reserve.

Zone 1 and 2 and 4 has been maintained over a long period of time by the bushcare group.

**Zone 1:** This area is located at the corner of Marsala ave and Beauty Point Road. This area has been previously maintained by volunteers but work has lapsed in this zone due to unforeseen circumstances. Extra Bushcare support will be required in this zone to control weed influxes into zone 2. This will require spray preparation hand weeding and continual spot spraying until native plants establish in the area. This zone will benefit from further plantings. A follow-up spot spray will be required once a month by the site supervisor or by contractors

**Zone 2:** This area is a steep fill battered embankment. This area can be hazardous to work on and requires further terracing of the area with logs and stakes. The area has been improved by the efforts of the Bushcare volunteers over a period of time but further work is required to shade out and reduce the weed density. Native ferns such as *Blechnum sp* and *Doodia aspera*, are particularly suitable for this shady area.

The site will require continual maintenance, planting and in some areas jute matting.

**Zone 3:** This area has been occasionally worked by the bushcare group in the past. In part of this zone there is a wall of *Cissus antarctica* and *Ipomea indica*. Extra Bushcare support is recommended to reduce annual weed influxes and to slowly push back the *Cissus* and Morning Glory. Further planting, terracing and jute matting will be required in this zone. A follow-up spot spray will be required once a month by the site supervisor or by contractors.

**Zone 4:** Zone 4 has areas of high resilience and should be considered a primary focus for the Bushcare group and contractors. This area may only need to be worked quarterly.

**Zone 5:** Is located at the eastern end of Unmade Government Rd. Primary weed control was undertaken in this zone in November 2010. It will require regular follow-up weed control by contractors. This area will benefit from a created edge using logs or mulch mounds and terracing using logs and stakes.

### **Tracks and Public Access**

- There is one informal track located at the eastern end of Unmade Government Rd.

### **Drainage / Water Management**

- An open concrete channel directs runoff from Marsala St into a stormwater inlet pit in the bottom of the gully. (Flora and Fauna Survey 2006-07)
- Debris from the fill battered slope is continually washing into the drain and requires regular cleaning. It is hoped over time the need for this will be reduced as the plantings begin to grow and cover the bare slope.

### **Major Projects / Tree Works**

- Any potential tree removals (hazardous or weed tree removal) are to be addressed with the Bushcare Officer.

### **Suggested Work Dates 2010**

<b>Date</b>
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb
Weds 9 <sup>th</sup> March
Weds 16 <sup>th</sup> March
Weds 30 <sup>th</sup> March
Weds 6 <sup>th</sup> April
Weds 20 <sup>th</sup> April
Weds 5 <sup>th</sup> May
Weds 18 <sup>th</sup> May
Weds 2 <sup>nd</sup> June
Weds 15 <sup>th</sup> June
Weds 29 <sup>th</sup> June
Weds 7 <sup>th</sup> July
Weds 20 <sup>th</sup> July
Weds 3 <sup>rd</sup> August
Weds 17 <sup>th</sup> August
Weds 30 <sup>th</sup> August
Weds 7 <sup>th</sup> September
Weds 21 <sup>st</sup> September
Weds 6 <sup>th</sup> October
Weds 19 <sup>th</sup> October
Weds 3 <sup>rd</sup> November
Weds 16 <sup>th</sup> November
Weds 30 <sup>th</sup> November
Weds 7 <sup>th</sup> December

(Note: work dates may be subject to change)



