

GS00201 Carrs Bush Restoration Stage 1

Final Report May 2018

The work on the ground has gone very well, with all work this year being secondary clearing. The focus has been privet, honeysuckle, Ochna, bridle creeper and blackberry. This work has been carried out by the contractor National Trust and by Landcare volunteers. All revised objectives have been achieved. Although the original expectations and further work is halted, the project has had a significant beneficial effect on Carrs Bush and sets the scene for further work to remove privet and avoid contaminating the improved site.

At the start of this final year, the **original project plan was altered** by instruction from the representative of the land manager Hornsby Council, whereby 7% of the original area was retained as privet islands. However, an additional 7% area F1 contiguous with the original area has been substituted as per the Project Variation Request signed 17 March 2017 and the revised project map. The original intention to plant 2280 plants of local provenance to expedite shading to minimise privet regrowth was also changed by Council resulting in only 543 plantings for protection of borders.

A potential **Stage 2 project**, originally proposed to eliminate the final area of heavy privet, will not occur due to Council's current direction to retain privet canopy. As a consequence, Landcare maintenance for a further 5 years will not occur. However some maintenance by Landcare volunteers will continue to some degree dependant on the Council strategic plan for Carrs Bush, which is expected to be available in 6 months time.

Monitoring and evaluation May 2018

Work requirement priorities are specified to the contractor National Trust, who has done a good job inside the fence. National Trust has provided **activity reports** with hours, areas covered, weed treatment and locations: Refer to Attachment 1. Landcare volunteer work over the last 11 months was mainly outside the fence and coordinated with the contractor.

May 2018 **monitoring photos** are attached numbered 1 to 9 as indicated in the original photo location map Attachment 2 and the photo date history Attachment 3. Brief comments:

Photo 1: Whiskey grass and privet gone and log border installed

Photo 2: Privet on left removed but on right has grown due to privet island retention

Photo 3: Privet gone

Photos 4, 5 & 7: Privet gone, some regeneration

Photo 6: privet gone, foreground Doodia expanding, privet island in background

Photo 8: privet and fishbone gone, some regeneration

Photo 9: Blackberry, privet and bridle creeper gone, silt fence installed to exclude weeds, 500 blady grass planted as border

In-kind contribution targets have been exceeded overall and met or exceeded in five out of 6 targets. The exception, Bushcare hours shortfall, has been more than balanced by additional on-ground Landcare hours. (Attachment 4)

Council has continued to meet its contract labour target. (Attachment 4)

Community contribution targets have all been met or exceeded: CB 1.1, 1.11,1.4, 2.1,2.11, 5.3GS, 5.4GS. The planting target was revised by Council. (Attachment 4)

On-ground targets OG 1.2, 2.31, 3.3, 3.31, 3.4, 7.1, 8.1, 8.11 have all been met, although some area substitution occurred as required by Council. (Attachment 4)

Amount of funding expended: \$33653.73 (Original grant: \$39930, minus revision refund \$6316 = \$33614, plus interest accrued of \$68.10)

Amount of in-kind contributions: \$96995 (exceeded Target \$89300)

Attachment 5: Financial summary for FY16 & FY17 (in 5a), FY18 & Total (in 5b)

Attachment 6: Invoice listing from National Trust

Attachment 7: In-kind Hour and Financial Summary

Attachment 8: FY18 Landcare Diary

Issued by:

Christopher Noon, Secretary, Still Creek Landcare

29 May 2018