Bellyache Bush Management in the Upper Daly Catchment

Brad Sauer & Rowena Eastick

Weed Management Branch

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT

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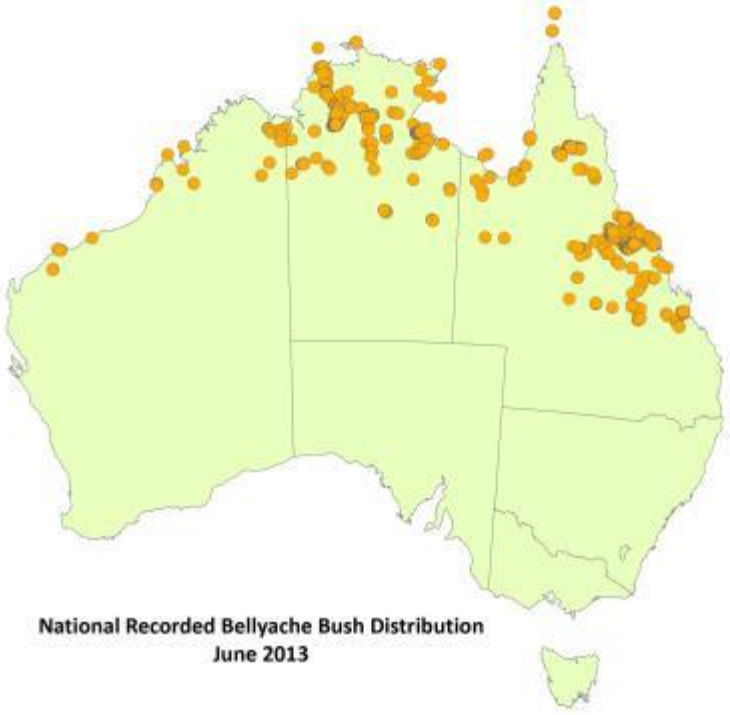
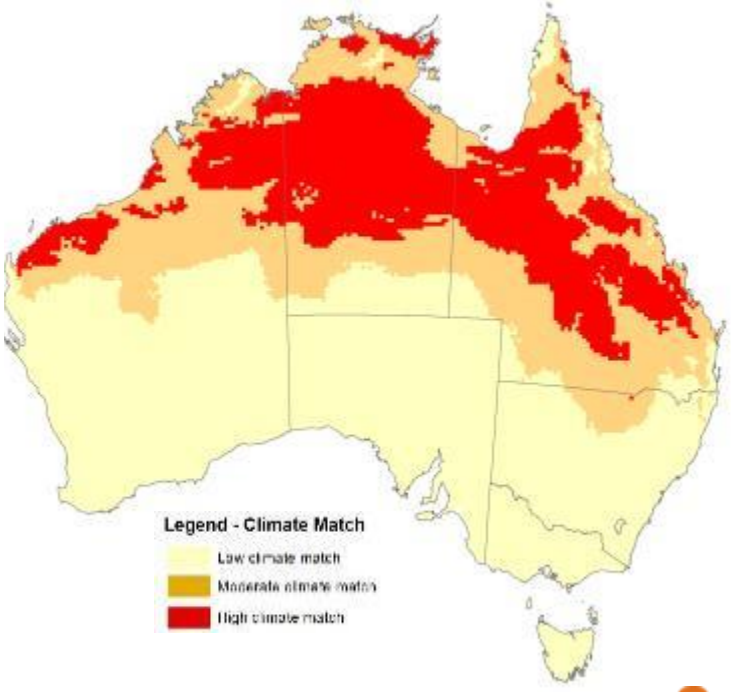
Bellyache Bush and impacts

- Native to tropical America
- Introduced to Australia in late 1800s
- Ornamental
- Weed of National Significance (WONS)
- Invades disturbed habitats
- It forms dense thickets
- Reduce biodiversity / restrict access
- Highly toxic

