



Ruabon-Tutunup

Protecting threatened flora and fauna



Project Overview

Project Manager

Derani Sullivan

Project Duration

2011 to 2018

Key Partners

City of Busselton, Department of Parks and Wildlife and landholders

Key Achievements

- 104 ha weed control over five years
- 37,500 seedlings planted
- Three landholders directly engaged

Working in partnership with private landholders, the City of Busselton and the Department of Parks and Wildlife to protect and conserve vegetation along the Ruabon-Tutunup Rail Reserve.

The Rail Reserve is a locally and regionally significant biodiversity conservation area as it contains remnant populations of flora communities that have been heavily cleared throughout the South West.

The reserve contains two threatened ecological communities (TECs), eight threatened and 13 priority flora species and five threatened and one priority vertebrate fauna species.

Strategic work on the reserve is prioritised through a 'Technical Reference Group', which guides work undertaken along the Rail Reserve.



This project is supported by the South West Catchments Council, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme and Government of Western Australia.

swccnrm.org.au

On-ground action

Weed control

Weed invasion is a key threat to the endemic flora living in the corridor and reserve. Weed control has been undertaken along the rail reserve by a local contractor, targeting revegetation sites, roadsides, prescribed burn sites and wildfire sites, as well as targeting priority weeds along the length of the reserve. The main weeds controlled include African lovegrass, Arum lily, Babiana, Couch, Kikuyu and Watsonia.

Revegetation

Revegetation has been undertaken at a number of sites in order to improve the connectivity of remnant vegetation within the landscape, with over 37,500 seedlings planted by the Green Army, City of Busselton staff, private landholders and Bunbury Prison Work Crews.

Rabbit baiting

Rabbit baiting was undertaken in 2015 and 2016

by a local pest control contractor, in order to reduce rabbit populations along the rail reserve. Rabbit dung hills were selected and monitored before and after baiting, in areas that had the highest level of rabbit activity. One-Shot Oat baits were then laid at appropriate sites. Monitoring of the results showed that baiting had reduced rabbit populations by between 75%-85%.

Prescribed burning

Prescribed burning took place at two sites during 2015. The burning was undertaken after careful planning by members of the Technical Reference Group and local fire brigades. This was done in order to minimise the risk of a wildfire occurring and to protect private property.

Fencing

A total length of 2.2 kilometres of kangaroo-proof fencing was installed at a revegetation site where priority and endangered flora species had been translocated.

