

**REVIEW OF PROGRESS TOWARDS
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
RUBBER VINE STRATEGIC PLAN
(2006 – 2007)**

Before control



After control



Before and after control of rubber vine - Drummond range area, west of Emerald, Central Queensland

Prepared by:
Peter Austin
National Coordinator
Rubber Vine and Parthenium Weed

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RUBBER VINE STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS 2006 – 2007

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Rubber Vine Management Group has adopted a successful community based approach to rubber vine control planning and management. National coordination has enabled wide community engagement particularly across NRM regions, local governments, grazing industries, rural bodies and community groups.

Nationally coordinated action continues to prevent the spread of rubber vine into the Northern Territory and greatly reduce the potential further spread to Western Australia where satellite infestations are being eradicated.

Outlier 'hotspot' infestations in the Fitzroy River Catchment and at Kununurra in Western Australia are being successfully treated. Accurate mapping of these outlier populations have been achieved through aerial surveys and the use of satellite imagery covering some 1000 sq kms. Analysis of survey data has failed to detect any further spread from the identified eradication sites. The target date for eradication of rubber vine from these sites remains on schedule for 2010.

Several strategic projects that target specific catchments at risk from further invasion are progressing. Support provided by the Australian Government, has leveraged additional funds totalling \$310,000 from key stakeholders including the Western Australian and Queensland Governments and regional NRM organisations based in southern, central and north/west Queensland. Key partnerships are being formed with regional pest management groups, local governments and landholders for effective implementation.

A 100 km rubber vine buffer zone established along the Queensland/Northern Territory border is in place to protect the Northern Territory from Rubber vine. No known breaches of the buffer zone have been detected to date. Outlier infestations at Lawn Hill/Riversleigh National Park are being successfully treated.

The Queensland Government through its "blueprint for the bush" initiative is providing additional funding of \$150,000 for rubber vine control in Queensland. Funds are addressing identified national priority actions for rubber vine that support the strategic containment and reduction of rubber vine within the Southern Gulf Catchments, Fitzroy Basin and Cape York regions.

The National Rubber Vine Management Group has progressed four key 'Defeating the Weeds Menace' (DWM) projects that aim to further compliment past and present rubber vine on-ground initiatives. Projects involving collaborative support of State and Territory agencies and regional NRM organisations have resulted in greater ownership of the planning and production of targeted rubber vine awareness materials. They include best practice management demonstration sites at key areas within central and northern Queensland.

The National Rubber Vine Management Group acknowledges the funding support provided by the Australian Government that has been the catalyst to enable further support and significant leveraging of resources from state and territory governments and several Qld Regional NRM organisations to affect rubber vine management.

RUBBER VINE STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS 2006 - 2007

INTRODUCTION

The intention of this report is to outline the progress made during the 2006/07 period towards the implementation of the WoNS Rubber Vine Strategic Plan.

Rubber Vine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*) is a woody perennial vine that aggressively colonises areas, forming impenetrable thickets that smother vegetation. To date, it is contained within the tropical areas of Queensland. Rubber vine threatens riparian vegetation, lowers biodiversity reduces water availability with a consequential reduction in water quality and it also impacts grazing

Graziers are being empowered to manage core infestations on their land which has been made practical through the aid of a biological control agent in the form of a rust. In the early 1990's the rubber vine rust (*Maravalia cryptostegiae*) was released and has since spread to all known rubber vine infestations. The rust has a significant impact on the plant however, its effectiveness is seasonally dependant causing most damage in wet years.

National coordination has enabled wide community engagement particularly across NRM regions, local governments, grazing industries, rural bodies and community groups such as Landcare. Nationally coordinated action continues to prevent the spread of rubber vine into the Northern Territory and greatly reduce the potential further spread to Western Australia where satellite infestations are under eradication.

The National Rubber vine strategy is underpinned by FOUR goals. The achievements against these goals are detailed in this report, the involvement of key stakeholders is also highlighted.

The strategies goals are:

1. Prevent the spread;
2. Reduce the impact;
3. Harness national management;
4. Co-ordinate management

The national rubber vine strategy has been under active implementation since 2001 and has resulted in the following major achievements:

