



A map, prepared using GPS tracking during the willow controls, showing the willows identified and treated in the recent survey of the Genoa River. (PS)



Removing young willows from the Genoa River before they take hold. (PS)

Combined effort on the Genoa

A combined effort from the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and a Genoa community group is tackling willow and weed problems on the Genoa River close to town.

Contractors for the EGCMA have carried out willow treatment on the river in recent weeks from Ivor Track to the township. Approximately 100, mostly young, willows were discovered and treated along the 24-kilometre stretch of river. This stretch was last surveyed in 2012.

EGCMA catchment planner, Melissa Birleson, said controlling the willows in the Far East Basin will help to improve the overall river health by helping prevent further spread.

"It helps to maintain these high value, near-natural coastal streams, ensuring the ongoing security of water quality and biodiversity of these rivers," she said.

"The treatment works also allow for the natural regeneration of native species to re-establish along the river banks."

During the survey the team also identified and mapped other weed species along the stretch. The EGCMA is now funding a Genoa community group to undertake treatment of cape ivy, blackberry, bridal creeper and English ivy, on the river close to the township.

The works augment previous willow control projects over the past decade on the Genoa River. Parks Victoria also carried out works in 2014 to Ivor Track, finding mostly mature willows.

Controlling high priority woody weeds (such as willow) is one of the key targets in the East Gippsland Regional Waterway Strategy and the work is funded through the State Government's Regional Riparian Action Plan.



Treated sections of the Genoa River. (PS)