

## Mount Dundas Regional Reserve

### Gorse control program for the Queensberry Track - 2004/2005

#### Queensberry Track

The Queensberry Track is located in Mount Dundas Regional Reserve, a reserve declared in 1999 as part of the Regional Forest Agreement. The track commences on the southern side of the Strahan-Zeehan Road approximately ten kilometres from Zeehan (Fig 1).

The track covers approximately nine kilometres through button grass plain, heathland and myrtle rainforest. At the end of the Queensberry Track is the Queensberry Mine, which 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 growing along latter half of the track and at the mine site.



**Fig 1:** Location of the Queensberry Track with the main gorse infestation indicated by a red box

#### 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.

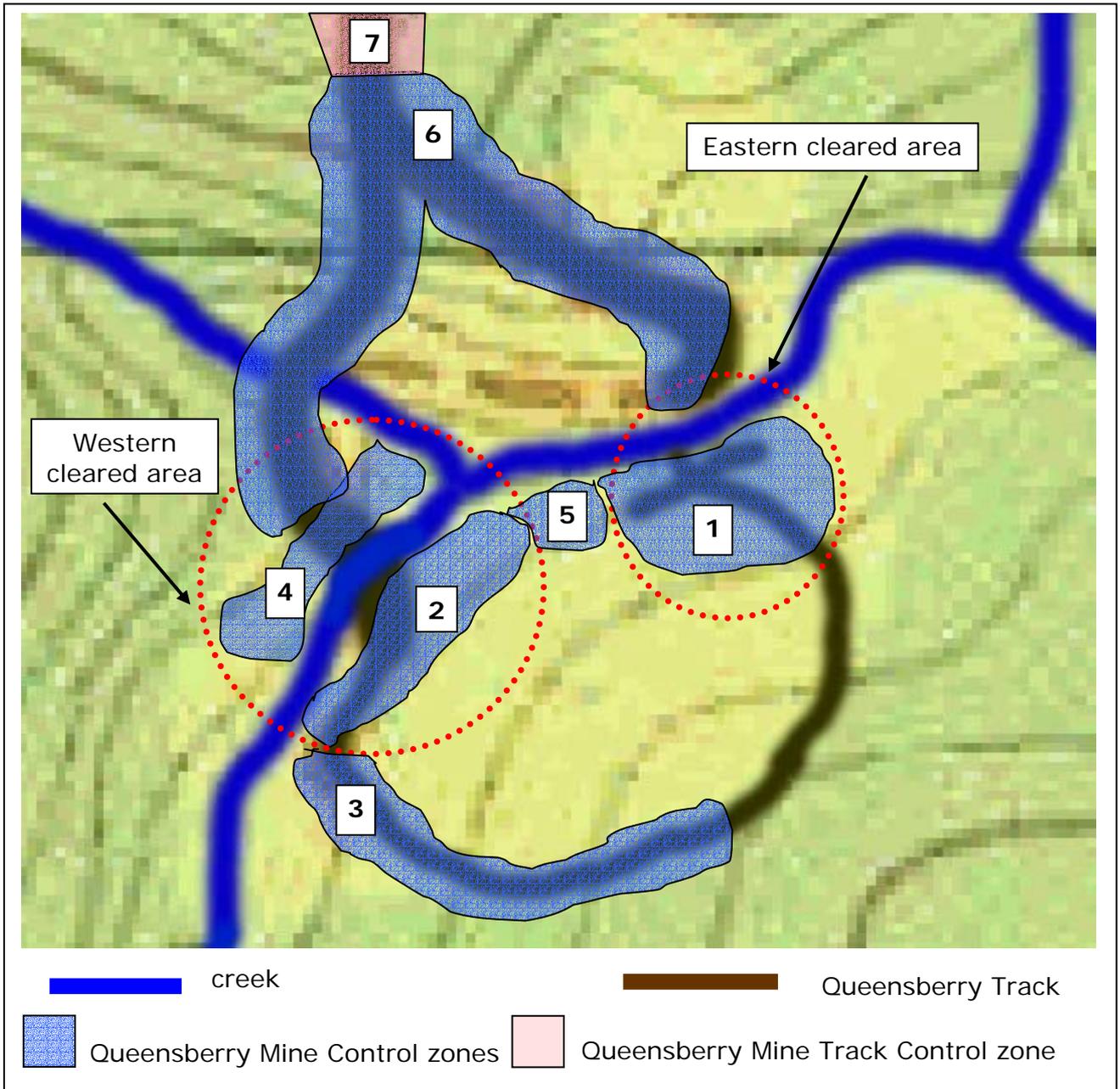
Gorse is designated as a weed of National Significance in the National Weed Strategy, and is declared a "Secondary Weed" under the Noxious Weeds Act 1964.

### Gorse Infestation at the Queensberry Mine Site

Following the previous few years' gorse control, the gorse infestation has diminished and has been re-divided into several new zones based on location and previous control measures (Fig 2 & 3).