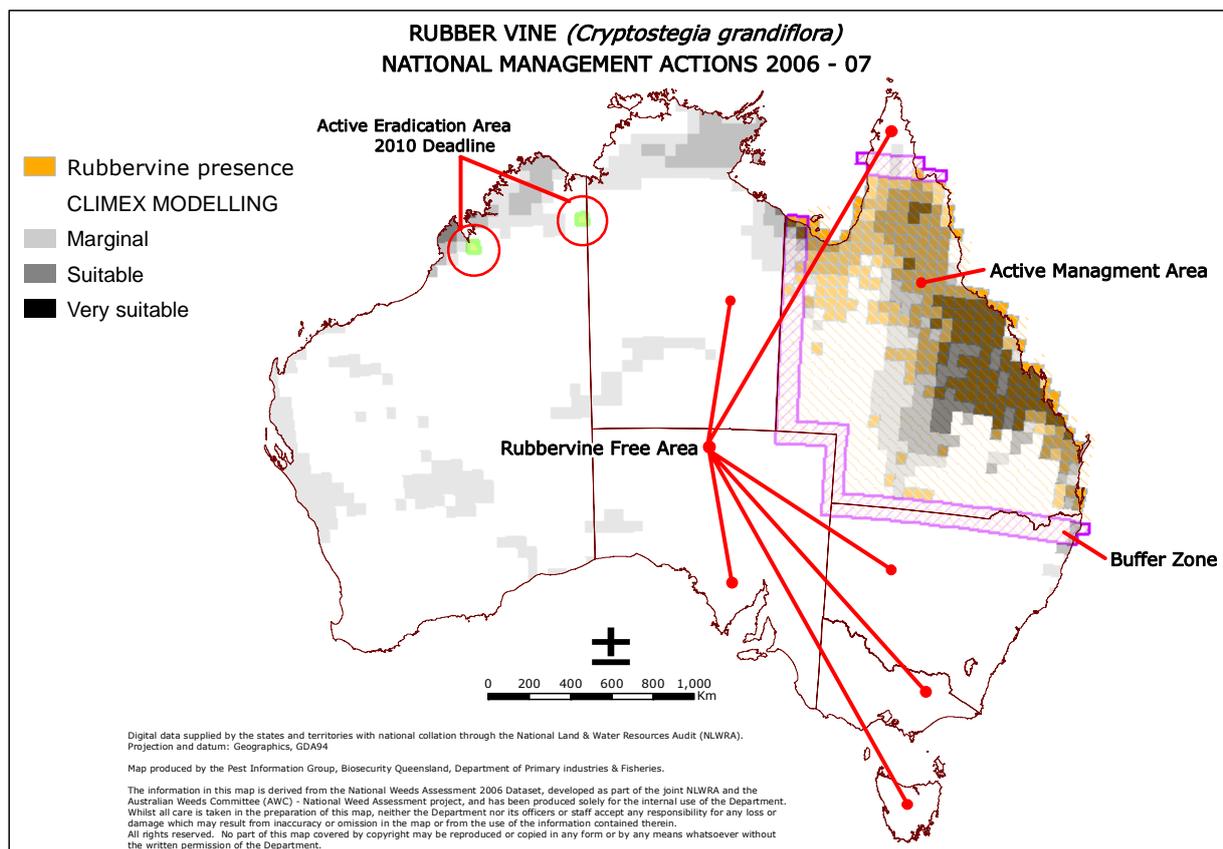
GOALS and ACHIEVEMENTS

GOAL 1 PREVENT THE SPREAD

Desired Outcome: Rubber vine is prevented from spreading

There are a number of active management actions being undertaken to prevent the spread of this weed to the majority of Australia and these are summarised in Map 1.

Rubber Vine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*) National Management Actions 2006-07



Description of Map Zones/Areas

- **Active Management Area** – this is comprised of existing core infestations where widespread eradication is not feasible but where landholders are encouraged to implement best management practices to contain and control sites;
- **Rubber vine FREE Area** – this is comprised of areas ‘clean’ or not currently infested with rubber vine;
- **Active Eradication Area** – this comprises 2 ‘hot spots’ within north Western Australia. Site 1 refers to Willare Bridge infestation on the Fitzroy River. It covers approximately 500-1000 hectares in total. Site 2 is located on “Lisadell Station” south of Kununurra covering 3 hectares;
- **Buffer Zone** - this area is where outbreaks of rubber vine exist adjacent to the FREE area. All known rubber vine is under active management with the aim of preventing spread out of Queensland. The buffer zone is a 100 km wide strip running east/west north of the Mulgrave River and a 100 km wide area running south inside the Northern Territory/Queensland Border extending along the South Australian Border and east inside the New South Wales/Queensland border area. The buffer zone is approximately 3200kms in length.

GOAL 1

PREVENT THE SPREAD

Desired Outcome: Rubber Vine is prevented from spreading

Prevention of spread is difficult as wind, water and man frequently disperse rubber vine over long distances. Large new infestations can rapidly occur and once established the economic impact and costs for control are very high. (*WoNS Rubber Vine Strategic Plan, 2001*)

Rubber vine has been banned from sale and trade in all jurisdictions in Australia.

Outlier 'hotspots' (refer to Map1) in Western Australia on the Fitzroy river catchment and at Kununurra are being successfully controlled. The infested area on the Fitzroy River (Willare Bridge) occurs over approximately 1000 hectares with the control work being undertaken jointly by Western Australia Department of Environment and Conservation and Department of Agriculture and Food with the target date for eradication set for 2010. On-ground work is conducted twice a year (May and September) to ensure control of any new germinations after the wet season and to treat infestations prior to seeding. Delimitation of the infestations has been undertaken through aerial surveillance of targeted areas of the Fitzroy river catchment covering approximately 500 square kms. Satellite imagery has also been utilised to remotely survey an additional 900 square kms. Review of survey data has failed to detect any further spread from the eradication site.

A 100 km rubber vine buffer zone has been maintained along the Queensland/Northern Territory border with no known breaches been detected. A outlier infestation is located at Lawn Hill/Riversleigh National Park where all sites are under active control. Additional aerial survey has been conducted along approximately 300 kms of the Gregory river catchment through an area known as Gunpowder Crk. Additional surveillance identified a 50 hectare rubber vine infestation and treatment of this area has begun in mid 2007.

Treatment of scattered rubber vine has commenced in the dunal areas along the Carpentaria Gulf coast where rubber vine has spread over an area of 10-20 kms. Control work is being undertaken by the Carpentaria Land Council as part of their Land and Sea program supported by Southern Gulf Catchment.

