



ILLAWARRA DISTRICT (NOXIOUS) WEEDS AUTHORITY

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ANNUAL REPORT

2011 – 2012

Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority

Chairman's Message

The Authority met on four occasions during 2011/12, with the year past proving to be yet another busy time for the Authority. Activities were undertaken across the region proportional to member council contributions with additional funds provided from the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

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

After an extensive consultation period the Southern Rivers Regional Weeds Management Strategy was endorsed in early 2012 and is being implemented with funding from the NSW Department of Primary Industries, constituent councils, SRCMA and Department of Lands. This Strategy addresses the principles of the Southern Rivers CMA Catchment Action Plan (CAP) and acknowledges sound resource management through targeted action and the development and implementation of integrated weed management programs leading to the reduction and control of weeds. In short it aims to provide a coordinated weed management regime for the region.

The Authority also updated its weed Control Policy and Management Plan and Pesticide Notification Plan in line with legislative changes and required review periods respectively.

Local weed control programs have continued with some 342 private property inspections undertaken. Improved co-operation between stakeholders is evidenced by representation on two National committees and a subcommittee of the NSW Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee (NWAC). Representation is also held on four regional committees and a number of local committees.

Education and publicity activities have continued, while control programs have been expanded as resources permitted. Some 926km of roadsides were inspected and treated for noxious weeds along with 312ha of noxious weeds controlled on public reserve land throughout the three member council areas. Private works have continued to provide an additional source of income for the Authority with over \$43,000.00 worth of private works income generated over the last 12 months.

Whilst the issue of funding continues to be an ongoing cause for concern for the IDNWA, the Authority did receive \$105,168.00 from the NSW Department of Primary Industries in 2011/12. A further \$34,750.00 was also secured from other sources over the last 12 months to fund operational programs on noxious weeds across the Illawarra and broader region.

In continuing with the major changes required through the implementation of the NSW Weeds Action Program a number of strategic changes were undertaken by the Authority over the last 12 months. These included the development of a Regional High Risk Pathways inspection program and Rapid Response Plan. A regional education component was also undertaken as part of the Authorities commitment to support the implementation of the NSW Invasive Species Plan - the State level framework guiding the management of invasive species in NSW. Some 6,500 brochures were produced targeting many of the Illawarra's emerging weed threats.

In assisting the Authority in implementing the NSW WAP, 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 further down the coast.

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

Peter Gill
Chairman
IDNWA

Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority

**Weed Control Program Report 2011/12
Summary of Activities and Outcomes from
01 July 2011 – 30 June 2012**

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

Covering page and General Manager Endorsement

A Final Report prepared for the constituent member councils of the IDNWA on activities completed
from July 2011- June 2012

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>		
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>		
Total Amount of funds received (Income)	<i>Grant - \$105,168.00 Council - \$124,999.00</i> TOTAL- \$230,167.00	For financial year/s	2011-2012

Funds Expended	TOTAL
Regional Coordination (staff administration)	\$48,026.00
Control/Inspection Cat A & B weeds	\$89,287.00
Control/Inspection Cat C & D weeds	\$62,934.00
WAP Priorities	\$40,209.00
TOTAL	\$240,456.00

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	10 September 2012

Report on Weed Control Coordination Assistance 2011/2012

Outcomes and results from July 2011-June 2012 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	\$65,830.00
Private property inspections – Cat C & D	\$23,861.00
WAP Priorities	
Publicity	\$8,355.00
Training	\$11,176.00
NRM Integration	\$1,663.00
Alert Weeds	\$3,360.00
High Risk Pathways	\$15,655.00
Total	\$129,900.00*

* 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	10 th September 2012
Written report attached (Please tick)	√

Report on Weed Control Operational Assistance 2011/2012

Outcomes and results from July 2011-June 2012 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

Actual Expenditure		
	Total \$	Total \$
	A & B Weeds	C & D Weeds
African Lovegrass	\$1,072.00	\$2,529.00
Aquatic Weeds (Alligator Weed, Salvinia, Water Hyacinth)	\$1,630.00	-
Bitou Bush	\$4,302.00	\$22,075.00
Boneseed	\$981.00	-
Blackberry	-	\$4,863.00
Chilean Needle Grass	\$682.00	-
Coolatai Grass	\$716.00	-
Ornamental Lantana	\$682.00	-
Pink Lantana	-	\$4,512.00
Mysore Thorn	\$1,747.00	-
Pampas Grass	-	\$4,858.00
Giant Parramatta Grass	\$8,896.00	-
Rhus Tree	-	\$236.00
Sea Spurge	\$505.00	-
Serrated Tussock	\$923.00	-
St Johns Wort	\$1,321.00	-
Total	\$23,457.00	\$39,073.00

Total Expenditure	\$62,530.00*
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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	10 th September 2012

Administration Expenses Report Form

Administration Staff:

Salaries and Allowances:	\$18,499.00
Contribution to SCG Secretariat:	\$7,349.00
Contribution to Kiama Municipal Council:	\$6,210.00
Extra Clerical Assistance:	

Sub-Total **\$32,058.00**

Office Expenses:

Depot Rental and Maintenance:	\$2,277.00
Office Equipment Rental and Maintenance:	-
Advertising (not noxious weed publicity)	\$100.00
Printing and Stationery:	\$139.00
Postage:	\$196.00
Telephones:	\$2,009.00
Photocopying:	\$10.00

Sub-Total **\$4,731.00**

Computer Expenses:

(eg maintenance, agreements)	\$452.00
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Sub-Total **\$452.00** -

Members Expenses:

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

Sub-Total

Other Administration Expenses:

Audit Fees	\$2,500.00
Legal Expenses:	
Insurances:	\$9,113.00

(Professional Indemnity, Public Liability,
Accident & Property not covered by on-costs
on field staff or plant running costs)

Sundry Expenses:

Sub-Total **\$11,613.00**

TOTAL:

