

Mt Dundas Regional Reserve

Gorse control program for the Queensbury Mine Track — 2002/2003

Queensbury Mine Track

The Queensbury Mine Track is located in Mt Dundas Regional Reserve, a reserve declared in 1999 as part of the Regional Forest Agreement. The track commences on the southern side of the Henty Road approximately ten kilometres from Zeehan.

Queensbury Mine has a long history of mining, with adits and old mining equipment still evident at the site. Further evidence of the mining history of the site is the gorse plants growing along the track and at the mine site.

Gorse

Gorse, *Ulex europaeus*, is a perennial evergreen shrub endemic to western Europe. Gorse was introduced to Australia 150 years ago. It is now a very common plant in Tasmania, growing in most environmental conditions from dry coastal heath to damp sclerophyll forest. It is especially invasive in areas of disturbed and/or infertile ground.

Gorse is designated as a weed of National Significance in the National Weed Strategy, and is declared a “Secondary Weed” under the Noxious Weeds Act 1964.

Gorse Infestation at the Queensbury Mine Site

The gorse infestation at Queensbury Mine can be divided into several zones (Figure 1)

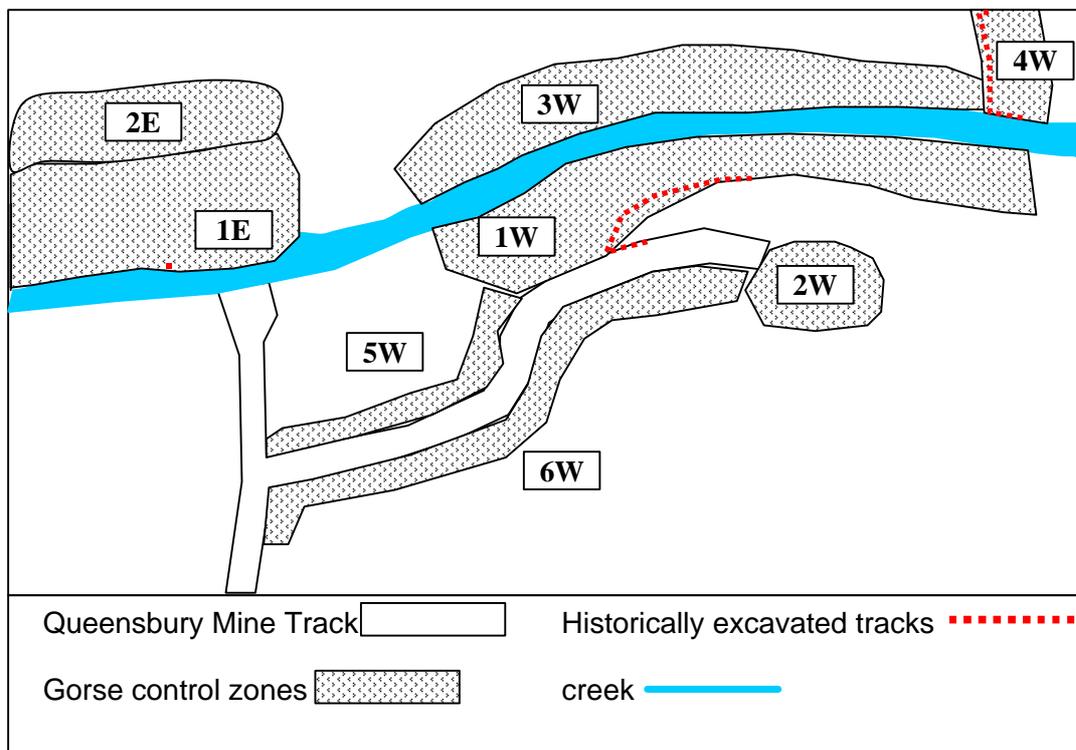


Figure 1: Gorse Control Zones at the Queensbury Mine Site

Zone	Description	Control Sched.
1W	Raised mound between the trench and the creek	2001/02
2W	Hill slope at the end of the western branch of the QMT	2002/03
3W	Southern side of the river, between the river and the wet forest	2001/02
4W	At the western end of Zone 3W, follows an old cleared track	2003/04
5W	Bounds the downslope side of the western branch of the QMT	2003/04
6W	Bounds the upslope side of the western branch of the QMT	2003/04
1E	At the end of the eastern branch of the QMT, between the creek and higher elevated land. Follows the old cleared tracks	2001/02
2E	On the high elevated land between Zone 2E and the wet forest	2002/03