Bellyache Bush Distribution





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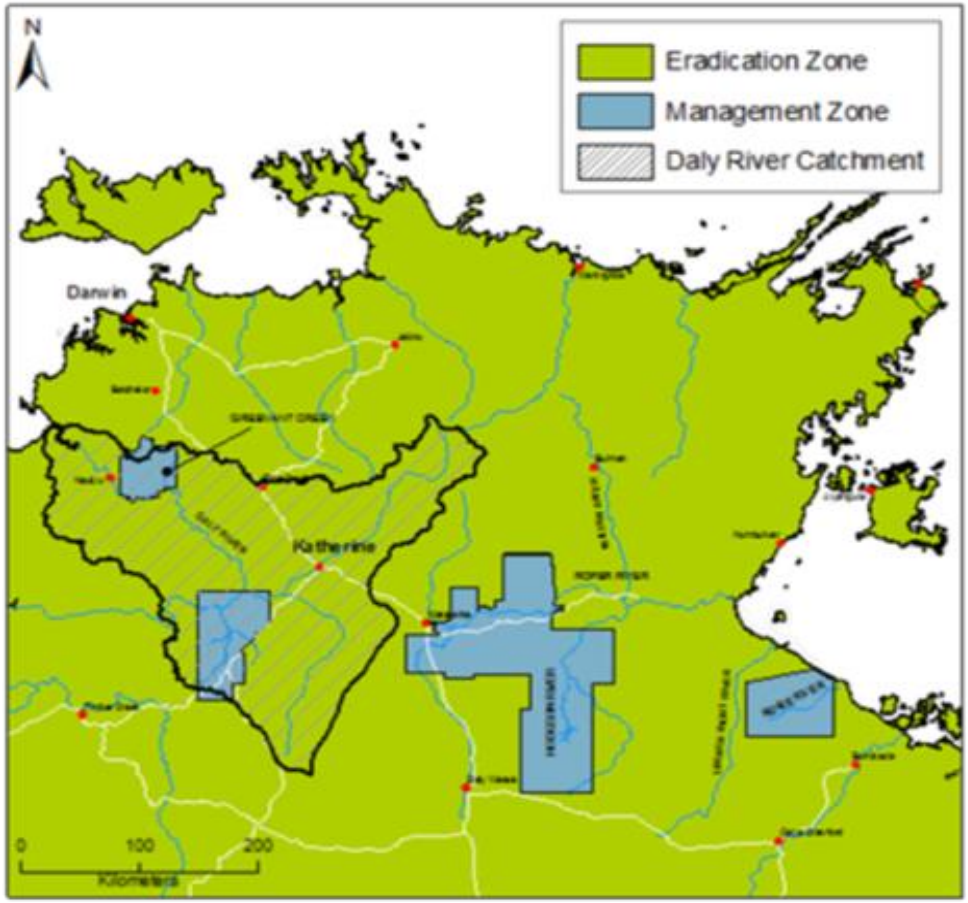
The Daly Catchment



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Project Background

- The Project commenced in 2012
- Commonwealth Government's Biodiversity Fund
- NT Government Strategic Weed Management Program
- Significant in-kind from stakeholders

Australian Government

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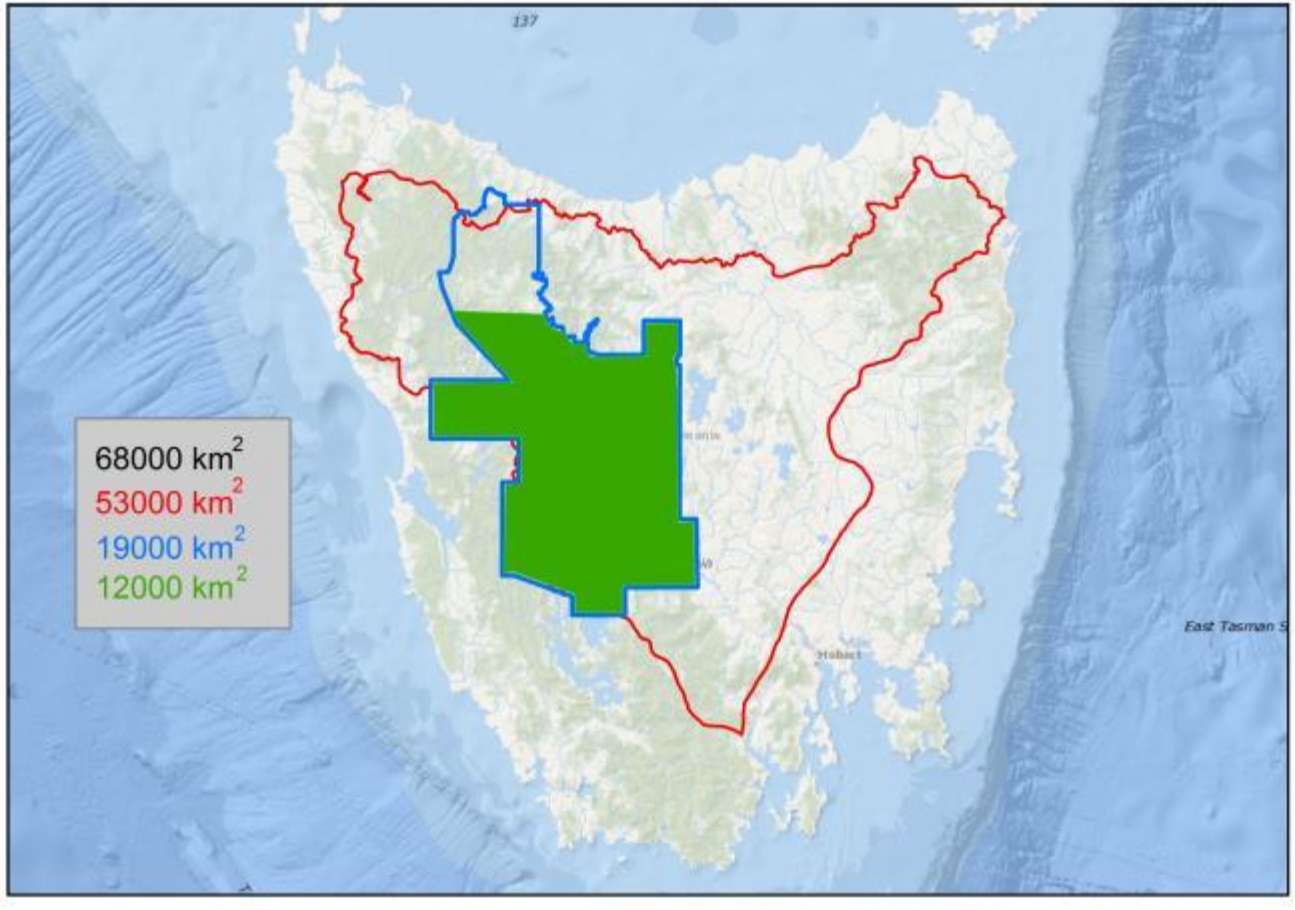