\$48,854.00

85% for Apportionment to Grant Program

\$41,526.00

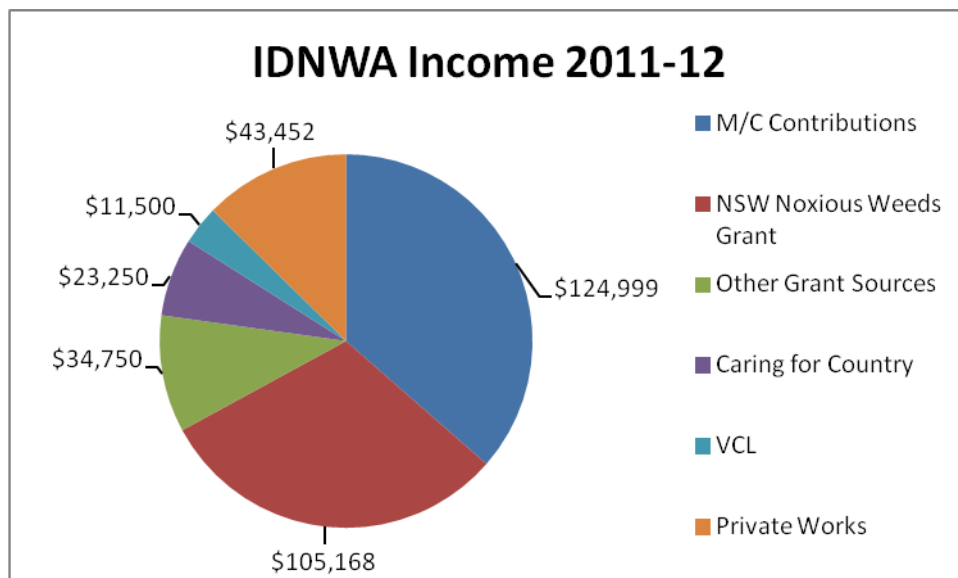
Vehicle Running Costs

\$6,500.00

\$48,026.00

IDNWA SUMMARY

- Southern Rivers Regional Weeds Management Strategy implemented with funding from the NSW Department of Primary Industries, constituent councils, SRCMA and Department of Lands.
- 342 inspections undertaken
171 follow-up inspections
- All nurseries and aquaria (31 outlets) inspected.
- 110ha of Bitou Bush aerially sprayed;
619km of roadsides inspected and treated for Cat A & B weeds
307 km of roadsides inspected and treated for Cat C & D weeds
50ha of Cat B weeds treated
262ha of Cat C & D weeds treated.
2 EECs managed and protected.
- Member of four (4) regional committees, two National committees and a subcommittee of the NSW Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee (NWAC). Occasional representation on a number of local committees is also held.
- Three (3) displays and two (2) presentations were held over the last 12 months, and five (5) media releases were issued.
- Participated in Caring for Country SE Australia Boneseed eradication program and Aquatic weed outlier program
- Constituent council contributions of \$124,999.00 received and supported with NSW Noxious Weeds Grant funding of \$105,168.00 to implement inspectorial and operational programs.
- Secured funding of an additional \$34,750.00 for the region through other grant sources.
Caring for Country - \$23,250.00
VCL grant- \$11,500.00
- Annual gross income of \$43,452.00 generated from private works / commercial spraying operations.



Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority

**Weed Control Co-ordination and Extension Program Report 2011/12
01 July 2011 – 30 June 2012**

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

Executive Summary

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

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

- The Southern Rivers Regional Weeds Management Strategy was implemented with funding from the NSW Department of Primary Industries, constituent councils, SRCMA and Department of Lands.
- A priority list of high risk weeds has been identified; regional inspection and control programs developed; high risk pathways targeted.
- Rapid Response Plan developed
- Local Weed Control Programs for private landholders and government agencies have continued to be given high priority with 342 initial inspections and 171 follow-up inspections being undertaken over the past 12 months.
- Improved co-operation between stakeholders is being addressed through representation on four (4) regional committees, two National committees and a subcommittee of the NSW Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee (NWAC). Occasional representation on a number of local committees is also held.
- Education and publicity activities have continued to be given high priority through ongoing utilisation of the media and participation in community events (Refer Attachment 1). Three (3) displays, two (2) presentations and five (5) media releases were issued over the last 12 months.
- Operational programs have continued to be maintained, expanding as time and resources permit, thereby complementing the inspectorial program and allowing the Authority to continue to lead by example. 839km of rural roadsides and 87km of non rural roads were inspected and treated for one or more noxious weeds. 312ha of reserve land was controlled. Two (2) EECs have been managed and protected.

Control Authority Aims

Aim:

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

Objectives:

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

Goals:

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

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

Private Property Inspection Program

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

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

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

Objectives

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. 342 initial inspections and 171 follow-up inspections were undertaken up to 30 June 2012. This figure was 42 properties more than the 300 initial properties to be inspected annually.
2. A total of 287 inspections for Category A & B weeds and 55 inspections for Category C & D weeds were undertaken over the last 12 months.
3. All nursery and aquaria were inspected by 31 December 2011. A total of 31 outlets were inspected with no outlets found to be selling prohibited plants.
4. One Alert weed – Sea Spurge was found at two separate locations in the north of the district over the last 12 months.
5. All known Giant Parramatta Grass (GPG), Gorse and Mysore Thorn infestations were targeted for inspection and control throughout Kiama and Shellharbour, whilst all known Serrated Tussock, Groundsel Bush, Chilean Needle Grass and Water Hyacinth infestations were inspected and control methods implemented throughout all three member council areas. GPG, Gorse and Mysore Thorn were strategically targeted for control within the Wollongong LGA according to local action plan guidelines. Marginal infestations of Blackberry were targeted throughout the district so as to limit the establishment and further spread of this weed. Programmed surveys were undertaken throughout the urban areas of Kiama, Shellharbour and southern Wollongong for Ornamental Lantana with 14 properties identified.
6. Three (3) noxious weed displays were held – one each at the annual Kiama and Albion Park agricultural shows and one at the annual Oak Flats garden club fete. Five (5) media releases were issued. (Refer attachment 1).

Summary of Achievements

Inspections conducted:

Total number ground inspections: 515

Actual number properties inspected: 342

-

Specific Inspections for New Weeds

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

Outcomes:

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

As part of the IDNWA inspection and enforcement activities, inspections are undertaken of all nurseries, aquaria and related businesses. These inspections are generally undertaken annually over the Christmas/New Year period when sales of plants are likely to be maximised (and hence the opportunity to detect prohibited species). Some 31 enterprises were inspected over the last 12 months with no businesses found selling prohibited plants.

