

Green Army Projects - South Eastern Peninsula



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1 Introduction

This document provides a list of six potential Green Army projects in the South Eastern Peninsula of the Eastern Suburbs, Sydney NSW.

The list has been prepared by Friends of Malabar Headland for the information of:

- Hon. Greg Hunt, Opposition Spokesman for Climate Action, Environment and Heritage
- Senator Bill Heffernan
- Professor Michael Feneley, endorsed Liberal Party candidate for Kingsford-Smith

1.1 Potential projects

The potential projects are:

- Weed removal, creek stabilisation and ground preparation, South Eastern Equestrian Club site, Matraville
- Bitou bush removal, bush regeneration and park creation, Little Bay Beach North at the site of the Male Lazaret (leper colony)
- Bitou bush and lantana removal behind Little Congwong beach
- Bitou bush and lantana removal, Happy Valley, La Perouse
- Removal of drift plastic and glass, Curwee Cove
- Bitou bush removal, reserved bushland areas Prince Henry north and south

Descriptions of each project follow, under the headings:

- Project summary
- Location / Site Description
- Activities
- Outcomes
- Suitability – Technical
- Suitability – Workplace Health and Safety

1.2 Key principles

First do no harm

The projects need to be planned, executed and completed so that they do not cause harm to the environment.

For example if a project removes dense invasive species vegetation from steep land, but leaves the slope bare, erosion may follow resulting in a worse outcome than if the vegetation had been left intact.

Supervision is critical

Harm to the environment, injury to workers, hazards created for the public and poor project execution can all occur if the inexperienced workers are not effectively supervised.

The three Ss of outdoor work by inexperienced teams must be observed:

Supervision, Supervision, and Supervision

Completion

For the satisfaction of the workers and to ensure quality outcomes, projects must be scoped to a size that can be completed with the allocated resources in the available time.

It is better to complete a small project than to leave a large project half done.

Learnings

As well as offering benefits to the community it is important that the workers are able to learn work skills and also gain broader understanding of the physical environment, the environmental challenges that confront it and solutions to those challenges.

2 Projects

2.1 Site Preparation South Eastern Equestrian Club Matrville

Project summary

Prepare a paddock for equestrian activity and agistment of horses.

Location / Site Description

A flat paddock of crown land bounded by Franklin and Wasell Streets Matrville has been allocated for use by the South Eastern Equestrian Club following their eviction from Malabar Headland.



Large areas of weed infestation (bitou, lantana, castor oil plant) remain along the boundaries and the course of the creek that crosses the paddock from north to south.

The creek is poorly defined and contains a lot of litter.

The pasture is in poor condition with extensive weed infestation.

Activities

Remove large weeds (bitou, lantana, cast oil plant)

Clean out creek, construct crossing points and define its course where appropriate.

Outcomes

A suitable site for equestrian activities of the South Eastern Equestrian Club and agistment of their horses.

Suitability – Technical

A great deal can be achieved without the use of mechanical equipment and herbicides.

There is easy access from Franklin and Wasell Streets.

Suitability – Workplace Health and Safety

The site is flat and offers good visibility.

Mechanical equipment and herbicides need not used, and the hazards they present can therefore be avoided.

2.2 Park creation Little Bay north

Project summary

Bitou and Lantana removal, planting of suitable native species and creation of park facilities to create a public park on the former site of the Coast Hospital male lazaret (leper colony) at the northern end of Little Bay.

Location / Site Description

The site of the former male lazaret at the northern end of Little Bay runs along both banks of a creek that flows to the northern end of Little Bay.

The site is bare in places and elsewhere infested with invasive species. The infestations are quite dense and tall along the course of the creek.



Activities

- Remove large weeds (primarily bitou lantana, castor oil plant) and European trees and native trees not native to the area.
- Clean out creek and construct crossing points.
- Plant suitable native species.
- Construct park facilities such as seats and picnic areas.

Outcomes

A public park and green space adjacent to Little Bay.

Suitability – Technical

A great deal can be achieved without the use of mechanical equipment and herbicides.