Significant control of rubber vine has occurred at a number of strategic locations across Queensland. A rubber vine containment strategy based on a containment line approach has been in place in Queensland since 1998. The containment strategy uses a line on a map to define management practices designed to contain rubber vine to known locations inside the line and prevent further spread and undertake eradication of outlier infestations outside the line. This strategic approach to rubber vine management in Queensland encourages landholders inside the line to participate in active long term management programs based on best practice while outlier infestations are targeted through priority control actions which define a long term eradication approach. The containment approach assists stakeholders with strategic and regional pest management planning. (*Refer to appendix 4 – Map of rubber vine containment line*)

Several on-ground rubber vine projects have successfully occurred in Central Queensland including work in the headwaters of the Fitzroy and Nogoa Rivers and in areas of the Burnett River within Gayndah Shire. The projects were supported by Australian Government, Landholders, local government and were driven by the regional NRM organisations – Fitzroy Basin Association and Burnett Mary NRM Group.

Performance Indicator – Prevent Spread

- 75% of Australia remains free of rubber vine with all known outlier hotspots under eradication;
- No known breaches of the buffer zone and approximately 200 (square) kms of high priority infestations remain under active management;
- Monitoring for new outbreaks within the 'free area' is maintained including the on-going distribution of plant identification material and continued support of the reporting networks currently in place with key government agencies;
- Delimitation surveys continue to confirm the feasibility of eradication of rubber vine from the only two known outlier hotspots in Western Australia.

Work in Progress

Control treatment undertaken at a site at Calton Hills (Gregory River Catchment) is expected to be completed by September 2007. Delays at this site have been caused by unseasonal rain in the region during May/June period in 2007 and shortages of suitable weed control contractors.

Control efforts are expected to continue within the front dunal areas of the gulf coast. This is an extremely strategic location as scattered rubber vine has been recorded within the identified buffer zone, approximately 45 kms from the NT/Qld border. This area falls under the responsibility of Indigenous landholders and is managed by the Carpentaria Land Council. Past delays have been caused by inability of council to 'recruit and train' traditional owners to undertake weed control. Southern Gulf Catchment has provided funding through their Land and Sea program to support the land council with equipment and specialists skills for weed and fire management. Rubber vine control is expected to be on-going in this area for next 3-4 years to ensure eradication of rubber vine from the site to prevent spread west into the Northern Territory.

GOAL 2

REDUCE THE IMPACT

Desired Outcome: The adverse impacts of rubber vine infestations are reduced

Rubber vine is known to impact across a number of regions in Queensland impacting rivers and creeks with many waterways carrying large infestations. Annual losses to the grazing industry are estimated at \$18 Million per year due to a decrease in carrying capacity and increased management costs.

There are however, many localised areas that remain free of rubber vine. In these areas there is still the opportunity to implement management actions to ensure these areas stay free of rubber vine, particularly given the wide range of control options available including fire, chemical, mechanical and biological control.

The integration of control options is the key to ensuring positive on-ground results. The role of key NRM stakeholders to provide coordination and leadership is important to ensure rubber vine best practise management (planning and priority actions) is applied at both state and regional level.

2006-07 has seen increased coordination, commitment & contribution of Key NRM stakeholders to support rubber vine management at State, Region and Local levels. A number of on-ground projects totalling \$480,000 have commenced supported by the Queensland Government through its "blueprint for the bush" initiative. Projects have a clear link to the national priority actions for rubber vine supporting the strategic containment and reduction of rubber vine within the Southern Gulf Catchments, Fitzroy Basin and Cape York regions. Queensland's Environment Protection Agency has continued to support control of strategic rubber vine sites at National Parks in central and northern Queensland at a cost of \$50,000.

Progress has also been made with the best practice sites project supported by Etheridge Shire Council within Northern Gulf Catchment area. Four sites have been selected, property pest management plans are in place and strategic fencing has occurred in preparation for further fire and chemical control works. Additional demonstration sites are currently being selected within the Banana and Calliope shires of central Queensland with on-ground work scheduled to commence in the latter part of 2007.

Projects are providing great opportunities to link key stakeholders including regional NRM organisations, landholders, local government and community groups to help lever additional resources, to better facilitate ownership; to encourage implementation and follow-up control. This has seen the need to integrate various control techniques and improve awareness concerning plant identification, control and reporting requirements at regional and local levels.

General rubber vine awareness products such as best practice manuals, stickers and management guides are being eagerly taken up by the community. So successful has the development of the rubber vine 'best practice' management manual been that since its launch in 2004, over 15,000 copies have been distributed by a variety of organisations across Northern Australia.

An analysis of the rubber vine survey distributed across Queensland in 2006 has indicated a positive response towards awareness products with 79% of community surveyed believing they could now identify rubber vine whilst 60% believed fact sheets and other brochures were the most useful awareness tools.

Performance Indicators – Reduce the Impact

- Improved coordination through an increased commitment & contribution from Key NRM stakeholders across Queensland leading to greater support and implement of strategic on-ground projects impacting rubber vine at the regional and local level;
- Continued progress and expansion of best practice demonstration projects currently underway across Northern Gulf Catchment area including the development of additional sites in the Banana and Calliope shires of central Queensland commencing in the latter part of 2007.
- Increased community awareness of rubber vine with continued national distribution of promotional products including over 15,000 copies of the rubber vine 'best practice' management manual being distributed primarily across Northern Australia by a variety of organisations.

