



This is a **nudge** on weeds and their management for those might not think they are much to do with your business and services.

Weeds are everywhere, and have a significant impact on the Tasmanian environment and economy.



This one is serrated tussock and we have an eradication project underway for two small infestations in Break O'Day

For a sheep this grass costs more in energy and nutrition to digest than it gets from it.

On the eastern shore of Hobart it and its cousin Nassella grasses have become a significant drama to control as infested paddocks get subdivided and built on.



Gorse you would know.

Seeds viable in the soil for 20-30 years



Pampas grass

Seeds spread for kilometres by wind.



Patersons curse – another ag weed, poisonous to livestock

Cases of spread associated with 'landfill' dumping of soil and wastes



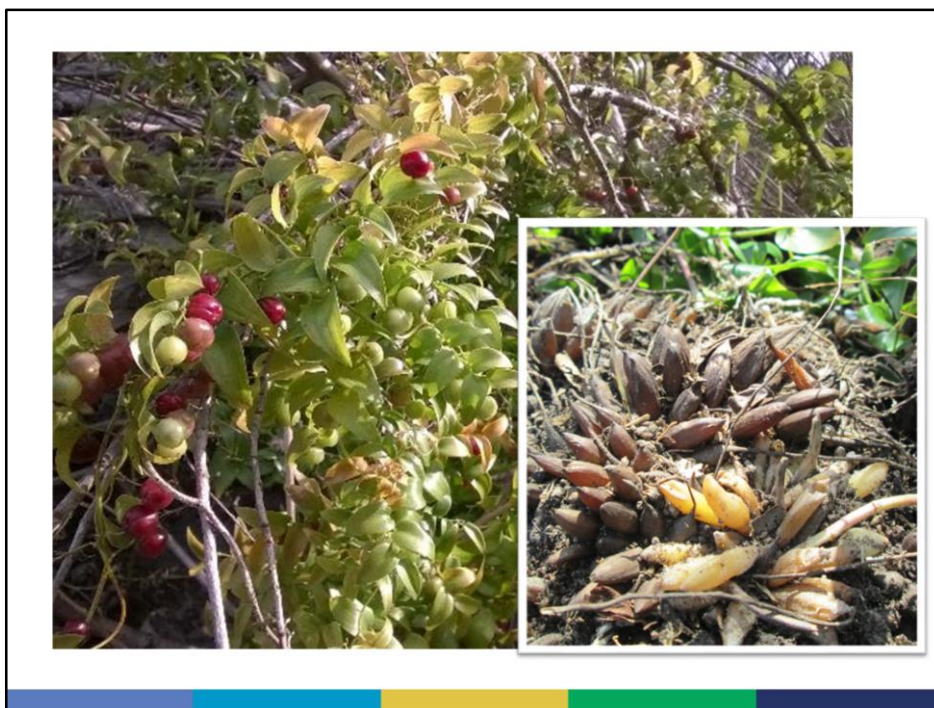
Spanish heath

So easily spread by machinery, slashing and on shoes and clothing. And flowers early so laden with seed at the end of winter.



Boneseed

Berries spread by birds and easy to pull out



Bridal creeper – this one found on dumped soil heap

Spread by birds and the 'landmine' of perennial tubers it grows from in the soil, which are easily scattered and spread by digging.



Datura, or thorn apple

This poisonous 'deadly nightshade' species has long lived seeds

Cases of spread locally in soil supplied for top-dressing and landfill.



Weed Management Act 1999

An Act to provide for the control and eradication of declared weeds and to promote a strategic and sustainable approach to weed management



They are all Declared Weeds under the Weed Management Act

We are all legally obliged to not spread them, including transporting seeds or growing parts in soil, green waste or on vehicles.

Land holders are obliged to control them on their land.



Weeds have no regard for property boundaries and just love it when we don't get our act together.