Access is by foot and the site is also accessible by small vehicles.

Suitability – Workplace Health and Safety

The site is not flat but has no significant height risks. It is clear of the safety template of The Coast golf course.

Visibility is generally good except in areas of dense vegetation until they are cleared.

Mechanical equipment and herbicides need not used, and the hazards they present can therefore be avoided.

Care would need to be exercised in dense undergrowth and when removing trees.

2.3 Bitou bush and lantana removal behind Little Congwong beach

Project summary

Bitou and to a lesser extent lantana are spreading inexorably through the steep hillsides behind Little Congwong Beach. This presents a major threat to the diverse native vegetation of this Botany Bay National Park land.

Location / Site Description

To the east of Little Congwong beach the land rises steeply towards the News South Wales Golf Club. The bush is reasonably dense but is traversed by formal and informal tracks running north-south and east-west.



Activities

Removal of bitou bush, lantana and other weed species.

Outcomes

High quality bushland within Botany Bay National Park freed from infestations of bitou and lantana. The work would deliver significant biodiversity outcomes and visual outcomes for visitors.

Suitability – Technical

All work can be done without the use of mechanical equipment and herbicides.

There are convenient road approaches to the north and east of the site. Site access is by foot along formal and informal tracks that are steep in places.

Suitability – Workplace Health and Safety

The site is steep and workers could lose their footing. However there is little risk of dangerous falls.

The exception is the cliff areas above Little Congwong beach where significant height risks exist and professional risk assessment and control of the working at height hazards would be required.

Visibility is limited due to the density of the vegetation.

Mechanical equipment and herbicides need not used, and the hazards they present can therefore be avoided.

Care would need to be exercised in dense undergrowth and on steep slopes.

2.4 Bitou bush and lantana removal Happy Valley La Perouse

Project summary

Bitou and to a lesser extent lantana have overwhelmed Happy Valley, an important historic site behind Congwong Beach at La Perouse. As well as obliterating the cultural heritage of the site, the invasive species present a major threat to the adjacent native vegetation of Botany Bay National Park land.

Location / Site Description

To the north of Congwong beach the land rises gently towards the access road to Cape Banks and the New South Wales Golf Club. The bush is dense and not traversed by tracks. A creek flows from north to south through the centre of the site and enters the sea at the eastern end of Congwong beach.



Activities

Removal of bitou bush, lantana and other weed species.

Outcomes

High quality bushland freed from infestations of bitou and lantana. The work would deliver significant biodiversity outcomes and historic and visual outcomes for visitors.

Suitability – Technical

All work can be done without the use of mechanical equipment and herbicides.

There are convenient road approaches to the north and west of the site (Anzac Parade and Cape Banks Road). Site access is by foot from these road approaches.

Suitability – Workplace Health and Safety

The site is relatively flat.

Visibility is limited due to the density of the vegetation.

Mechanical equipment and herbicides need not be used, and the hazards they present can therefore be avoided.

Care would need to be exercised in dense undergrowth.

2.5 Removal of drift plastic and glass Curwee Cove

Project summary

Curwee Cove a remote and picturesque beach near Cape Banks (northern entrance to Botany Bay) is heavily contaminated with drift plastic. The plastic enters Botany Bay via the Georges and Cooks Rivers, drifts towards the Pacific Ocean and is blown onto Curwee Cove by south and south westerly winds.

Plastic containers and objects and to a lesser extent glass bottles accumulate in large quantities on the beach and its immediate hinterland of coastal scrub.

Location / Site Description

Curwee Cove is on the inshore side of Cape Banks within Botany Bay National Park. The beach is surrounded by steep land.



Activities

Collection of plastic and glass in bags for removal and recycling.

Outcomes

Clean up of a beach and inter-tidal marine environment that has outstanding scenic and ecological values.

Suitability – Technical

All work can be done without the use of mechanical equipment.

Arrangements would need to be made to collect bags of rubbish from a suitable point on the New South Wales Golf Club access track for electric golf carts and light ground care vehicles.

