

Removal of exotic vegetation from waterways

Bass habitat rehabilitation, South Creek

The site

South Creek is one of the three main creek systems in Western Sydney which feed into the Hawkesbury Nepean River system. The creek provides important habitat for a number of native fish species including the popular recreational catch, Australian bass. The riparian zone along several parts of the creek was heavily infested with a large variety of noxious and annual weed species including privet *spp.*, willow *spp.*, box elder and African olive trees.

Proponent: Greening Australia

Land use: public reserves

Habitat grant: \$29,950

In-kind support: \$23,000

The project

To complement previous works conducted on South Creek, Greening Australia and Bass Sydney Fishing Club applied for funding to control invasive weeds along a 500 metre reach at St Marys.

Primary weed control was implemented using a variety of methods depending on the species including the removal of large weed tree species via chainsaw and then cut and paint. Smaller weed species were sprayed using Roundup Biactive® via back pack sprayers, treated with hand tools using the cut/paint method or were scraped and painted using Garlon® and diesel. Weeds were then stockpiled and removed to an appropriate waste facility.

Three community planting events were held with Bass Sydney under the supervision of Greening Australia staff. Plants were installed in those areas where primary weed control had taken place and there was a lack of suitable native vegetation. Follow up weed control was also conducted where required.



The site, pre-works.
Photo: Greening Australia



Bass Sydney improving habitat for their favourite fish. Photo Greening Australia

The outcomes

This project has improved Australian bass habitat by:

- removing riparian weeds including African olive, privet and willow
- stabilising the creek banks
- planting 1,500 native riparian plants during the 3 community planting days.

Greening Australia and Bass Sydney continue to work together to improve habitat in South Creek.



The site, 4 years on.
Photo: Bass Sydney