2002/2003 pre-control inspection

An inspection undertaken prior to the 2002/03 financial year gorse control program detected the following:

Zone	Description
1W	Majority of the gorse cleared from this zone. Some regrowth from cut stems. Cut gorse is piled in an old excavated trench (Figure 2)
2W	Gorse sprayed in 2000/01 financial year control program dead and left standing. Dense gorse seedling growth (Figure 3)
3W	Dense gorse growth. UNTREATED (Figure 3)
4W	Very dense gorse growth extending along an old track. UNTREATED (Figure 3)
5W	Gorse sprayed in 2000/01 financial year control program dead and left standing.
6W	Gorse sprayed in 2000/01 financial year control program dead and left standing.
1E	Majority of the gorse cleared from this zone. Some regrowth from cut stems
2E	Some gorse growth. PARTIALLY TREATED

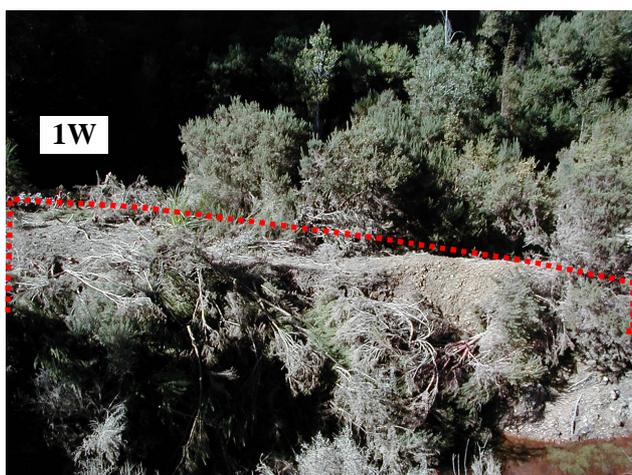


Figure 2: Gorse Control Zone 1W

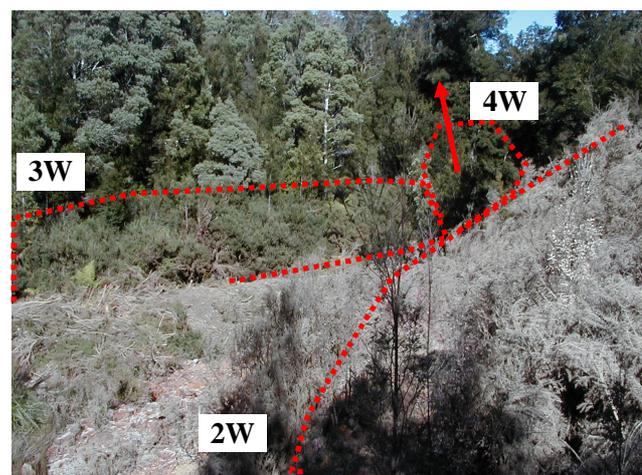


Figure 3: Gorse Control Zones 2W, 3W, 4W

2002/2003 Gorse Control Program

The Gorse control in the 2002/3 financial year concentrated mainly on zone 3W on the basis that these would be the plants most likely to spread their seeds downstream.

The control program was completed by two separate weed control groups:

- Parks and Wildlife Service Trackworkers
- Private contractors – Earth Support Services

At the completion of the 2002/3 financial year control program the gorse in zones 1W, 2W and 3W (Figures 5 and 6) was cut and painted and the dead plants piled in the old excavated trench for burning.

Gorse seedlings have sprouted on all control zones. Literature suggests that it can be allowed to grow for 2 years before requiring control.

Budget expenditure for the 2002/2003 Gorse Control Program

Item	Cost
Consumables (pesticide, safety gear, etc)	\$1000
labour	\$4000
	\$5000

Proposed 2003/2004 Gorse Control Program

Zone	Description	Cost
4W	Cut, paint and remove the gorse	\$4500
1W, 2W, 3W, 5W, 6W	Spray gorse seedlings	\$1000
		\$5500



Figure 4: Gorse infestation prior to 2002/03 control program



Figure 5: Gorse infestation post 2002/03 control program



Figure 6: Gorse infestation post 2002/03 control program