On the 9th February 2017 the Lord Howe Island Board weed team unearthed a mature infestation of Ground Asparagus on the flanks of Mt Gower at 270m elevation. The Office Environment Heritage investment into the Saving Our Species Program is working to protect Lord Howe Islands threatened flora and their habitats!

This is a new weed find for Mount Gower as only a few seedlings of Ground Asparagus have been removed from this management unit. The team had a hunch that something big was out there, but not this big.

Ernie Mayo (left) and Louis Shick (right) find the mature groundy at the top of their ‘walk in’ search effort. Recent helicopter winch programs has aided search above this location – no Asparagus plants were detected.

The team looking down towards Erskine Valley and with the site prepared for target spraying of the Ground Asparagus.
David Conner applying target spray treatment to the Ground Asparagus. This invasive weed has been significantly depleted from the lowlands. The detection of mature outliers in the southern mountains is of concern as it poses a direct threat to the Gnarled Mossy Cloud Forest on the summit of Mt Gower and a threat to the Waterfall Cliff Line Plant Communities which largely comprise ferns and small shrubs.

Map of Global Positioning System (GPS) search effort on the northern flanks of Mt Gower and location of mature Ground Asparagus. Helicopter winch programs will be dropping teams at elevation (left hand side of image) to bring the search effort down the mountain to link up to ‘walk in’ search effort. The area in proximity to Eddies Cave below the north eastern summit of Mt Gower has been searched prior to the use of GPS units.