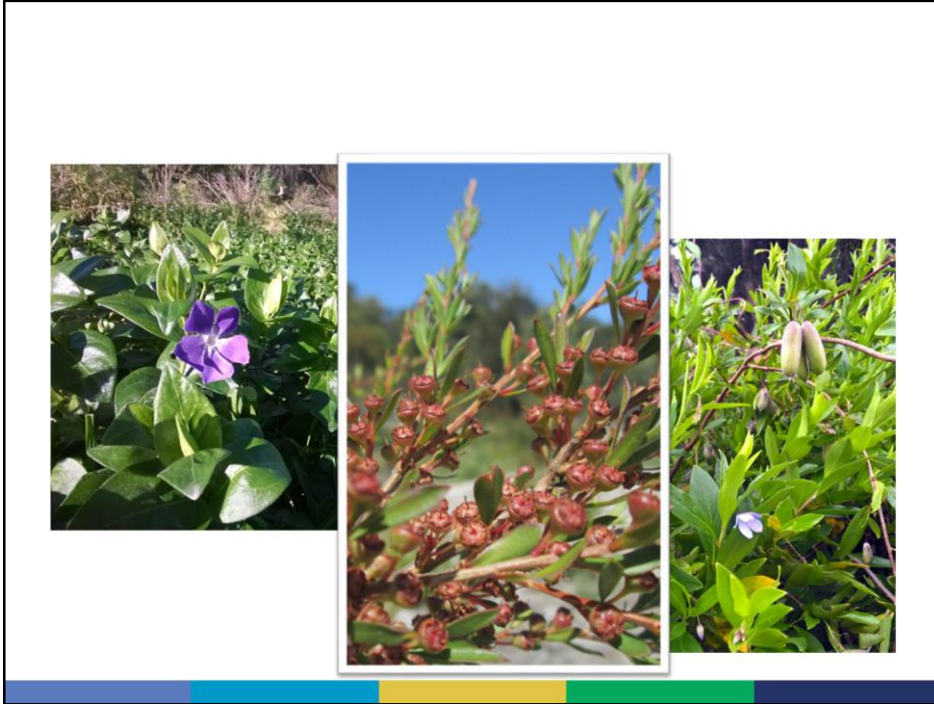
The key to controlling them is to have a plan, over the years it will take, and don't let up – follow-up, follow-up, follow-up



You might recognise this bit of land.

The gorse has been swept up and heaped many times over the years. And it has changed hands many times too.

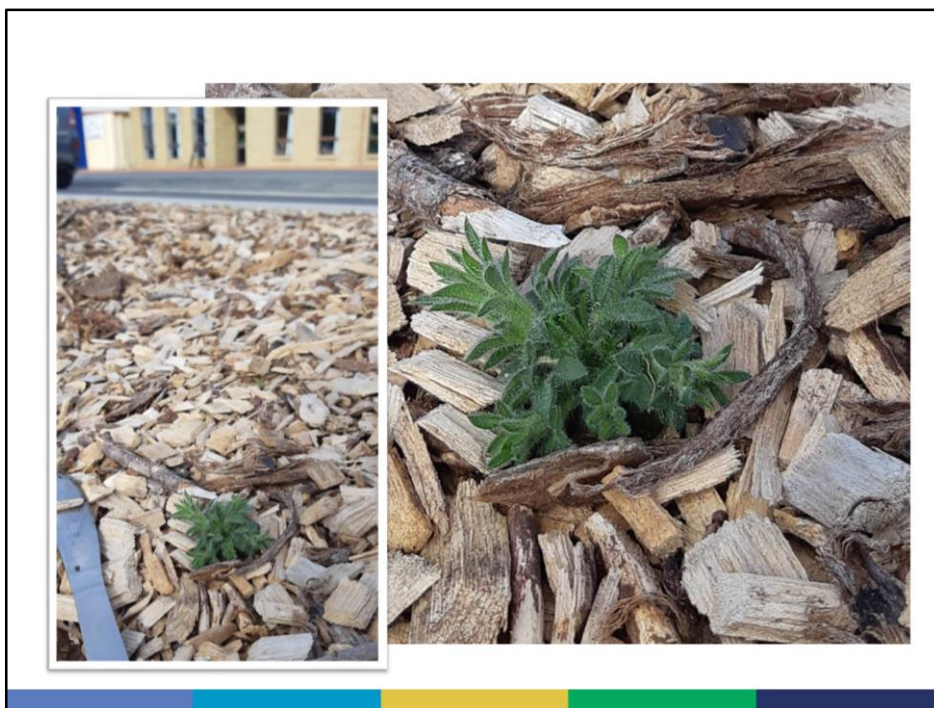
The 2 decade min. problem of controlling this gorse may be part of the reason for the property churn.



