



ILLAWARRA DISTRICT (NOXIOUS) WEEDS AUTHORITY

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ANNUAL REPORT

2015 – 2016

Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority

Chairperson's Message

2015/16 marks the first year of the new five year Weeds Action Program (WAP) - 2015-2020. Commenced in 2010 the WAP replaced a range of noxious weed grant programs provided by the NSW Government to local councils. The NSW WAP targets funding directly at outcomes in the NSW Invasive Species Plan.

The transition to WAP 2 (2015-20) has unfortunately not been a smooth process for the Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority (IDNWA). In a major shift from activities undertaken in WAP 1 the Lead Agency (Palerang- Queanbeyan Regional Council) insisted on all partners to the program to conform to their Weed Inspection Priority Map that maps land across the region according to its priority for weed inspection. Unfortunately the mapping is not based on any reliable data when it comes to (high risk) weed burden which subsequently saw the IDNWA budget reduced by nearly \$9,000.00. This was despite the fact that the IDNWA consistently reported more high risk weeds to NSW DPI under WAP 1 than any other LCA in the region. This reduction in funding is set to continue in Year 2 with a further \$20-\$30,000.00 cut proposed.

Specifically over the last 12 months the IDNWA inspected and controlled noxious weeds along 1,393km of high risk roadways, along with 214 ha of noxious weeds controlled in 21 high priority public reserve lands. 767 private properties were inspected resulting in 33 new weed incursions being found for high risk weeds (Class 1 -3).

A four (4) year program of increased operational works has continued to be implemented to utilise the Authority's unrestricted reserve funds. \$107,313.00 of private works income has been generated as a result returning a net profit of nearly \$35,000.00. The Authority has also purchased appropriate software and hardware to become compliant with the new Biosecurity reporting requirements.

The Authority met on four occasions during 2015/16, with the year proving to be yet another busy time. 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.

As we commence operations for the second year of WAP 2 (2015/20) some important changes are proposed at the State level in the coming year that may have ramifications for the future operation of the Authority. The most important of these is the development of the supporting regulations for the NSW Biosecurity Act that are expected to be implemented in the first half of 2017. This along with funding issues related to the delivery of WAP 2 will continue to keep the Authority busy over the coming 12 months.

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. I extend my thanks to all those who have been involved with the Authority over the past 12 months.

Councillor Jill Merrin
Chairperson

Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority

**Weed Control Program Report 2015/16
Summary of Activities and Outcomes from
01 July 2015 – 30 June 2016**

**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 2015/2016

A Final Report prepared for the constituent member councils of the IDNWA on activities completed from July 2015- June 2016

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@illawarrajointorganisation.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@illawarrajointorganisation.nsw.gov.au</i>
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Total Amount of funds received (Income)	<i>Grant - \$103,402.00</i>	For financial year/s	2015-2016
	<i>Council - \$140,271.00</i>		
	TOTAL- \$243,673.00		

Funds	TOTAL
Regional Coordination (staff administration)	\$53,530.00
Control/Inspection Cat A & B weeds	\$94,840.00
Control/Inspection Cat C & D weeds	\$69,569.00
WAP Priorities	\$26,562.00
TOTAL	\$244,501.00

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	7th November 2016

Report on Weed Control Coordination Assistance 2015/2016

**Outcomes and results from July 2015-June 2016
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	\$55,348.00	
Private property inspections – Cat C & D	\$27,574.00	
WAP Priorities		
Publicity	\$3,139.00	
Training	\$5,676.00	
NRM Integration	\$1,894.00	
Alert Weeds	\$2,101.00	
High Risk Pathways	\$13,752.00	
Total	\$109,484.00*	

* 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	7th November 2016
Written report attached (Please tick)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Report on Weed Control Operational Assistance 2015/2016

