



# ILLAWARRA DISTRICT (NOXIOUS) WEEDS AUTHORITY

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# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2012 – 2013

# Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority

## Chairman's Message

2013 marks the 20th anniversary of operations for the Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority (IDNWA), a pleasing and successful milestone worthy of mention. Much has changed in the world of weeds over this time with the IDNWA accepting each change in its stride. The ability of the Authority to continue to successfully fulfil its functions with respect to noxious weeds on behalf of its member councils is a reflection on all those whom have served on the Authority be it at Committee or staff level. As Chairman of the current committee I extend my thanks to all those whom have been involved with the Authority over the past 20 years.

The Authority met on four occasions during 2012/13, with the year proving to be yet another busy time for the Authority. Activities were undertaken across the region proportional to member council contributions with additional funds provided from the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

Once again the committee continued to be of great assistance in both policy and technical support and I would like to thank those respective members for their ongoing commitment to the successful operation of the Authority.

Local weed control programs have continued with some 421 private property inspections undertaken. Improved co-operation between stakeholders is evidenced by representation on two National committees and a subcommittee of the NSW Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee (NWAC). Representation is also held on four regional committees and a number of local committees.

Education and publicity activities have continued, while control programs have been expanded as resources permitted. Some 938km of roadsides were inspected and treated for noxious weeds along with 324ha of noxious weeds controlled on public reserve land throughout the three member council areas. Private works have continued to provide an additional source of income for the Authority with over \$38,856.00 worth of private works income generated over the last 12 months.

Whilst the issue of funding continues to be an ongoing cause for concern for the IDNWA, the Authority did receive \$106,956.00 from the NSW Department of Primary Industries in 2012/13. A further \$39,750.00 was also secured from other sources over the last 12 months to fund operational programs on noxious weeds across the Illawarra and broader region.

Some important changes are also proposed to be undertaken at the State level in the coming 2013/14 year that may have ramifications for the future operation of the Authority. The enactment of the NSW Biosecurity Act and recommendations into the Review of Weed Management in NSW are both expected to be handed down in mid 2014.

In assisting the Authority, Mr Brian McDonald, Project Manager with the Southern Councils Group deserves special mention for his coordinating role in preparing grant applications and reconciling returns. Brian has been of great assistance to the Authority and its project partners.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to Chair the Authority and look forward to the next 12 months which from all indications promises to be a challenging and interesting period.

Peter Gill  
Chairman

## **Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority**

### **Weed Control Program Report 2012/13 Summary of Activities and Outcomes from 01 July 2012 – 30 June 2013**

**A Final Report for the constituent member councils of the IDNWA  
Wollongong City Council, Shellharbour City Council and Kiama  
Municipal Council**

**Covering page and General Manager Endorsement**

**A Final Report prepared for the constituent member councils of the IDNWA on activities completed from July 2012- June 2013**

<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority</b>
<b>Address</b>	<b>PO Box 148 Kiama 2533</b>

<b>Administrative contact</b> (name, position, fax, phone)	Mr David Pomery Chief Weeds Officer Ph 02 4233 1129 Fax 02 4232 3665 email: dpomery@southerncouncils.nsw.gov.au
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<b>Technical contact</b> (name, position, fax, phone)	Mr David Pomery Chief Weeds Officer Ph 02 4233 1129 Fax 02 4232 3665 email: dpomery@southerncouncils.nsw.gov.au
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<b>Total Amount of funds received (Income)</b>	Grant - \$106,956.00	<b>For financial year/s</b>	2012-2013
	Council - \$129,500.00		
	<b>TOTAL- \$236,456.00</b>		

<b>Funds</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Regional Coordination (staff administration)	\$47,182.00
Control/Inspection Cat A & B weeds	\$91,510.00
Control/Inspection Cat C & D weeds	\$64,000.00
WAP Priorities	\$31,754.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$234,446.00</b>

**DECLARATION**

I hereby certify that all moneys paid have been expended or incurred by way of expenditure solely on noxious weed management activities as defined in the Noxious Weed Advisory Committee policy documents and conditions.

Signature of responsible officer of organisation	
Printed name	David Pomery
Position in Organisation	Chief Weeds Officer
Contact Telephone Number	02 4233 1129
Date	5th August 2013

## Report on Weed Control Coordination Assistance 2012/2013

**Outcomes and results from July 2012-June 2013**  
**A Final Report prepared for the constituent member councils of the IDNWA**

<b>Name Of Organisation</b>	Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority
<b>Address</b>	PO Box 148 Kiama NSW 2533
<b>Administrative contact</b> (name, position, fax, phone)	David Pomery Chief Weeds Officer Ph: 42 331129 Fax: 42 323665
<b>Technical contact</b> (name, position, fax, phone)	David Pomery Chief Weeds Officer Ph: 42 331129 Fax: 42 323665

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Activity	Expenditure
Private property inspections – Cat A & B	\$49,820.00
Private property inspections – Cat C & D	\$23,126.00
<b>WAP Priorities</b>	
Publicity	\$8,621.00
Training	\$3,971.00
NRM Integration	\$1,962.00
Alert Weeds	\$2,200.00
High Risk Pathways	\$15,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$104,700.00*</b>

\* Includes on costs

I hereby certify that all moneys paid have been expended or incurred by way of expenditure solely on noxious weed management activities as defined in the Noxious Weed Advisory Committee policy documents and conditions.

Printed name	David Pomery
Position in Organisation	Chief Weeds Officer
Contact Telephone Number	02-42 331129
Date	5 <sup>th</sup> August 2013
Written report attached (Please tick)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Report on Weed Control Operational Assistance 2012/2013**

**Outcomes and results from July 2012-June 2013  
A Final Report prepared for the constituent member councils of the IDNWA**

<b>Name Of Organisation</b>	Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority
<b>Address</b>	PO Box 148 Kiama NSW 2533

<b>Administrative contact</b> (name, position, fax, phone)	David Pomery Chief Weeds Officer Ph: 42 331129 Fax: 42 323665
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<b>Technical contact</b> (name, position, fax, phone)	David Pomery Chief Weeds Officer Ph: 42 331129 Fax: 42 323665
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**FINANCIAL REPORT**

<b>Actual Expenditure</b>		
	<b>Total \$</b>	<b>Total \$</b>
<b>Noxious Weeds</b>	<b>A &amp; B Weeds</b>	<b>C &amp; D Weeds</b>
African Lovegrass	\$2,253.00	\$4,693.00
Aquatic Weeds (Alligator Weed, Salvinia, Water Hyacinth)	\$2,366.00	-
Bitou Bush	\$4,069.00	\$26,427.00
Boneseed	-	-
Blackberry	-	\$9,278.00
Chilean Needle Grass	\$2,591.00	-
Coolatai Grass	\$2,945.00	-
Gorse	\$3,093.00	
Groundsel Bush	\$5,159.00	
Ornamental Lantana	\$2,119.00	-
Pink Lantana	-	\$439.00
Mysore Thorn	\$3,809.00	-
Pampas Grass	-	-
Giant Parramatta Grass	\$10,447.00	-
Rhus Tree	-	\$37.00
Sea Spurge	-	-
Serrated Tussock	-	-
St Johns Wort	\$2,839.00	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$41,690.00</b>	<b>\$40,874.00</b>

<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$82,564.00*</b>
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I hereby certify that all moneys paid have been expended or incurred by way of expenditure solely on noxious weed management activities as defined in the Noxious Weed Advisory Committee policy documents and conditions.

Printed name	David Pomery
Position in Organisation	Chief Weeds Officer
Contact Telephone Number	02-42 331129
Date	5 <sup>th</sup> August 2013

## Administration Expenses Report Form

### Administration Staff:

Salaries and Allowances:	\$17,955.00	
Contribution to SCG Secretariat:	\$7,600.00	
Contribution to Kiama Municipal Council:	\$6,210.00	
Extra Clerical Assistance:		
<b><u>Sub-Total</u></b>		<b><u>\$31,765.00</u></b>

### Office Expenses:

Depot Rental and Maintenance:	\$2,354.00	
Office Equipment Rental and Maintenance:	-	
Advertising (not noxious weed publicity)	\$777.00	
Printing and Stationery:	\$7.00	
Postage:	\$384.00	
Telephones:	\$2,370.00	
Photocopying:	\$54.00	
<b><u>Sub-Total</u></b>		<b><u>\$5,946.00</u></b>

### Computer Expenses:

(eg maintenance, agreements)	\$1,441.00	
<b><u>Sub-Total</u></b>		<b><u>\$1,441.00</u></b> -

### Members Expenses:

Chairman's Allowance	-	
Members Meeting Fees:	-	
Travelling Expenses – Councillors:	-	
Delegates Expenses:	-	
Refreshments:	-	
<b><u>Sub-Total</u></b>		

### Other Administration Expenses:

Audit Fees	\$1,250.00	
Legal Expenses:	\$783.00	
<b>Insurances:</b> (Professional Indemnity, Public Liability, Accident & Property not covered by on-costs on field staff or plant running costs)	\$11,239.00	
Sundry Expenses:		
<b><u>Sub-Total</u></b>		<b><u>\$13,272.00</u></b>

**TOTAL:** **\$52,424.00**

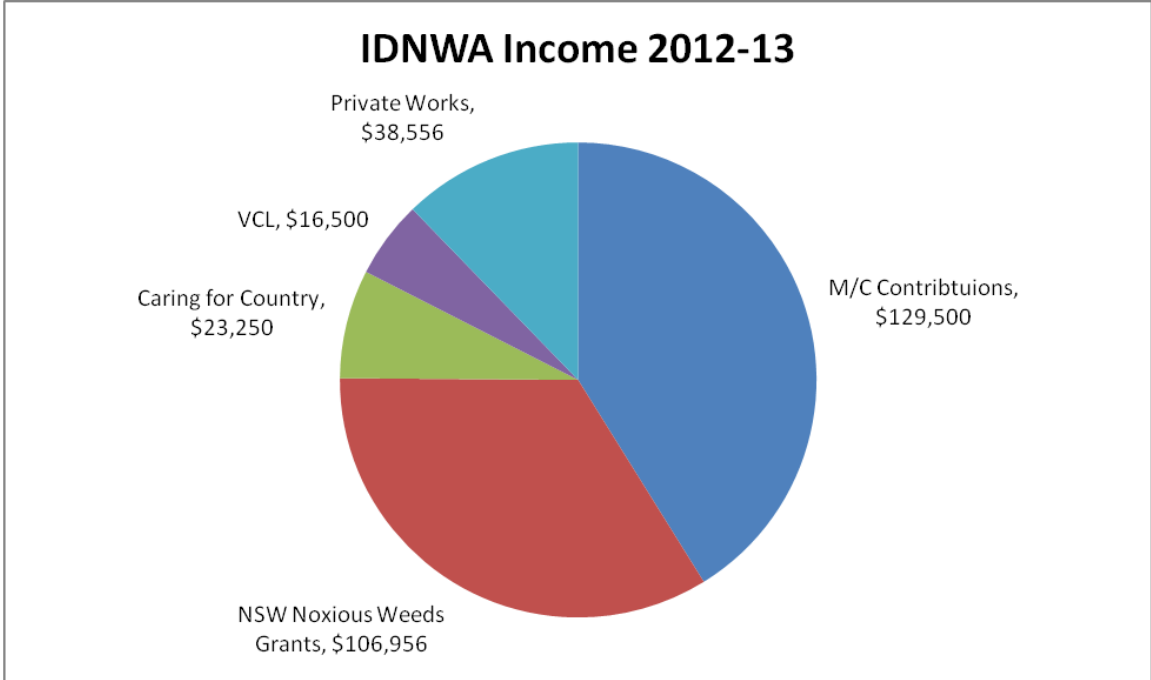
**90% for Apportionment to Grant Program** **\$47,182.00**

**TOTAL** **\$47,182.00**

## IDNWA SUMMARY

- Southern Rivers Regional Weeds Strategy developed and being implemented with funding from the NSW Department of Primary Industries, constituent councils, SRCMA and Department of Lands.
- Implemented Illawarra component of South Coast NSW Weeds Action Program under the NSW Invasive Species Plan
- 421 inspections undertaken  
145 follow-up inspections
- All nurseries and aquaria (26 outlets) inspected.
- 103ha of Bitou Bush aurally sprayed;  
706km of roadsides inspected and treated for Cat A & B weeds  
232 km of roadsides inspected and treated for Cat C & D weeds  
56ha of Cat B weeds treated in public reserves  
165ha of Cat C & D weeds treated in public reserves.  
3 EECs managed and protected.
- Member of four (4) regional committees, one National committee and a subcommittee of the NSW Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee (NWAC). Occasional representation on a number of local committees is also held.
- Three (3) displays and two (2) presentations were held over the last 12 months, and four (4) media releases were issued.
- Co-ordinated Illawarra component of Caring for Country Boneseed and Aquatic weed projects
- Constituent council contributions of \$129,500.00 received and supported with NSW Noxious Weeds Grant funding of \$106,956.00 to implement inspectorial and operational programs.
- Secured funding of an additional \$39,750.00 for the region through other grant sources.  
CfC (Boneseed) - \$20,250.00  
CfC ( Aquatics) - \$3,000.00  
VCL grant- \$16,500.00
- Annual gross income of \$38,856.00 generated from private works / commercial spraying operations.