There are also 'Environmental' weeds that are not 'Declared' but are a priority in Break O'Day

Blue periwinkle, bugran (*Kunzea ericoides*), blue bell creeper

And annoying quarry and pasture weeds, like cape weed and Parramatta grass.



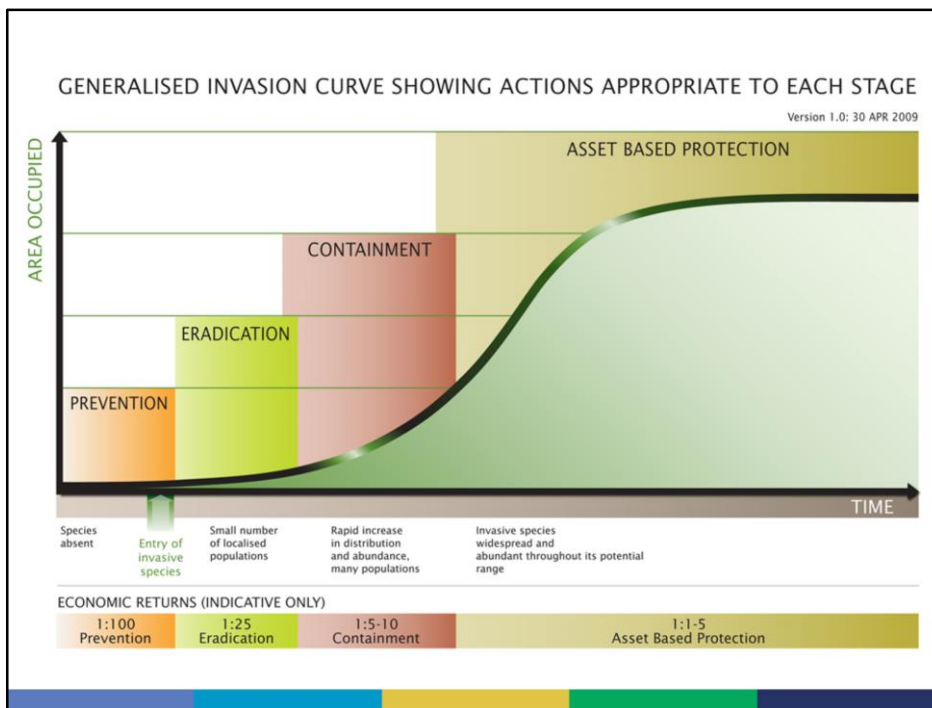
Do you recognise this weed?

Or where it is?



Its gorse in St Helens CBD

From soil imported, by Council.

