

Strategic & Action Plan 2025 - Tarrangower Cactus Control Group Inc.

Objective	To protect and enhance the natural environment by providing advice and support to private landowners and public land managers to control the noxious weed Wheel Cactus (<i>Opuntia robusta</i>).
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Goals	to reduce and contain the core Wheel Cactus infestations within the Maldon area of focus.
	to prevent the spread of Wheel Cactus to outlying areas in the Mount Alexander Shire and beyond.

Area of Focus	Area bounded by Cairn Curran Reservoir to the west, Bradford Road to the north, Maldon-Lockwood Road and Maldon-Newstead Road to the east, and Trudgeons Road to the south.
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Strategies	Motivate private (especially new) landowners to control Wheel Cactus infestations by increasing awareness & providing advice & assistance.
	Engage private landowners to participate in Wheel Cactus control by encouraging neighbourhood networking and working bees.
	Promote integrated management strategies including the use of Cochineal Biological Control.
	Encourage volunteers to help control Wheel Cactus on public lands, especially the Maldon Historic Reserve, by providing equipment loans.
	Maintain partnership with Parks Victoria and encourage participation of other local Landcare and environment groups.
	Maintain partnership with Mount Alexander Shire to increase engagement and compliance with current, new and absentee landowners.
	Lobby the Victorian Government to increase resources to enforce the Catchment & Land Protection Act 1994 on non-compliant landowners.
	Sustain our group membership and financial viability.

Planned Actions

Community Engagement	Community Awareness	Collaborations and Projects	Compliance Advocacy
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage neighbourhood networking groups and shared control activities. 2. Provide field day demonstrations for new local landowners only. 3. Provide individual advice and support to local landowners if requested. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distribute information brochures to local community via Welcome Kit, Maldon V.I.C., Post Office & Real Estate Agents. 2. Maintain an active and informative website and reply to email enquiries. 3. Maintain active Facebook page. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain partnership with Parks Victoria to help control infestations in Maldon Historic Reserve. 2. Hold Monash Uni student field day in collaboration with Parks Vic. 3. Maintain Partnership Agreement with Mt. Alexander Shire Council. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Negotiate with MASC to distribute information brochures to new ratepayers and absentee landowners. 2. Negotiate with MASC to send targeted compliance letters using Local Law 19. 3. Follow up our MASC Budget Submission requesting more

<p>4. Provide local landowners with free equipment loans as an incentive.</p> <p>5. Maintain injecting and digging equipment, supply of herbicide for use by landowners and volunteers.</p> <p>6. Maintain agreement for free disposal of wheel cactus plants at the Maldon Transfer Station and maintain record book.</p> <p>7. Provide advice and source of Cochineal insects for use locally and State-wide.</p> <p>8. Maintain digital records of equipment loans, demonstration events and working bees.</p> <p>9. Add Cochineal insect population sites on the Atlas Living Australia 'Biocontrol Hub' App.</p>	<p>4. Hold annual information stalls at the Maldon Market and Maldon-Baringhup Agriculture Show.</p> <p>5. Maintain regular media releases in local print and social media.</p> <p>6. Distribute second version of Wheel Cactus Farm Fence Signs.</p> <p>7. Promote group within local community via current stocks of 'cactus warrior' windcheaters, coffee mugs and pens.</p>	<p>4. Maintain Roadside monitoring and reporting with Mt. Alexander Shire Council.</p> <p>5. Continue collaboration with Landmate team to spray Cane Cactus infestations in Maldon Historic Reserve.</p> <p>6. Maintain record of partnership actions and roadside requests.</p> <p>7. Hold regular committee meetings and maintain minutes.</p> <p>8. Maintain groups financial budget and records.</p> <p>9. Investigate the use of drones to map infestations and establish a project to map the distribution of Wheel Cactus in Mt. Alexander Shire.</p>	<p>funding for the environment and employment of a Biodiversity Officer.</p> <p>4. Lobby Victorian Government to fund enforcement of 'CaLP' Act (1994) by providing resources to Dept. Agriculture Biosecurity to establish extension programs with non-compliant landowners.</p> <p>5. Record correspondence and actions with Dept. Agriculture & Biosecurity personnel and MASC.</p>
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