## **Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority**

### **Weed Control Co-ordination and Extension Program Report 2012/13 01 July 2012 – 30 June 2013**

A Final Report prepared for the constituent member councils of the IDNWA

## Executive Summary

The Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority (IDNWA) representing the local government areas of Wollongong City, Shellharbour City and Kiama Municipal Councils, has over the past 12 months continued to develop and implement an active noxious weed control program throughout the region, consolidating the work of previous years.

In maintaining a co-operative regional based approach to noxious weed control where funding is linked to outcomes, the IDNWA has addressed a number of key issues to ensure the Authority's Aims and Objectives are achieved. These issues may be summarised as follows:

- The Southern Rivers Regional Weeds Management Strategy was implemented with funding from the NSW Department of Primary Industries, constituent councils, SRCMA and Department of Lands.
- A priority list of high risk weeds has been identified; regional inspection and control programs developed; high risk pathways targeted.
- Caring for Country projects on Boneseed and Aquatic noxious weeds implemented and completed.
- Local Weed Control Programs for private landholders and government agencies have continued to be given high priority with 421 initial inspections and 145 follow-up inspections being undertaken over the past 12 months.
- Improved co-operation between stakeholders is being addressed through representation on four (4) regional committees, two National committees and a subcommittee of the NSW Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee (NWAC). Occasional representation on a number of local committees is also held.
- Education and publicity activities have continued to be given high priority through ongoing utilisation of the media and participation in community events (Refer Attachment 1). Three (3) displays, two (2) presentations and four (4) media releases were issued over the last 12 months.
- Operational programs have continued to be maintained, expanding as time and resources permit, thereby complementing the inspectorial program and allowing the Authority to continue to lead by example. 745km of rural roadsides and 193km of non rural roads were inspected and treated for one or more noxious weeds. 324ha of reserve land was controlled. Three (3) EECs have been managed and protected.

## Control Authority Aims

### Aim:

- To reduce the negative impact of noxious weeds on the community and environment of the Illawarra region by establishing control mechanisms to:
  - (I) prevent the establishment of new weeds
  - (II) restrict the spread and reduce the area of existing weeds

### Objectives:

- To develop, implement and co-ordinate noxious weed control programs in close co-operation with landholders.
- To prevent the establishment, restrict the spread, and reduce the incidence of all declared noxious weeds within the local area.
- To enhance community awareness and understanding of noxious weeds and their control.

### Goals:

- The IDNWA aims to prevent all Class 1 noxious weeds from establishing within the local area, to have all Class 2 noxious weeds eradicated, whilst reducing the incidence of other noxious weeds from public lands within the Wollongong Statistical District.
- The IDNWA aims to cooperate closely with all landholders to prevent the establishment and ensure the eradication of all Class 1 and 2 noxious weeds, and to reduce the incidence of other noxious weeds on private lands within the Wollongong Statistical District.
- The IDNWA aims to provide a cost efficient noxious weeds control program, while taking appropriate steps to protect the environment.

Action	Who	Milestone
Media coverage, field days, talks, discussions, displays	LCA	Utilise print media, TV, radio on regular basis. Conduct field days to promote new/alternate technology. Promote and be involved in community events and discussions.
Inspection of lands	LCA	Property inspections to be undertaken on a regular basis
Control undertaken on LCA lands	LCA	Carry out required control measures thereby leading by example
Liaison with key stakeholders	LCA	Development of Regional Weed Strategies / LAPs Involvement in Regional/Local Committees

## Private Property Inspection Program

The IDNWA Private Property Inspection Program is aimed to complement the Authority's Operational Program. The core **aim** of the private property inspection program is to:

1. To prevent the establishment of new weeds and restrict the spread and reduce the incidence of existing noxious weeds on private lands within the constituent council areas.

The IDNWA policy in relation to this aim is to achieve this in the closest co-operation with the landholder in the first instance, otherwise by use of the Authority's legal powers.

### Objectives

- To eradicate or otherwise prevent the spread and reduce the incidence of noxious weeds on all private lands.
- To ensure all land managers meet their obligations under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993.
- Raise the level of community awareness and understanding of noxious weeds and the need to control them.

The Authority's current method of implementing private property inspections is to target specific areas where the target weed is known to occur (or has the potential to occur) and where the potential cost to the landholder in terms of lost productivity, and potential damage to the environment, is greatest. In this regard most noxious weed inspections have been directed toward controlling known light infestations and all new or emerging noxious weed incursions on private lands, thereby containing the weed and preventing its further spread over time.

Water weeds are treated on a site by site basis, the aim being to work from the source in each case; to eradicate it from the upper reaches of catchments gradually working downstream until the entire catchment system is clean.

Specific areas have only been targeted at those times when the target weed has been susceptible to control methods. High risk pathways such as transport corridors, watercourses, stockyards and nursery/aquaria outlets have all been specifically targeted to prevent or otherwise slow the spread of high priority weeds. Target areas have been expanded as time and resources permit.

In undertaking its private property inspection program over the past 12 months the IDNWA has endeavoured to meet its stated aims and objectives through implementing a program of high level action plans in consultation with relevant stakeholders that complement other IDNWA activities.

Specifically, the INDWA undertook the following actions in relation to its Inspectorial program.

1. 421 initial inspections and 145 follow-up inspections were undertaken up to 30 June 2013. This figure was 81 properties more than the 340 initial properties to be inspected annually.
2. A total of 391 inspections for Category A & B weeds and 30 inspections for Category C & D weeds were undertaken over the last 12 months.
3. All nursery and aquaria were inspected by 31 December 2012. A total of 26 outlets were inspected with no outlets found to be selling prohibited plants.
4. One Class 2 weed – Alligator Weed was found for the first time in a private dam at Dunmore.
5. All known Giant Parramatta Grass (GPG), Pampas Grass and Mysore Thorn infestations were targeted for inspection and control throughout Kiama and Shellharbour, whilst all known Boneseed, Groundsel Bush, Chilean Needle Grass and Water Hyacinth infestations were inspected and control methods implemented throughout all three member council areas. GPG, Pampas Grass and Mysore Thorn were strategically targeted for control within the Wollongong LGA according to local action plan guidelines. Marginal infestations of Blackberry were targeted throughout the district so as to limit the establishment and further spread of this weed. Programmed surveys were undertaken throughout the urban areas of Kiama, Shellharbour and southern Wollongong for Ornamental Lantana with 34 properties identified.
6. Three (3) noxious weed displays were held – one each at the annual Kiama and Albion Park agricultural shows and one at the annual Wollongong Backyard Festival. Four (4) media releases were issued. (Refer attachment 1).

### **Summary of Achievements**

Inspections conducted:

Total number ground inspections: 566

Actual number properties inspected: 421

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## Specific Inspections for New Weeds

**Aim:** To assist the community in preventing the introduction of new noxious weeds to the Illawarra region.

### Outcomes:

High risk pathways such as transport corridors, watercourses, stockyards and nursery/aquaria outlets have all been specifically targeted to prevent or otherwise slow the spread of high priority weeds.

As part of the IDNWA inspection and enforcement activities, inspections are undertaken of all nurseries, aquaria and related businesses. These inspections are generally undertaken annually over the Christmas/New Year period when sales of plants are likely to be maximised (and hence the opportunity to detect prohibited species). Some 26 enterprises were inspected over the last 12 months with no businesses found selling prohibited plants.

Two of the four (4) major water catchments were inspected along their length to ensure no new (aquatic) weed incursions. One Class 2 weed – Alligator Weed - was found for the first time in a private dam at Dunmore within the Shellharbour LGA as a result of this program.

73kms of coastline was also inspected covering the entire coastal strip in Kiama and Shellharbour along with the area from Bulli to Bellambi and Port Kembla to Windang in the northern and southern parts of the Wollongong LGA respectively.

Transport corridors such as the South Coast rail line, F6 Freeway and Kiama Bypass were also inspected for noxious weeds along with over 900km of council controlled roadsides.

Residents and members of the community have also been encouraged to report new weed incursions through either 'phone-ins', providing details on a weed register list provided at all education/extension activities, or during routine noxious weed inspections carried out on private property by IDNWA staff.

## Summary of Achievements

### Specific Inspections Conducted

Number aquaria and pet shops:	11
Number nurseries	11
Number other businesses	4
Transport Corridors inspected	3
Kms of Coastline inspected	73
Water catchments inspected	2
New weed incursions found	1

## Use of Enforcement Procedures for Noxious Weed Control

For the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, 421 properties were inspected, requiring 11 Section 18A Notices and 7 Section 18 Notices to be issued. These notices were issued only after it was apparent the relevant occupier/s were making no attempt/or an insufficient effort to control the designated noxious weed/s as required.

Two Section 20 Entries and One Search Warrant were undertaken over the last financial period 2012-13.

To date, the Constituent Councils have preferred to exercise their power under Section 20 of the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 and enter problem properties and undertake all necessary control works at that time, rather than implementing court procedures against the landholder.

To ensure that owners and occupiers of land carry out their obligations to control noxious weeds as imposed under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993, the Constituent Councils through the IDNWA prefer to achieve this objective in the closest co-operation with the landholder, by adopting a conciliatory approach. Failure to reach reasonable consensus, however, will (and has) resulted in council exercising its legal powers to ensure compliance. Prosecution will be undertaken at this time if deemed appropriate by the full committee of the IDNWA. Alternatively, a Section 20 Entry will be undertaken (as has been the case to date). Further, the IDNWA will also be implementing on-the-spot fines (SEINS) for small acreage properties that refuse to acknowledge their noxious weed responsibilities. This action will again be undertaken only if consensus cannot be reached with the landholder to undertake control works on the identified noxious weed(s).

### Summary of Enforcement Actions

#### **Bitou Bush**

Number of Section 18 Weed Control Notices:	2
Number of Section 20 Entries	1

#### **Ornamental Lantana**

Number of Section 18 Weed Control Notices:	1
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#### **Blackberry**

Number of Section 18 Weed Control Notices:	4
Number of Section 20 Entries	1

#### **Salvinia**

Number of Search Warrants issued	1
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## **Weed Recording, Mapping and Reporting Activities**

**Aim:** To compile accurate and concise information on the distribution of noxious weeds in the region over time, providing a benchmark for which performance can be measured and appropriate action undertaken.

