



ILLAWARRA DISTRICT (NOXIOUS) WEEDS AUTHORITY

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ANNUAL REPORT

2013 – 2014

Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority

Chairperson's Message

2014 marks the 21st 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 who 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 who have been involved with the Authority over the past 21 years.

The Authority met on four occasions during 2013/14, with the year proving to be yet another busy time for us. 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 the members for their ongoing commitment to the successful operation of the Authority.

Improved co-operation between stakeholders is evidenced by representation on two National committees and a subcommittee of the NSW Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee (NWAC), on four regional committees and a number of local committees.

Weed control Officers have continued and expanded weed control programs with 413 private property inspections undertaken. Education and publicity activities have continued, while control programs have been expanded as resources permitted. Some 1,300km of roadsides were inspected and treated for noxious weeds along with 216ha of noxious weeds controlled on public reserve land throughout the three council areas. Private works have continued to provide an additional source of income for the Authority with over \$37,415.00 worth of private works income generated over the last 12 months.

Whilst the issue of sufficient funding continues to be an ongoing cause for concern for the IDNWA, the Authority did receive \$109,023.00 from the NSW Department of Primary Industries in 2013/14. A further \$25,500.00 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 proposed at the State level in the 2014/15 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 implemented next year.

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.

Councillor Jill Merrin
Chairperson

Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority

**Weed Control Program Report 2013/14
Summary of Activities and Outcomes from
01 July 2013 – 30 June 2014**

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

Report on IDNWA Activities 2013/2014

A Final Report prepared for the constituent member councils of the IDNWA on activities completed from July 2013 - June 2014

Name of Organisation	Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority
Address	PO Box 148 Kiama 2533

Administrative contact (name, position, fax, phone)	<i>Mr David Pomery Chief Weeds Officer Ph 02 4233 1129 Fax 02 4232 3665 email: dpomery@southerncouncils.nsw.gov.au</i>
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Technical contact (name, position, fax, phone)	<i>Mr David Pomery Chief Weeds Officer Ph 02 4233 1129 Fax 02 4232 3665 email: dpomery@southerncouncils.nsw.gov.au</i>
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Total Amount of funds received (Income)	Grant - \$109,023.00	For financial year/s	2013-2014
	Council - \$133,904.00		
	TOTAL- \$242,927.00		

Funds	TOTAL
Regional Coordination (staff administration)	\$46,410.00
Control/Inspection Cat A & B weeds	\$99,057.00
Control/Inspection Cat C & D weeds	\$71,625.00
WAP Priorities	\$37,198.00
TOTAL	\$254,290.00

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	3rd November 2014

Report on Weed Control Coordination Assistance 2013/2014

Outcomes and results from July 2013-June 2014
A Final Report prepared for the constituent member councils of the IDNWA

Name Of Organisation	Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority
Address	PO Box 148 Kiama NSW 2533
Administrative contact (name, position, fax, phone)	David Pomery Chief Weeds Officer Ph: 42 331129 Fax: 42 323665
Technical contact (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	\$62,883.00
Private property inspections – Cat C & D	\$27,466.00
WAP Priorities	
Publicity	\$7,538.00
Training	\$7,634.00
NRM Integration	\$5,146.00
Alert Weeds	\$2,708.00
High Risk Pathways	\$14,172.00
Total	\$127,547.00*

* 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	3rd November 2014
Written report attached (Please tick)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Report on Weed Control Operational Assistance 2013/2014

**Outcomes and results from July 2013-June 2014
A Final Report prepared for the constituent member councils of the IDNWA**

Name Of Organisation	Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority
Address	PO Box 148 Kiama NSW 2533

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

Actual Expenditure		
	Total \$	Total \$
	A & B Weeds	C & D Weeds
African Lovegrass	-	\$2,409.00
Aquatic Weeds (Alligator Weed, Salvinia, Water Hyacinth)	\$3,485.00	-
Bitou Bush	\$4,022.00	\$28,831.00
Boneseed	\$240.00	-
Blackberry	-	\$8,468.00
Chilean Needle Grass	\$681.00	-
Coolatai Grass	\$699.00	-
Gorse	\$3,287.00	
Glory Lily	\$106.00	
Groundsel Bush	\$6,347.00	
Ornamental Lantana	-	-
Pink Lantana	-	\$1,030.00
Ludwigia	\$130.00	
Mysore Thorn	\$2,979.00	-
Pampas Grass	-	\$3,412.00
Giant Parramatta Grass	\$10,994.00	-
Rhus Tree	-	-
Sea Spurge	\$150.00	-
Serrated Tussock	\$1,631.00	-
Senegal Tea Plant	\$166.00	
St Johns Wort	\$1,257.00	-
Total	\$36,174.00	\$44,159.00