Work in Progress

The proclamation of Queensland Vegetation Management Act 2002 & Wild Rivers Act 2006 has created an impediment (perceived or real) for stakeholders to affect rubber vine control at specific sites. The National Rubber Vine Management Group (RVMG) is currently working with Qld Dept of Natural Resources & Water to improve community awareness and understanding of the provisions of the legislation with the aim to streamline the application process to enable control work to commence.

The Qld Dept of Primary Industries and Fisheries (QDPI&F) through the Tropical Weeds Research Station continues to assess the spread and impacts of the rubber vine rust (*Maravalia cryptostegiae*) throughout Queensland. The past four years (2001 to 2005) have seen poor summer rain periods that has impacted on the proliferation of rust. The near average wet season during 2005–2006 has resulted in a significant increase in rust infection across all sites except Hughenden where rust was present but not at damaging levels.

GOAL 3 HARNESS NATIONAL MANAGEMENT

Desired Outcome: National commitment to rubber vine management is maintained

The resources required to minimising the impact of established infestations and prevent further spread of rubber vine in the long term are substantial. There is a need to ensure that all available resources are utilised in a coordinated effort targeting strategic locations to maximise potential impact.

The National Rubber Vine Management Group continues to adopt a community approach to rubber vine management through planning for and facilitating increased cooperation of Key NRM Stakeholders (State and Territory Agencies, NRM Regional Organisations and Local Governments) to target identified strategic rubber vine priority areas. A number of on-ground projects have highlighted the need for continued national coordination of management actions.

The Western Australian eradication project at Willare Bridge has seen increased coordination and greater cooperation across a number of stakeholders (Australian Government, Landholders and Department of Environment and Conservation and Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia). Funds contributed by these stakeholders have maximised the effectiveness of control programs through leveraging additional \$64,000 into the project.

In Queensland several (long term management) projects have commenced that supports specific catchments at risk from further invasion. Regional NRM organisations based in Southern, Central & North/West Queensland are working with regional pest management groups, local governments and affected landholders to implement strategic projects leveraging additional funding for rubber vine management totalling \$246,000.

In south east Queensland a project implemented by the Burnett Mary Regional Group for NRM targeting rubber vine on the Burnett, Barambah and Wetheron river systems has benefited from an additional \$20,000 of control work into the project. In Central Queensland, projects driven by regional pest management groups affiliated with the Fitzroy Basin Association have seen urgent work commence on headwaters of the Nogoia and Fitzroy rivers. Additional funding totalling \$20,000 has been contributed by these stakeholders to maximise the effectiveness of projects. In North/West Queensland funds provided by Southern Gulf Catchments and matching landholder contributions have facilitated the implementation of a number of rubber vine projects in the Cloncurry and Flinders River catchments.

Further collaboration across States and Territories has been evident with the recent development of the first verifiable national mapping program which has been undertaken as part of the National Land and Water Resources Audit. A National Rubber Vine Map has been produced based on mapping data sourced through various states and territories. The mapping data used to develop the map is based on the recently adopted set of agreed national core attributes & mapping guidelines.

Performance Indicators - Harness National Management

- Increased National coordination of rubber vine planning and management through increased linkages with Key NRM Stakeholders (State and Territory Agencies, NRM Regional Organisations and Local Governments);
- Investment by the Australian Government provides seed funding in key strategic areas that encourages and promotes increased commitment and cooperation of stakeholders – including leveraging a two fold increase in funds and resources;
- The first verifiable National WoNS maps have been finalised as part of the National Land and Water Audit.

Work in Progress

The changing face of Natural Resource Management through regional implementation has seen an increasing number of 'stakeholders' involved in the planning and delivery of pest management programs across Queensland. This has caused some confusion within the broader community in relation to roles and responsibilities for pest management.

RVMG has been working with Qld Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries to progress draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DPI&F, LGAQ & Qld NRM Regional Bodies (Regional Collective Group). The MOU will better define key roles & responsibilities of key organisations with respect to pest management. Aspects of the MOU address extension, implementation, compliance and enforcement;

GOAL 4 COORDINATE MANAGEMENT

Desired Outcome: Rubber vine management is coordinated at a national level

The National Weeds Strategy has provided a framework for Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) to be effectively managed through the collaboration and cooperation of all stakeholders including governments at all levels.

The National Rubber Vine Strategic Plan was developed in 2001 and outlined a series of strategic actions and opportunities for greater collaboration and cooperation across States and Territories to deliver four key outcomes:

- Rubber Vine is prevented from spreading;
- The adverse impacts of established rubber vine infestations are minimised;
- National commitment to rubber vine control is maintained; &
- Rubber Vine Management is coordinated at a national level.

The establishment of the National Rubber Vine Management Group (RVMG) in late 2001 brought together representatives from various state and territory agencies, regional NRM organisations, Industry, Local Governments and community groups. The role of RVMG is to oversee the implementation of the national rubber vine strategy. The group's membership continues to be reviewed to ensure its relevance to meet the needs of current WoNS initiatives.

RVMG annually reviews the progress made towards implementation of the national strategic plan with a national review planned in 2007/08. Progress of implementation is communicated through a rolling report that details progress against specific strategic goals. The purpose of the report is to maintain a record of progress, to highlight achievements and deficiencies and to provide a basis for review of the program.