### **Outcomes:**

In undertaking private property inspection programs, the IDNWA records the weed presence, density, distribution and location. All information is recorded on a database to be used for council administration purposes.

Weed locations are currently recorded in the format of the Australian Map Grid (AMG) reference system to be utilised in anticipation of mapping becoming available. Whilst mapping tools are not yet available, investigations are currently being made into the purchase of WeedMap Pro® or equivalent that will enable the import of map bases from GIS packages used by the constituent councils. This action will conform to NSW Weed Action Program management action milestones.

## **Communication, Education, Extension and Publicity Activities**

**Aim:** To promote public awareness about noxious weeds and their control and encourage a sense of community responsibility about the problem.

### **Outcomes:**

In keeping with the Authority's planned milestones and objectives, education and awareness campaigns have continued to be an important component of IDNWA noxious weed control activities throughout the year.

Whilst Weedbuster Week is no longer a National event the slogan was used as the focus for three (3) displays held during the year. Displays were held as part of the Agriculture Show circuit at Kiama and Albion Park and the Wollongong Backyard Festival.

The local print and electronic media were also utilised to publicise various control programs and disseminate information on all aspects of the Authority's weed control activities (Attachment 1). Four (4) media releases were issued during the course of the year along with two (2) presentations given at organised events.

The Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority website ([www.idnwa.com.au](http://www.idnwa.com.au)) has been established and is now receiving feedback.

To enhance staff skills and performance levels, the Chief Weeds Officer and Noxious Weeds Inspector/Operator also attended various field days and seminars organised by other groups. These days proved beneficial in covering most aspects of the Authority's weed control functions.

## **Staffing, Organisational Structure**

### **Staff**

#### **Chief Weeds Officer David Pomery**

##### **Key Outputs:**

187 properties inspected; 88 follow-up inspections; co-ordinated inspectorial, operational and private works programs; supervised staff and contractors; implemented Regional Weeds Strategy; preparation of all media releases; preparation and acquittal of all grant funding applications and returns data; update LAPs; review policy; assisted in review of regional MERI plan, Rapid Response plan and Communication Strategy; provided feedback on statutory reviews and NRM policies and strategies; liaise with landowners and managers.

##### **Qualifications:**

Bachelor of Arts (Hons)  
Advanced Diploma C.A.L.M. (Weeds)  
Diploma C.A.L.M. (Weeds)

#### **Noxious Weeds Inspector/Operator Tony Martin**

##### **Key Outputs:**

234 properties inspected; 57 follow-up inspections; inspection of all Class 2 noxious weed infestations; inspection of all nursery and aquaria; assist in displays and information days; liaise with landowners and managers; undertake all roadside and reserve spraying\control programs; supervise casual staff.

##### **Qualifications:**

Diploma Horticulture  
Diploma C.A.L.M. (Weeds)  
Advanced Certificate in Urban Horticulture  
Certificate II Bush Regeneration  
Certificate II and IV Weed Control Operation and Practice

### **Administration**

The Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority (IDNWA) has two (2) full-time employees, the Chief Weeds Officer, Mr David Pomery, and the Noxious Weed Inspector/Operator, Mr Tony Martin. The IDNWA is the Local Government empowered to control noxious weeds in the following three (3) Council areas:

1. Wollongong City
2. Shellharbour City
3. Kiama Municipal

The Authority is responsible for controlling noxious weeds on all council owned lands including certain roadsides and Vacant Crown land through special grants. It is also responsible for the inspection of private property for noxious weed infestations and the giving of directions and advice to landholders so that adequate control is maintained.

The IDNWA came into existence in 1992 when the abovementioned councils decided to form a special purpose council to administer and control their noxious weeds. Each of the three (3) constituent councils has one delegate who represents their council's interests and oversees the affairs of the Authority. A technical sub-committee comprised of one (1) officer from each of the three (3) council's technical staff provides an advisory and support function to the IDNWA. Kiama Municipal Council and the Southern Councils Group Secretariat provide administrative support.

The administrative base of the IDNWA consists of –

- A part-time clerical person to undertake day to day administration;
- All field and associated administration work is undertaken by the Chief Weeds Officer who, as well as working in close liaison with the Authority Chairman and Executive Officer, is responsible for the day to day running of the Weeds Authority. He also acts as spokesperson on field and technical matters for the Authority.
- The workface activities are undertaken by the Noxious Weeds Inspector/Operator who carries out property inspections and spray programs and directs and supervises any casual spray operators. The Inspector, in conjunction with the Chief Weeds Officer, submits quarterly reports to the Authority.
- The elected members and technical representatives of the constituent councils form the management committee of the Weeds Authority. A meeting of the Authority normally is convened quarterly.

## **Staff Training**

**Aim:** To retain well motivated staff who are trained to effectively implement the service which the Authority aims to provide.

### **Outcomes**

#### **Chief Weeds Officer**

##### **Training completed 2012/2013:**

No accredited training undertaken in 2012/13

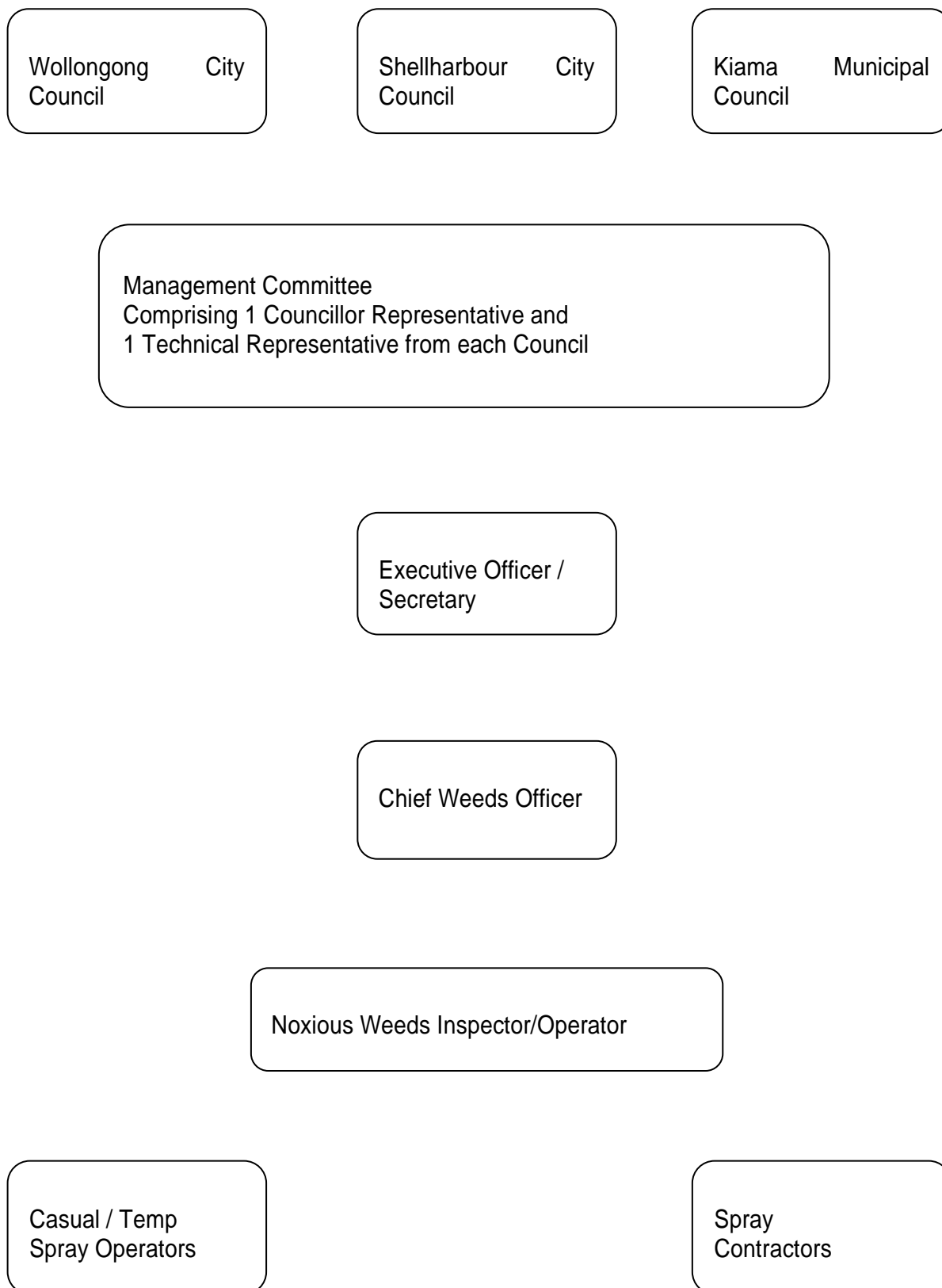
#### **Chemcert reaccreditation**

##### **Noxious Weed Inspector/Operator**

##### **Training completed 2012/2013:**

No accredited training undertaken in 2012/13

## Organisational structure



## **Planning and Policy Documents**

### **Policy Documents**

- IDNWA Weed Control Policy and Management Plan
- Noxious Weed Agreement – Wollongong City, Shellharbour City and Kiama Municipal Councils

### **Strategic Planning Policies**

- SRCMA Regional Weeds Strategy
- SW Sydney Regional Weed Strategy
- Garden Plants under the Spotlight Strategy
- NSW Coastal Policy (Kiama Council only)
- Local Government LEP Policies

### **Strategic Weed Strategies/Plans**

- National Weeds Strategy
- WONS Strategy (various)
- NSW Invasive Species Plan
- NSW New Incursion Plan
- NSW Alligator Weed Strategy
- NSW Bitou Bush Strategy
- NSW Threat Abatement Plan (Bitou Bush & Lantana)
- NSW Landcare Plan
- Rivercare 2000
- Streamwatch
- Environmental Impact Statements by Developers
- State of the Environment Reporting
- Council Environmental Plans under the EPA Act
- Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority Catchment Action Plan
- DUAP Draft 'Shaping the Illawarra' Plan
- Illawarra NRM Plan
- South Coast MERI plan
- South Coast Rapid Response plan
- South Coast Communication strategy

### **Local Weed Plans**

- Aquatic weeds
- Bitou Bush
- Blackberry
- Giant Parramatta Grass
- Groundsel Bush
- Gorse
- Mysore Thorn
- Pampas Grass
- Rhus Tree
- St Johns Wort
- Serrated Tussock

## **Co-operation**

**Aim:** To effectively and without prejudice, work with all stakeholders within the guidelines of the noxious weeds legislation.

### **Outcomes:**

The IDNWA is responsible for noxious weed control within the constituent local government areas of Wollongong City, Shellharbour City and Kiama Municipal Council. To oversee the supervision of the Authority's noxious weed control program and ensure constituent councils' obligations and responsibilities are being met; the IDNWA has its own Noxious Weeds Committee. The Authority also has its own Technical Sub-Committee that provides technical advice and support within each of the constituent council areas.

The IDNWA is also actively involved with the Southern Tablelands and South Coast Region Noxious Plants Committee and corresponds with other Regional committees from time to time as the need arises.

A particularly close working relationship is held with the South Coast Councils group with whom a Memorandum of Understanding has been developed to assist in joint funding applications and regional weed control programs.