Outcomes and results from July 2015-June 2016 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
Noxious Weeds		
African Lovegrass	-	\$1,801.00
African Boxthorn	-	-
Aquatic Weeds (Alligator Weed, Salvinia, Water Hyacinth)	\$5,135.00	-
Bitou Bush	-	\$28,659.00
Boneseed	-	-
Blackberry	-	\$10,617.00
Chilean Needle Grass	\$1,639.00	-
Coolatai Grass	\$3,308.00	-
Gorse	\$2,497.00	-
Glory Lily	-	-
Groundsel Bush	\$5,445.00	-
Ornamental Lantana	-	-
Pink Lantana	-	\$918.00
Ludwigia	-	-
Mysore Thorn	\$4,416.00	-
Pampas Grass	\$1,142.00	-
Prickly Pear	-	-
Giant Parramatta Grass	\$13,510.00	-
Rhus Tree	-	-
Sea Spurge	\$158.00	-
Serrated Tussock	\$780.00	-
Spiny Burr Grass	-	-
St Johns Wort	\$1,462.00	-
Total	\$39,492.00	\$41,995.00

Total Expenditure	\$81,487.00*
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* Includes on costs

Administration Expenses Report Form

Administration Staff:

Salaries and Allowances:	\$22,502.00
Contribution to SCG Secretariat:	\$ 8,240.00
Contribution to Kiama Municipal Council:	\$ 6,976.00
Extra Clerical Assistance:	

Sub-Total **\$37,718.00**

Office Expenses:

Depot Rental and Maintenance:	\$ 2,710.00
Office Equipment Rental and Maintenance:	-
Advertising (not noxious weed publicity)	-
Printing and Stationery:	\$ 39.00
Postage:	\$ 341.00
Telephones:	\$ 3,913.00
Photocopying:	\$ -

Sub-Total **\$ 4,293.00**

Computer Expenses:

(e.g. maintenance, agreements)	\$ 623.00
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Sub-Total **\$ 623 .00**

Members Expenses:

Chairman's Allowance	-
Members Meeting Fees:	-
Travelling Expenses – Councillors:	-
Delegates Expenses:	-
Refreshments:	-

Sub-Total

Other Administration Expenses:

Audit Fees:	\$750.00
Legal Expenses:	-
Insurances:	\$13,562.00
(Professional Indemnity, Public Liability, Accident & Property not covered by on-costs of field staff or plant running costs)	
Sundry Expenses:	\$3,320.00

Sub-Total **\$17,632.00**

TOTAL: **\$62,976.00**

85% for Apportionment to Grant Program:	\$53,530.00
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TOTAL **\$53,530.00**

Other Programs Report

Vacant Crown Land Program

Income:

Vacant Crown Lands Grant - \$26,330.00

Expenditure:

Contractors (aerial spraying): \$ 9,728.00
Contractors (ground): \$ 16,615.00
IDNWA staff \$ 1,398.00

TOTAL \$27,741.00

Funding for Bitou Bush control was approved by the Department of Primary Industries (Catchments and Lands) for Weed Control on Crown Land at the following four sites in 2015/16.:

1. Northern end of Perkins beach , Port Kembla, (\$7,000.00)
2. Coomaditchie lagoon (\$7,200.00)
3. Bevan's Island (\$4,500.00)
4. Bass Point Reserve (\$7,630.00)

Under this funding the IDNWA has been able to undertake 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.

\$26,330.00 was allocated to the IDNWA to control Bitou Bush on Crown Land in the 2015/16 year an increase of \$22,000.00 on the prior corresponding period.

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:

Contractors (abseil work):	\$ 5,000.00
IDNWA staff:	\$ 432.00

TOTAL	<u>\$5,432.00</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.