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 Stanwell Tops to Bulli and Port Kembla to Windang in the northern and southern parts of the Wollongong LGA respectively. One Alert weed –, Sea Spurge - was found at two new locations within the northern parts of Wollongong as a result of .this program.

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

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

Summary of Achievements

Specific Inspections Conducted

Number aquaria and pet shops:	12
Number nurseries	13
Number other businesses	6
Transport Corridors inspected	4
Kms of Coastline inspected	75
Water catchments inspected	4
New weed incursions found	2

Use of Enforcement Procedures for Noxious Weed Control

For the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012, 342 properties were inspected, requiring 13 Section 18A Notices and 3 Section 18 Notices to be issued. These notices were issued only after it was apparent the relevant occupier/s were making no attempt/or an insufficient effort to control the designated noxious weed/s as required.

No Section 20 Entries or prosecutions were undertaken over the last financial period 2011-12.

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

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

Summary of Enforcement Actions

Groundsel Bush

Number of Section 18 Weed Control Notices: 1
:

Gorse

Number of Section 18 Weed Control Notices: 1

Blackberry

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:

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

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

Communication, Education, Extension and Publicity Activities

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

Outcomes:

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

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

The local print and electronic media were also utilised to publicise various control programs and disseminate information on all aspects of the Authority's weed control activities (Attachment 1). Five (5) media releases were issued during the course of the year along with two (2) presentations given at organised events.

The Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority website (www.idnwa.com.au) was established during the course of the year and is now receiving feedback.

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

Staffing, Organisational Structure

Staff

Chief Weeds Officer David Pomery

Key Outputs:

148 properties inspected; 94 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 development 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:

194 properties inspected; 77 follow-up inspections; inspection of all Class 2 noxious weed infestations; inspection of all nursery and aquaria; assist in displays and information days; liaise with landowners and managers; undertake all roadside and reserve spraying\control programs; supervise casual staff.

Qualifications:

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

Administration

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

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

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

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

The administrative base of the IDNWA consists of –

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

Staff Training

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

Outcomes

Chief Weeds Officer

Training completed 2011/2012:

Advanced Diploma training course
Select / modify traffic control plans
Implement traffic control plans
OH&S Induction
Recognising Grasses workshop
Legal workshop
Chemcert reaccreditation

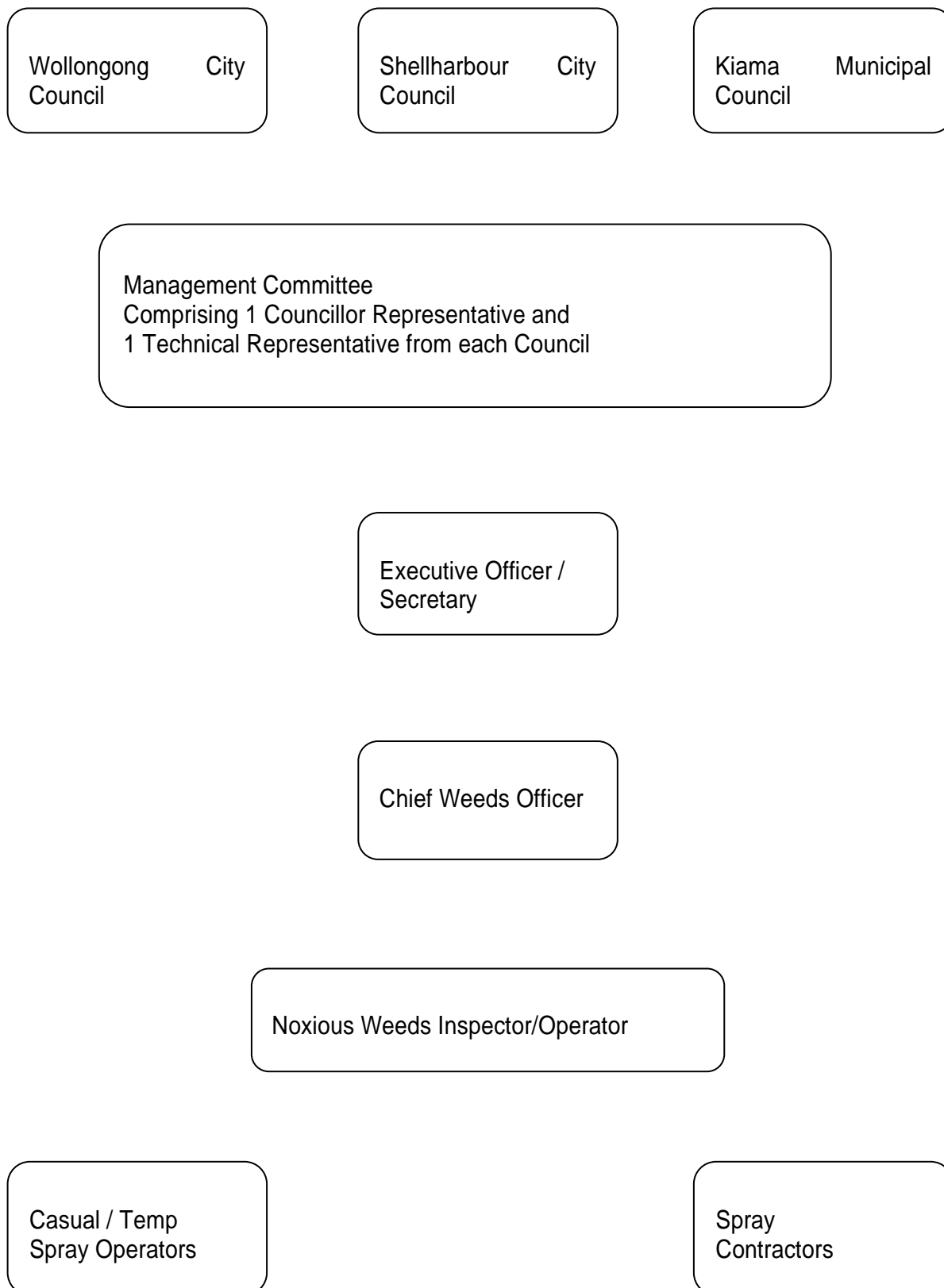
Chemcert reaccreditation

Noxious Weed Inspector/Operator

Training completed 2011/2012:

Select / modify traffic control plans
Implement traffic control plans
OH&S Induction
Recognising Grasses workshop
AQF 4 Smarttrain Chemical Risk Management reaccreditation
Legal workshop

Organisational structure



Planning and Policy Documents

Policy Documents

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

Strategic Planning Policies

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

Strategic Weed Strategies/Plans

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

Local Weed Plans

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

Co-operation

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

Outcomes:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Operational Program

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

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

Outcomes:

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

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

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

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

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

With reference to specific actions and milestones in achieving the stated Aims and Objectives of the IDNWA Operational Program the following actions were achieved for the 2011-12 year period.