Total Expenditure	\$80,333.00*
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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	3rd November 2014

Administration Expenses Report Form

Administration Staff:

Salaries and Allowances:	\$22,175.00
Contribution to SCG Secretariat:	\$ 7,858.00
Contribution to Kiama Municipal Council:	\$ 6,653.00
Extra Clerical Assistance:	

Sub-Total **\$36,686.00**

Office Expenses:

Depot Rental and Maintenance:	\$ 2,434.00
Office Equipment Rental and Maintenance:	-
Advertising (not noxious weed publicity)	-
Printing and Stationery:	\$ 388.00
Postage:	\$ 303.00
Telephones:	\$ 2,610.00
Photocopying:	\$ 1.00

Sub-Total **\$ 5,736.00**

Computer Expenses:

(e.g. maintenance, agreements)	\$ 865.00
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Sub-Total **\$ 865.00**

Members Expenses:

Chairman's Allowance	-
Members Meeting Fees:	\$ 100.00
Travelling Expenses – Councillors:	\$ 24.00
Delegates Expenses:	-
Refreshments:	\$ 2.00

Sub-Total **\$ 126.00**

Other Administration Expenses:

Audit Fees:	-
Legal Expenses:	\$ 2.00
Insurances:	\$11,185.00
(Professional Indemnity, Public Liability, Accident & Property not covered by on-costs of field staff or plant running costs)	
Sundry Expenses:	

Sub-Total **\$11,187.00**

TOTAL: **\$54,600.00**

85% for Apportionment to Grant Program:	\$46,410.00
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TOTAL **\$46,410.00**

Other Programs Report

Vacant Crown Land Program

Income:

Vacant Crown Lands Grant - \$20,500.00

Expenditure:

Chemicals: \$ 1,410.00
Contractors (aerial spraying): \$ 7,790.00
Contractors (ground): \$11,300.00
Administration: \$ 2,730.00

TOTAL **\$23,230.00**

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 (i.e. asset protection).
3. developing and implementing programs to reduce environmental degradation and the loss of biodiversity through weed invasion (i.e. 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.

\$20,500.00 was allocated to the IDNWA to control Bitou Bush on Crown Land reserves at Perkins Beach, Kemblawarra (\$7,500.00), Coomaditchie Lagoon Kemblawarra (\$4,000.00), Bevan's Island Lake Illawarra (\$4,000.00) and Bass Point Reserve Shellharbour (\$5,000.00) in the 2013/14 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.

Contain and Connect

Income:

Grant -	\$5,000.00
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Expenditure:

Chemicals:	\$1,100.00
Contractors (ground):	\$2,000.00
Contractors (aerial spraying):	\$ 950.00
IDNWA staff:	\$1,184.00
Administration:	\$2,730.00

TOTAL	<u>\$7,964.00</u>
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The IDNWA was a successful partner in a 2013 Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) Biodiversity protection project covering south east NSW. The project involves 10 major land managers whom are provided funds to manage WoNS and secondary weeds in designated primary control sites. The project aims to bring partner agencies together to ensure coordination of on ground works, sharing of information, expertise and maximisation of resources. The program consolidates and builds on all previous works whilst providing additional funds to support existing programs.

Over 4 years, to June 2017, the Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority (IDNWA) will implement works to reduce the impact of WoNS (Lantana and Bitou Bush) and other environmental weeds within four designated control sites in the Illawarra region - Seven Mile Beach Reserve, Bass Point Reserve, Perkins Beach/Hill 60 Reserve and Cringila Park. The IDNWA will liaise with project co-ordinators at Wollongong City Council, Shellharbour City Council and Kiama Municipal Council to strategically contribute to control efforts being implemented by each land manager at these sites.

