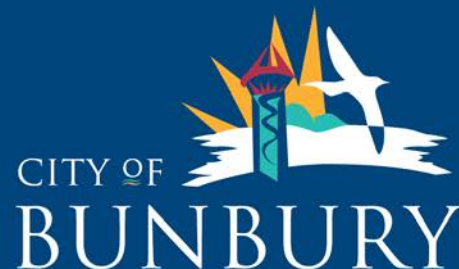


# MEDIA STATEMENT



Tuesday, 28 March 2017

## **Conservation project targets invasive weed tree**

An invasive weed tree that has taken hold in a local wetland is the focus of a joint conservation project between the City of Bunbury, Main Roads WA and the Bunbury Cemetery Board.

The project involves the removal of around one hectare of Sydney Golden Wattle (*Acacia longifolia*) from a wetland located at the south-east corner of the Bunbury Cemetery and from a road reserve along Craigie Street in Halifax.

Sydney Golden Wattle is native to parts of eastern Australia and is believed to have been introduced to Western Australia for shade, to stabilise soil and for ornamental purposes.

City of Bunbury Environmental Officer Colin Spencer said Sydney Golden Wattle could invade bushland areas where it quickly out-competes and replaces native plants, disrupting the native ecosystem.

“Once established, it is costly and difficult to remove,” Mr Spencer said. “Unfortunately it has become a very problematic weed in the Bunbury Geopraphe region.

“It is mostly spread by birds, which transfer the undigested seed from one area to another. It can often end up in residential gardens as well.

“Sydney Golden Wattle can drop thousands of seed per square metre which will sprout following a disturbance, especially fire.”

The project is expected to be completed by Friday (31 March) but monitoring of the site will continue to keep tabs on regrowth.

In the meantime, many of the trees that have been removed are being put to good use. Brush is being used to help stabilise dunes in areas such as Maidens Reserve, while some is also being turned into mulch that can be applied in a range of areas.

The final removal of the wattle from the cemetery site, however, does not mean an end to the battle against this invasive weed. Further information will be made to the public around August – when the tree flowers – about how to identify and remove the weed.

The joint conservation project between the City, MRWA and the Bunbury Cemetery Board, who have each contributed \$5000, has been made possible with \$22,200 of funding from the State Natural Resource Management Program, which is made possible by the State Government’s Royalties for Regions program.

Jamie Tatham, Communications Officer

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It builds on Main Roads' 2017 wattle control program, which has already delivered \$30,000 across the network from Bunbury to Myalup, Collie and Margret River and achieved substantial results in reducing the spread of this weed.

**ENDS**

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