



Lantana infestation in Buaraba Creek Photo credit: Lockyer Valley Regional Council

# Riparian Rangers

Lockyer Valley Regional Council received funding from the Federal Government Drought Communities' program to support initiatives that enabled job creation and retention.

The Riparian Rangers project engaged with over 60 landholders across two years, undertaking riparian weed control across the Lockyer Valley.

Weed species of particular concern to ecological degradation included Cat's Claw Creeper, Thorny Poinciana, Madeira Vine, Leucaena and Giant Rat's Tail grass.

### About the project

- Contracting landholders to undertake weed control in the riparian area on or adjacent to their properties
- Upskilling landholders on species identification and control to enable native recruitment and restore riparian habitat.

Reducing **weed impacts** on the catchments within the Lockyer Valley.



A Lockyer Valley Regional Council Project

External funding for the project has been provided by the Australian Government, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

Project name:	Riparian Rangers
Project manager:	Kate Burns
Project contact email:	<a href="mailto:kburns@lvrc.qld.gov.au">kburns@lvrc.qld.gov.au</a>
Catchment:	Lockyer
Timing:	June 2020 – February 2021

Categories
Community and Education
Erosion and Sediment Control
Land Management
Litter Clean up
Revegetation
Science and Research
Stormwater
Wastewater
Water Sensitive Urban Design

## Why this project is important

Heavy infestations by weeds can affect wetlands by disrupting natural flood regime interfering with irrigation infrastructure and destroying wildlife habitats, fishing grounds and visual amenities<sup>1</sup>.

The delivery of the project uncovered a number of landholders unaware of the values contained within the creek system attached to their property and the impacts of inaction. Through engagement, a shift in mindset towards conservation and protection was experienced.

Beyond weed control, the journey of awareness towards environmental improvement and continued relationships was most beneficial in building a community of awareness.



## Objectives

Contracting landholders and contractors to undertake weed control in the riparian area to support and provide opportunities for employment during the prolonged drought.

The objective of the project was to engage with landholders to reduce the number of invasive weeds in the riparian area and see and improvement in the ecological values and native recruitment.

## Outcomes

The project engaged with over 60 landholders across the two years of delivery and contributed to the control of invasive weeds in 41km of creek line across the Lockyer, Laidley and Tenthill catchments.

Each landholder undertook complimentary training in weed identification and control and as a value add, by walking the landscape with them, an understanding of beneficial species, erosion control and habitat protection was shared.

The Riparian Rangers project empowered landholders to become involved in other programs and projects that council is delivering, including the Natural Resource Management Plan, cultural burn workshops and Land for Wildlife membership.