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# Media Release

## Woody weed removal in Werribee River Volcanic Gorge

Woody weeds on Werribee River Gorge watch out – your days are numbered as work begins on stage five of a major removal program.

The Pinkerton Landcare and Environment Group will be removing woody weeds along the gorge, helped by a grant of \$32,000 from the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) through its Vision for Werribee Plains program.

Landcare group Secretary, Daryl Akers, said the group has been removing a range of weeds progressively in difficult terrain over the past six years.

“The current project area includes some of the steepest escarpments along the Werribee River, on land owned by Western Water Corporation which is a partner in the project, along with Melbourne Water,” he said.

“We will remove, burn or spot spray the weeds, then encourage natural regrowth where possible.

“Strategic grazing will also be used to reduce the growth in early spring and other times as appropriate.”

Pinkerton Landcare and Environment Group (PLEG) has won a number of environmental awards for the recovery of native grasslands, grey box forests and native vegetation on the escarpments and river flats.

“The group’s over-riding philosophy of restoration is to restore a functioning ecosystem by protecting, preserving and enhancing the local natural environment,” Mr Akers said.

“This includes not only the flora and fauna, but also a range of indigenous, scenic, archaeological, geological, historic and scientific features.”

Mr Akers said members tackled a wide variety of environmental activities to project and preserve their area and engage the local community.

“Our members collect native grass seed and seed from other local indigenous species within the Shire of Melton to raise seedlings for native grassland and grassy grey-box woodland restoration projects,” he said.

“We also control serrated tussock through large-scale strategic management programs, including burning and grazing at seasonally appropriate times.”

“Our annual spring wildflower walk is one of the ways in which we encourage people to enjoy the area and, as a result, get involved in some of our restoration activities.”

For more information on the project, contact Daryl Akers, Secretary, PLEG on [daryljakers@gmail.com](mailto:daryljakers@gmail.com) or 0438 277 252

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