

THE  
**Primary**



**Producer**

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G R O W I N G   E A S T   G I P P S L A N D

# Farmers tackling weeds in Ensay

**Farmers and agencies such as East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) are working together on a weed project along the Tambo River.**

CMA chief executive officer, Graeme Dear, said farmers along the Back Ensay Road are working in partnership with the CMA to reduce weeds like blackberry, cape ivy and willows.

"They want a better looking river and are prepared to work across boundaries with us in the hope of improving the look and health of the river and surrounding land," Mr Dear said.

Farmers in the area want their own farms and the river along their boundaries to have less weeds.

One local farmer, Ken Skews, said: "A group of us just wanted to give it a good go, that is knocking over the weeds on our own farms and along

the river that give us the most grief. We enjoy the river environment too, and of course feel better about our own farms and community with a few less weeds about."

Weed control has included blackberry, briar, boxthorn, cape ivy and willows, over a 7km stretch of the waterway between Doctors Flat and Ensay.

The Swifts Creek / Ensay Landcare Group has received funding from the Victorian Government Regional

Riparian Plan initiative and Our Catchments, Our Communities grants managed by the EGCMA. The funding is about supporting greater community involvement in managing local catchments.

"The farmers are putting their own money and time together with ours to try and get a better result. I would like to thank all those farmers who are working on this difficult task together to try and make a greater impact," Mr

Dear said.

Barry Newcomen, another farmer in the group, said controlling weeds is a concern to all.

"We also want to help improve our farm productivity by reducing weeds in the paddocks. It is early days, but I think I am making a larger impact for the broader community by combining my weed control with my neighbours, the CMA and DELWP," Mr Newcomen said.