In 2006-07 the RVMG has continued to prioritise and progress implementation of a number of 'Defeating the Weeds Menace' (DWM) funded projects that aim to compliment previous NHT2 initiatives. The national rubber vine education and awareness project looks at producing awareness products and other promotional material including the development of a 'rubber vine infomercial' highlighting identification, control and reporting mechanisms. This project is a collaborative effort involving State and Territory agencies and several regional NRM organisations. Initial funding of \$50,000 provided by Australian Government has enabled leveraging of additional matching contributions from stakeholders. The additional funding will allow for increased promotional products to be developed and distributed and allow for the purchase of additional 'prime time television slots'.

RVMG are also overseeing an on-ground project being delivered by local governments within Etheridge, Calliope and Banana Shires. The project involves establishing demonstration sites based on rubber vine best practice management where initial Australian Government funding of \$80,000 has leveraged additional matching contributions from landholders to allow for extended control works.

Performance Indicators - Harness National Management

- RVMG continues to undertake annual review and progress implementation of the national rubber vine strategy;
- RVMG continues to progress the implementation of 'Defeating the Weeds Menace' (DWM) projects with the aim of further complimenting rubber vine education and awareness and best practice initiatives;

Concluding Comments

2006/07 has seen the on-going maintenance of the Northern Territory/Queensland rubber vine buffer zone with particular emphasis on continued on-ground work to protect the NT from rubber vine invasion.

Progress continues with analysis of the WA eradication project to ensure it remains on track for completion –surveys to date confirm no further spread from the site.

Active management continues within strategic areas of Queensland with great support provided by regional NRM organisations and several local governments. The on-ground work is addressing national priority actions for rubber vine and provides a basis for the further development of long term monitoring arrangements.

Community perceptions & regulatory procedures continue to disrupt the momentum of on-ground action. Vegetation policy and planning needs to recognise the threat of invasive species and to make provision for the practicality of managing weeds on the ground.

Strategic Rubber Vine Investment

The national coordinator funding budget is split across two Weeds of National Significance species – Rubber vine and Parthenium Weed. The 2006/07 financial report for rubber vine (*refer to table page 15*) reflects strong recipient contributions by State and Territory governments including several Queensland Regional NRM Organisations.

Funding support has been by way of in-kind and direct contributions to implement strategic on-ground projects such as the eradication project in Western Australia and various strategic high priority areas across Queensland. Projects are at various stages of completion having run over 05/06 and 06/07 financial years. Reference to:

Defeating the Weeds Menace Projects:

- **ID 52729 – \$80,000 (Maintain the integrity of the rubber vine containment line)**

Contributors:

➤ Australian Government =	\$80,000
➤ Fitzroy Basin Association =	\$30,000
➤ Central Highlands Natural Resource Management Group =	\$28,250
➤ Burnett Mary Regional NRM Group =	\$15,000
➤ Southern Gulf Catchments =	\$20,000
TOTAL (other contributions)	\$93,250

- **ID 52146 – \$80,000 (Maintain the rubber vine NT/Qld buffer zone)**

Contributors:

➤ Australian Government =	\$80,000
➤ Southern Gulf Catchments =	\$60,883
TOTAL (other contributions)	\$60,883

- **ID 57587 – \$118,800 (Eradication of Rubber Vine – Willare Bridge, WA)**

Contributors:

➤ Australian Government =	\$118,800
➤ DECWA & DAFWA =	\$64,800
TOTAL (other contributions)	\$64,800*

* Further contributors will occur in 07/08

Project Funds allocated 06/07

- **ID 52732 – \$48,000 (Demonstration Sites - best practice rubber vine management)**

Contributors:

➤ Australian Government =	\$48,000
➤ Local Governments =	\$30,000
TOTAL (other contributions)	\$30,000*

* Further contributors will occur in 07/08

- **ID 57599 – \$30,000 (National Rubber Vine Education and Awareness)**

Contributors:

➤ Australian Government =	\$30,000
➤ NT NRETA =	\$12,000
TOTAL (other contributions)	\$12,000*

* Further contributors will occur in 07/08

Queensland State Government Supporting Rubber Vine Management in 06/07

- Environment Protection Authority - rubber vine projects on Qld National parks at Taunton & Dalrymple = **\$50,000**
 - 'Blueprint for the Bush' funding initiative supporting regional NRM organisations across Queensland with maintenance of strategic rubber vine projects with \$480,000 allocated in 06/07:
 - Southern Gulf Catchments = \$232,000
 - Cape York Region = \$200,000
 - Fitzroy Basin = \$48,000
- Approximate TOTAL Contributions expended in 06/07** **\$150,000**

2006/07 Financial Table – Rubber Vine

2006-07		Planned budget		Actual Expenditure	
Employees & Positions Held (<i>rubber vine only</i>)		Recipient's Contributions (without GST)	Funds paid by the Commonwealth (without GST)	Recipient's Contributions Expended (without GST)	Commonwealth Funds Expended (without GST)
Co-ordinator salary and travel on-costs)			*47,500		*57,401
Management, admin support, research officers (QDPI&F)		8,663		#150,000	
NRM groups, state /territory community support inputs (DWM Projects)		33,805		#310,933	356,800
A	Total Employment Costs	\$42,468	\$47,500	\$460,933	\$414,201
	Operating Cost Items	Recipient's Contributions (without GST)	Funds paid by the Commonwealth (without GST)	Recipient's Contributions Expended (without GST)	Commonwealth Funds Expended (without GST)
	RVMG Management Group travel & meeting expenses	15,000	11,000	N/A	15,520
	General operating costs				
B	Total Operating costs	\$15,000	\$11,000	N/A	\$15,520
C	Total Cost (without GST) (A+B)	\$57,468	\$58,500	\$460,933	\$429,721
D	GST (10%)	\$5,746.80	\$5,850	\$46,093	\$42,972
E	Total Cost (including GST)	\$63,214.80	\$64,350	\$507,026	\$472,693