Private works

Income: \$37,415.00

Expenditure:

Labour: \$15,926.00

Administration: \$ 2,730.00

Chemicals: \$ 2,950.00

VRC: \$ 5,362.00

TOTAL **\$26,968.00**

PROFIT: **\$10,447.00**

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 2013/14 of \$37,415.00. Operating profit net of all expenses was \$10,447.00.

Unrestricted Reserves Proposal

The IDNWA has designed a 4 year capital expenditure program which utilises the unrestricted reserve funds the IDNWA has available. The 4 year program has two components, an expanded operational works program and a mapping component.

The operational proposal involves the purchase and outfitting of an additional spray vehicle, for use by IDNWA contracted staff, to undertake the current private works activity and some additional operational work. The Inspector/Operator's time currently spent on private works will then be freed up to undertake additional operational and inspectorial activities.

The second component of the unrestricted reserves funds is the utilisation of a suitable mapping program that will contribute to better data analysis and management outcomes. Details of suitable programs are yet to be finalised as the State Government is developing its *NSW Biosecurity Information System (BIS)*. Any mapping or metadata will be required to conform to *NSW BIS* policy (refer to Weed Recording, Mapping and Reporting Activities below).

Budget

Income

Total unrestricted cash assets as at 30 June 2013:	\$556,854
Restricted for legal and other expenses:	\$300,000-
Annual interest on remaining \$300K @ 3% = \$ 9,000 x 4:	\$ 36,000
Annual Private Works Income x 4:	\$120,000
Total Available Income	<u>\$ 412,854</u>

Expenditure

Vehicle - Toyota 4.5lt diesel manual dual cab:	\$ 60,000
Quik spray remote spray unit:	\$ 15,000
Installation:	\$ 5,000
Total	<u>\$ 80,000</u>

Plant Running costs x 4

Vehicle Replacement Reserve:	\$ 32,000
VRC Costs:	\$ 40,000
Labour:	\$ 60,000
Chemicals, PPE & materials:	\$ 20,000
Total	<u>\$152,000</u>

Four year additional operational and inspectorial program

Labour:	\$100,000
Chemicals, PPE & materials:	\$ 40,000
Total	<u>\$140,000</u>

Mapping Programs - Weedmap Pro or Tracer

Software:	\$ 3,000
Tablets:	\$ 4,000
Total	<u>\$ 7,000</u>

Training:	\$ 1,200
Yearly maintenance:	\$ 1,500
Monthly access @ \$125 x12:	\$ 1,300
Annual Total	<u>\$ 4,000</u>