Environmental Trust Boneseed Biodiversity Protection Program

Income:

Grant: \$13,707.00

Expenditure:

Property Inspections: \$6,786.00

Boneseed control: \$2,154.00

TOTAL \$8,940.00

The IDNWA was a successful partner in a Boneseed project titled "NSW Boneseed Eradication and Biodiversity Protection". The project aims to build on the efforts achieved under the recently completed Caring for Country Boneseed program by eradicating or else suppressing infestations, updating maps and restoring and monitoring affected ecological communities. The IDNWA in partnership with adjoining south coast councils and the greater south-eastern region submitted this application to the NSW Environmental Trust under the Trust's Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation program in October 2013. The project had a starting date of 1st September 2014 and ran for two years. The project was completed in June 2016. The project was coordinated by the Illawarra Joint Organisation.. \$67,800 was requested for implementation over two years with the IDNWA requesting \$27,414.00 of this amount.

Within the **Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama** LGAs inspection/control activities covering some 3,966ha was undertaken. Boneseed was found to varying degrees covering an area of some 229ha. A major incursion pathway for Boneseed being the Illawarra rail line was inspected and controlled for several isolated infestations. Specialist contractors were used to undertake rope works to access boneseed growing along cliff lines at Bald Hill within the Royal National Park. 3.5ha of native bushland was regenerated (both natural and assisted). All reproductive plants were eradicated from at least 3 sites - Gerringong, Curramore and Albion Park Rail.

Private works

Income: \$107,313.00

Expenditure:

Labour:	\$ 48,465.00
Contractors	\$ 5,984.00
Administration:	\$ 6,423.00
Chemicals:	\$ 5,236.00
VRC:	\$ 6,354.00

TOTAL **\$72,462.00**

PROFIT: **\$34,851.00**

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 2015/16 of \$107,313.00. Operating profit net of all expenses was \$34,851.00.

Unrestricted Reserves Proposal

The IDNWA has designed a four year capital expenditure program which utilises the unrestricted reserve funds the IDNWA has available. The four 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. This component has now been completed with the purchase and fitting of a second spray unit.

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. The Weed Map Pro Summit Biosecurity System has now been purchased which is compatible with the *NSW Biosecurity Information System (BIS)*. . Iconyx are currently working with constituent member councils to ensure smooth implementation of mapping software before IDNWA staff undertake appropriate training.

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 **\$152,000**

Four year additional operational and inspectorial program

Labour: \$100,000

Chemicals, PPE & materials: \$ 40,000

Total **\$140,000**

Mapping Programs - Weedmap Pro or Tracer

Software: \$ 3,000

Tablets: \$ 4,000

Total **\$ 7,000**

Training: \$ 1,200

Yearly maintenance: \$ 1,500

Monthly access @ \$125 x12: \$ 1,300

Annual Total **\$ 4,000**

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**

Expenditure to date:

Unrestricted Reserves Funds	Budget 15/16	Actual 15/16	Budget 16/17
Capital Expenditure	38,714	30,854	7,860
Operational expenditure	101,706	66,478	116,228
SUB TOTAL	140,420	97,332	
Credit (Debit)			124,088
TOTAL X 4 years	411,000	97,332	

