

WoNS Mapping is Underway...

The mapping of WoNS (Weeds of National Significance) is an important management factor for the awareness, control and containment of invasive weeds in the South West NRM region. Through the National Landcare Programme (NLP) Ecosystem Services investment theme, South West NRM's Indigenous Field Officer, Kevin Collins, and Field Support Officer, Lucas Mackie have been undertaking site visits around the region to recipients of Community Grants for weed control, as well as drawing on investments works from previous years' Caring for our Country funding. Monitoring and evaluation of on-ground works is essential to ensuring that works undertaken are effective, and to identify if any follow-up work is needed.

Kevin Collins identifies as a Mardigan/Kooma man, and he has been proactive in tutoring Lucas Mackie in the use of GIS mapping, utilising the mobile phone app "Fulcrum", and also the consolidation of site data for reporting back to the Federal Government. Through the use of these technologies, Kevin and Lucas assist land managers and project partners in tracking the changes over time of any WoNS weeds that may be present in certain catchment and project areas.

Both Kevin and Lucas will be continuing this work over the coming months, and will be working with community grant participants, local councils and land managers in adequately capturing and reporting for the on ground works that people have been undertaking in addressing invasive WoNS weeds, such as Mesquite, Parkinsonia, Parthenium and various cacti which have both core and outlier infestations in the Nebine/Mungallala, Warrego, Paroo and Bulloo River catchment areas.

Kevin states, *"as a Traditional owner of the region, I take great pride in the ability to work with the wider community, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, in improving awareness of WoNS weeds that are impacting on the social, environmental and cultural values of our area. Through our collective partnerships we can all contribute to ensuring that the cultural and environmental assets we have are preserved and enhanced for future generations...that's what caring for country is all about Brother!"*.

WoNS mapping data in the South West NRM region can be found at: <http://www.southwestnrm.org.au/content/fulcrum-data-maps>



Right: Kevin Collins completing a Fulcrum mapping entry of a large Parthenium site in the Nebine/Mungallala Catchment.