A South Coast Bitou Bush and Boneseed Taskforce committee has also been established to oversee and assist in the implementation of the Regional Bitou Bush and Boneseed Strategy and Management Plan. The Taskforce comprises representatives of all South Coast local councils, Department of Environment and Conservation, Southern Rivers CMA and the community. The role of the Taskforce is to monitor the ongoing implementation of the Regional Strategy and Management Plan; implement public awareness campaigns; provide for coordination of activities with respect to Bitou Bush and Boneseed control and provide a body through which to make funding submissions at the regional level. The IDNWA is currently acting as Secretary/Treasurer for this committee.

The IDNWA is also involved with the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (SRCMA) Natural Resource Managers forum which aims to capture natural resource management issues, develop projects and communicate the results of natural resource management programs currently being undertaken within the region. Weeds are one of the NRM issues pertinent to NRM managers associated with this forum.

IDNWA staff also hold positions on the National Bitou bush and Boneseed Management Group, the National Asparagus Weeds Management Group and the NSW Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee Coordination, Communication and Education Sub-committee. A good working relationship is held with each of these committees providing valuable input and feedback on National and State issues.

The IDNWA has a close working relationship with most government agencies within the area. A prime objective of the IDNWA Policy of Control is to ensure, so far as practical, that occupiers of land carry out their obligations to control noxious weeds. To this effect the IDNWA is in constant liaison and consultation with a number of government agencies with regard to noxious weed control programs on the land they occupy.

In the development of the SRCMA Regional Weeds Strategy a number of key government agencies were consulted and their input to the Strategy received. In ensuring the objectives of this strategy are being met, ongoing consultation and co-operation with respective government agencies has been required. This level of cooperation has further been built on through the implementation of the NSW Weeds Action Program and in particular the focus on high risk pathways.

Good compliance has been achieved with most Government agencies with regard to the Authority's weed control programs over the last 12 months. Most control works are implemented on a request only basis, although some government authorities (Transgrid, Sydney Water, NPWS) are undertaking annual programs on lands under their care and control. The IDNWA has regular contracts with the Roads and Maritime Service (RMS) and Sydney Water.

One area of ongoing concern however is land under the management of Rail Corp (RC). The IDNWA is concerned that RC is not meeting its obligations under the Act, and that this is having a detrimental impact on effective weed management in adjoining areas. Whilst RC staff appear cooperative and willing to undertake the work requested, unfortunately most works are not undertaken in a timely manner and are more often than not adhoc and incomplete. With the South Coast rail line being a major transport (and weed) corridor within the region failure to undertake adequate control of identified noxious weeds can have a major impact on surrounding properties and subsequent weed spread. A more proactive approach is being sought from RC operators, however failing this further action may be necessary to build on the good efforts of earlier programs under different management.



## Operational Program

The IDNWA Operational Weed Control Program is primarily designed to complement the Inspectorial Program whilst ensuring the IDNWA continues to lead the way by setting the example.

**Aim:** To effectively manage noxious weeds on all council controlled lands.

### Outcomes:

The main focus over the past 12 months on Council controlled lands has been –

1. To eradicate all Class 2 weeds.
2. To restrict the spread and reduce the incidence of all Class 3 and 4 weeds.
3. To expand this program onto untreated lands as time and resources permit.
4. To target all new and emerging noxious weed infestations outside programmed areas.

This approach has involved the use of integrated techniques aimed at –

1. Preventing the establishment of any new weeds within the district whilst simultaneously slowing the spread and reducing the incidence of existing noxious weeds on council lands within the constituent council areas.
2. Ensuring the impact of noxious weeds on council lands as a threat to agriculture and the environment is minimised.

The Authority's current Operational Weed Control Program is co-ordinated in such a way as to target areas within the inspection program. Some roadside and reserve spraying was undertaken outside programmed or previously treated areas so as to target new and emerging noxious weed infestations and/or following special requests by Constituent Councils / resident complaints.

With reference to specific actions and milestones in achieving the stated Aims and Objectives of the IDNWA Operational Program the following actions were achieved for the 2012-13 year period.

1. All council lands infested with Class 2 weeds were inspected and treated at least 4 times by 30 April 2013.
2. All council lands with infestations of Class 3 weeds were inspected and treated at least once over the last 12 months.
3. 938km of council controlled roadside and 324ha of public reserve land were inspected and treated by 30 June 2013.
4. Three EECs were protected and managed for Bitou bush and Lantana.

5. 103ha of heavy or otherwise inaccessible Bitou Bush was controlled by aerial spraying as part of the winter 2013 control program.
6. High priority non declared weeds Coolatai grass\*, Sea spurge, Glory Lily, Spiny Burr grass and Ludwigia were all targeted for control on known infested council land.

\* Only in the Kiama and Shellharbour LGAs

7. Specifically, all Bitou Bush and African Lovegrass on council controlled lands within the Kiama and Shellharbour local government areas were inspected and treated by 30 October 2012 and 30 November 2012 respectively. All Groundsel Bush, Giant Parramatta Grass, Gorse, Serrated Tussock, and Mysore Thorn infestations within Kiama, Shellharbour and Wollongong were inspected and treated by 30 June 2013. Known St Johns Wort infestations were controlled by 30 November 2012, whilst any Salvinia and Water Hyacinth infestations on council lands were treated at least four times by 30 April 2013. Pampas Grass, Bitou Bush, and African Lovegrass were strategically targeted for control within the Wollongong LGA according to local action plan guidelines. Marginal infestations of Blackberry were targeted throughout the three member council areas so as to limit the establishment and further spread of this weed.

All reported new noxious weed incursions were inspected and/or treated within 5 days of being reported.

## **Other Weed Programs**

### **1. Vacant Crown Land**

Under funding received from the Department of Primary Industries (Catchments and Lands) for Weed Control on Crown Land the IDNWA has been able to undertake some additional noxious weed control programs throughout the district. These programs, primarily aimed at Bitou Bush, have been essential in ensuring a co-ordinated and strategic approach to Bitou Bush within the local area is achieved. They have helped achieve the stated aims of National, State, Regional and local action plans by –

1. supporting landholders in a collective program to contain the spread of Bitou Bush.
2. ensuring funds are targeted to species management where it will deliver the greatest benefit (ie asset protection).
3. developing and implementing programs to reduce environmental degradation and the loss of biodiversity through weed invasion (ie NSW Threat Abatement Plan for Key Threatening Processes).
4. preventing the spread of Bitou Bush within the local area
5. reducing the area and distribution of Bitou Bush within the local area

\$16,500.00 was allocated to the IDNWA to control Bitou Bush on Crown Land reserves at Perkins Beach, Kemblawarra (\$6,500.00), Coomaditchie Lagoon Kemblawarra (\$3,000.00), Bevan's Island Lake Illawarra (\$3,000.00) and Bass Point Reserve Shellharbour (\$4,000.00) in the 2012/13 year.

As with any weed control program, however, on-going control over several years at each of the targeted sites will still be required to control any regrowth or missed plants, and prevent previous time and expense being wasted.

### **2. Caring for Country SE Australia Boneseed Eradication project**

The IDNWA was a successful partner in a 2011 Caring for Country Boneseed eradication and biodiversity protection project covering south east Australia. The project aimed to map, control and raise awareness of Boneseed through early intervention and prevention of spread. The project also aimed to establish a national Boneseed containment line on the Victorian border and control all outlier infestations to the north in NSW. The program supported existing programs for Boneseed control and provided incentive payments to private and agency landholders. \$143,200 was requested over 2 years with the IDNWA receiving \$25,000 for on ground control including subsidies and \$15,000 for additional inspections.

#### **Results:**

The IDNWA inspected a total of 136 private properties and 46 roads and reserves covering an area of approximately 4,500ha. Fourteen (14) Boneseed sites were identified covering approximately 20ha of infestation. Most Boneseed infestations were found in the urban-bushland interface, particularly in the northern suburbs of Wollongong. The largest

infestation covered an area in excess of 1ha and was located at the southern end of the Royal National Park at Bald Hill.

All identified infestations were treated twice over the term of the project, except for one small infestation on Rail Corp land at Kiama. This matter is now being referred to the Minister for further action.

Mapping of Boneseed infestations has provided excellent baseline data to show significant reductions in plant numbers, density and distribution post control at all identified hotspots ( excluding Rail Corp land) .

Ongoing monitoring and maintenance will be undertaken annually post project to ensure gains made under this project are not wasted resulting in the weed re-establishing.

### **3. Caring for Country Aquatic Weed Outlier Program**

In July 2011 the IDNWA received \$6,000.00 through the Caring for Country NSW Alligator Weed and Salvinia Outlier Eradication Program to control three known Alligator Weed infestations and two Salvinia infestations within the IDNWA control area.

The Program involved both the control of these 5 sites and the inspection of previously known infested sites to ensure reinvasion had not occurred.

Control and inspection programs were undertaken over the summers of 2011/12 and 2012/13. A total of 20 properties were inspected over the two year period with 8 infestations confirmed (six Alligator Weed and two Salvinia). During the course of inspections an additional three Alligator Weed sites were identified.

Alligator Weed locations:

1. Urban backyard invading nearby creek – Stanwell Park
2. Duck Creek, Yallah
- 3/4/5 Dunmore Wetlands – Dunmore (three sites)
6. Rural dam – Stockyard Mountain Albion Park

Salvinia locations:

1. Creek line – Shell Cove
2. Rural dam – Stockyard Mountain Albion Park

Each site was treated a total of 6 times over the two summer growing seasons (three times each summer- December, March and May) ). Seven landholders were involved in the control program. A total of 38ha of scattered Alligator Weed was managed and 500m<sup>2</sup> of Salvinia.

**Results:**

All works were implemented using current best practice management as outlined in the Weeds of National Significance Alligator Weed and Salvinia control manuals.

Of the two Salvinia sites both infestation have been eradicated with no plants found on the last two inspections/treatments. Eradication of these two sites now means that the Illawarra has no known Salvinia infestations in its area of operation.

Of the six Alligator Weed sites, infestation levels have been reduced considerably such that Alligator Weed is now only found as scattered regrowth mainly on the bed of Duck creek and around the wetland/dam margins of the other sites. No floating mats of Alligator Weed occur. Infestation levels have reduced by approximately 70% from pre-control levels. What were once medium levels of infestation is now light or sparse. Due to the persistent nature of the weed however, ongoing control will be required over several more years to achieve eradication.

The success of the annual herbicide treatment program is based on the theory of gradual depletion. Because Alligator Weed has the ability to regrow from underground root reserves, if the plant is treated with herbicide three times each growing season it will be forced into three growth phases (one after each treatment). Each time the plant regrow's it is using its stored energy. Eventually the plant becomes less vigorous and regrowth takes longer. Repeated over a number of seasons the plant eventually dies.

The IDNWA received \$3,000.00 in 2012/13 covering Inspections and control works.

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**Private Works**

The IDNWA has a policy to promote the use of Authority plant for contract weed control for private and government landholders. This policy allows for continuous and efficient use of resources. When demand exceeds resources the IDNWA will employ sub-contractors for either the public or private works.

**Aim:** To provide an efficient and effective private works capability

**Outcomes**

The IDNWA generated an annual gross income from commercial spraying operations in 2012/13 of \$38,856.00. Operating profit net of all expenses was \$14,096.00.

## Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	<b>Class 4 – African Boxthorn</b>
<i>Objectives</i>	To prevent the growth and spread of the weed and reduce its numbers and distribution throughout the region.
<i>The infestation</i>	African Boxthorn is scattered sporadically throughout the three council areas, being most common on private property in the Shellharbour and Kiama areas where it is found bordering the major River catchment areas (ie. Crooked River / Minnamurra River / Macquarie Rivulet). African Boxthorn becomes scarcer North of Wollongong. It is occasionally found invading grazing lands within both Kiama and Shellharbour.
<i>New outbreaks</i>	No new infestations have been recorded over the past year.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	African Boxthorn is inspected year round as part of normal inspection program. Known infested properties are targeted for inspection every 2-3 years after initial detection and control to ensure treatment programs are being maintained and effective control achieved.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	An active inspection program is undertaken in areas where the weed is known to occur.
<i>Publicity</i>	Control and Identification of African Boxthorn is promoted through on-going publicity events. Three displays were held where African Boxthorn was highlighted.
<i>Facilitation Include details of any integrated control programs (eg. Bio-control)</i>	Spray vehicle and staff are available under contract. Demonstrations are given to occupiers on site (if requested) as to treatment by cut-stump or stem injection if this method is the preferred control option.
<i>Control on council land</i>	All rural roads were patrolled once and known infested council reserves inspected by 30 November 2012. Only minor regrowth is now being found. No mature plants were noted.
<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	Good compliance with agencies that have this weed on land they occupy.
<i>Future plans</i>	To continue to inspect existing infested private lands every 2-3 years whilst inspecting/ treating council lands annually until full control/eradication is achieved. To expand inspectorial program as time and resources permit.
<i>General</i>	Current program will be maintained to ensure objectives are met.

## **Indicators**

<b>African Boxthorn</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	11
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	-
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	-

## Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	<b>Class 4 – African Lovegrass</b>
<i>Objectives</i>	To prevent the growth and spread of the weed and reduce its numbers and distribution throughout Kiama and Shellharbour. To prevent the weeds southward spread into Shellharbour and Kiama from within the Wollongong LGA.
<i>The infestation</i>	African Lovegrass occurs as scattered roadside plants at Gerroa and Minnamurra whilst isolated plants have been found on reserves at Shellharbour and along Calderwood Road, Albion Park. Light / Medium infestations are found at West Dapto and Lake Illawarra whilst thick roadside swords occur in the area between Bulli Tops and Helensburgh. Neighbouring private lands contain occasional intrusions of this weed.
<i>New outbreaks</i>	No new infestations were recorded.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	An active inspection and treatment program is undertaken annually over the months October-November targeting all infestations in Kiama and Shellharbour. A containment line has been established at the Shellharbour/Wollongong boundary to prevent the weeds southward spread. AL is considered intractable in most areas north of Macquarie Rivulet.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	Actively enforced on private land where roadside programs exist. Not actively enforced outside programmed areas at this stage.
<i>Publicity</i>	Displays held at two local shows and a Garden festival. Discussed at presentations.
<i>Facilitation</i>	Spray unit and vehicle available under contract.
<i>Control on council land</i>	All known infestations on rural roads and public reserves in Kiama and Shellharbour and south of Bulli in the Wollongong LGA were treated once over the past year.
<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	Not surveyed. Sydney Water and NSW NP&WS do control isolated infestations of this weed annually within their respective areas.



<i>Future plans</i>	Annual control program to be implemented within Kiama and Shellharbour where the weed is not widespread. Infestations within the Wollongong LGA where the weed is widespread to be managed via a containment line at the Shellharbour/Wollongong boundary. Annual private property inspections to continue where roadside programs are in place.
<i>General</i>	African Lovegrass is primarily a weed of roadside verges and occasionally degraded reserves. Control to be maintained as per policy and planning guidelines, and complemented by private property inspections where appropriate to ensure objectives are met.

### **Indicators**

<b>African Lovegrass</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	5
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	-
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	6,946

## Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	<b>Class 2 – Alligator Weed</b>
<i>Objectives</i>	To prevent the further introduction and spread of Alligator Weed within the IDNWA control area. To fully control/eradicate the weed from all known infested areas.
<i>The infestation</i>	Alligator Weed is currently recorded at 5 sites within the region -three on private land at Yellow Rock, Dunmore and Yallah, and two on council controlled lands at Dunmore and Stanwell Park. Previously 2 infestations on public land at Lake Illawarra and 14 properties within the urban areas of Shellharbour and Wollongong were recorded as having Alligator Weed infestations. These infestations would appear to be all but eradicated at this stage
<i>New outbreaks</i>	One new outbreak was found growing in a private dam at Dunmore.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	An annual inspection and treatment program is undertaken on all Alligator weed infested properties. Inspections are undertaken every 6 weeks over the summer growing season with a minimum 3 inspections undertaken on each infested property each summer. Properties previously infested but now clean are inspected every 3rd year following two successive years without the weed being found. This is to ensure eradication has been achieved and the weed has not re-established.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	All lands currently infested with Alligator Weed are inspected at least three times over the summer growing period and treatment programs implemented. All nurseries and aquaria inspected annually.
<i>Publicity</i>	Alligator Weed control and identification is promoted through on-going publicity events. Three displays were held where Alligator Weed was highlighted. Discussed at all presentations.
<i>Facilitation</i> <i>Include details of any integrated control programs (eg. Bio-control)</i>	Under a Caring for Country NSW Aquatic Weed outlier program all inspection and control costs associated with infestations of Alligator weed in the district have been fully funded under this two year program (2011- 2013).
<i>Control on council land</i>	The only infestation found on council lands is that recorded in the Dunmore wetlands. This site was treated three times over the summer growing season.

	Previously a small outbreak was recorded at Lake Illawarra in 2004, however following regular control of this infestation it now appears to have been eradicated.
<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	One infestation on NPWS estate at Gooseberry Island, Lake Illawarra was found in 2006. Good compliance with NPWS staff has been achieved with an annual inspection and treatment program in place. Infestation appears to have been eradicated in 2007/08.
<i>Future plans</i>	To inspect annually the five known infested lands and treat every 4-6 weeks over the summer period until eradicated. Previously infested properties now clean for at least two successive years to be inspected every 3 <sup>rd</sup> year to ensure eradication has been achieved and weed is not re-establishing. To continue to promote awareness and encourage community reporting of any suspect plants. To expand inspection program to cover all main waterways and other potential habitats for Alligator Weed. Annual inspection of all nurseries and aquaria.
<i>General</i>	Good control is beginning to be achieved on this weed although two of the four remaining infestations are proving difficult to manage. Most urban infestations would appear to have been eradicated with only one dwelling found to have a small infestation of AW this year. Ongoing monitoring of other properties will be maintained to ensure plants do not re-establish.

## **Indicators**

<b>Alligator Weed</b>	<b>Total</b>
No. of inspections made this year	3
No. of legal notices this year	-
Expenditure on roadsides (\$)	(2,223) Funded under CfC.

## Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	<b>Class 4 – Bitou Bush</b>
<i>Objectives</i>	To fully control all infestations within Kiama and Shellharbour and strategically control all light and up to 50% of medium infestations in Wollongong. To create containment lines/buffers around all heavily infested sites within the Wollongong LGA and so prevent the spread of the weed from these areas.
<i>The infestation</i>	Bitou Bush is widespread throughout most coastal reserves, industrial sites and some private lands east of the Princes Highway in all three LGA's. It is relatively sparse west of the Princes Highway and in coastal areas north of Bulli.
<i>New outbreaks</i>	No new outbreaks have been reported.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	A high level action plan is being implemented throughout the region. This plan currently focuses on controlling all bitou bush in Kiama and Shellharbour, whilst strategically controlling all light and up to 50% of medium infestations in Wollongong. Programs are maintained in heavily infested zones where control has previously been undertaken (eg Hill 60).
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	An active inspection program is undertaken throughout all Bitou bush infested areas in Kiama and Shellharbour. In Wollongong bitou bush is targeted where it is sparse or light. Not actively enforced in heavy infestations outside programmed areas at this stage.
<i>Publicity</i>	Bitou Bush has been widely promoted throughout the district and reported in both print and electronic media. Weed has been displayed at three events. Bitou Bush is always raised as an issue in any organised group talks. SCBBB Taskforce has been established and is assisting in increasing awareness and raising the profile of the weed.
<i>Facilitation</i> <i>Include details of any integrated control programs (eg. Bio-control)</i>	Spray vehicle and staff are available under contract. Integrated control program has been adopted involving manual removal, aerial and ground spraying, regeneration and biological control. Bio-agents, Bitou Tip Moth, Seed Fly, and Bitou Leaf Roller Moth are being used to slow the rate of spread of the weed, particularly in heavily infested sites. Aerial seeding has been undertaken in monoculture areas. Landcare groups have provided on-ground assistance.
<i>Control on council land</i>	The majority of Bitou Bush within the region is found on land under council care and control. All reserves and infested roads west of Princes Highway were treated in Kiama, Shellharbour and Wollongong by 30 September 2012. All infested council reserves and roads east of Princes Highway were treated by 31 October 2012 in Kiama and Shellharbour whilst all light and up to 50% of medium infested areas were treated in Wollongong according to LAP guidelines. 103ha of heavy or otherwise inaccessible Bitou Bush on council managed land was controlled by aerial spraying by 30 June 2013.  Funding under the Vacant Crown Lands Grant has been used to help address Bitou Bush control on Crown Land at Perkins Beach, Bass Point, Bevan's Island and Coomaditchie Lagoon. Additional funding has been sought this year to continue these programs and expand operations. Funding from the SRCMA and administered by WCC is also being used to address Bitou Bush concerns at Hill 60, Cringila Park, Windang beach and Puckeys Estate. Volunteer care groups have provided on-ground assistance at various sites throughout the district.

<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	Good compliance with Sydney Water and OEH. One area of concern however is land under the management of RailCorp (RC). The IDNWA is concerned that RC is not meeting its obligations under the Act, and that this is having a detrimental impact on effective Bitou Bush management in adjoining areas. Work undertaken is often adhoc and more often than not incomplete. With the South Coast rail line being a major transport (and weed) corridor within the region failure to undertake adequate control of identified noxious weeds is having a major impact on surrounding properties and subsequent weed spread.
<i>Future plans</i>	To expand current inspectorial and operational activities within the Wollongong LGA to encompass remaining 50% of lands where Bitou Bush is of medium density. To expand aerial spraying program within heavy zones thereby reducing amount of viable seed-set within these zones and so slow the rate of spread of the weed within the other zones. To target priority sites with threatened species or endangered ecological communities as identified in the NSW TAP. Continue to pursue additional funding to enhance (and continue) existing programs.
<i>General</i>	Objectives were met.

### **Indicators**

<b>Bitou Bush</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	14
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	2
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	30,496

## Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	<b>Class 4 - Blackberry</b>
<i>Objectives</i>	To reduce the density and distribution of the weed throughout the district.
<i>The infestation</i>	Blackberry is widespread throughout the region being a common weed on neglected grazing lands, vacant industrial areas, roadsides and reserves, and disturbed urban bushland.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	High level action plans are implemented throughout the district. Operational programs compliment inspectorial programs. Particular emphasis is afforded to areas where agricultural productivity is at greatest risk.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps)
<i>Regulation</i>	Actively enforced throughout all three local government areas. Sixty - five (65) properties were inspected for Blackberry over the last 12 months.
<i>Publicity</i>	Blackberry is widely promoted through on-going publicity events. Publicity material on Blackberry was exhibited at three events. Blackberry was regularly discussed in group information talks and at exhibits.
<i>Facilitation Include details of any integrated control programs</i>	Spray unit and staff available under contract. Roadside and reserve spraying coincides with Inspectorial program thereby setting an example to landholders.
<i>Control on council land</i>	Due to funding shortfalls Blackberry control on council land has been significantly reduced such that roads and reserves are now treated every 3 years in rotation. A concerted control program was undertaken within the Curramore / Bombo area in Kiama and Dunmore to Warilla area in Shellharbour. Roads and reserves between Yallah and Kanahooka east of the F6 Freeway were treated in the Wollongong LGA. Constituent council requests and resident complaints were undertaken as reported.
<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	Good compliance with most State Agencies. IDNWA is contracted by the RTA and Integral Energy to undertake any Blackberry control programs on their respective lands. Sydney Water and OEH undertake their own programs on an annual basis. One area of concern however is land under the management of Rail Corp (RC). The IDNWA is concerned that RC is not meeting its obligations under the Act, and that this is having a detrimental impact on effective Blackberry management in adjoining areas. Work undertaken is often adhoc and more often than not incomplete. With the South Coast rail line being a major transport (and weed) corridor within the region failure to undertake adequate control of identified noxious weeds is having a major impact on surrounding properties and subsequent weed spread.

