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| **Victorian Gorse Taskforce****Annual Report for on ground projects**  |
| 1. **REPORTING PERIOD**
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| Financial Year: 2015/16 |
| 1. **GROUP NAME**
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| Upper Campaspe Landcare Network (UCLN)**Campaspe Landcare Network** |
| 1. **PROJECT TITLE**

Gorse control- post Black Hill fire (Lightning strike 7th January 2015) |
| 1. **Contact details** *(name, address and telephone number)*
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| Project Manager: | Brendan Smith 500 Central Rd Kyneton 3444Ph 0429 199 890 |
| 1. **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**
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| \* Gorse control works in targeted private land paddock areas over approximately 8 hectares\* Gorse control to remove a threatening process/ control harbour/ encourage native vegetation/ protect grazing production\* Project involves private land areas with an emphasis on controlling resprouting Gorse burnt in the Black Hill fire\* Herbicide control is proposed methodology- foliar spray application once burnt Gorse plants have regrown sufficient leaf material to absorb chemical\* Complements work by other groups in the same district with Gorse control issues\* Objective is to protect assets of biodiversity and agricultural production and reduce impact of regionally controlled weed\* Varying Gorse densities in the works area and mostly fall into reduction zone category \* Program target is: Control\* Funding will be distributed over areas that will have greatest effect on controlling Gorse and preventing re-infestation following hot fire\* Assessment made of Gorse priority following fire has been made using weed prioritisation formula- assessment level gives Gorse in this Black Hill fire area a high priority (VBRA) |
| 1. **PROGRESS** *(key activities undertaken and a measure of completion. Add more rows if needed)*
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| Activity | Measure*(e.g. area treated, contractors engaged)* | Status*Completed (date) / In Progress* |
| 1. | No of introduction letters sent? | *Seven*  | *completed* |
| 2. | No of signed Voluntary Landholder Agreements? | *seven* | *completed* |
| 3. | No of properties that have undertaken gorse control? | *seven* | *completed* |
| 4. | Hectares of gorse controlled? | 8ha in paddocks | *completed* |
| 5. | Community awareness events? e.g media releases, promotional signs, field days. | Landcare meetings | *completed* |
| 6. | VGT funding $$ spent-on ground incentives? | $4000+ | *completed* |
| 7. | VGT funding $$ spent-facilitation costs? | 0 |  |
| **COMMENTS (please include 100 to 500 words about your project. This is used in the Victorian Gorse Taskforce Annual Report):** |
| An assessment was made of Gorse priority following fire using a weed prioritisation formula- assessment level gives Gorse in this Black Hill fire area a high priority (VBRA). This assessment was carried out with Langley landcare members. Funding was distributed over areas that was projected to have greatest effect on controlling Gorse and preventing re-infestation following hot fire. This work complements work by other groups in the same district with Gorse control issues; Langley landcare had the extra issue of dealing with Gorse regrowth following a fire at Black Hill and surrounding private agricultural land.Herbicide control was methodology used- foliar spray application onto recovering burnt Gorse plants once the plants had regrown sufficient leaf material to absorb chemical was the approach taken in consultation with Langley landcare. During the program other Gorse patches (i.e. unburnt Gorse patches) were sprayed as part of the strategy to control Gorse in this area.Interest in the project is ongoing; Langley landcare made herbicide, dye and surfactant available to the project as a contribution to spread the project further. Other landholders have expressed interest in the project as well so this could be the beginning of a sustained control program. |
| 1. **PHOTO POINT MONITORING (Include before and after photo examples of the work undertaken during your project. Please include details of where and when the photos were taken and the author. Please email these separately from this report)**
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| 1. **ISSUES, OPPORTUNITIES & EMERGING RISKS** *(for reporting period)*
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| ISSUES (include any compliance related issues with non-cooperative landholders here):A very dry summer and autumn delayed works implementation and spray works did not begin until late autumn- that’s still okay but results are slower to become apparent at that time of year. Works were delayed as plants under stress do not readily absorb chemical so it was best to wait until some rain had eased conditions.ANY FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES?Some people expressed interest in the project after spraying had started and works had been planned- this may be accommodated for in future times. |