



Western Murray Land Improvement Group

MEDIA RELEASE

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Tackling a Thorny Problem

A cross-border project to remove and treat African Boxthorn will directly improve the health of floodplain habitat and productive farmland along the Murray River.

This will benefit the aquatic ecosystems in the river itself - and nearby wetland habitat. The removal of this noxious weed of national significance aims to improve habitat quality and hydrology in the landscape and is being funded by the Murray-Darling Healthy Rivers Program.

Boxthorn outcompetes other species due to its weedy nature and creates a monoculture, threatening agriculture, environmental values, and biodiversity. It invades remnant bushland and waterways and provides shelter and food for pest animals including foxes, rabbits, and starlings.

Wild rabbits can also have a major impact on agricultural production, threatened species and ecological communities and cultural heritage.

The local community was directly involved in developing the project and supports the application and implementation of project activities. A planning meeting was attended by local farmers, representatives from North Central CMA (VIC), WMLIG, Murray Local Land Services (NSW), Murray River Council, and Myall Landcare.

Another element that makes this project strong and unique is the cross-border collaboration between organisations in NSW and Victoria. Weeds such as Boxthorn do not recognise state borders or fences, so the cooperation between states, agencies, private landholders, and community groups will greatly strengthen and widen the impacts of the project.

This project is supported by Western Murray Land Improvement Group, through funding from the Australian Government's Murray-Darling Healthy Rivers Program – an Australian Government initiative.

The project will begin early January 2023 and is expected to continue until April 2024.

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Australian Government

**Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water**