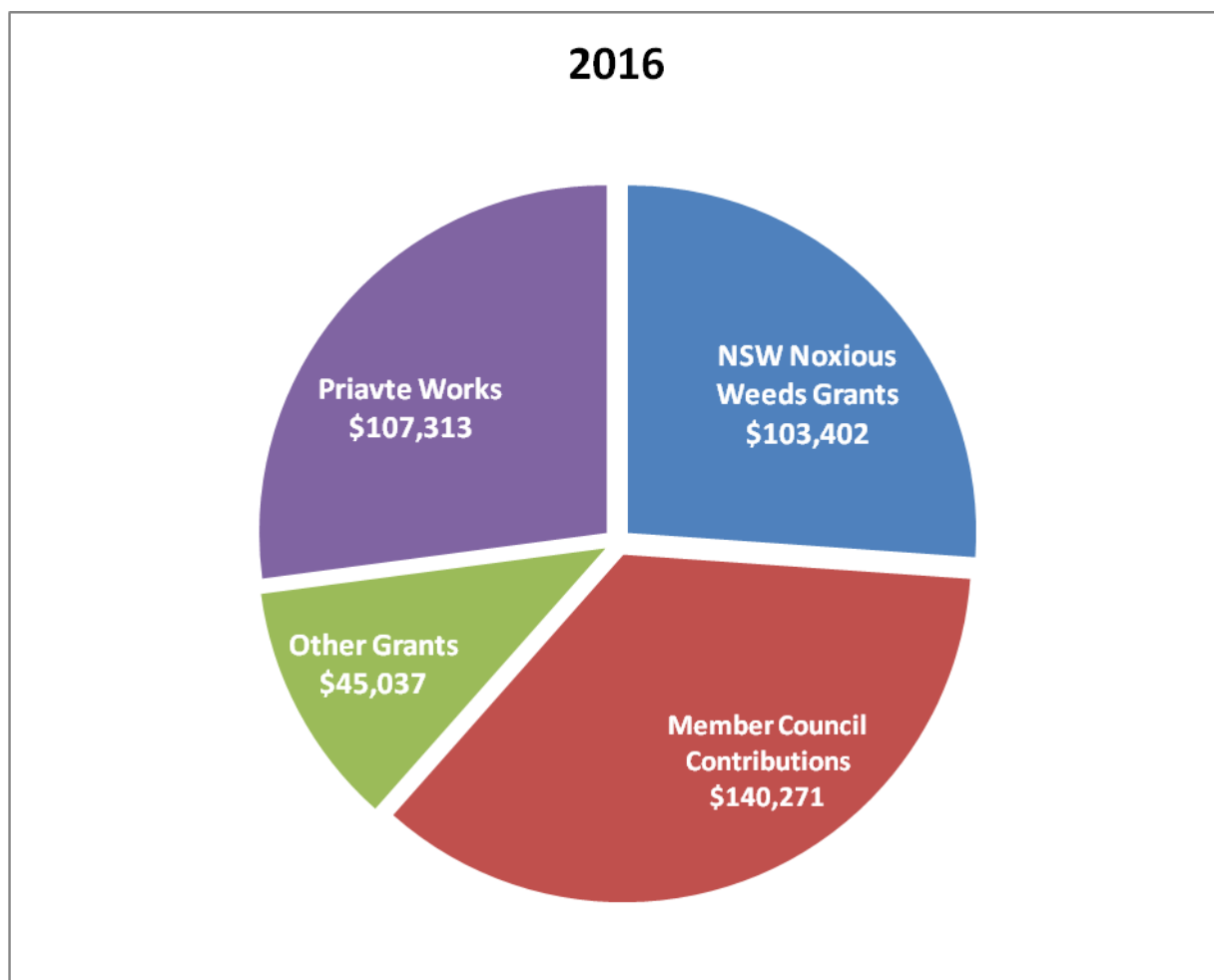
IDNWA SUMMARY

- Implemented Illawarra component of the South East Local Land Services Weeds Action Program under the NSW Invasive Species Plan.
- 767 inspections undertaken on both public and private land.
233 follow-up inspections.
- 202 High Risk sites inspected with 10 Class 1 - 3 (high risk) weeds found.
1,393 km of High Risk Pathways inspected with 43 km of high risk weeds controlled.
528 km of roadsides (not HR) inspected and treated for Class 1- 3 weeds.
142 km of roadsides including 60 km of priority pathways inspected and controlled for Class 4 weeds
109 ha of Class 1-3 weeds treated in public reserves.
105 ha of Class 4 weeds treated in public reserves including control of 102 ha on 21 priority sites and 286 ha of Bitou bush aerially sprayed on both public and private land.
6 EECs managed and protected.
212 Class 1 -3 weed sites inspected and controlled.
Thirty- three (33) new incursions recorded for Class 1 - 3 weeds
- Three (3) displays were held over the last 12 months, three (3) media releases were issued and two (2) articles written for newsletters.
- Co-ordinated Illawarra component of WoNS Biodiversity weed project and Environmental Trust Boneseed Eradication Program. Implemented annual Crown Lands weed control program.
- Constituent council contributions of \$140,271.00 received and supported with NSW Noxious Weeds Grant funding of \$103,402.00 to implement inspectorial and operational programs.
- A four (4) year program of increased operational works has been implemented during the year to utilise the Authority's unrestricted reserve funds. 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 has been completed. The Inspector/Operator's time currently spent on private works has now been freed up to undertake additional operational and inspectorial activities. The Weed Map Pro Summit Biosecurity mapping system has also been purchased and is in the preliminary stages of implementation.
- Secured funding of an additional \$45,037.00 for the region through other grant sources.