Suitability – Workplace Health and Safety

The collection poses no significant hazards. Care would need to be exercised lifting the bags of rubbish and removing them up the steep hillsides to a collection point.

2.6 Bitou bush removal reserved bushland areas Prince Henry

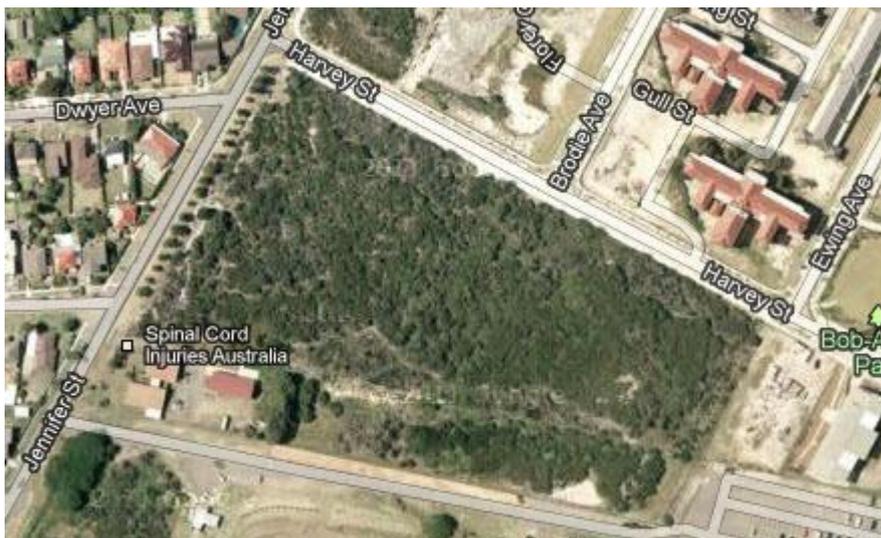
Project summary

Areas of crown land bushland on the Prince Henry site have been reserved because of the outstanding quality of the bush. These sites areas are becoming progressively infested with bitou bush.

Location / Site Description

The sites are flat parcels of land protected by fences:

- bounded by Gubbuteh Road and Walters Drive (north) and Anzac Parade (west)
- bounded by Harvey Street (north) and Jennifer Street (west)



Activities

Removal of bitou bush, lantana and other weed species

Outcomes

High quality bushland freed from infestations of bitou and lantana. The work would deliver significant biodiversity outcomes and protect land that has been reserved because of its ecological value.

Suitability – Technical

All work can be done without the use of mechanical equipment and herbicides.

Access is by foot from the adjacent roads.

Suitability – Workplace Health and Safety

The site is relatively flat.

Visibility is limited due to the density of the vegetation.

Mechanical equipment and herbicides need not used, and the hazards they present can therefore be avoided.

Care would need to be exercised in dense undergrowth.

3 Duration of Projects

The following table offers a rough estimate of the time required to complete each of the projects. Assumptions are:

- 9 trainees per project
- project duration of 25 weeks
- up to 100 days on site per trainee
- allowing for bad weather and trainee absences, 90 days worked on site per trainee
- 9 persons × 90 days worked = 810 person days on site per 25 week project

Project	Days duration
Weed removal, creek stabilisation and ground preparation, South Eastern Equestrian Club site, Matraville	150
Bitou bush removal, bush regeneration and park creation, Little Bay Beach North at the site of the Male Lazaret (leper colony)	175
Bitou bush and lantana removal behind Little Congwong beach	175
Bitou bush and lantana removal, Happy Valley, La Perouse	200
Removal of drift plastic and glass, Curwee Cove	50
Bitou bush removal, reserved bushland areas Prince Henry north and south	60
Total	810

It is therefore possible to view all the projects as sub-projects of one overall project. This configuration would offer:

- a variety of work giving the trainees a range of experiences and the opportunity to acquire a number of skills
- a variety of work that will assist trainees to maintain their level of interest
- flexibility to move trainees from one task to another as required in view of weather, availability of tools and materials, temporary site access restrictions etc.