

# BLACK RANGE LAND MANAGEMENT GROUP

## Summary: Black Range Invasive Plant & Animal (IPA) Management Plan 2023 - 2028

The full Black Range Invasive Plant & Animal (IPA) Management Plan 2023 - 2028 can be downloaded from <https://www.blackrangelandmanagementgroup.net.au>

The Black Range (Eastern) has a rich diversity of mid and ground layer native flora. Its 4000 hectares of contiguous native vegetation is an important area of remnant vegetation and Aboriginal cultural significance between the Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park and the Pyrenees Ranges. The Black Range natural ecosystem has been severely changed by IPA impacts over many decades. The IPA threats to this ecosystem are ongoing and require mitigation action guided by this plan. Approximately 80% of the Black Range is private landholdings and 20% State managed conservation reserves.

### Aims & Objectives

The plan is designed to provide an objective and logical framework with identified priorities for the Black Range Land Management Group (BRLMG) to develop and implement coordinated and effective IPA management programs.

**Objective 1:** High risk new and emerging IPA species are eradicated from the Black Range.

**Objective 2:** Prioritised established invasive species are managed to minimise their impacts on biodiversity within the Black Range.

### Scope

The plan deals with invasive plants and animals that are likely to negatively and significantly impact the biodiversity, soil, and cultural values of the Black Range. It seeks to provide information on IPA management that is recognised best practice, validated by peer reviewed scientific research. The plan utilises the government's Biosecurity approach to IPA management, aligned with the objectives above.

### Community Engagement

Invasive plants and animals and ecological processes do not respect property boundaries. A critical key to successful IPA management is coordinated landscape action by engaging a majority of landowners/managers. The BRLMG will use different levels of engagement with landowners and stakeholders to Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate and Empower.

### Priority IPA Species

Criteria used to set priorities for IPA species management in the Black Range natural ecosystem are:

- Current extent of species on or near the site;
- Species invasiveness;
- Current and potential impacts of the species;
- Value of the habitat areas that the species infests.

The Victorian Government's Weed Impact and

Invasiveness Assessment Tables at Victorian Resources Online have been utilized to assist with setting priorities for IPA species management in the Black Range.

Highest priority species (in priority order) for management in the Black Range include:

**PLANTS:** Boneseed, Bridal Creeper, St John's Wort, Blackberry, Gorse, African Weed-Orchid, One-Leaf Cape Tulip, Paterson's Curse, Wild Watsonia.

**ANIMALS:** European Rabbit, Feral Goat, Fallow Deer, Red Fox, Feral Cat. Further invasive species are identified in the plan and can be dealt with as priorities and resources allow.

**Example of IPA impact:** It takes less than one rabbit per hectare to prevent the successful regeneration of many trees and shrubs.

### Emerging Threats and Challenges

A number of emerging IPA threats and challenges have been identified in the plan, that will require threat mitigation responses. For example: in a changing climate, the increase in frequency, intensity and size of environmental events such as wildfire, flood, and drought bring a higher risk of introducing and spreading new/existing IPA in the Black Range. One of the actions identified in the plan tasks the BRLMG to promote to landowners the importance of predicting, planning for and quickly responding to significant environmental events such as wildfire.

### Protecting Cultural and Biodiversity Values During IPA Operations

Protection of Aboriginal cultural values/sites, as well as biodiversity assets is required when implementing all IPA control works. The plan provides information and references for further information on how to plan and implement IPA control works which protect cultural heritage and environmental assets.



Nationally Threatened Southern Brown Bandicoot populations are no longer found in the Black Range due to recent droughts, wildfires and predation by foxes and feral cats.

**Invasive Plants Prioritised for Management in Black Range include:**



[CC-BY images from iNat](#)  
**Boneseed *Chrysanthemoides monilifera***



<https://www.invasive.org/search/action.cfm?q=Ulex+europaeus>  
**Gorse *Ulex europaeus***



[CC-BY images from iNat](#)  
[CC-BY/BY-NC images from invasive species database](#)  
**Bridal Creeper *Asparagus asparagoides***



**African Weed-Orchid *Disa bracteata***



[CC-BY images from iNat](#)  
[CC-BY-NC images from invasive species database](#)  
**St John's Wort *Hypericum perforatum***



<https://www.invasive.org/search/action.cfm?q=Moraea+flaccida>  
**One-Leaf Cape Tulip *Moraea flaccida***



[CC-BY images from iNat](#)  
**Blackberry *Rubus fruticosus* agg.**



<https://www.invasive.org/search/action.cfm?q=Echium+plantagineum>  
**Paterson's Curse *Echium plantagineum***