Contain and Connect - \$5,000.00
VCL grant - \$26,330.00
Environmental Trust - \$13,707.00

- Annual gross income of \$107,313.00 generated from private works / commercial spraying operations.

IDNWA Income 2015/16



Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority

**Weed Control Co-ordination and Extension Program Report 2015/16
01 July 2015 – 30 June 2016**

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:

- Involved in the development of the South East Local Land Services Regional Weeds Management Strategy with constructive input from the IDNWA to ensure it meets the needs and requirements of the Illawarra and the broader region in particular.
- A priority list of high risk weeds has been identified; regional inspection and control programs developed; high risk pathways targeted.
- Thirty - three (33) new incursions recorded for Class 1 - 3 weeds
- Vacant Crown land funding projects on Bitou Bush and Federal and State Biodiversity funding for WoNS were implemented.
- Local Weed Control Programs for private landholders and government agencies have continued to be given high priority with 767 initial inspections and 233 follow-up inspections being undertaken over the past 12 months.
- Improved co-operation between stakeholders is being addressed through representation on State, regional and local weeds committees.
- Education and publicity activities have continued to be given priority through ongoing utilisation of the media and participation in community events (Refer [Attachment 1](#)). Three (3) displays, three (3) media releases and two (2) articles written for newsletters 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. 2,063 km of roadsides were inspected and treated for one or more noxious weeds. 360 ha of reserve land were controlled. Six (6) EECs have been managed and protected.
- A four (4) year program of increased operational works has been implemented during the year to utilise the Authority's unrestricted reserve funds. 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 has been completed. The Inspector/Operator's time currently spent on private works has now been 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 the IDNWA undertakes strategic property inspections that prioritise high risk sites over properties that do not require as regular an inspection regime. Inspection regimes are risk-based and reduce the need for arbitrary inspections of properties in low risk areas.

Inspection programs focus surveillance and inspection activities at high-risk areas using tools such as pathway analysis to determine appropriate inspection intervals.

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. 767 initial inspections and 233 follow-up inspections were undertaken up to 30 June 2016.
2. A total of 683 initial inspections and 161 follow-up inspections for Class 1 -3 weeds and 84 initial and 72 follow up inspections for Class 4 weeds were undertaken over the last 12 months.
3. 202 High Risk sites were inspected with 10 Class 1-3 (high risk) weeds found. .
4. Thirty - three (33) new incursions of Class 1 - 3 weeds were found on both private and public property over the last 12 months. Four (4) for Boneseed, one (1) each for Cats Claw Creeper, Alligator weed, Giant Devils Fig and Mysore thorn, two (2) each for Salvinia, Water hyacinth, Saint John's Wort and Coolatai grass and seventeen (17) for Giant Parramatta grass.
5. All private properties with previously recorded infestations of Class 1 and 2 weeds were targeted for inspection and control throughout all three member council areas. Properties with high risk aquatic weeds were inspected up to three times over the summer growing season. All emerging Class 3 weeds were inspected and control methods implemented throughout all three LGAs. Established Class 3 weeds (ie Giant Parramatta grass) and all Class 4 weeds were strategically inspected throughout the district in an effort to contain spread and reduce impact. Programmed surveys were undertaken throughout the urban areas of Kiama, Shellharbour and southern Wollongong.
6. Three (3) noxious weed displays were held – one each at the annual Kiama and Albion Park agricultural shows and one at Yallah TAFE. Three (3) media releases were issued (Refer [attachment 1](#)).

