Maximising Control Effectiveness Using Prescribed Burning for Control of Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*)

Dale Fuller[1], Matt Russell, Ruby Wicks
[1]Parks Victoria, Lorne, Great Otway NP, Australia
(dale.fuller@parks.vic.gov.au)

Summary Based on the local fuel reduction burn schedule and working in collaboration with the Lorne Fire and Emergency Team, Project Officers were able to identify a large well established Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum Undulatum*) infestation within a burn area. This infestation was mostly ranked as a 'heavy infestation' based on Weeds of Early Stages of Invasion (WESI) guidelines.

Due to the knowledge gained through consultation with industry experts around susceptibility of juvenile Sweet Pittosporum (less than 1.5m high) to fire events, contractors and Staff were able to focus works towards mature and dense stands, treating a larger total area. 53 hectares of Sweet Pittosporum was treated at this heavily infested site. The fuel reduction burn was an early season burn held in February with moderate intensity and approx 90% coverage. One year post burn the infestation has now been reclassified as a 'trace infestation'. This has enabled future control effort to come at a minimal cost and significantly less time to maintain low population levels with the aim of longer term eradication from the site. For the poster, the intent is to display photopoints of before control works and after control works, immediately post burn and 1 year post burn and a map of the site.

Keywords Sweet Pittosporum, *Pittosporum Undulatum*, fire