x 4 years **\$ 16,000**

- Contingencies \$4000 pa x 4 Total **\$ 16,000**

Total Capital Expenditure **\$ 87,000**

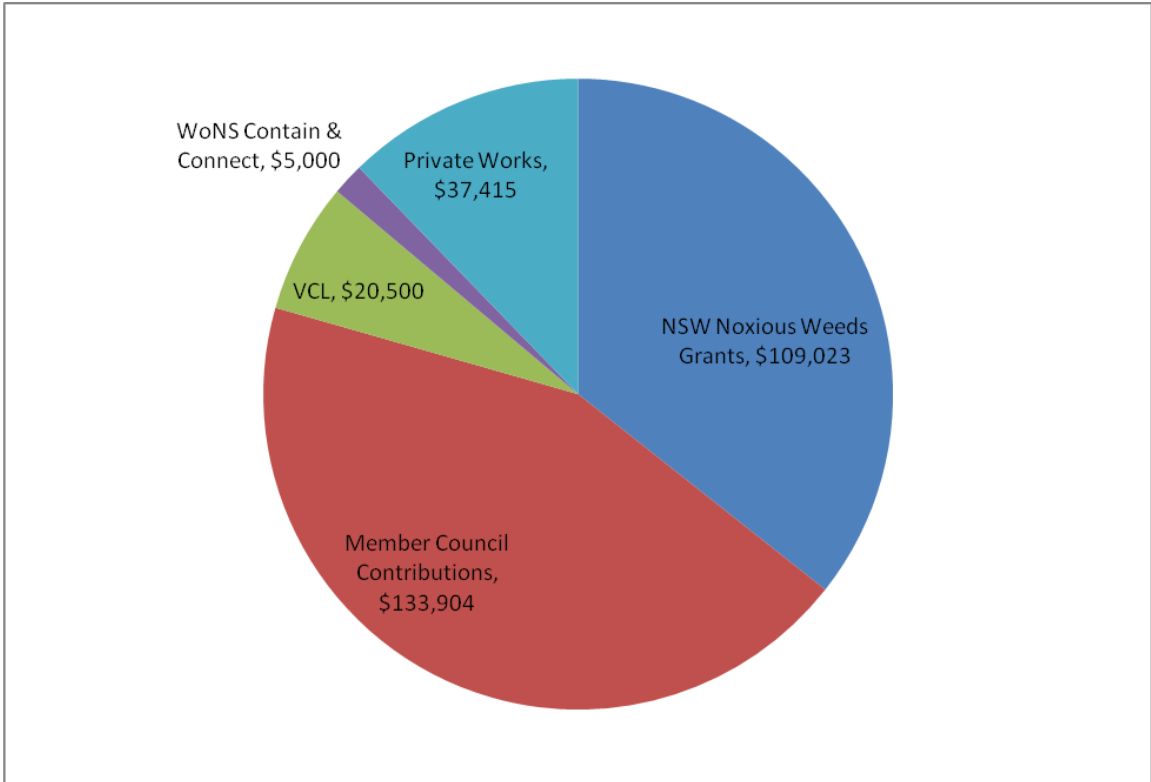
Total 4-year operational expenditure **\$324,000**

Total 4-Year expenditure **\$411,000**

IDNWA SUMMARY

- Southern Rivers Regional Weeds Strategy developed and being implemented with funding from the NSW Department of Primary Industries, constituent councils, South East Local Land Services and Department of Lands.
- Implemented Illawarra component of South Coast NSW Weeds Action Program under the NSW Invasive Species Plan.
- 290 inspections undertaken.
123 follow-up inspections.
- All nurseries and aquaria (25 outlets) inspected.
- 165ha of Bitou Bush aerially sprayed.
944km of roadsides inspected and treated for Cat A & B weeds.
393km of roadsides inspected and treated for Cat C & D weeds.
99ha of Cat B weeds treated in public reserves.
117ha of Cat C & D weeds treated in public reserves.
5 EECs managed and protected.
- Four (4) displays and two (2) presentations were held over the last 12 months, and four (4) media releases were issued.
- Co-ordinated Illawarra component of WoNS Biodiversity weed project. Implemented annual Crown Lands weed control program.
- Community field day on Chilean Needle Grass (CNG) control and ID held at West Dapto on 9th November 2013.
- Constituent council contributions of \$133,904.00 received and supported with NSW Noxious Weeds Grant funding of \$109,023.00 to implement inspectorial and operational programs.
- A four (4) year program of increased operational works has been designed to utilise the Authority's unrestricted reserve funds. The proposal will involve the purchase and outfitting of an additional spray vehicle, for use by IDNWA contracted staff, to undertake the current private works activity and some additional operational work. The Inspector/Operator's time currently spent on private works will then be freed up to undertake additional operational and inspectorial activities.
- Secured funding of an additional \$25,500.00 for the region through other grant sources.
Contain and Connect - \$5,000.00
VCL grant- \$20,500.00
- Annual gross income of \$37,415.00 generated from private works / commercial spraying operations.

IDNWA Income 2013/14



Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority

**Weed Control Co-ordination and Extension Program Report 2013/14
01 July 2013 – 30 June 2014**

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, South East Local Land Services (SELLS) and Department of Lands.
- A priority list of high risk weeds has been identified; regional inspection and control programs developed; high risk pathways targeted.
- Vacant Crown land funding projects on Bitou Bush and Federal Biodiversity funding for WoNS were implemented.
- Local Weed Control Programs for private landholders and government agencies have continued to be given high priority with 290 initial inspections and 123 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 sub-committee 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](#)). Four (4) displays, two (2) presentations and four (4) media releases were issued over the last 12 months. A community field day on Chilean Needle Grass (CNG) control and ID was held at West Dapto on 9th November 2013.
- 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. 1,070km of rural roadsides and 267km of non rural roads were inspected and treated for one or more noxious weeds. 216ha of reserve land was controlled. Five (5) EECs have been managed and protected.
- A four (4) year program of increased operational works has been designed to utilise the Authority's unrestricted reserve funds. The proposal will involve the purchase and outfitting of an additional spray vehicle, for use by IDNWA contracted staff, to undertake the current private works activity and some additional operational work. The Inspector/Operator's time currently spent on private works will then be freed up to undertake additional operational and inspectorial activities.