Summary of Achievements

Inspections conducted:	
Total number ground inspections:	1,000
Actual number properties inspected:	767

Specific Inspections for New Weeds

Aim:

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

Outcomes:

To assist in the early detection of high risk weeds the IDNWA prioritises its inspection program on High Risk Pathways and High Risk Sites.

High Risk Pathways can be any linear feature in the landscape where weeds are spreading within/towards a significant asset or further along the linear feature. They are generally heavily trafficked, being main road, rail and river corridors that have a high risk of new weed incursions being introduced from external sources.

High Risk Sites are where weeds *will always have the potential to show up and the potential to spread*. High risk sites are comprised of nurseries, showgrounds, pony clubs, weekend markets, boat ramps, aquaria / pet shops, stock and produce outlets, waste disposal and recycle centres, all found throughout the Illawarra region.

The frequency of inspections on specific high risk sites or high risk pathways is determined by a risk analysis type approach that considers a range of factors including history of prior weed incursions having been found, level of activity/use and proximity to nearby high risk weed locations. In this respect high risk pathways and sites may be inspected once annually or 2- 3 times within a twelve month period depending on the risk /threat they pose.

With this in mind and noting that the majority of high risk weed spread is a direct result of human activities the IDNWA inspection program is prioritised on high risk pathways and sites involving human activity because it being the most prolific form of weed spread it is also the one that is the most preventable and cost effective.

In an effort to engage with the community and change community attitudes and practices towards preventing weed spread. residents and members of the community have also been encouraged by the IDNWA 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

High Risk sites inspected:(No.)	202
New weed incursions found:(No.)	10
High Risk Pathways inspected (km)	1,393 km
New weed incursions found:(km controlled)	43 km

Use of Enforcement Procedures for Noxious Weed Control

For the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016, 767 properties were inspected, requiring 13 Section 18A Notices and 2 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.

No Section 20 Entries were undertaken over the last financial period 2015-16.

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

Lantana

Number of Section 18 Weed Control Notices: 1

Bitou bush

Number of Section 18 Weed Control Notices: 1

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) has developed a standardised mapping program for the state, known as the Biosecurity Information System (BIS). This program is designed to improve identification, diagnostics, surveillance coordination, and reporting capacity for strategic weed management. 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 was rolled out state-wide in August 2016. To support this process the IDNWA has purchased the Weed Map Pro Summit Biosecurity mapping system. Weed Map Pro is fully compliant with the NSW Biosecurity Act Weeds Metadata standard, WAP and BIS reporting requirements.

WeedMap Pro Summit Biosecurity is a powerful mobile application with a configurable hosted information management system, which will enable IDNWA staff to work concurrently across the region to inspect, map, and record control activities for efficient and cost effective operations. .

Iconyx are currently working with constituent member councils to ensure smooth implementation of mapping software and integration of property databases before IDNWA staff undertake appropriate training..

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 as well as attending a class discussion group at Yallah TAFE.

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](#)). Three (3) media releases were issued during the course of the year along with two (2) articles written for community based newsletters.

The Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority website (www.idnwa.com.au) is also established and 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:

185 properties inspected; 157 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:

582 properties inspected; 76 follow-up inspections; inspection of all Class 1 and 2 noxious weed infestations; inspection of all high risk sites; 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 2015/2016:

No formal training undertaken

Attended 18th NSW Weeds Conference - Cooma October 2015

Noxious Weed Inspector/Operator

Training completed 2015/2016:

No formal training undertaken

Attended 18th NSW Weeds Conference - Cooma October 2015

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 committee meets quarterly and provides guidance and support for the IDNWA.

The IDNWA is also actively involved with the recently formed South East Local Land Services Regional Weeds Committee, being represented on both the Regional Weeds committee and associated WAP subcommittee.