1. All council lands infested with Class 2 weeds were inspected and treated at least 4 times by 30 April 2012.
2. All council lands with infestations of Class 3 weeds were inspected and treated at least once over the last 12 months.
3. 926km of council controlled roadside and 312ha of public reserve land were inspected and treated by 30 June 2012.
4. Two EECs were protected and managed for Bitou bush and Lantana respectively.

5. 110ha of heavy or otherwise inaccessible Bitou Bush was controlled by aerial spraying as part of the winter 2012 control program.
6. One Alert weed – Sea Spurge was found at two separate locations, for the first time, in the northern coastal suburbs of Wollongong within the last 12 months.
7. 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

8. 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 2011 and 30 November 2011 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 2012. Known St Johns Wort infestations were controlled by 30 November 2011, whilst any Salvinia and Water Hyacinth infestations on council lands were treated at least four times by 30 April 2012. Pampas Grass, Bitou Bush, and African Lovegrass were strategically targeted for control within the Wollongong LGA according to local action plan guidelines. Marginal infestations of Blackberry were targeted throughout the three member council areas so as to limit the establishment and further spread of this weed.

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

Other Weed Programs

1. Vacant Crown Land

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

1. preventing the spread of Bitou Bush to less infested areas,
2. reducing the area and distribution of Bitou Bush on infested lands, and
3. ensuring funds are targeted to species management where it will deliver the greatest benefit (ie asset protection).

\$11,500.00 was allocated to the IDNWA to control Bitou Bush on Crown Land reserves at Perkins Beach, Kemblawarra (\$7,500.00) and Coomaditchy Lagoon Kemblawarra (\$4,000.00) in the 2011/12 year.

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

2. Caring for Country SE Australia Boneseed Eradication project

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

3. Caring for Country Aquatic Weed Outlier Program

This project is a component of the Caring for Our Country NSW Alligator Weed and Salvinia Outlier Eradication Program. Both Alligator weed and Salvinia are weeds of limited distribution in the Illawarra and listed as Class B (emerging) priority weeds under the SRCMA Regional Weed Management Strategy and Class 2 (Regionally Prohibited) noxious weeds under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993.

Specifically this project will target three known outlier infestations of Alligator weed at Dunmore and Yallah and within 15 backyard situations in the urban areas of Shellharbour and Wollongong. Control will be undertaken using best practice management as detailed in the Alligator weed control manual.

Two isolated Salvinia infestations at Stockyard Mountain and Shell Cove in the Shellharbour local government area will also be targeted for control using best practice management as detailed in the Salvinia control manual.

The IDNWA will receive \$6,000.00 over two years beginning July 2011 covering Inspections and control works.

Private Works

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

Aim: To provide an efficient and effective private works capability

Outcomes

The IDNWA generated an annual gross income from commercial spraying operations in 2011/12 of \$43,452.00. Operating profit net of all expenses was \$20,567.00.

Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	Class 4 – African Boxthorn
<i>Objectives</i>	To prevent the growth and spread of the weed and reduce its numbers and distribution throughout the region.
<i>The infestation</i>	African Boxthorn is scattered sporadically throughout the three council areas, being most common in Shellharbour and Kiama where it is found mainly along the coastal cliff lines and under timber bordering the major River catchment areas (ie. Crooked River / Minnamurra River / Macquarie Rivulet). African Boxthorn becomes scarcer North of Wollongong. It is occasionally found invading grazing lands within both Kiama and Shellharbour.
<i>New outbreaks</i>	No new infestations have been recorded over the past year.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	African Boxthorn is inspected year round as part of normal inspection program. Known infested properties are targeted for inspection every 2-3 years after initial detection and control to ensure treatment programs are being maintained and effective control achieved.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	An active inspection program is undertaken in areas where the weed is known to occur.
<i>Publicity</i>	Control and Identification of African Boxthorn is promoted through on-going publicity events. Two displays at agricultural shows were held where African Boxthorn was highlighted.
<i>Facilitation</i> <i>Include details of any integrated control programs (eg. Bio-control)</i>	Spray vehicle and staff are available under contract. Demonstrations are given to occupiers on site (if requested) as to treatment by cut-stump or stem injection if this method is the preferred control option.
<i>Control on council land</i>	All infested rural roads were patrolled once and known infested council reserves inspected by 30 November 2011. Only minor regrowth is now being found. No mature plants were noted.
<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	Good compliance with agencies that have this weed on land they occupy.
<i>Future plans</i>	To continue to inspect existing infested private lands every 2-3 years whilst inspecting/ treating council lands annually until full control/eradication is achieved. To expand inspectorial program as time and resources permit.
<i>General</i>	Current program will be maintained to ensure objectives are met.