***Coordinator costs are split across rubber vine and parthenium weed**

refer to Expenditure Analysis (page 20) Stakeholder contributions towards rubber vine management 2006/07

References

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- Anon (2003)** *Weeds of National Significance – Weed Management Guide for Rubber Vine*, the CRC for Australian Weed Management and the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage
- Vickers M (2007)** *Final report for NHT Project (52146) – Maintain the Rubber Vine Qld/NT Border Zone*, Southern Gulf Catchments Ltd
- Wolski C (2007)** *Final report for DWM Project (52729) – Maintain the Integrity of the Rubber Vine Containment Line*, Central Highlands Natural Resource Management Group
- Anderson R (2007)** *Final report for DWM Project (52729) – Maintain the Integrity of the Rubber Vine Containment Line*, Fitzroy Basin Association
- Brandli N (2007)** *Final report for DWM Project (52729) – Maintain the Integrity of the Rubber Vine Containment Line*, Burnett Mary Regional Group for NRM
- Smith A (2007)** *Progress report for DWM Project (52732) – Demonstration Sites to support Rubber Vine Best Practice Management*, Etheridge Shire Council
- Vitelli S (2003)** *Interim report – Approval of funding under “Blueprint for the Bush” Initiative*, the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries

Appendices and Attachments

APPENDIX 1 – RUBBER VINE KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2006/07

Key Achievements 2006/07

Prevent Spread

- Approximately 500-1000 ha's of rubber vine has been controlled within the Willare Bridge area, along the Fitzroy River including 30-40 ha's of dense infestation successfully treated in Aug 05 & May 06 periods – supported by Aust Govt (project 52729), WA Dept of Environment & Conservation & Dept of Agriculture & Food);
- Approximately 11kms of creek frontage (200 ha's)of rubber vine has been controlled along the Gregory River through /Riversleigh station (buffer zone area) – supported by Southern Gulf Catchments;
- Approximately 30 ha's of scattered rubber vine has been treated at Calton Hills within Gunpowder creek catchment
- 30 ha's of medium to dense rubber vine treated within the Grass Tree Catchment on the Drummond range Bogantungan, supported by Central Highlands Natural Resource Management Group;
- Approximately 30-40 kms of scattered rubber vine treated within tributary creeks of Yatton, Clive, Spring, Stockyard, Bora, Main and Clarke creeks within headwaters of Fitzroy Catchment supported by Fitzroy Basin Association;
- Approximately 45kms of rubber vine creek frontage has been controlled along the Burnett, Barambah and Wetheron river systems – supported by Burnett Mary Regional NRM Group;
- All other states & territories continue to maintain a watch for rubber vine

Reduce the Impact

- RVMG continues to work with State & Territory Agencies & NRM regional bodies to target high priority strategic areas – in support of priority actions and regional investment plans with on-ground works to high risk and areas outside the containment line as follows:
 - Willare Bridge (WA)
 - Riversleigh (NT/Qld Buffer Zone)
 - Carton Hills (NT/Qld Buffer Zone)
 - Drummond Range (Fitzroy Basin – Qld)
 - Burnett, Barambah and Wetheron river systems (Burnett Catchment - Qld)
- Increased coordination and cooperation with Key NRM stakeholders has seen several on-ground projects commence that will link to national rubber vine priority actions, reference to:
 - Blueprint for the Bush Initiative supporting NRM regions in Qld (\$480K);
 - Qld National Parks rubber vine projects (\$50K);
- Results of the rubber vine questionnaire across Qld concerning ext/awareness products indicated:
 - 79% believed they could identify RV;
 - 60% believed fact sheet/brochure is most useful awareness tool;
(681 people respondents)
- Stakeholders currently see regulatory impediments to RV control created by proclamation of Qld Vegetation Mgt Act 2002 & Wild Rivers 2006 Act ;
 - RVMG working with QNR&W to improve community awareness of the legislation (understanding) and processing requirements and timeframes;
- Promotional materials readily available – stickers, posters, fact sheets;
- 15,000 copies of best practical management manual distributed;
- Joint NT/WA rubber vine brochure developed & distributed in NT & northern WA;

