VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AT THOMAS HOGAN RESERVE

WAVERLEY COUNCIL

Council's Vegetation Management Plan for Thomas Hogan Reserve aims to:

- Assist in Council's long-term management in providing public recreational spaces to meet the expectation of the community
- Conserve, enhance and re-establish a diverse native vegetation structure in the park
- Conserve and enhance the plantings of likely heritage significance
- Establish a long-term, ecologically diverse native viable ecosystem, especially on the highly-erodible slopes which:
  - Contains and continually reduces weeds in the park
  - Maintains and enhances slope stability
  - Creates high quality habitat for a wide range of avian species

Trees to be removed

The Vegetation Management Plan outlines a process for the revegetation of the reserve, including the recommendation of trees to be removed. Qualified professional arborists have assessed all the trees in the reserve based on a variety of variables, including the 'safe useful life expectancy' (SULE) which calculates the expected life of the tree before becoming a safety issue, for example, safe from limb drop or structural integrity failures.

The Plan provides a priority list for the removal of trees based on whether trees pose a risk. This will be progressively addressed. Weeds may continue to germinate from the soil seed bank and/or from bird seed drop, but are unlikely to thrive once native vegetation is re-established with nutrient cycling factors addressed. Without addressing the adverse factors such as weeds and the weed dominant nutrient cycling, the existing slope instability and weed dominance is expected to continue.

What are Camphor Laurels?

Camphor Laurel is a highly invasive evergreen tree that is considered a weed according to NSW WeedWise.

Why are Camphor Laurels considered a weed?

- They have a tendency to form single species communities and exclude most other tree species, including desirable native vegetation
- They have a competitive advantage over native vegetation because they establish and grow easily
- As they can invade an area, they deprive many birds and animals of their natural food supply
- They have prolific seed production which birds and other fauna feed on, and then germinate readily
- They have a very dense, shallow root system which, when accompanied by the shading provided by the canopy, suppresses the regeneration of native seedlings
- Their root structure can also cause serious damage to concrete structures and block drains
- The costs of controlling, treating and resourcing them in the long term is high
- They are mildly toxic to humans, and mild symptoms may occur if large quantities are eaten
- All parts of the plant are poisonous and can cause nausea, vomiting and respiratory distress

- Allergic skin reactions can also occur

Get involved and help revegetate Waverley

Join the growing number of locals who are improving our beautiful coastal reserves and bushland to encourage local plant and wildlife populations to thrive by joining Waverley's Bushcare group. Sign up today at waverley.nsw.gov.au/community/connected_waverley/volunteering

Find out more at NSW Weedwise