Indicators

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

Overview

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

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

Indicators

African Lovegrass	Total
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	8
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	-
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	3,601

Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	Class 2 – Alligator Weed
<i>Objectives</i>	To prevent the further introduction and spread of Alligator Weed within the IDNWA control area. To fully control/eradicate the weed from all known infested areas.
<i>The infestation</i>	Alligator Weed is currently recorded at 4 sites within the region - in a semi-dry creek at Yallah, in a natural wetland at Dunmore, in an urban backyard and in a small farm dam at Yellow Rock. Previously 2 infestations on public land at Lake Illawarra and 14 properties within the urban areas of Shellharbour and Wollongong were recorded as having Alligator Weed infestations. These infestations would appear to be all but eradicated at this stage
<i>New outbreaks</i>	One new outbreak was found growing in a farm dam on Stockyard Mountain, Yellow Rock.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	An annual inspection and treatment program is undertaken on all Alligator weed infested properties. Properties previously infested but now clean are inspected every 3rd year following two successive years without the weed being found. This is to ensure eradication has been achieved and the weed has not re-established.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	All lands currently infested with Alligator Weed are inspected at least twice annually over the summer growing period and treatment programs implemented. All nurseries and aquaria inspected annually.
<i>Publicity</i>	Alligator Weed control and identification is promoted through on-going publicity events. Two displays at agricultural shows were held where Alligator Weed was highlighted. Discussed at all presentations.
<i>Facilitation</i> <i>Include details of any integrated control programs (eg. Bio-control)</i>	Under a Caring for Country NSW Aquatic Weed outlier program all inspection and control costs associated with infestations of Alligator weed in the district have been fully funded under this two year program (2011- 2013).
<i>Control on council land</i>	The only infestation found on council lands is that recorded in the Dunmore wetlands. This site was treated twice over the summer growing season. Previously a small outbreak was recorded at Lake Illawarra in 2004, however following regular control of this infestation it now appears to have been eradicated.

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

Indicators

Alligator Weed	Total
No. of inspections made this year	12
No. of legal notices this year	-
Expenditure on roadsides (\$)	(1,272) Funded under CfC.

Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	Class 4 – Bitou Bush
<i>Objectives</i>	To fully control all infestations within Kiama and Shellharbour and strategically control all light and up to 50% of medium infestations in Wollongong. To create containment lines/buffers around all heavily infested sites within the Wollongong LGA and so prevent the spread of the weed from these areas.
<i>The infestation</i>	Bitou Bush is widespread throughout most coastal reserves, industrial sites and some private lands east of the Princes Highway in all three LGA's. It is relatively sparse west of the Princes Highway and in coastal areas north of Bulli.
<i>New outbreaks</i>	No new outbreaks have been reported.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	A high level action plan is being implemented throughout the region. This plan currently focuses on controlling all bitou bush in Kiama and Shellharbour, whilst strategically controlling all light and up to 50% of medium infestations in Wollongong. Programs are maintained in heavily infested zones where control has previously been undertaken (eg Hill 60).
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	An active inspection program is undertaken throughout all Bitou bush infested areas in Kiama and Shellharbour. In Wollongong bitou bush is targeted where it is sparse or light. Not actively enforced in heavy infestations outside programmed areas at this stage.
<i>Publicity</i>	Bitou Bush has been widely promoted throughout the district and reported in both print and electronic media. Weed has been displayed at three events. Bitou Bush is always raised as an issue in any organised group talks. SCBBB Taskforce has been established and is assisting in increasing awareness and raising the profile of the weed.
<i>Facilitation</i> <i>Include details of any integrated control programs (eg. Bio-control)</i>	Spray vehicle and staff are available under contract. Integrated control program has been adopted involving manual removal, aerial and ground spraying, regeneration and biological control. Bio-agents, Bitou Tip Moth, Seed Fly, and Bitou Leaf Roller Moth are being used to slow the rate of spread of the weed, particularly in heavily infested sites. Aerial seeding has been undertaken in monoculture areas. Landcare groups have provided on-ground assistance.
<i>Control on council land</i>	The majority of Bitou Bush within the region is found on land under council care and control. All reserves and infested roads west of Princes Highway were treated in Kiama, Shellharbour and Wollongong by 30 September 2011. All infested council reserves and roads east of Princes Highway were treated by 31 October 2011 in Kiama and Shellharbour whilst all light and up to 50% of medium infested areas were treated in Wollongong according to LAP guidelines. 110ha of heavy or otherwise inaccessible Bitou Bush on council managed land was controlled by aerial spraying by 30 June 2012. Funding under the Vacant Crown Lands Grant has been used to help address Bitou Bush control on Crown Land at Perkins Beach and Coomaditchy Lagoon Additional funding has been sought this year to continue these programs and expand operations. Funding from the SRCMA and administered by WCC is also being used to address Bitou Bush concerns at Hill 60, Cringila Park, Windang beach and Puckeys Estate. Volunteer care groups have provided on-ground assistance at various sites throughout the district.

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

Indicators

Bitou Bush	Total
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	19
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	-
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	26,377

Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	Class 4 - Blackberry
<i>Objectives</i>	To reduce the density and distribution of the weed throughout the district.
<i>The infestation</i>	Blackberry is widespread throughout the region being a common weed on neglected grazing lands, vacant industrial areas, roadsides and reserves, and disturbed urban bushland.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	High level action plans are implemented throughout the district. Operational programs compliment inspectorial programs. Particular emphasis is afforded to areas where agricultural productivity is at greatest risk.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps)
<i>Regulation</i>	Actively enforced throughout all three local government areas. Sixty - three (63) properties were inspected for Blackberry over the last 12 months.
<i>Publicity</i>	Blackberry is widely promoted through on-going publicity events. Publicity material on Blackberry was exhibited at two events. Blackberry was regularly discussed in group information talks and at exhibits.
<i>Facilitation Include details of any integrated control programs</i>	Spray unit and staff available under contract. Roadside and reserve spraying coincides with Inspectorial program thereby setting an example to landholders.
<i>Control on council land</i>	Due to funding shortfalls Blackberry control on council land has been significantly reduced such that roads and reserves are now treated every 3 years in rotation. A concerted control program was undertaken within the Jamberoo / Saddleback Mountain area in Kiama and Albion Park / Calderwood area in Shellharbour. Roads and reserves between Yallah and Brownsville between the Princess Highway and F6 Freeway were treated in the Wollongong LGA. Constituent council requests and resident complaints were undertaken as reported.
<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	<p>Good compliance with most State Agencies. IDNWA is contracted by the RTA and Integral Energy to undertake any Blackberry control programs on their respective lands. Sydney Water and OEH undertake their own programs on an annual basis.</p> <p>One area of concern however is land under the management of Rail Corp (RC). The IDNWA is concerned that RC is not meeting its obligations under the Act, and that this is having a detrimental impact on effective Blackberry management in adjoining areas. Work undertaken is often adhoc and more often than not incomplete. With the South Coast rail line being a major transport (and weed) corridor within the region failure to undertake adequate control of identified noxious weeds is having a major impact on surrounding properties and subsequent weed spread.</p>