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Project Aim and Objectives

Protection & restoration of ecosystem function & values in the Daly catchment

Bellyache Bush Stakeholder Group

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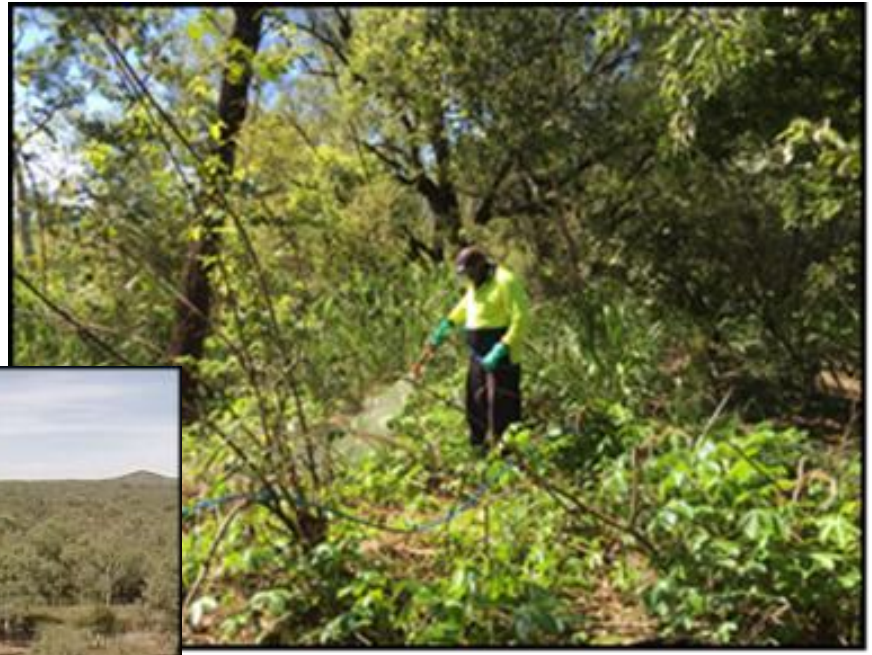
Integrated Control Activities



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On-ground control

Basal barking and Cut Stumping

Foliar Spraying

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Strategic Burning & Stock Exclusion

Strategic Burning

Stock Exclusion

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Aerial Spray Trials

2015 wet season, Scott Creek Station.

Aims:

- Efficiency of different herbicides,
- Herbicide coverage
- Cost effectiveness

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4x4 Quadrat: Aerial spray trials on Scott Creek 2015

12/02/2015

19/06/2016

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Aerial Control 2016

554 ha was treated

Chemical ratio was:

- Associate 120g/ha (metsulfuron)
- Bonza @ 500ml per 100L of water and a spray rate of 150L per ha.

Each site had two treatments of the chemicals applied over a 3 month period.

Increase with in-kind support from stakeholders.

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Monitoring

Monitoring Site WD-75, 2012

Monitoring Site WD-75, 2016

Challenges: The 2015 Flood Event

19/02/16

19/02/16

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Challenges:
On-ground Control

- Isolated and remote locations
- Working in extreme conditions
- Limited labour force
- Flood Recovery
- Timing for control
- Change of Management

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Future Direction

- Survey
- Planning
- On-going communication
- Ownership from stakeholders
- On-going support from NT Government

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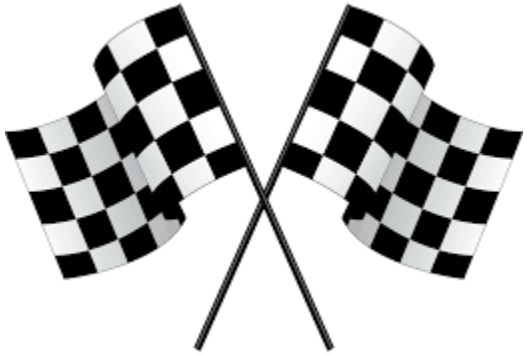
Biological Control Research

Morosaphycita morosalis (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae)

Stomphastis sp. (Lepidoptera Gracillariidae)

Project Completion June 2017



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