<i>Future plans</i>	Operational program to concentrate on roadsides and reserves within the general inspection area. Program will be expanded as time and resources permit. Inspectorial programs will be enhanced to target problem properties and areas never previously inspected within each of the three constituent council areas. Control of Blackberry within urban areas will be given continued attention to slow spread to adjoining cleaner areas and /or neighbouring rural properties.
<i>General</i>	Program is proceeding as outlined. Good control being achieved in targeted areas. Funding shortfalls may jeopardise existing programs and control levels.

### **Indicators**

<b>Blackberry</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	65
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	4
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	9,278

## Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	<b>Class 4 – Boneseed</b>
<i>Objectives</i>	To prevent the further introduction and spread of Boneseed within the IDNWA control area. To fully control / eradicate the weed from all known infested areas.
<i>The infestation</i>	Boneseed occurs sporadically throughout all three member council areas being a minor roadside weed in Shellharbour and Kiama. Boneseed becomes more common within the Wollongong LGA where it is predominantly found in bushland areas in the escarpment foothills, benches and plateau north of the City.
<i>New outbreaks</i>	One new infestation was found on private property at Woonona.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	High level action plans are implemented throughout the district during plant flowering (Aug/Sept). Operational programs compliment inspectorial programs. Particular emphasis is afforded to areas where known Boneseed infestations occur. Expanded annually.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	Actively enforced where identified as part of routine inspections for the weed in August/September each year. Infested lands are then inspected annually to ensure on-going management programs are being implemented and the weed eradicated.
<i>Publicity</i>	Publicity material on Boneseed was exhibited at two agricultural shows and the Wollongong Backyard Festival. Discussed in all group talks.
<i>Facilitation</i>	Under a Caring for Country SE Australia Boneseed eradication program all inspection and control costs for Boneseed in the district have been fully funded for two years (2011- 2013). Private/government lands are eligible for subsidy funding under this grant.
<i>Control on council land</i>	Operational programs on Boneseed are undertaken annually in line with LAP guidelines and actions. All known Boneseed infestations were treated by 30 October 2012.
<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	Not all surveyed at this stage, however small isolated infestations are known to occur in sensitive escarpment bushland at Bulli and Stanwell Park on land adjoining Rail Corp and Sydney Water estates. A significant infestation of Boneseed (>1ha) has been identified on OEH (NPWS) land at Bald Hill. An isolated Boneseed infestation is found on the South Coast rail line at Kiama.



<i>Future plans</i>	To continue to treat and inspect all known infestations on council lands annually expanding control operations as time and resources permit. To continue an active private property inspection program inspecting all private lands adjoining known infested sites on council lands. To expand operations each year thereafter.
<i>General</i>	Objectives are being met on council controlled lands. Private property program progressing well.

### **Indicators**

<b>Boneseed</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	11
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	-
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	(4,383) Funded under CfC

## Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	<b>Class 4 – Chilean Needle Grass</b>
<i>Objectives</i>	To prevent the growth and spread of the weed and reduce its numbers and distribution throughout the region. To eradicate the weed where possible.
<i>The infestation</i>	Chilean Needle Grass is recognised as an emerging weed within the area. It is found on at least 6 private properties at West Dapto and is occasionally found as scattered plants on roadsides and in at least 2 degraded reserves within the Wollongong LGA.
<i>New outbreaks</i>	One new infestation was found growing in degraded pasture in the Berkeley Hills area.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	Operational and inspectorial programs are generally undertaken annually each November targeting known infested properties expanding as time and resources permit. Nurseries are inspected annually to prevent sale of any CNG or Nassella species.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected and treated were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	Actively enforced. After initial detection infested properties are scheduled to be inspected annually to ensure treatment programs are being continued and control achieved. The aim is to achieve eradication where possible.
<i>Publicity</i>	Two displays at agricultural shows were held. AgFacts distributed to affected landholders. CNG weed control notes prepared and distributed.
<i>Facilitation Include details of any integrated control programs</i>	Spray vehicle and staff are available under contract.
<i>Control on council land</i>	All known roadside and reserve infestations are treated annually. Where identified all CNG was treated by 30 November 2012.
<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	New infestation in Berkeley Hills area is on Sydney Water land. Not found on other government lands inspected at this stage.
<i>Future plans</i>	Active program, continuing on annual roadside and reserve control and expanding inspection programs on private property.

<i>General</i>	CNG is given high priority due to its recent emergence and limited distribution within the region. When identified, it is incorporated into the annual November inspection and treatment program for the weed.

### **Indicators**

<b>Chilean Needle Grass</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	6
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	-
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	2,591

## Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	<b>Class 3 – Giant Parramatta Grass</b>
<i>Objectives</i>	To prevent the spread of the weed and reduce its numbers and distribution throughout all infested areas. GPG is to be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.
<i>The infestation</i>	GPG is found on most rural roads throughout all 3 local government areas. Infestations on private lands are widespread and increasing. They range from a few scattered plants on some properties to heavy infestations on others. Hotspots include Broughton Village / Foxground in Kiama and Tongarra and Flinders in Shellharbour. The West Dapto area in Wollongong also contains heavy infestations of this weed. GPG is spreading from all these areas.
<i>New outbreaks</i>	Isolated plants continue to be found on a number of rural roads and public reserves and the occasional private property, for the first time.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	An active inspection program was undertaken over the months March/April in each of the 3 LGAs. All properties with GPG were inspected in Kiama and 50% of properties in Shellharbour. Within the Wollongong LGA a strategic approach to control is being implemented targeting areas of light infestation as a priority. All heavily infested lands in the West Dapto area are being encouraged to create buffer zones around their properties particularly where road frontage occurs and weed density is less on the neighbouring land.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	Inspections are undertaken as part of the summer inspectorial program. GPG is actively enforced in all areas. Forty (40) properties were inspected for GPG over the last 12 months.
<i>Publicity</i>	GPG extension material exhibited and distributed at three displays. AgFacts distributed to affected landholders. GPG weed control notes prepared and distributed.
<i>Facilitation</i>	Spray unit and vehicle available under contract.
<i>Control on council land</i>	All rural roads and known infested reserves were patrolled and treated by 31 May 2013.

<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	<p>Infestations of GPG are found along the F6 Freeway at Dapto, Kiama Bypass and Northern Distributor. GPG is also found on the South Coast Rail line at Otford. Good compliance with the RMS with the IDNWA contracted to undertake control programs.</p> <p>GPG on the South Coast rail line was last sprayed six years ago however no further control undertaken.</p>
<i>Future plans</i>	<p>To continue to inspect all infested private lands annually within Kiama and target the remaining 50% of infested properties in Shellharbour alternating every second year. Continue the current inspectorial program within the Wollongong LGA .To continue to implement an active roadside and reserve program thereby slowing the spread of the weed and leading by example.</p> <p>To continue to promote awareness and encourage community action on GPG.</p>
<i>General</i>	<p>IDNWA is concerned about the spread of this weed in the district. As an emerging weed the IDNWA considers its control paramount. Activities to date have concentrated on controlling all roadside and reserve infestations, whilst targeting private properties where the weed is of limited distribution and not widespread or well established.</p>

## **Indicators**

<b>Giant Parramatta Grass</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	40
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	-
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	10,447

## Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	<b>Class 3 – Gorse</b>
<i>Objectives</i>	To reduce the existing area and impact of the weed. Gorse is to be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.
<i>The infestation</i>	Gorse occurs as scattered roadside plants and as occasional infestations in reserves in all three council areas. Notable infestations on private land are found at Jamberoo, Dunmore and in the Northern suburbs of Wollongong.
<i>New outbreaks</i>	None in the last 12 months.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	High level action plans are implemented throughout the district. Operational programs compliment inspectorial programs.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	Actively enforced. Private lands are inspected every 2-3 years to ensure on-going management programs are being implemented. Council controlled lands are inspected and treated annually.
<i>Publicity</i>	Gorse is widely promoted through on-going publicity events. Two displays at agricultural shows were held. Discussed at group talks.
<i>Facilitation</i>	Spray unit and staff available under contract.
<i>Control on council land</i>	Operational programs on Gorse are undertaken annually in line with LAP guidelines and actions. All infestations on council roads and reserves were treated once by 30 June 2013.
<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	A small isolated infestation continues to exist on RTA controlled land at Helensburgh. Ongoing control programs are in place.
<i>Future plans</i>	To continue with existing program of inspecting infested private lands every second or third year. Particular emphasis will be directed toward riparian zones that are acting as transport corridors for the weed.
<i>General</i>	All areas infested with Gorse are believed to be known and recorded. Good control is beginning to be achieved in these areas following on-going management programs.

## **Indicators**

<b>Gorse</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	4
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	-
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	3.093

## Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	<b>Class 3 – Groundsel Bush</b>
<i>Objectives</i>	To fully control all infestations. Groundsel Bush is to be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.
<i>The infestation</i>	Groundsel Bush occurs sporadically throughout Wollongong and Shellharbour Council areas being a minor weed on swampy lands bordering Lake Illawarra and estuary areas to the north. Kiama is not known to have any infestations of this weed.
<i>New outbreaks</i>	Four new infestations consisting of a number of mature trees and several immature plants have been recorded in the Berkeley Hills area over the past 12 months.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	High level action plans are implemented throughout the district. Operational programs compliment inspectorial programs. Private lands are inspected annually initially until infestation levels are reduced to a manageable level, and then inspected every third year until fully controlled / eradicated. Land under the care and control of the IDNWA is inspected and treated annually each May.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	Actively enforced. Infested private lands are inspected annually initially until satisfactory control is achieved and no mature seeding plants exist. Properties are then inspected every 2-3 years to ensure on-going management programs are being implemented and the weed is fully controlled / eradicated. . Council controlled lands are inspected and treated annually.
<i>Publicity</i>	Publicity material on GB was exhibited at two agricultural shows and the Wollongong Backyard Festival. Discussed in all group talks.
<i>Facilitation</i> <i>Include details of any integrated control programs</i>	Spray unit and staff available under contract.
<i>Control on council land</i>	Operational programs on Groundsel Bush are undertaken annually in line with LAP guidelines and actions. Seedling regrowth is now the only major concern with regard to Groundsel Bush on council controlled lands. All Groundsel Bush infestations were treated by 30 June 2013.
<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	Lands previously owned by Telstra Corp and Pacific Power with GB Infestations are now in private ownership. Groundsel Bush has all but been eradicated on both properties. Recent inspections could not find any plants.



<i>Future plans</i>	To continue to inspect all known lands infested with Groundsel Bush and ensure effective control programs are being maintained. Expand inspection areas to encompass lands adjoining / near known hotspots. (eg Berkeley Hills area).
<i>General</i>	Objectives are being met. Program is proceeding as outlined. Good control is being achieved throughout the region.