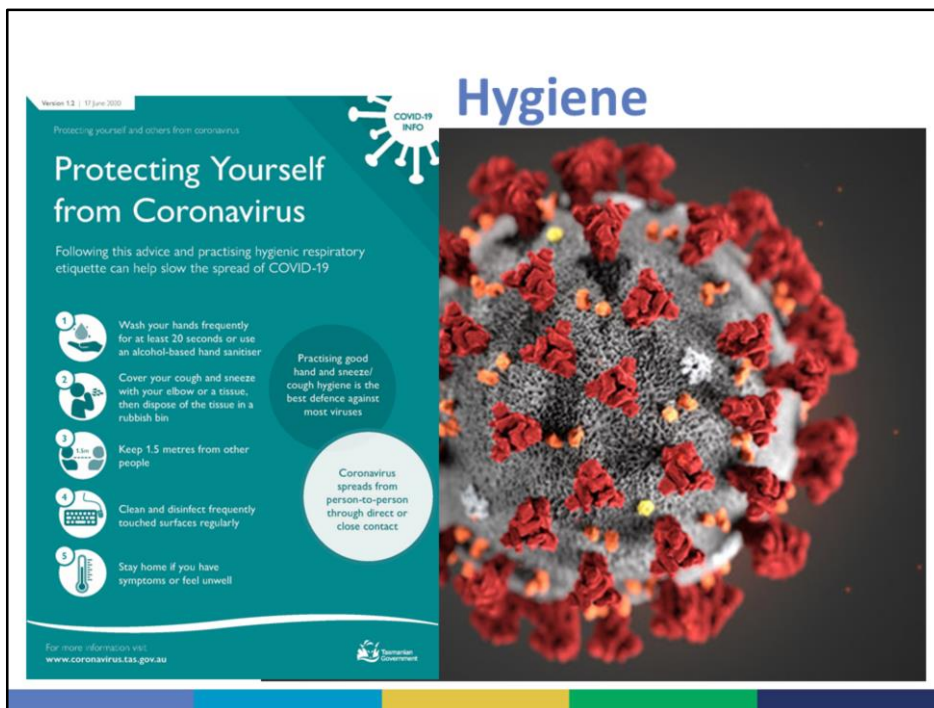


Act early

Prevention and quick eradication are the strategies for least cost and impact.

There are 2 things to do for that –

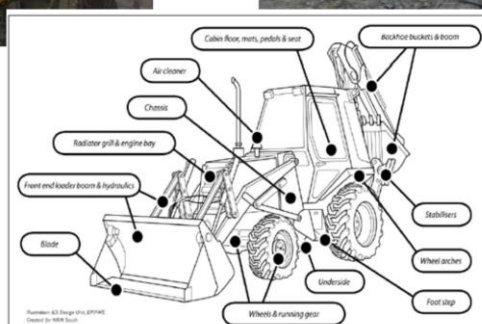
1. Don't ignore weeds - on the property or development site and act on new introductions and discoveries.
2. And weed hygiene



We all know about Hygiene now

- We assess the risks of a situation
- If we see symptoms we isolate
- And take steps to protect each other and reduce spread and impacts

Weed Hygiene



Weeds spread with soil and materials, machinery and vehicles, feet and clothing

- Proactive hygiene saves everyone time and money
- Know your foe – local weeds and priorities, weeds on and not on the site, what the risky ones are
- Plan, apply and monitor weed hygiene controls for the project – people, machinery, materials, handling and storage
- Most of all clean equipment, people and materials: wash-down machinery and people - coming in and going out.
- Refuse weedy soil and gravels and dirty machinery and vehicles.



The new Biosecurity Act is changing things a bit

It is rolling out gradually to replace the Weeds Act and others.

From April last year a *General Biosecurity Duty* came into force.

General Biosecurity Duty

Any person dealing with plants or animals (or their derived products) who knows, or reasonably ought to know, that a biosecurity risk is posed, or is likely to be posed, has a legal duty to ensure that the risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised so far as is reasonably practicable.

- Legal duty of care.
- Any person, organisation, business
- Plants or animals
- Know (or ought to) a risk is likely
- Take reasonable practical steps to prevent, eliminate or minimize.

- It means taking reasonable steps – on weeds – including knowing about them and acting on the risks
- Emphasises shared responsibility
- Don't have to be a biosecurity expert, just know about your business and biosecurity (weed) risks and take reasonable steps

Meeting your GBD obligations will help protect your business, our primary industries and the Tasmanian environment from biosecurity risks.