

# KATHERINE RIVER CORRIDOR WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

*The Katherine River Corridor Weed Management Plan has been created to address the potential impact of woody weeds within the Katherine River corridor and improve the river flow to minimise the impact of smaller flood events.*

Weeds are undesirable plants growing where they are not wanted. In the context of flood mitigation in the Katherine River corridor, the emphasis is on declared weeds and other exotic plants not native to the Northern Territory that may have the potential to impede water flow.

In 2015, the Katherine Region Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee recommended the Northern Territory Government and Katherine Town Council assess the Katherine River's drainage system to improve river flow, including weed control.

The plan covers a 51 kilometre section of the Katherine River from the southern boundary of Nitmiluk National Park, through the town of Katherine and ending downstream at Galloping Jacks (see *Year 1 weed control map on page 3*).

The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics and Katherine Town Council manage different parts of this river section. The Department is leading the implementation of the Katherine Region Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee's recommendations and the Weed Management Plan has been developed in consultation with the landowners and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Weed Management Branch.

## Weed survey

A survey was undertaken of weeds and other significant woody vegetation in the management plan area to identify and prioritise sections that need intensive control to improve the natural environment, recreational access and river flow.

The survey identified nine weeds that have the potential to impede water flows and/or are declared under the Northern Territory's *Weeds Management Act*.

The survey identified the following nine target weeds:

- > Chinee apple
- > Ornamental rubber vine
- > Devils claw
- > Bellyache bush
- > Parkinsonia
- > Neem
- > Coffee bush
- > African Mahogany
- > Yellow Oleander.

Control of the targeted weeds was prioritised according to:

- > size of the individual infestations
- > type, classification and density of infestations
- > current land uses
- > risk of spread
- > likelihood of reinfestation.

The survey examined how much of the weed infestations were seedlings, juveniles or adults to create the most effective weed control strategy to improve access and river flow and areas of high recreational value.

For more information visit:

[www.dipl.nt.gov.au/lands-and-planning/flood-mitigation/katherine-region](http://www.dipl.nt.gov.au/lands-and-planning/flood-mitigation/katherine-region)

## Targeted weeds



*Chinee apple*



*Ornamental  
rubber vine*



*Devils claw*



*Bellyache bush*



*Parkinsonia*



*Neem*



*Coffee bush*



*African  
Mahogany*



*Yellow Oleander*

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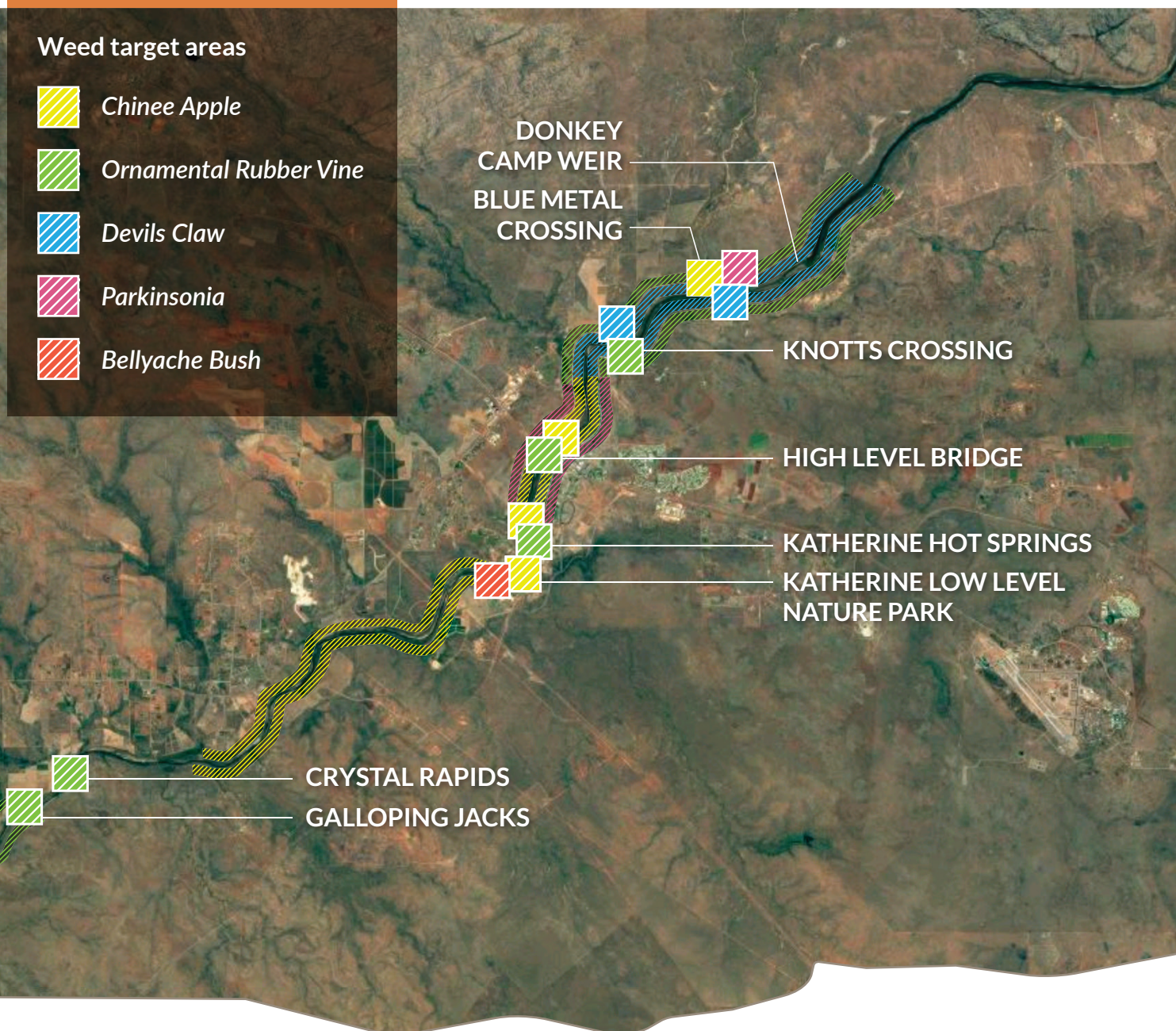
## Weed control recommendations