### **Indicators**

<b>Groundsel Bush</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	5
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	-
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	5,159

## Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	<b>Class 4 - Lantana</b>
<i>Objectives</i>	To control all ornamental Lantana throughout all three member council areas, and control pink lantana ( <i>L. camara</i> ) where the weed is isolated and rare, areas of community concern, or where it may be impacting upon designated priority environmental, social or agricultural assets. To raise community awareness of the need to control Lantana. To distribute biological control agents within heavily infested or inaccessible areas.
<i>The infestation</i>	Pink lantana is widespread throughout all three member council areas being both a weed of native bushland and agricultural areas. Extensive infestations are found along the escarpment and foothills although it is also relatively common along the coastal plain and in urban areas. Ornamental Lantana is common in urban gardens throughout the region, occasionally escaping into nearby bushland.
<i>New outbreaks</i>	No new infestations found in the last 12 months outside of urban gardens.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	Low level action plans are implemented on Pink lantana involving the release of the Lantana rust, <i>Prosopodium</i> , or other bio control agents in heavily infested or inaccessible areas, and the spot spraying of isolated plants (on council lands) where Lantana is of limited distribution. Control of Pink Lantana where cooperative programs are in place, critical assets need protecting and residents concerns need addressing will also be undertaken where feasible. Ornamental lantana is actively enforced for control and removal throughout all three member council areas.
<i>Mapping</i>	Pink Lantana - N/A Ornamental Lantana- All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps) and Google maps.
<i>Regulation</i>	The growth and spread of Pink Lantana ( <i>Lantana camara</i> ) is to be enforced in areas of low weed abundance, sites of community concern, where cooperative programs are in place or where critical assets need protecting. These sites will be determined on a priority basis according to the IDNWAs financial ability to manage the weed. Property inspections/urban surveys for ornamental lantana will be undertaken in spring as time and resources permit.  All nurseries are inspected annually to prevent the sale and distribution of all ornamental varieties.

<i>Publicity</i>	Lantana sp. has been widely promoted throughout the district and reported in both the print and electronic media. Lantana brochures, flyers and posters have been displayed at three events. Lantana is always raised as an issue in any organised group talk.
<i>Facilitation Include details of any integrated control programs (eg. Bio-control)</i>	Spray vehicle and staff are available under contract. Integrated control programs are encouraged involving manual / mechanical removal, ground spraying, regeneration and biological control. The Lantana rust <i>Prospodium</i> is being distributed to slow the rate of spread of the weed in inaccessible and heavily infested areas. Landcare groups have provided on-ground assistance in areas of resident concern.
<i>Control on council land</i>	Treated where Pink lantana is of limited distribution, at identified high priority sites containing threatened species or Endangered communities (ie Bass Point reserve), and in public reserves of concern to residents. All ornamental varieties are removed/controlled where identified.
<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	Government agencies do undertake some control on Lantana as part of general weed maintenance programs.
<i>Future plans</i>	Continue with existing programs primarily involving distribution of biological control agents ( <i>Prospodium spp.</i> ) in heavy and inaccessible locations, supporting this with control on public roads and reserves and private property in areas where Lantana is of limited distribution. To target priority sites where cooperative programs are in place, critical assets need protecting and residents concerns need addressing. To enforce the removal and control of all ornamental varieties of Lantana working systematically from the southern suburbs north. To inspect all nurseries annually to prevent the sale of all ornamental varieties of Lantana.
<i>General</i>	Objectives are being met.

## **Indicators**

<b>Lantana</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	34
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	1
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	2,558

## Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	<b>Class 3 – Mysore Thorn</b>
<i>Objectives</i>	To fully control all infestations within Kiama and Shellharbour and strategically control all infestations within the Wollongong LGA by working from the upper catchment downstream within the Bulli and Mt Kembla areas. Mysore Thorn is to be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.
<i>The infestation</i>	Mysore Thorn is an emerging noxious weed in the Illawarra, having invaded sensitive escarpment bushland in the vicinity of Mt Kembla and Bulli within the Wollongong local government area. It is estimated that in excess of 100 ha of escarpment lands are infested, most being in private ownership. Infestations are increasing and if left uncontrolled will only continue to spread, displacing native vegetation and invading pasture lands. Two small isolated infestations are found in Shellharbour and Kiama respectively on rural properties.
<i>New outbreaks</i>	No new outbreaks have been found in the last 12 months.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	High level action plans are implemented throughout the district. Operational programs compliment inspectorial programs. Private property inspections commenced September 2009 within the Mount Kembla upper catchment. Five (5) properties were inspected. This program has been expanded each year since strategically working from the upper catchment downstream. Eleven properties were inspected in the 2012/13 year. After initial inspections infested properties are inspected annually to ensure treatment programs are being continued and control achieved. The aim is to achieve full control/eradication where possible. All known infestations on council land were treated once over the past year.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on council lands treated were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	Actively enforced. Private lands within known infested areas are inspected annually each September and control enforced. Council controlled lands are inspected and treated annually at the same time.
<i>Publicity</i>	Mysore Thorn ID and control is promoted at all publicity events. Discussed at two group talks.
<i>Facilitation</i>	Spray unit and staff available under contract.

<i>Control on council land</i>	Operational programs on Mysore Thorn are undertaken annually in line with local action plan guidelines and actions. All infestations on council roads and reserves were treated by 30 September 2012.
<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	Small isolated infestations are known to occur in sensitive escarpment bushland at Figtree and Farmborough Heights on land controlled by NSW NPWS and Sydney Water respectively. Control programs are in place on both Estates.
<i>Future plans</i>	To control annually all infestations on council lands. Private property inspections to continue with particular emphasis being directed toward controlling isolated infestations in Kiama and Shellharbour, whilst targeting Mysore Thorn at the headwaters of riparian zones that are acting as transport corridors for the weed within the Wollongong LGA. Inspections to be strategically expanded each year working from the upper catchment downstream where required.
<i>General</i>	IDNWA is concerned about the spread of this weed in the district. As an emerging weed the IDNWA considers its control paramount. Future plans (refer above) aim to address these concerns.

## **Indicators**

<b>Mysore Thron</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	11
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	-
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	3,809

## **Overview**

<i>Declaration</i>	<b>Class 4 – Pampas Grass</b>
<i>Objectives</i>	To prevent the growth and spread of the weed and reduce its numbers and distribution throughout the region.
<i>The infestation</i>	Pampas Grass has all but been eradicated from the urban areas of Kiama, Shellharbour and southern Wollongong. It is still found however as occasional plants in industrial areas and in urban bushland, particularly to the north of Wollongong. Not a major weed in the rural area. Occasionally grown as a garden ornamental.
<i>New outbreaks</i>	No new outbreaks have been recorded over the past year.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	High level action plans are implemented throughout the district. All council lands in Kiama, Shellharbour, and Wollongong (south of Bulli, west of the escarpment and north of Stanwell Park) where this weed has been recorded are inspected and where necessary controlled annually in September each year. Council controlled lands between Bulli and Stanwell Park on the coast are treated every second year due to accessibility issues. Infested private properties are inspected annually for the first two years by which time levels are generally reduced to a manageable state. They are then inspected every second or third year until full control/eradication is achieved. Current activities are being directed to inspecting and controlling remaining infestations in sensitive or otherwise difficult to access escarpment bushland in the (northern) Wollongong LGA. Urban surveys are undertaken as time and resources permit.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	Actively enforced throughout all three local government areas.
<i>Publicity</i>	Publicity material on PG was exhibited at three displays and discussed at two group talks. A flyer is distributed to residents when urban surveys are being undertaken
<i>Facilitation</i> <i>Include details of any integrated control programs</i>	Spray unit and staff available under contract.
<i>Control on council land</i>	All roads and reserves previously treated and those within inspection areas were controlled by 30 September 2012.
<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	Good compliance with most State Agencies. IDNWA is often contracted to undertake necessary control works. Sydney Water, Roads and Maritime Service. Integral Energy and NPWS have committed to a co-operative program on this weed as part of control in escarpment areas.

	<p>One area of concern however is land under the management of Rail Corp (RC). The IDNWA is concerned that RC is not meeting its obligations under the Act, and that this is having a detrimental impact on effective Pampas Grass management in adjoining areas. Work undertaken is often adhoc and more often than not incomplete. With the South Coast rail line being a major transport (and weed) corridor within the region failure to undertake adequate control of identified noxious weeds is having a major impact on surrounding properties and subsequent weed spread.</p>
<i>Future plans</i>	<p>To continue to expand current inspectorial and operational activities throughout the northern Illawarra escarpment areas so as to include lands not yet inspected but otherwise likely to have infestations of this weed. Programs to be maintained as per policy and planning guidelines on all known infested lands throughout the three member council areas.</p>
<i>General</i>	<p>Pampas Grass is a major concern to the community of the Illawarra. Program is proceeding as outlined. Good control is being achieved in targeted areas. Pampas Grass has all but been eradicated within Kiama, Shellharbour and southern Wollongong. Current efforts are aimed at controlling all remaining infestations in the north of the region.</p>

### **Indicators**

<b>Pampas Grass</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	14
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	-
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	-

## Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	<b>Class 4 – Harrisia Cactus and Prickly Pear</b>
<i>Objectives</i>	To prevent the growth and spread of the weed and reduce its numbers and distribution throughout the region.
<i>The infestation</i>	Scattered plants in coastal reserves and in degraded grazing lands. Occasionally found as a garden ornamentals in the urban area.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	Harrisia Cactus and Prickly Pear are inspected year round as part of the normal inspection program. Any biological control or other control program directed by the IDNWA must be implemented. A register for release of Cochineal insects on private and public land is available where deemed appropriate. Nurseries and weekend markets will be inspected annually to prevent the sale of any ornamental varieties of Prickly Pear or Harrisia Cactus.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	Not actively enforced except where identified during routine inspections for other weeds.
<i>Publicity</i>	Publicity material on Prickly Pear and Harrisia cactus was exhibited at three displays. Prickly Pear is discussed in group talks as a good example of successful bio-control.
<i>Facilitation Include details of any integrated control programs</i>	Bio-control agent Cochineal is available for release on request. Spray unit and staff available under contract.
<i>Control on council land</i>	Treated by herbicide spraying if identified during routine inspections or otherwise controlled at the request of residents or member council staff. Cochineal insect distributed in cliff line situations and in large reserves where conventional control methods are not appropriate.
<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	Not surveyed.
<i>Future plans</i>	Limited program, primarily involving rearing and distribution of Cochineal insects for release on selected sites. Herbicide spraying to be maintained on previously treated infestations and expanded as time and resources permit.
<i>General</i>	Prickly Pear and Harrisia Cactus are of only minor concern and are largely kept under control by a combination of bio-agents and herbicide spraying.



## **Indicators**

<b>Prickly Pear</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	4
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	-
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	-

## Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	<b>Class 4 – Rhus Tree</b>
<i>Objectives</i>	To locate and control all plants within the urban area.
<i>The infestation</i>	Rhus Tree has been inspected throughout all urban areas of the three member councils. It has all but been eradicated from the urban areas of Kiama, Shellharbour and Wollongong. It may still occasionally be found in some backyard gardens and as a weed in urban bushland. It is not a major weed of the rural area.
<i>New outbreaks</i>	N/A
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	A systematic approach to control is being implemented with respect to this weed such that planning has been undertaken in a south to north direction. All urban areas throughout Kiama, Shellharbour and Wollongong from Gerroa to Helensburgh have been inspected to date.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	Follow-up urban surveys for Rhus are undertaken as time and resources permit. Most regulation is undertaken in the autumn months when Rhus Tree is most visible.
<i>Publicity</i>	Weed was highlighted at all displays held throughout the year. A flyer has been distributed to residents when urban surveys have been undertaken. Is regularly discussed at group information talks
<i>Facilitation Include details of any integrated control programs</i>	List of contractors is available for removal of trees upon request.
<i>Control on council land</i>	Treated on request of residents or if identified during inspections.
<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	No known infestations on government land at this stage.
<i>Future plans</i>	To continue to monitor existing council lands where Rhus Tree has been identified whilst re-inspecting all urban areas for plants missed on previous inspections.
<i>General</i>	Objectives are being met.