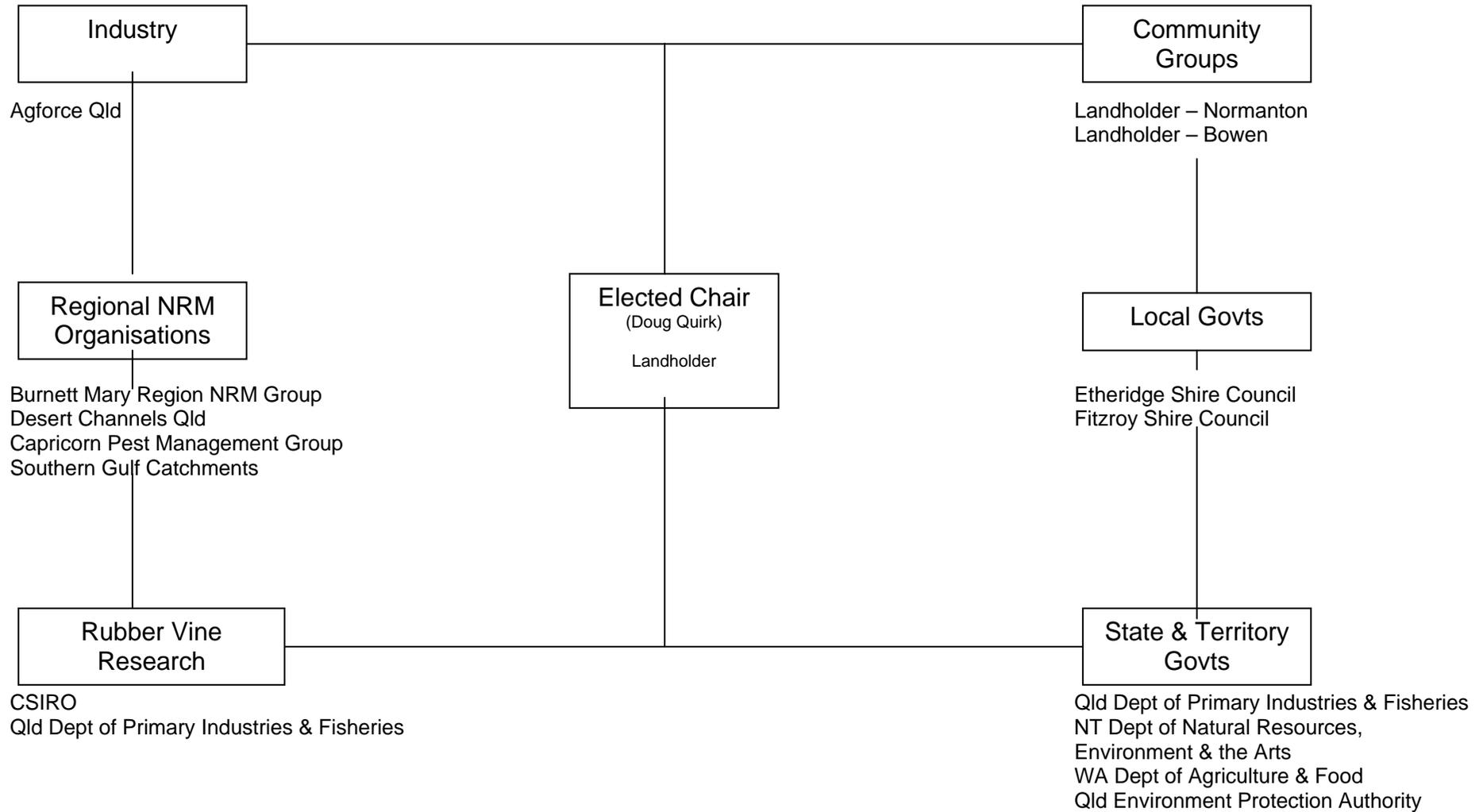
Harness National Management

- RVMG continues to work with State and Territory Governments and NRM regional organisations to target high priority nationally strategic areas – in support of regional investment plans and Local Govt pest management plans;
- Catchments considered being at risk of RV invasion:
 - Fitzroy River, west Kimberley (WA);
 - Nicholson River (Qld/NT);
 - Cooper Crk (Lake Eyre Basin) (Qld);
 - Brisbane River (Qld);
- Development of National WoNS maps (NLWRA) are being finalised and may be available towards the end of 2007. Its attributes will further enhance our ability to map and predict where rubber vine could occur. Detailed rubber vine maps are available of:
 - Containment Line - Qld;
 - On-ground data – north west and central Qld areas;
 - NT/Qld Buffer Zone

Coordinate Management

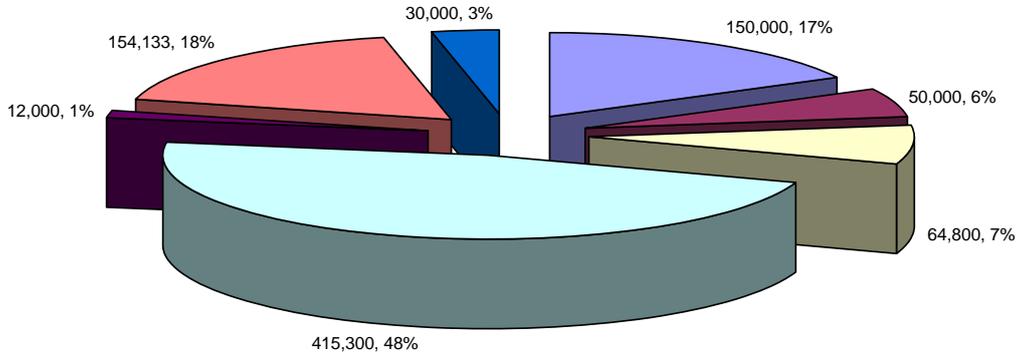
- *The RVMG membership continues to be being reviewed to ensure its relevance.*
- *RVMG is progressing implementation of DWM funded projects to further compliment previous NHT2 funded initiatives:*
 - *National Education & Awareness (\$50K);*
 - *Initiate demonstrated sites based on best practice mgt and support the Integrity of RVCL (\$80K);*
- *Emphasis of RVMG is also been to support organisations driving key projects such as eradication of rubber vine at Willare Bridge, WA DECWA & DAFWA;*