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 of new high risk weed species, restrict the spread, and reduce the incidence of all established 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 on both private and public lands within the Wollongong Statistical District, to have all Class 2 noxious weeds eradicated, contain the spread and reduce the incidence of all Class 3 weeds and effectively manage declared Class 4 weeds.
- 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. Prevent the establishment of designated high risk weed species whilst restricting the spread and reducing the incidence of established 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. 290 initial inspections and 123 follow-up inspections were undertaken up to 30 June 2014.
2. A total of 264 inspections for Category A & B weeds and 26 initial inspections for Category C & D weeds were undertaken over the last 12 months.
3. All nursery and aquaria were inspected by 31 December 2013. A total of 25 outlets were inspected with no outlets found to be selling prohibited plants.
4. Three new infestations of Cats Claw Creeper were found on private property in the Wollongong and Kiama LGAs for the first time.
5. All private properties with previously recorded infestations of Class 2 weeds (namely Senegal Tea Plant, Alligator Weed and Salvinia) were targeted for inspection and control throughout all three member council areas. Boneseed, Groundsel Bush, Chilean Needle Grass and Water Hyacinth infestations were also inspected and control methods implemented throughout all three LGAs. Giant Parramatta Grass (GPG) and Blackberry were strategically inspected throughout the district in an effort to contain spread and reduce impact. Known Pampas Grass, and Mysore Thorn infestations in Kiama and Shellharbour were inspected and treated whilst those within the Wollongong LGA were inspected according to local action plan guidelines. Programmed surveys were undertaken throughout the urban areas of Kiama, Shellharbour and southern Wollongong for Ornamental Lantana with 19 properties identified.
6. Four (4) noxious weed displays were held – one each at the annual Kiama and Albion Park agricultural shows, one at the annual Wollongong Backyard Festival and one at the Kiama Future Fest. Four (4) media releases were issued (Refer [attachment 1](#)).

Summary of Achievements

Inspections conducted:

Total number ground inspections: 413

Actual number properties inspected: 290

Specific Inspections for New Weeds

Aim:

To assist the community in preventing the establishment of high risk weed species in 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 25 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.

75kms of coastline was also inspected covering the entire coastal strip in Kiama and Shellharbour along with the area from Bulli to Stanwell Tops 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 Gerringong Bypass were also inspected for noxious weeds along with over 1,300km 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:	12
Number nurseries:	9
Number other businesses:	4
Transport Corridors inspected:	3
Kms of Coastline inspected:	75
Water catchments inspected:	2
New weed incursions found:	3

Use of Enforcement Procedures for Noxious Weed Control

For the period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014, 290 properties were inspected, requiring 12 Section 18A Notices and 9 Section 18 Notices to be issued. These notices were issued only after it was apparent the relevant owner/occupier/s were making no attempt/or an insufficient effort to control the designated noxious weed/s as required.

Two Section 20 Entries were undertaken over the last financial period 2013-14.

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 costly and time consuming 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

Mysore Thorn

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

Pampas Grass

Number of Section 18 Weed Control Notices:	3
Number of Section 20 Entries:	1

Chilean Needle Grass

Number of Section 18 Weed Control Notices:	1
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Blackberry

Number of Section 18 Weed Control Notices:	2
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Bitou Bush

Number of Section 18 Weed Control Notices:	1
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Giant Parramatta Grass

Number of Section 18 Weed Control Notices:	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:

As part of the NSW Weeds Action Program (WAP), the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is currently developing a standardised mapping program for the state, known as the Biosecurity Information System (BIS). This program will improve reporting, issue visualisation and resource use. The BIS program includes the BIS Metadata Procedure which provides standards for data collection to ensure reports are consistent throughout.