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

Indicators

Blackberry	Total
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	63
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	1
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	4,863

Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	Class 4 – Boneseed
<i>Objectives</i>	To prevent the further introduction and spread of Boneseed within the IDNWA control area. To fully control / eradicate the weed from all known infested areas.
<i>The infestation</i>	Boneseed occurs sporadically throughout all three member council areas being a minor roadside weed in Shellharbour and Kiama. Boneseed becomes more common within the Wollongong LGA where it is predominantly found in bushland areas in the escarpment foothills, benches and plateau north of the City.
<i>New outbreaks</i>	No new outbreaks have been recorded during the past 12 months.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	High level action plans are implemented throughout the district during plant flowering (Aug/Sept). Operational programs compliment inspectorial programs. Particular emphasis is afforded to areas where known Boneseed infestations occur. Expanded annually.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	Actively enforced where identified as part of routine inspections for the weed in August/September each year. Infested lands are then inspected annually to ensure on-going management programs are being implemented and the weed eradicated.
<i>Publicity</i>	Publicity material on Boneseed was exhibited at two agricultural shows and the Oak Flats Garden Festival. Discussed in all group talks. Media relapse issued as part of Caring for Country Boneseed grant.
<i>Facilitation</i>	Under a Caring for Country SE Australia Boneseed eradication program all inspection costs for Boneseed in the district have been fully funded for two years (2011- 2013). Control costs on council lands have been funded for \$3,000.00 and private/government lands are eligible for subsidy funding.
<i>Control on council land</i>	Operational programs on Boneseed are undertaken annually in line with LAP guidelines and actions. All known Boneseed infestations were treated by 30 October 2011.
<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	Not all surveyed at this stage, however small isolated infestations are known to occur in sensitive escarpment bushland at Bulli and Stanwell Park on land adjoining Rail Corp and Sydney Water estates. A significant infestation of Boneseed (>1ha) has been identified on OEH (NPWS) land at Bald Hill. An isolated Boneseed infestation is found on the South Coast rail line at Kiama.

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

Indicators

Boneseed	Total
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	14
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	-
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	981

Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	Class 4 – Chilean Needle Grass
<i>Objectives</i>	To prevent the growth and spread of the weed and reduce its numbers and distribution throughout the region. To eradicate the weed where possible.
<i>The infestation</i>	Chilean Needle Grass is recognised as an emerging weed within the area. It is found on at least 6 private properties at West Dapto and is occasionally found as scattered plants on roadsides and in at least 2 degraded reserves within the Wollongong LGA.
<i>New outbreaks</i>	No new infestations were recorded.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	Operational and inspectorial programs are generally undertaken annually each November targeting known infested properties expanding as time and resources permit. Nurseries are inspected annually to prevent sale of any CNG or Nassella species.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected and treated were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	Actively enforced. After initial detection infested properties are scheduled to be inspected annually to ensure treatment programs are being continued and control achieved. The aim is to achieve eradication where possible.
<i>Publicity</i>	Two displays at agricultural shows were held. AgFacts distributed to affected landholders. CNG weed control notes prepared and distributed.
<i>Facilitation Include details of any integrated control programs</i>	Spray vehicle and staff are available under contract.
<i>Control on council land</i>	All known roadside and reserve infestations are treated annually. Where identified all CNG was treated by 30 November 2011.
<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	Not surveyed.
<i>Future plans</i>	Active program, continuing on annual roadside and reserve control and expanding inspection programs on private property.

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

Chilean Needle Grass	Total
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	5
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	-
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	682

Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	Class 3 – Giant Parramatta Grass
<i>Objectives</i>	To prevent the spread of the weed and reduce its numbers and distribution throughout all infested areas. GPG is to be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.
<i>The infestation</i>	GPG is found on most rural roads throughout all 3 local government areas. Infestations on private lands are widespread and increasing. They range from a few scattered plants on some properties to heavy infestations on others. The West Dapto area contains the heaviest infestations of this weed with several private properties heavily infested. Weed is spreading from these areas.
<i>New outbreaks</i>	Isolated plants continue to be found on a number of rural roads and public reserves, and the occasional private property, for the first time.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	An active inspection program was undertaken over the months March/April in each of the 3 LGAs. All properties with GPG were inspected in Kiama and 50% of properties in Shellharbour. Within the Wollongong LGA a strategic approach to control is being implemented targeting areas of light infestation as a priority. All heavily infested lands in the West Dapto area are being encouraged to create buffer zones around their properties particularly where road frontage occurs and weed density is less on the neighbouring land.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	Inspections are undertaken as part of the summer inspectorial program. GPG is actively enforced in all areas. Twenty-nine (29) properties were inspected for GPG over the last 12 months.
<i>Publicity</i>	GPG extension material exhibited and distributed at two displays. AgFacts distributed to affected landholders. GPG weed control notes prepared and distributed.
<i>Facilitation</i>	Spray unit and vehicle available under contract.
<i>Control on council land</i>	All rural roads and known infested reserves were patrolled and treated by 31 May 2011.
<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	Infestations of GPG are found along the F6 Freeway at Dapto, Kiama Bypass and Northern Distributor. GPG is also found on the South Coast Rail line at Otford. Good compliance with the RTA with the IDNWA contracted to undertake control programs.

	GPG on the South Coast rail line was last sprayed six years ago however no further control undertaken.
<i>Future plans</i>	To continue to inspect all infested private lands annually within Kiama and target the remaining 50% of infested properties in Shellharbour alternating every second year. Continue the current inspectorial program within the Wollongong LGA .To continue to implement an active roadside and reserve program thereby slowing the spread of the weed and leading by example. To continue to promote awareness and encourage community action on GPG.
<i>General</i>	IDNWA is concerned about the spread of this weed in the district. As an emerging weed the IDNWA considers its control paramount. Activities to date have concentrated on controlling all roadside and reserve infestations, whilst targeting private properties where the weed is of limited distribution and not widespread or well established.

