



Frequently asked questions

Jerrabomberra Wetlands Riparian Revegetation

1. What plants are being taken out and why?

Plants targeted for removal are environmental weeds which are declared pest plant species in the ACT. These include willows (with the exception of weeping willows which will remain), black alder and various other exotic tree species such as robinia, as well as woody weeds such as blackberry and African Boxthorn.

Some of these plants are being removed because they are declared pest plant species in the ACT and are having a detrimental environmental impact on the natural habitat smothering desirable species and changing the natural balance of resources for the fauna. Others such as the black alder have the potential to invade newly disturbed areas such as those that result from willow removal so are being included in the program.

After the tree removal, the revegetation component of the project will eventually improve visual amenity of the area. Improvements to water quality are also likely with a reduction in seasonal leaf fall.

The weed removal will reduce habitat for some birds in the short term but at the same time it offers the opportunity for establishment of native plant species which in the long term will provide greater biodiversity benefits along this stretch of Jerrabomberra Creek.

2. Why are willows considered to be a serious weed?

Most species of willow are *Weeds of National Significance*. They are among the worst weeds in Australia because of their invasiveness, potential for spread, and economic and environmental impacts. They have invaded riverbanks and wetlands in temperate Australia, occupying thousands of kilometres of streams and numerous wetland areas.

3. What will happen after the plants are removed?

Trees such as casuarinas and other natives will be planted to replace weeds and the shoreline areas will be planted with low-growing riparian grasses and plants. Species selection will focus on local native riparian species to maximise the habitat value of the shoreline area and to develop a more natural bushland setting in the Bush Capital.

4. How will the waterbirds be affected?

Cormorants and darters use trees overhanging the river for roosting and nesting. During October and November, Greening Australia undertook a bird survey of the treatment area to determine whether there would be any significant impact on bird



species such as darters, cormorants or birds of prey. The survey results found no nests of tree nesting waterbirds or raptors along the surveyed section of creek. While there will be some impact on some of the smaller bird species, most of these species are fairly common throughout other parts of the reserve and other reserves so there is not expected to be any significant impact.

5. Why is the work occurring at this site and are they being controlled anywhere else?

Willow removal is consistent with the Plan of Management for Jerrabomberra Wetlands Nature Reserve and the Lake Burley Griffin Willow Plan. Dense woody weeds are impacting the riparian zone and obstructing the views of the Jerrabomberra Creek.

The site was selected to continue work that commenced around 8 years ago to remove willows upstream of the bridge to the silt trap. This work also ties in with willow removal works that have taken place along the Molonglo River over the past few years.

6. What are the benefits of using native plants?

Native plant species have adapted to local soil and climate conditions and evolved with the local bird, mammal, butterfly and insect populations and are therefore their best source of food and habitat. These species will improve biodiversity and add to the local seed source.

7. When will the work take place?

The work will proceed until mid-2015.”

8. Will public access be restricted?

Some sections of the reserve and some bird hides will be closed for short periods of time whilst heavy machinery is working in the area. The cycle path is likely to remain open for the duration of the work.

9. Where can I get more information?

For more information call Canberra Connect on 13 22 81.