Data submitted using this Procedure will be used to prepare consistent reports that measure real gains in weed management for all stakeholders. These reports will ensure each stakeholder has access to coordinated data and mapping information for weed management undertaken in their region and across the state.

The BIS will be piloted in the next few months before being rolled out state-wide. To support this process the IDNWA will be working closely with DPI and local council representatives to talk about the IT requirements and raise any questions surrounding the development and implementation of the program.

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 four (4) displays held during the year. Displays were held as part of the Agriculture Show circuit at Kiama and Albion Park, the Wollongong Backyard Festival and Kiama Future Fest.

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.

A community field day on Chilean Needle Grass (CNG) control and identification was held at West Dapto on 9th November 2013. Attracting close to 30 participants the day focussed on the identification and control of CNG. Showcasing several different control techniques the field day highlighted in the first instance the need for constant vigilance, the need for an integrated approach and the need for ongoing commitment over several years.

The Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority website (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

Staff

Chief Weeds Officer
David Pomery

Key Outputs:

166 properties inspected; 68 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:

124 properties inspected; 56 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

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 2013/2014:

St John's First aid certificate
Chemcert reaccreditation Certificate

Noxious Weed Inspector/Operator

Training completed 2013/2014:

St John's First aid certificate
Chemcert reaccreditation Certificate

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 WoNS Taskforce Committee has also been established to oversee and assist in the implementation of Regional WoNs projects. The Taskforce comprises representatives of all South Coast councils, Department of Environment and Conservation, Local Land Services South East and the community. The role of the Taskforce is to monitor the ongoing implementation of the Regional Weeds Strategy and Management Plan; implement public awareness campaigns; provide for coordination of activities with respect to WoNs 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 South East Local Land Services (SELLS) 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 Sydney Trains. In late 2013 the IDNWA wrote to the Minister for Primary Industries advising of its concerns that Sydney Trains is not meeting its obligations under the Noxious Weeds Act, and that this is having a detrimental impact on effective weed management in adjoining areas. The IDNWA requested the Minister serve Notices on Sydney Trains.

Whilst Sydney Trains 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.

After writing to the Minister, Sydney Trains have taken a more proactive approach, however further action may still be necessary to ensure momentum is continued. The IDNWA is continuing to work with Sydney Trains to iron out any issues that arise from time to time.

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 eradicate or otherwise 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 of all Class 3 weeds and effectively manage declared Class 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 2013-14 year period.

1. All council lands infested with Class 2 weeds were inspected and treated at least 4 times by 30 April 2014.
2. All council lands with infestations of Class 3 weeds were inspected and treated at least once over the last 12 months.
3. 1,337km of council controlled roadside and 216ha of public reserve land were inspected and treated by 30 June 2014.

4. At least five (5) EECs were protected and managed for Bitou Bush and Lantana.
5. 165ha of heavy or otherwise inaccessible Bitou Bush was controlled by aerial spraying as part of the winter 2014 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 2013 and 30 November 2013 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 2014. Known St Johns Wort infestations were controlled by 30 November 2013, whilst any Salvinia and Water Hyacinth infestations on council lands were treated at least four times by 30 April 2014. 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 contain spread and reduce the impact of this weed.

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



Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority's David Pomery firmly believes weed management should remain with local government. Picture: ALBEY BOND

Anti-weed report welcomed

BRENDAN CRABB

ONE key Kiama-based stakeholder believes a draft report released last week on weed management could be a "game changer" in helping to rein in one of the state's worst and most difficult environmental threats.

The report was released by the NSW Natural Resources Commission.

The Invasive Species Council, the National Parks Association of NSW and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW

have endorsed the commission's recommendations to require risk assessment of new plant introductions into NSW, impose a general "biosecurity obligation" for all stakeholders, establish a fund for eradication of new high-risk incursions, and rebuild weed research capacity.

"One standout recommendation is to implement a safe [permitted] list approach to new plant introductions, which would require risk assessment of plants not on the list," Invasive Species

Council policy officer Dr Carol Booth said today.

"This is essential to prevent new weeds, which are establishing at an average rate of seven a year."

Nature Conservation Council of NSW chairman Don White said currently about 300 plants regarded as environmental weeds could be legally sold.

The Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority is based in Kiama, and also covers the

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