

11 March 2015

Waltraud Pix
Friends of Mount Majura

To
Shane Rattenbury, MLA, Minister for TAMS

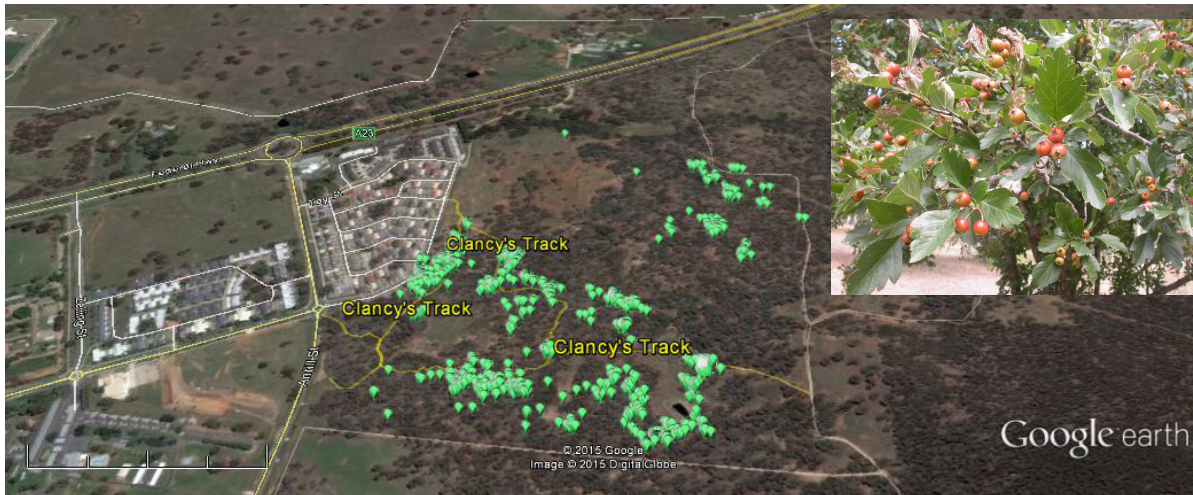
Dear Shane,

I am writing to request the removal of Hawthorn trees growing in Valour Park in North Watson.

Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) is a major weed that invades the grassy woodlands and open forests of Mt Majura and other nature parks. It is listed as **Declared Pest Plant** under the *ACT Pest Plant and Animal Act* and dispersal is by birds eating the berries.

At the launch of the revived Valour Park on the 30 May 2014 you agreed to replace the hawthorns with plant species that are not invasive. There is no sign of work to replace the hawthorns which are currently developing large quantities of berries. If the trees are not removed the seeds will be spreading and the removal of new growth in the reserve will require significant resources.

Over the past years Friends of Mt Majura removed large quantities of mature woody weeds from the part of Mt Majura nature reserve that abuts Federal Highway including Cootamundra Wattle, Firethorn, African Boxthorn, Nettle Tree, Sweet Briar and Hawthorn. At recent follow-up work roughly south of Clancy's track we encountered vast amounts of Hawthorn regrowth. Of the more than 1600 woody weeds that were removed and recorded with a GPS – the green balloons shown on below map – over 50% were small hawthorns (weeds removed at our [working party in February](#) were not recorded and thus are not shown on the map).



Recorded woody weeds regrowth removed between 2 and 9 March 2015; inset: fruiting Hawthorn, Valour Park, (Photo W.Pix, 1 March 2015).

I would appreciate if you could inform me about the progress of work to remove and replace the Valour Park hawthorns.

Many thanks.

Best wishes,

Waltraud