

Case Study

Rubber Vine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*) Control

Marvin Deicke, Whitsunday

Marvin Deicke operates a cattle property of 4200 hectares in the Whitsunday catchment. The property has rubber vine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*) infestations which range from scattered plants across the flats to impenetrable thickets in creek lines. The majority of infestations and the thickest infestations occur along the Gregory River and the many tributaries and drainage lines leading into the river. The Queensland state rubber vine containment line intersects the property creating extra priority for control of this Class 2 Declared weed.

Whitsunday Catchment Landcare was able to offer Marvin assistance through the Rubber Vine Project funded by Reef Catchments Mackay Whitsunday. With this offer targeting riparian or non-productive areas of the property, Marvin was keen to instigate control efforts. The project provided materials and a Whitsunday Catchment Landcare Project Officer which were matched by labour contributed by Marvin and a property employee.

The project was also able to attract partner contributions from the Whitsunday Weed Partnership Project funded by Whitsunday Regional Council. This added to the project through technical input from the council Pest Management Officer as well as further on-ground assistance.

A number of intensive control days have been held. Small to medium plants were basal sprayed or cut-stumped with machetes and the recommended rates of Access and diesel. Medium and large sized plants were cut stumped with machetes or a chainsaw.



Medium density infestation of rubber vine



Rubber Vine being basal bark sprayed by landholder

Marvin has been able to treat 19 hectares of rubber vine infestation. These infestations would have been virtually inaccessible to a lone land manager. A small group of people pooling resources and using the right equipment has enabled control in previously uncontrolled areas.

In addition to the treated rubber vine, Marvin and his staff are now well trained and well-practiced in best practice control techniques. A pest management plan has been put in place for the property to guide control, with short term goals including prevention of the spread of rubber vine to neighbouring properties and reducing the concentration of rubber vine on the listed lands. Long term goals include eradication from the listed land and a gradual removal of rubber vine northward to the containment line.