### **Indicators**

<b>Rhus Tree</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	12
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	-
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	37

## Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	<b>Class 3 – St John’s Wort</b>
<i>Objectives</i>	To fully control all infestations. St John’s Wort is to be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.
<i>The infestation</i>	St John’s Wort is recognised as a weed of only minor occurrence being found as scattered plants on at least 5 rural roadside verges and five private properties in Kiama, Shellharbour and Wollongong.
<i>New outbreaks</i>	No new infestations have been recorded over the past 12 months
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	High level action plans are implemented with all infested lands, both private and public, inspected annually each November and control programs undertaken.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	Saint John’s Wort inspections occur in November each year. After initial inspections infested properties are then inspected annually to ensure treatment programs are being continued and control achieved. The aim is to achieve eradication where possible.
<i>Publicity</i>	Three displays were held where SJW control and identification were highlighted. Discussed at all group talks.
<i>Facilitation</i> <i>Include details of any integrated control programs (eg. Bio-control)</i>	Spray unit and staff available under contract. IDNWA supports efforts of adjoining LCA’s in any measures deemed as necessary to address the St John’s Wort problem.
<i>Control on council land</i>	All roadside infestations treated annually. Where identified St John’s Wort was treated by 30 November 2012.
<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	Scattered SJW infestations are found along the F6 Freeway at Maddens Plains. The IDNWA is contracted annually to undertake control. Sydney Water does control this weed annually within the Catchment area. At least two small and isolated SJW infestations are found on the South Coast rail line at Otford and Toolijooa.
<i>Future plans</i>	Active program, continuing annual roadside control and inspections of infested private lands.
<i>General</i>	St John’s Wort is given high priority, due to its limited distribution within the region. When identified, it is incorporated into the annual November inspection and treatment program for that weed.

### **Indicators**

<b>Saint Johns Wort</b>	<b>Total</b>
No. of inspections made this year	9
No. of legal notices this year	-
Expenditure on roadsides (\$)	2,839

## Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	<b>Class 2– Salvinia</b>
<i>Objectives</i>	To prevent the further introduction and spread of Salvinia within the IDNWA control area. To fully control / eradicate the weed from all known infested areas.
<i>The infestation</i>	Salvinia has previously been recorded in all three council areas. Last year it occurred in one drainage canal in Shellharbour and on one private farm dam. Salvinia has also been recorded in backyard ponds in the urban area as well as being sold by nurseries.
<i>New outbreaks</i>	No new outbreaks recorded over the last 12 months, although one urban property was identified with four ponds containing the weed.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	Salvinia is inspected year round as part of the normal inspection program. High level action plans are implemented every summer on all properties where the weed occurs. Regular inspection of all main waterways occurs throughout the year to ensure no new outbreaks have occurred.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	All lands infested with Salvinia are inspected at least twice annually over the summer growing period and treatment programs implemented. All nurseries and aquaria inspected annually. A Search Warrant was issued on a property at Woonona in relation to an individual selling Salvinia on ebay Four ponds were found with the weed growing in them. All Salvinia was confiscated and later destroyed.
<i>Publicity</i>	Aquatic weed material was displayed at three events including exhibits at two local shows. Aquatic weed brochures and posters distributed to aquaria outlets and private landholders during routine inspections. Discussed at all group talks. Media release issued in relation to Search Warrant with wide publicity received in both the print and electronic media.
<i>Facilitation</i> <i>Include details of any integrated control programs</i>	Spray unit and staff are available under contract. Integrated programs of control are implemented involving chemical, mechanical and manual removal. Biological control has been trialled at one site however was unsuccessful.
<i>Control on council land</i>	Previously infested reserves were inspected at least twice over the summer growing season and preventative spraying undertaken where necessary to limit any possible reinfestation. Good control has been achieved with all previously infested reserves now appearing to have been eradicated of the weed.

<i>Govt land (incl VCL)</i>	No known infestations occur on government land.
<i>Future plans</i>	To continue to inspect/monitor and if necessary treat all previously infested sites both private and public on an annual basis until satisfied eradication has been achieved. To continue to inspect all nurseries and waterways to ensure no new outbreaks occur. Monitor auction based internet web sites.
<i>General</i>	Good control is beginning to be achieved on this weed with only two infestations now persisting within the region, both on private land. Programs will continue to be maintained to ensure reinfestation does not occur and eradication is achieved on all previously infested lands. No new infestations were found this past year reflecting the benefits of an active inspection program.

### **Indicators**

<b>Salvinia</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	2
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	1
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	-

## Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	<b>Class 4 – Serrated Tussock</b>
<i>Objectives</i>	To prevent the growth and spread of the weed and reduce its numbers and distribution throughout the region. Serrated Tussock is to be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.
<i>The infestation</i>	Serrated Tussock is recognised as a weed of only minor occurrence being found as scattered infestations on a number of vacant industrial quarry sites and degraded rural grazing lands. It is occasionally found as scattered plants on roadsides.
<i>New outbreaks</i>	No new infestations were found over the last 12 months.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	High level action plans are implemented due to the limited presence of this weed in the district. All roadside infestations are treated annually in November in line with ongoing private property inspections for this weed. Nurseries are inspected annually to prevent sale of any Serrated Tussock or Nassella species.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	Serrated Tussock inspections occur in November each year. After initial detection infested properties are inspected annually to ensure treatment programs are being continued and control achieved. The aim is to fully and continuously suppress and destroy all infestations.
<i>Publicity</i>	Brochures and flyers on ST distributed at three displays/shows. AgFacts distributed to affected landholders. ST weed control notes prepared and distributed.
<i>Facilitation</i> <i>Include details of any integrated control programs (eg. Bio-control)</i>	Spray vehicle and staff are available under contract. IDNWA continues to support efforts of Serrated Tussock Task Force and adjoining councils in any appropriate measures deemed as necessary to address the Serrated Tussock problem.
<i>Control on council land</i>	All roadside infestations are treated annually. Where identified Serrated Tussock was treated by 30 November 2012.



<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	Not surveyed. Sydney Water does control this weed annually within the catchment area.
<i>Future plans</i>	Active program, continuing on annual roadside and reserve control and inspections of known infested private lands. Program will be expanded over time within each of the three council areas so as to incorporate any neighbouring but as yet uninspected lands within the Serrated Tussock inspection zones.
<i>General</i>	Serrated Tussock is given high priority due to its limited distribution within the region. When identified, it is incorporated into the annual November inspection and treatment program for the weed.

### **Indicators**

<b>Serrated Tussock</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	8
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	-
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	-

## Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	<b>Class 3 – Water Hyacinth</b>
<i>Objectives</i>	To prevent the spread of the weed and reduce its numbers and distribution. To locate, treat and control all infestations. Water Hyacinth is to be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.
<i>The infestation</i>	Water Hyacinth is found mainly on small farm dams and some creeks throughout the district. It is occasionally found as an ornamental in urban pond situations as well as being sold by nurseries.
<i>New outbreaks</i>	No new outbreaks were found over the last 12 months.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	Water Hyacinth is inspected year round as part of the normal inspection program. High level action plans are implemented every summer where the weed occurs. Regular inspection of all main waterways occurs throughout the year to ensure no new outbreaks have occurred.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	All lands infested with Water hyacinth are inspected at least twice annually over the summer growing period and treatment programs implemented. All nurseries and aquaria inspected annually.
<i>Publicity</i>	Aquatic weed material was displayed at three events including exhibits at two local shows. Aquatic weed brochures and posters distributed to aquaria outlets and private landholders during routine inspections
<i>Facilitation</i> <i>Include details of any integrated control programs (eg. Bio-control)</i>	Spray unit and staff are available under contract. Integrated control is adopted where appropriate involving mechanical / manual removal, chemical spraying and water manipulation. Bio-control was previously trialled but proved unsuccessful.
<i>Control on council land</i>	Council lands were inspected and treated up to five times prior to 30 April 2013. Water level was manipulated to encourage germination of seedlings in shallow mud at Jerrara Dam. At least one local creek under council care and control and a public reserve (Jerrara Dam) are known to contain Water Hyacinth.
<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	No known government land infested. Tallawarra Power Station is now under private ownership with good compliance being received from new owners. Annual control program in place.

<i>Future plans</i>	To continue to inspect existing infested lands and treat annually until fully controlled. To continue to inspect all nurseries and waterways to ensure no new outbreaks occur. To maintain current operational activities as described. . Monitor auction based internet web sites.
<i>General</i>	Objectives are being met. Annual programs are being implemented resulting in good control of this weed throughout the district.

### **Indicators**

<b>Water Hyacinth</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	3
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	-
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	2,366

## Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	<p><b>Non Declared High Priority species</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coolatai grass</li> <li>- Glory Lily</li> <li>- Ludwigia</li> <li>- Sea spurge</li> <li>- Spiny Burr Grass</li> </ul>
<i>Objectives</i>	<p>To prevent the growth and spread of these weeds and reduce their numbers and distribution throughout the region.</p> <p>To eradicate where possible.</p>
<i>The infestation</i>	<p>All are recognised as emerging weeds within the area. Coolatai is of limited distribution in Kiama and Shellharbour being confined to sporadic roadside infestations. It is targeted for eradication in these areas. Glory Lily and Spiny Burr Grass occur as one population at Gerringong and Ludwigia at Dunmore. Sea Spurge is found at Gerroa, Bass Point and two locations to the north in Wollongong.</p>
<i>New outbreaks</i>	<p>No new outbreaks were recorded over the last 12 months.</p>
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	<p>Operational programs are undertaken annually.</p> <p>Spiny Burr Grass- March Sea spurge- July/August Ludwigia &amp; Glory Lily- September Coolatai- October</p>
<i>Mapping</i>	<p>All infestations on lands inspected and treated were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).</p>
<i>Regulation</i>	<p>Not declared so not actively enforced. All infestations to date have been on council (public) lands. Where found on private properties however landholders will be advised of the potential threat of the weed and assisted where possible to control the infestation.</p>
<i>Publicity</i>	<p>All emerging weed species are promoted through posters, brochures, flyers and various handouts.</p>
<i>Facilitation</i>	<p>Spray vehicle and staff are available under contract.</p>
<i>Control on council land</i>	<p>Treated annually.</p>

	Spiny Burr Grass- March Sea spurge- July/August Ludwigia & Glory Lily- September Coolatai- October
<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	Not surveyed.
<i>Future plans</i>	Active operational program, continuing on annual roadside and reserve control.
<i>General</i>	Each non declared high priority species is given high priority for control due to its recent emergence and limited distribution within the region. When identified, it is incorporated into the annual treatment program for that weed as outlined above.

### **Indicators**

<b>Non declared high priority species</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	-
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	-
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	2,945

## Illawarra Mercury - Friday 5th April 2013

The Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority (IDNWA) have executed a Search Warrant and seized at least 500 plants of the notifiable weed *Salvinia* in Wollongong's northern suburbs.

About 3.30pm on Thursday 04 April 2013, officers from the IDNWA executed the Warrant on a property in Woonona following an Interstate Agency tip off that plants prohibited under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 were being sold from the premises.

Growing in four large ponds in the yard of the premises the aquatic weed *Salvinia* was found. *Salvinia* is a Weed of National Significance (WoNS) and a declared Class 2 notifiable noxious weed in NSW.

Under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 the plant must not be grown, sold, propagated or distributed. It is an Offence under the Act to sell, purchase or distribute any notifiable weed.

Officers spoke to a 40 year old man at the address who assisted with inquiries. Fines were issued over the selling of the plants.

Residents are encouraged to contact the IDNWA should they be aware of any *Salvinia* plants being grown. Plant locations should be reported to the IDNWA for proper identification and disposal.



*Salvinia molesta*