Fig 2: Queensberry Mine Track Gorse control zones



**Fig 3:** Queensberry Mine Gorse control zones

Zone	Description	Past Control ( <sup>1</sup> yrs)					Next control
		00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	
1	Area of land on the southern side of the river in the eastern block cleared for mining that extends from the river up to the rainforest. The cleared land occurs on two distinct contours. An old mining track extends to the east and west.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2006/07
2	Area of land on the southern side of the river between the river and the rainforest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2006/07
3	Old mining track on the southern side of the river approximately 15m wide extending into the rainforest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2006/07
4	Area of raised land at the end of the track leading to the western cleared area plus the land between the track and the creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2006/07
5	Small stretch of thick vegetation between the eastern and western cleared areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2007/08
6	Track side vegetation between the eastern and western cleared areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2005/06
7	Queensberry Mine Track from the mine to Strahan-Zeehan Rd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2005/06

<sup>1</sup> Years are 2000, 2001, etc

***Cut and painting of mature plants in Zone 5***

The majority of the gorse in this zone is located over a forty square metre area on a steep slope verging the confluence of Lode Creek and a small un-named tributary (Fig 5). Additional isolated gorse plants are located on a small-vegetated pebble bank at the confluence of the two creeks.



**Fig 4:** Mature gorse stand in Zone 5



The mature gorse was removed from this zone using cut and paint techniques with ropes employed to stabilise the person on the slope and to haul away the cut gorse. The cut gorse was placed Zone 4.

**Fig 5:** Zone 5 with mature gorse removed

The smaller gorse seedlings were hand pulled from the pebble bank, bagged and removed from the site.

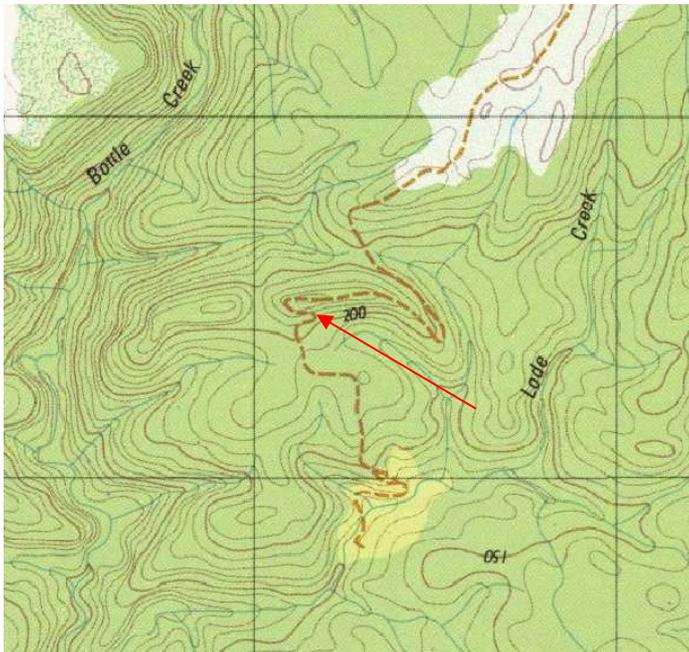
### ***Selective cut and painting of mature plants in Zones 1,3 and 6***

Most of the gorse in these zones has been removed in previous years, however, some has re-sprouted from cut stumps and others missed.

Two teams of two were sent to investigate and remove all mature stands of gorse on the historic excavator lines. During this process two new infestations were detected and removed from a previously undetected cut line north of the mine site.

### ***Cut and paint mature plants in Zone 7***

The mature gorse in this zone has been sprayed in previous years. However, there are still extremely large stands of mature gorse extending from both sides of the road for distances of 100m and greater.



The track was driven from the Mine site extending back towards the Strahan-Zeehan Road and all mature gorse removed.

The mature gorse has been removed from the location indicated by the red arrow south back towards to the mine site.

**Fig 6:** Map showing the northern most extent of the cleared mature gorse in Zone 7



**Fig 7:** Northern most extent of the cleared mature gorse in Zone 7

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## Proposed 2005/2006 Gorse Control Program

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### ***1. Continue cut and painting of mature plants in Zone 7***

There are still numerous small clumps of mature gorse on the side of the Queensberry Mine Track. Commencing from the location indicated in Figure 6 and extending south towards the Strahan-Zeehan Rd, all mature gorse will be cut and painted and left in piles on site.

### ***2. Continue cut and painting of mature plants in Zone 7***

Using a car mounted spray units the small patches of juvenile gorse seedlings in Zone 6 will be sprayed.

### ***3. Spray mature plants in Zone 7***

Using a combination of spraying (car mounted unit) and cut and paint techniques, the mature stands of gorse at the commencement of the Queensberry Mine Track will be targeted.