

## Ocean Beach Trail Montpellier Broom Weeding Plan

**Aim:** To control, and eventually eradicate Montpellier Broom in the vicinity of the Ocean Beach Trail

### Weed Status:

- Montpellier broom (*Genista monspessulana*) is a medium-sized shrub in the legume family, and can be identified by its trifoliate leaves and bright yellow flowers.
- Montpellier broom is a declared weed in Tasmania, and is a Weed of National Significance. It is capable of completely transforming a landscape that it invades.

### Management Considerations:

- Montpellier broom is only spread significant distances through soil disturbance and machinery, so it is expected that the weeds along Ocean Beach Trail haven't spread a large distance away from the trail.
- It is expected that the Montpellier broom seedbank along the trail is significant, and seedlings will continue to emerge for multiple years after the initial weeding. Continuing follow-up work needs to occur to ensure effective control.
- The weeds present at this time are a variety of ages, with many plants being able to be hand-pulled, and many requiring herbicide application.
- At this time, no herbicide spraying is planned, and all herbicide application will be through cutting and pasting of cut stumps using the herbicide Vigilant.

### 5 Year Plan:

- **2021:** Through a series of working bees all currently germinated Montpellier broom will be removed before the plants go to seed (Late October).
  - **Working Bee 1:** Survey of broom in the car park and along the trail (6th August 2021)
  - **Working Bee 2:** Weeding in the car park area (20th of August 2021)
  - **Working Bee 3:** Weeding the far western section (Large infestation) \*10th of October 2021)
  - **Working Bee 4:** Weeding along the track, excluding the far western section (23rd of October 2021)

- **2022 to 2025:** A survey will be carried out early to mid-year to assess the state of Montpellier broom along the track. One or more weeding working bees will occur to pull out new broom growth if it is deemed appropriate. Montpellier broom on the nearby section of Ocean Beach Road may also need to be dealt with.

#### **General Procedure of Initial Working Bees:**

- Safety briefing and briefing of general plan for the day
- Groups of 2 to 3 will be formed.
- Each group will have a person operating a phone with a map of waypoints, and will direct their group to GPS waypoints on the map and read the waypoint notes to the group.
- Group members will target largest, flowering plants first, hand-pulling where possible, otherwise using the cut and paste method on the larger plants using Vigilant herbicide gel.
  - If the number of small, non-flowering, plants at a waypoint is excessive (50+), the focus should be solely on removing the larger plants for the time being.
- Each person will keep track of how many plants they have pulled/poisoned, rounding to the nearest 10.
- After all weeds are removed at a waypoint, the group will scout the general area for any plants that may have been missed, and the waypoint will then be marked as complete and the number of plants removed will be recorded

#### **Safety Notes:**

- All volunteers will wear thick gloves, wear long pants and sturdy boots.
- Volunteers must take caution to avoid skin contact with poison, and hands must be thoroughly washed with provided soap and water before work breaks.