

# Weed eradication in the Kimberley





# Rubber vine

*Cryptostegia grandiflora*

- Partnership program.
- Two locations, East Kimberley and West Kimberley, a separation of 550 kilometres.
- Approximately 40,000ha of survey area.
- 1000ha of actual infested area but scattered widely.
- Program started 2009.





# Prickly acacia

*Vachellia nilotica*

- In house program.
- Extends over 10,000ha.
- No vehicular access unless by barge.
- All work undertaken by chopper as transport.
- Average control number of 250 plants annually over the past ten years.
- Program start 2004.





# Gamba grass

*Andropogon gayanus*

- Partnership program.
- Seed deliberately spread aurally to grow stock feed early nineties.
- Growing out of its best rainfall range but slowly spreading.
- 3,421 plants treated since 2018.
- Sites equal approximately 450ha.





# Challenges

- Funding - long term
- Stakeholder Interest/commitment
- Human resources
- Climate
- Plant physiology
- Impacts
- Access





# Partnerships

- Funding - long term
- Stakeholder interest/commitment
- Human resources



natural resource  
management program





# Plant physiology

- Seed viability
- Invasiveness
- Means of spread
- Seed production
- Impacts





# Climate

- Wet season – Dry season
- Flooding
- Average annual maximum temperature 33>





# Access

- North bank of the Fitzroy currently inaccessible by vehicle.
- Choppers \$1,200/hr but essential.
- Boats on Ord site essential as people movers.