As a result of studying the risk, impacts and ability to control the weeds in this area, the priority in the immediate term is to focus on weeds that are easiest to eradicate.

During Year 1, the aim is to:

- > prioritise weed populations that are targeted for eradication
- > control all weed patches that are to be eradicated.

### Year 1 weed control map



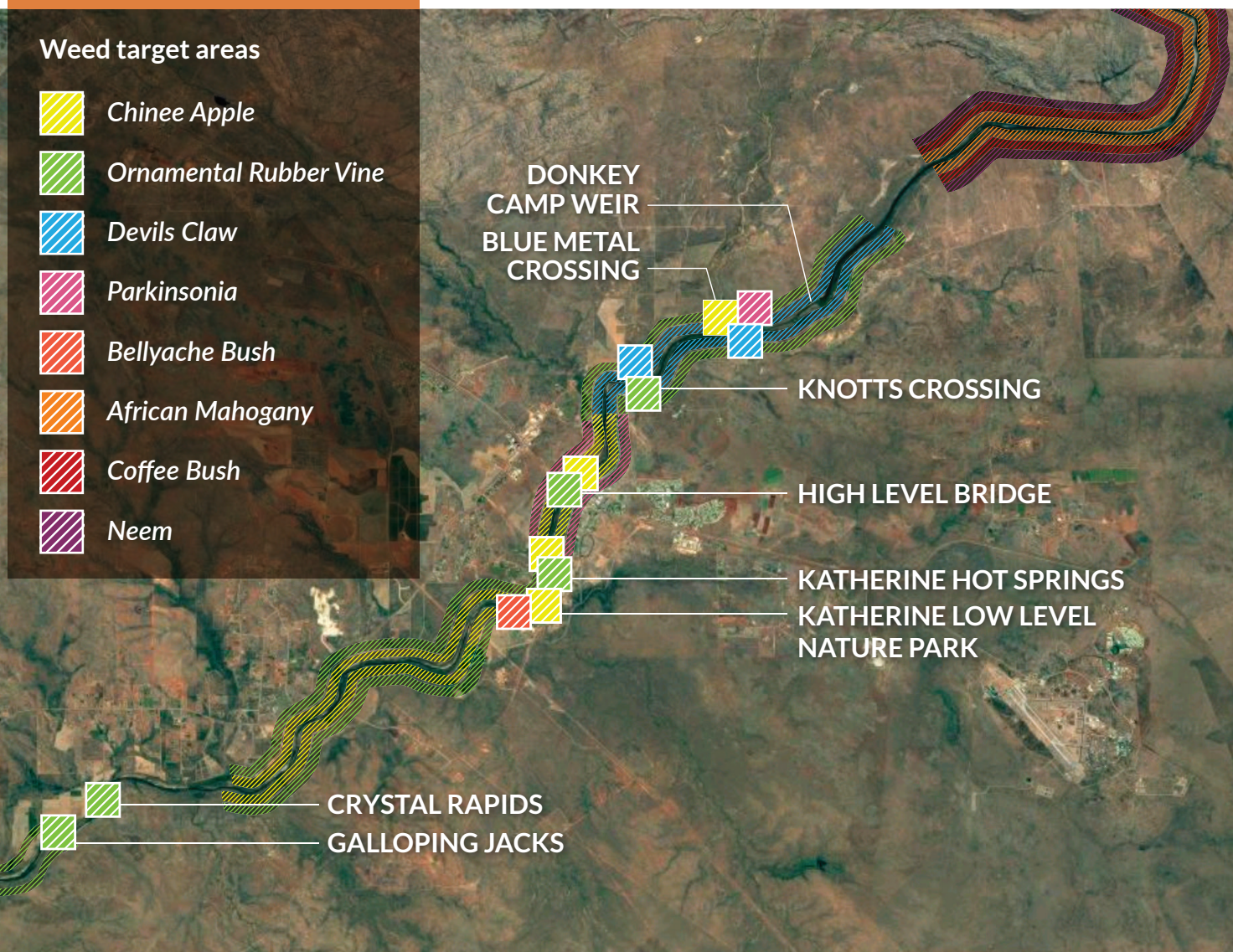
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The survey identified high density Neem and African Mahogany populations upstream of the township of Katherine have the highest potential to impact on river flow. Most of these plant populations are in areas of high recreational value and access but are the hardest to eradicate. These species will be targeted in Year 2.

### Year 2-3 weed control map



### Future management

The Weed Management Plan addresses control in the longer term, however it also recognises that successful weed management is a dynamic process, influenced by both environmental and management impacts and practices, which may lead to changes in the weed control plan over time.

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