

## Woody weed mulching trial – 3 Mile Crossing (via Ashford)

The site known as the 3-mile crossing, is crown land, and contained an impenetrable thicket of approximately 2 acres of Honey Locust, Tree of Heaven and feral peach. Partnership was sought with Inverell Shire Council and Trade & Investment – Crown Lands, who agreed that woody weed control at this site was critical in order to achieve control downstream. The site housed a very large seed bank on the Severn River, and failure to control the weed here, would have negated the efforts that landholders had put into controlling the weed on private lands.



Figure 1. Honey Locust - Tree of Heaven mixed stand found on the flats



Approval was sort from Fisheries NSW before mulching occurred above the high water mark, leaving a buffer area along the river. The buffer area trees were treated by the basal barking technique, minimising impact on the nearby River. Advice was also sought from the Department of Primary Industries , Invasive Species Officer before control works began.



Figure 2. Honey Locust Tree typical age class of trees on the riverbank





Figure 3. 2013 site inspection of Honey Locust - forming collaboration with Inverell Shire Council and Crown Lands



Mulching occurred on 22/1/2014, by ETS using a Pozi Trak mulcher. Honey Locust control at this site was funded by the Australian Government Biodiversity Fund -GLENRAC Honey Locust Control project and in part by Crown Lands. Inverell Shire Council also funded the chemical for Tree of Heaven at the site. Follow up basal barking of all remaining Honey Locust trees has since occurred, as well as spot spraying of regrowth.



Figure 4. Terex PoziTrak mulching the heavily infested site



Figure 5. Site post mulching before follow up control works begin.