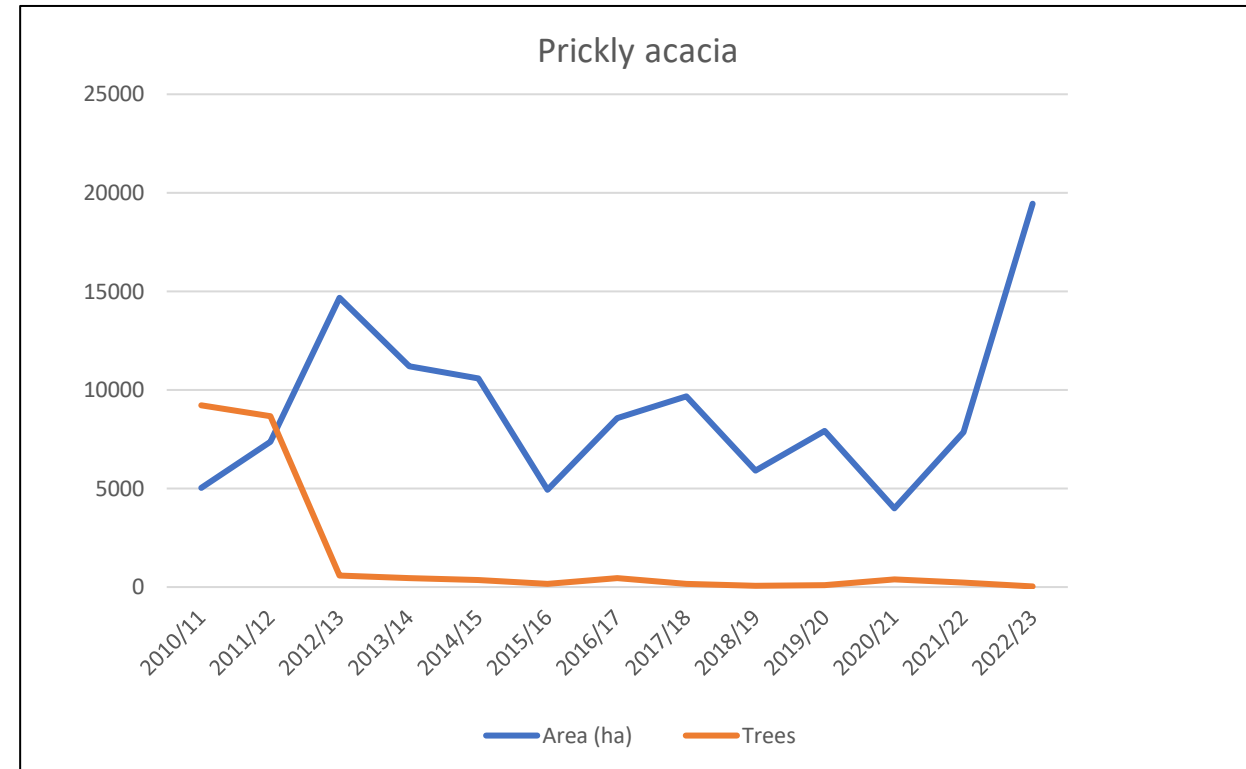
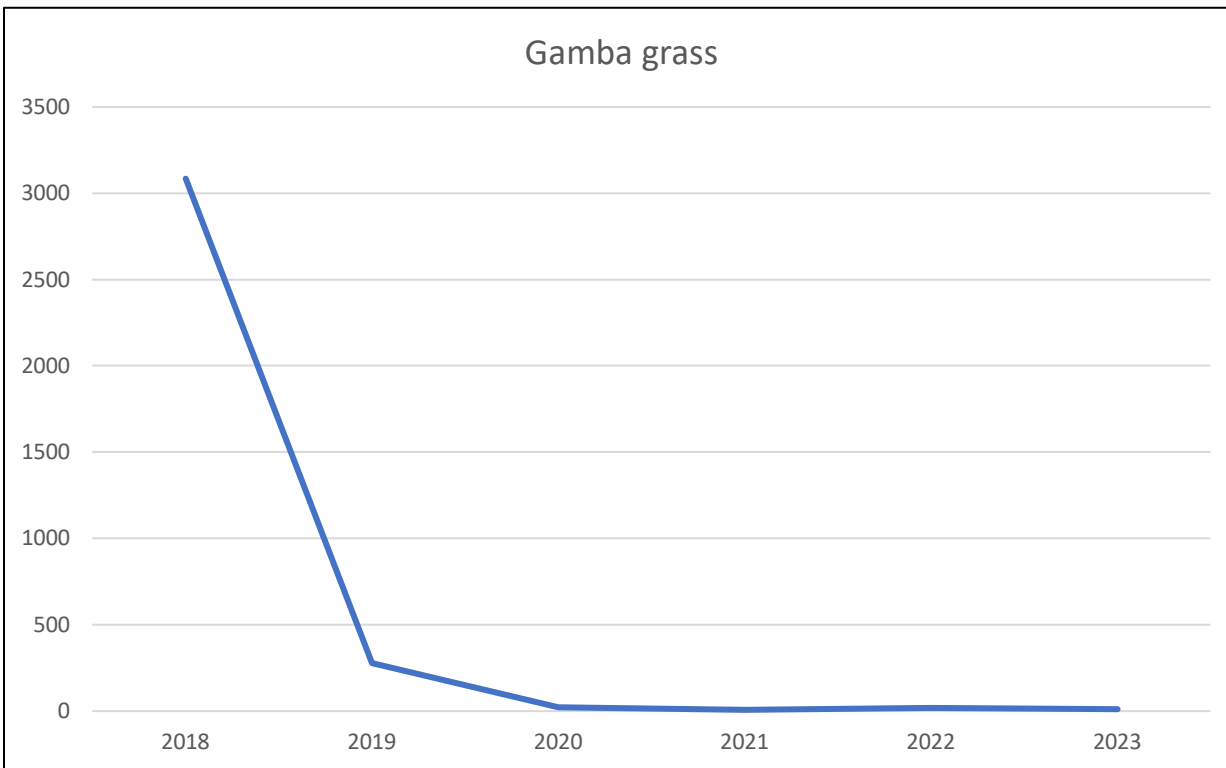




# Progress

Cleaning up the tail

- Increase effort
- Find the magic bullet





# Weed selection criteria

- Has to be a **Declared Weed** in Western Australia.
- **Potential impact:** what were the projected costs to industry and environment if the weed became widespread?
- **Physiology:** (distribution, density, seed longevity, maturity, seed production etc.) What were the plant's strengths, can they be overcome? What are its weaknesses, can they be exploited?
- **Program length:** How long would the program be expected to run for? Some weed seed has a viability of one year others can remain viable in the soil for over twenty years i.e. *Mimosa pigra*.
- **Costs:**
- **Support partners:** Are there other organisations willing to be a partner in the program over its lifetime?
- **Strategic nature of infestation:** Where, or over what area is it located?
- **Chances of meeting funder expectations:** Does the program have a good chance of being successful, will it be money well spent?