A particularly close working relationship is held with the South Coast Councils group to discuss joint funding applications and regional weed control programs.

IDNWA staff also hold positions on various working groups at State, regional and local levels providing valuable input and feedback on a range of weed related issues.

The IDNWA has a close working relationship with most government agencies and private landholders 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 and private landholders with regard to noxious weed control programs on the land they occupy. This level of consultation has further been built on through the implementation of the NSW Weeds Action Program and in particular the focus on high risk pathways and high risk sites.

Good compliance has been achieved by most government agencies and private landholders 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 and private individuals are undertaking annual programs on lands under their care and control. The IDNWA has regular contracts with several private and government entities.

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 1 and 2 weeds.
2. To restrict the spread of all Class 3 weeds and effectively manage declared Class 4 weeds.
3. To expand this program 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 areas 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 2015-16 year period.

1. All council lands infested with Class 1 and 2 weeds were inspected and treated at least 3 times* by 30 April 2016.
2. All council lands with infestations of Class 3 weeds were inspected and treated at least once over the last 12 months.
3. 670 km of council controlled roadside (excl high risk pathways) and 214 ha of public reserve land were inspected and treated by 30 June 2016.

4. At least six (6) EECs were protected and managed for Bitou Bush and Lantana.
5. 286 ha of heavy or otherwise inaccessible Bitou Bush was controlled by aerial spraying as part of the winter 2016 control program.
6. High priority non declared weeds Sea Spurge, Glory Lily and Spiny Burr Grass were all targeted for control on known infested council land.
7. Specifically, all Bitou Bush and Coolatai grass on council controlled lands within the Kiama and Shellharbour local government areas were inspected and treated by 30 October 2015. 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 2016. Known St John's Wort infestations were controlled by 30 November 2015, whilst any Salvinia, Alligator Weed and Water Hyacinth infestations on council lands were treated at least three times by 30 April 2016. Pampas Grass, Bitou Bush and Coolatai grass were strategically targeted for control within the Wollongong LGA according to local action plan guidelines. Infestations of Blackberry and Lantana were targeted throughout the three member council areas on a strategic asset protection basis so as to contain spread and reduce the impact of these weeds in these high priority sites. .

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

* Aquatic weeds only

Attachment 1



Bitou Bush Battle Waged from Air

The Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority (IDNWA) continues its battle against Bitou Bush by taking to the skies for its annual aerial spray control program. Aerial spraying is being used in the region to control some of the most serious outbreaks of the weed, recognised as one of 20 Weeds of National Significance. The program involves the aerial spraying of approximately 280 hectares of Bitou Bush at the northern and southern ends of Perkins Beach Port Kembla, Bass Point Reserve, Killalea State Park and on private property at Gerringong Boat harbour.

IDNWA Chief Weeds Officer, David Pomery, said that aerial spraying was the only practical and feasible method to control the heaviest and most inaccessible infestations of Bitou Bush found within these areas. "Applied during winter and at very low rates, the aerial application of Round-up selectively controls the Bitou Bush, leaving the native vegetation unharmed" Mr Pomery said. "Already, in excess of 200 species of native plants are tolerant to the herbicide when applied by this method".

Aerial spraying of Bitou Bush was first undertaken at Jervis Bay National Park in 1984 and within the Illawarra in 1992 at Hill 60 Port Kembla. It has since proven to be an outstanding success.

The spraying will be undertaken this month and follows the development of National, State, Regional and Local Action Plans aimed at controlling Bitou Bush infestations by best practice methods.

Alternative methods of control involving on-ground works and biological control are also undertaken throughout the region as part of an integrated approach to tackling the Bitou Bush problem. The community can also assist by joining a volunteer coastal "care" group and assisting in the removal of this weed from their sites.

On the day of spraying IDNWA employees ensure that all members of the public are cleared from the sprayed areas and all access roads and walkways closed.