APPENDIX 2 - National Rubber Vine Management Group Structure



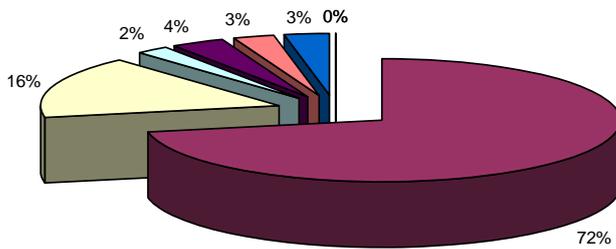
APPENDIX 3 – 2006/07 RUBBER VINE EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS

Stakeholders Contributions Supporting Rubber Vine Mgt in 2006/07



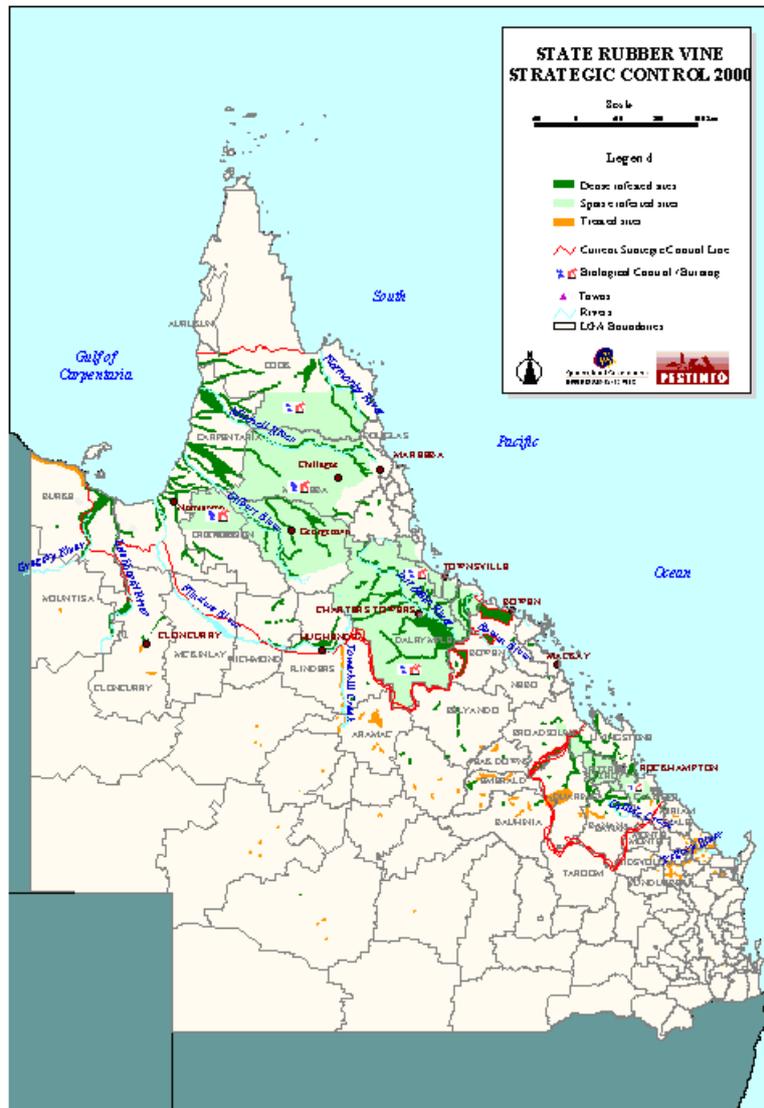
- Qld State Govt - QDPI&F ('blueprint for the bush')
- Qld EPA - control on Nat Parks
- DECWA & DAFWA - Willare Bridge to support Projects 52729 & 52787
- Australian Govt Funds for Rubber Vine - Projects 43736 (\$47.5K), 52729 (\$80K), 52146 (\$80K), 52141 (\$11K), 57587 (\$118.8K), 52732 (\$48K) & 57599 (\$30K)
- NT NRETA - support for Project 57599
- Regional NRM Organisations supporting Rubber Vine Mgt
- Local Govts - support Project 52732

Coordinator Expenditure - Rubber Vine 2006/07



- Australian Govt Funds provided for Coordinator Posn (Rubber Vine Only) - \$47,500
- Salaries & Employee related Expenses - \$41,313
- Travel - \$9,346
- Hire Car/Petrol - \$1,385
- Network & Computer - \$2,014
- Consumables & Training & Telephones - \$1,517
- Other Expenses - Printing, Frieght, Catering & other service costs - \$1,829
- Overspend - \$9,900

APPENDIX 4 – MAP of RUBBER VINE CONTAINMENT LINE



APPENDIX 5 – ACRONYMS USED

NRM	Natural Resource Management
DWM	Defeating the Weeds Menace
RVCL	Rubber Vine Containment Line
QLD	Queensland
RVMG	Rubber Vine Management Group
QDPI&F	Queensland Department Primary Industries & Fisheries
DEC WA	Department Environment and Conservation Western Australia
DAF WA	Department Agriculture and Food
NT NRETA	Northern Territory Natural Resource, Environment & the Arts
MOU	Memorandum for Understanding
LGAQ	Local Government Association Queensland
WoNS	Weeds of National Significance
NHT2	Natural Heritage Trust 2
BMRG	Burnett Mary Regional Group
FBA	Fitzroy Basin Association
DCQ	Desert Channels Queensland