Indicators

Giant Parramatta Grass	Total
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	29
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	-
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	8,896

Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	Class 3 – Gorse
<i>Objectives</i>	To reduce the existing area and impact of the weed. Gorse is to be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.
<i>The infestation</i>	Gorse occurs as scattered roadside plants and as occasional infestations in reserves in all three council areas. Notable infestations on private land are found at Jamberoo, Dunmore and in the Northern suburbs of Wollongong.
<i>New outbreaks</i>	One new infestation was found.....
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	High level action plans are implemented throughout the district. Operational programs compliment inspectorial programs.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	Actively enforced. Private lands are inspected every 2-3 years to ensure on-going management programs are being implemented. Council controlled lands are inspected and treated annually.
<i>Publicity</i>	Gorse is widely promoted through on-going publicity events. Two displays at agricultural shows were held. Discussed at group talks.
<i>Facilitation</i>	Spray unit and staff available under contract.
<i>Control on council land</i>	Operational programs on Gorse are undertaken annually in line with LAP guidelines and actions. All infestations on council roads and reserves were treated once by 30 June 2012.
<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	A small isolated infestation continues to exist on RTA controlled land at Helensburgh. Ongoing control programs are in place.
<i>Future plans</i>	To continue with existing program of inspecting infested private lands every second or third year. Particular emphasis will be directed toward riparian zones that are acting as transport corridors for the weed.
<i>General</i>	All areas infested with Gorse are believed to be known and recorded. Good control is beginning to be achieved in these areas following on-going management programs.

Indicators

Gorse	Total
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	20
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	1
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	-

Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	Class 3 – Groundsel Bush
<i>Objectives</i>	To fully control all infestations. Groundsel Bush is to be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.
<i>The infestation</i>	Groundsel Bush occurs sporadically throughout Wollongong and Shellharbour Council areas being a minor weed on swampy lands bordering Lake Illawarra and estuary areas to the north. Kiama is not known to have any infestations of this weed.
<i>New outbreaks</i>	No new outbreaks have been recorded during the past 12 months.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	High level action plans are implemented throughout the district. Operational programs compliment inspectorial programs. Private lands are inspected annually initially until infestation levels are reduced to a manageable level, and then inspected every third year until fully controlled / eradicated. Land under the care and control of the IDNWA is inspected and treated annually each May.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	Actively enforced. Infested private lands are inspected annually initially until satisfactory control is achieved and no mature seeding plants exist. Properties are then inspected every 2-3 years to ensure on-going management programs are being implemented and the weed is fully controlled / eradicated. . Council controlled lands are inspected and treated annually.
<i>Publicity</i>	Publicity material on GB was exhibited at two agricultural shows. Discussed in all group talks.
<i>Facilitation</i> <i>Include details of any integrated control programs</i>	Spray unit and staff available under contract.
<i>Control on council land</i>	Operational programs on Groundsel Bush are undertaken annually in line with LAP guidelines and actions. Seedling regrowth is now the only major concern with regard to Groundsel Bush on council controlled lands. All Groundsel Bush infestations were treated by 30 June 2012.
<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	Lands previously owned by Telstra Corp and Pacific Power are now in private ownership. Groundsel Bush has all but been eradicated on both properties. Recent inspections could not find any plants.
<i>Future plans</i>	To continue to inspect all known lands infested with Groundsel Bush and ensure effective control programs are being maintained. Expand inspection areas to encompass lands adjoining / near known hotspots.

<i>General</i>	Objectives are being met. Program is proceeding as outlined. Good control is being achieved throughout the region.

Indicators

Groundsel Bush	Total
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	3
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	1
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	-

Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	Class 4 - Lantana
<i>Objectives</i>	To control all ornamental Lantana throughout all three member council areas, and control pink lantana (<i>L. camara</i>) where the weed is isolated and rare or where it may be impacting upon designated priority environmental, social or agricultural assets. To raise community awareness of the need to control Lantana. To distribute biological control agents within heavily infested or inaccessible areas.
<i>The infestation</i>	Pink lantana is widespread throughout all three member council areas being both a weed of native bushland and agricultural areas. Extensive infestations are found along the escarpment and foothills although it is also relatively common along the coastal plain and in urban areas. Ornamental Lantana is common in urban gardens throughout the region, occasionally escaping into nearby bushland.
<i>New outbreaks</i>	An infestation of the orange flowered ornamental Lantana was found in disturbed bushland in an agricultural situation at Spring Creek, Kiama. The infestation covered 1ha in size and was spot seeding up to 500m from the main infestation.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	Low level action plans are implemented on Pink lantana involving the release of the Lantana rust, <i>Prospodium</i> , or other bio control agents in heavily infested or inaccessible areas, and the spot spraying of isolated plants (on council lands) where Lantana is of limited distribution. Control of Pink Lantana where cooperative programs are in place, critical assets need protecting and residents concerns need addressing will also be undertaken where feasible. Ornamental lantana is actively enforced for control and removal throughout all three member council areas.
<i>Mapping</i>	Pink Lantana - N/A Ornamental Lantana- All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	The growth and spread of Pink Lantana (<i>Lantana camara</i>) is to be enforced in areas of low weed abundance, sites of community concern, where cooperative programs are in place or where critical assets need protecting. These sites will be determined on a priority basis according to the IDNWAs financial ability to manage the weed. Property inspections/urban surveys for ornamental lantana will be undertaken in spring as time and resources permit.

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

Indicators

Lantana	Total
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	14
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	-
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	5,194

Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	Class 3 – Mysore Thorn
<i>Objectives</i>	To fully control all infestations within Kiama and Shellharbour and strategically control all infestations within the Wollongong LGA by working from the upper catchment downstream within the Bulli and Mt Kembla areas. Mysore Thorn is to be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.
<i>The infestation</i>	Mysore Thorn is an emerging noxious weed in the Illawarra, having invaded sensitive escarpment bushland in the vicinity of Mt Kembla and Bulli within the Wollongong local government area. It is estimated that in excess of 100 ha of escarpment lands are infested, most being in private ownership. Infestations are increasing and if left uncontrolled will only continue to spread, displacing native vegetation and invading pasture lands. Two small isolated infestations are found in Shellharbour and Kiama respectively on rural properties.
<i>New outbreaks</i>	Two Mysore Thorn plants were found for the first time on neighbouring land to a known infestation on Stockyard Mountain at Yellow Rock.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	High level action plans are implemented throughout the district. Operational programs compliment inspectorial programs. Private property inspections commenced September 2009 within the Mount Kembla upper catchment. Five (5) properties were inspected. This program has been expanded each year strategically working from the upper catchment downstream. Fifteen properties were inspected in the 2011/12 year. After initial inspections infested properties are inspected annually to ensure treatment programs are being continued and control achieved. The aim is to achieve full control/eradication where possible. All known infestations on council land were treated once over the past year.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on council lands treated were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	Actively enforced. Private lands within known infested areas are inspected annually each September and control enforced. Council controlled lands are inspected and treated annually at the same time.
<i>Publicity</i>	Mysore Thorn is widely promoted through on-going publicity events. Two displays at agricultural shows were held.

