



# **Australian Native Plants Society Canberra Region Inc**

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The General Manager  
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6 December 2019

Dear General Manager

**RE: Destruction of roadside population of *Jacksonia scoparia* (Dogwood) at Tarago**

A remnant population of *Jacksonia scoparia* (Dogwood) has been growing along the roadside on the Cullulla Road about 500-1000m east of Tarago. This species (illustrated below) is a *very rare* shrub of the Southern Tablelands, primarily due to habitat loss. The shrubs vary in height from 0.5m to 2 m and over the years have regenerated well from seed along this stretch of roadside for many years. In summer they are a mass of yellow blooms.



Members of the Canberra Branch of the Australian Native Plant Society have been observing this population for many years. Members drove past this stretch of road on 5 November 2019 and were alarmed to see that all the plants were dead, and had obviously been killed by herbicide application. In addition, the roadside bank on which they grew had been scraped back several meters killing any surviving plants.

Killing these plants was unnecessary. They did not obstruct any line of sight along the road, and certainly were not dangerous if a vehicle left the road. The removal is somewhat incongruous as other exotic plants, including pines, growing along the road were not targeted. It may be possible that they were mistaken for Scotch Broom.

Our roadsides support many native plants that have been lost to land clearing and farming practices and they are a refuge for both common and rare and threatened plant species. Many invertebrates also depend on these species for their survival. So, it is essential that such refuges are conserved.

We strongly suggest that any significant roadside vegetation is clearly marked with signs prohibiting herbicide use and physical removal. It may be that some soil-borne seed may still exist on the site. Any future germination should be left and the population marked in some way. If not, Council should replant this stretch of roadside with *Jacksonia* plants.

Yours sincerely

Geoff Butler  
Conservation Officer  
for  
Lucinda Royston (President)