<i>Facilitation</i>	Spray unit and staff available under contract.
<i>Control on council land</i>	Operational programs on Mysore Thorn are undertaken annually in line with local action plan guidelines and actions. All infestations on council roads and reserves were treated by 30 September 2011.
<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	Small isolated infestations are known to occur in sensitive escarpment bushland at Figtree and Farmborough Heights on land controlled by NSW NPWS and Sydney Water respectively. Control programs are in place on both Estates.
<i>Future plans</i>	To control annually all infestations on council lands. Private property inspections to continue with particular emphasis being directed toward controlling isolated infestations in Kiama and Shellharbour, whilst targeting Mysore Thorn at the headwaters of riparian zones that are acting as transport corridors for the weed within the Wollongong LGA. Inspections to be strategically expanded each year working from the upper catchment downstream where required.
<i>General</i>	IDNWA is concerned about the spread of this weed in the district. As an emerging weed the IDNWA considers its control paramount. Future plans (refer above) aim to address these concerns.

Indicators

Mysore Thron	Total
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	15
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	-
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	1,747

Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	Class 4 – Pampas Grass
<i>Objectives</i>	To prevent the growth and spread of the weed and reduce its numbers and distribution throughout the region.
<i>The infestation</i>	Pampas Grass has all but been eradicated from the urban areas of Kiama, Shellharbour and southern Wollongong. It is still found however as occasional plants in industrial areas and in urban bushland, particularly to the north of Wollongong. Not a major weed in the rural area. Occasionally grown as a garden ornamental.
<i>New outbreaks</i>	No new outbreaks have been recorded over the past year.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	High level action plans are implemented throughout the district. All council lands in Kiama, Shellharbour, and Wollongong (south of Bulli, west of the escarpment and north of Stanwell Park) where this weed has been recorded are inspected and where necessary controlled annually in September each year. Council controlled lands between Bulli and Stanwell Park on the coast are treated every second year due to accessibility issues. Infested private properties are inspected annually for the first two years by which time levels are generally reduced to a manageable state. They are then inspected every second or third year until full control/eradication is achieved. Current activities are being directed to inspecting and controlling remaining infestations in sensitive or otherwise difficult to access escarpment bushland in the (northern) Wollongong LGA. Urban surveys are undertaken as time and resources permit.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	Actively enforced throughout all three local government areas.
<i>Publicity</i>	Publicity material on PG was exhibited at two agricultural shows. A flyer is distributed to residents when urban surveys are being undertaken
<i>Facilitation</i> <i>Include details of any integrated control programs</i>	Spray unit and staff available under contract.
<i>Control on council land</i>	All roads and reserves previously treated and those within inspection areas were controlled by 30 September 2011.

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

Indicators

Pampas Grass	Total
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	9
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	-
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	4,858

Overview

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

Indicators

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

Overview

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

Indicators

Rhus Tree	Total
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	-
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	-
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	236

Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	Class 3 – St John’s Wort
<i>Objectives</i>	To fully control all infestations. St John’s Wort is to be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.
<i>The infestation</i>	St John’s Wort is recognised as a weed of only minor occurrence being found as scattered plants on at least 5 rural roadside verges and five private properties in Kiama, Shellharbour and Wollongong.
<i>New outbreaks</i>	No new infestations have been recorded over the past 12 months
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	High level action plans are implemented with all infested lands, both private and public, inspected annually each November and control programs undertaken.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	Saint John’s Wort inspections occur in November each year. After initial inspections infested properties are then inspected annually to ensure treatment programs are being continued and control achieved. The aim is to achieve eradication where possible.
<i>Publicity</i>	Two displays were held where SJW control and identification were highlighted. Discussed at all group talks.
<i>Facilitation</i> <i>Include details of any integrated control programs (eg. Bio-control)</i>	Spray unit and staff available under contract. IDNWA supports efforts of adjoining LCA’s in any measures deemed as necessary to address the St John’s Wort problem.
<i>Control on council land</i>	All roadside infestations treated annually. Where identified St John’s Wort was treated by 30 November 2011.
<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	Scattered SJW infestations are found along the F6 Freeway at Maddens Plains. The IDNWA is contracted annually to undertake control. Sydney Water does control this weed annually within the Catchment area. At least two small and isolated SJW infestations are found on the South Coast rail line at Otford and Toolijooa.
<i>Future plans</i>	Active program, continuing annual roadside control and inspections of infested private lands.
<i>General</i>	St John’s Wort is given high priority, due to its limited distribution within the region. When identified, it is incorporated into the annual November inspection and treatment program for that weed.

Indicators

Saint Johns Wort	Total
No. of inspections made this year	6
No. of legal notices this year	-
Expenditure on roadsides (\$)	1,321

Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	Class 2– Salvinia
<i>Objectives</i>	To prevent the further introduction and spread of Salvinia within the IDNWA control area. To fully control / eradicate the weed from all known infested areas.
<i>The infestation</i>	Salvinia has previously been recorded in all three council areas. Last year it occurred in one drainage canal in Shellharbour and on one private farm dam. Salvinia has also previously been recorded in backyard ponds in the urban area as well as being sold by nurseries.
<i>New outbreaks</i>	No new outbreaks recorded over the last 12 months.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	Salvinia is inspected year round as part of the normal inspection program. High level action plans are implemented every summer on all properties where the weed occurs. Regular inspection of all main waterways occurs throughout the year to ensure no new outbreaks have occurred.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	All lands infested with Salvinia are inspected at least twice annually over the summer growing period and treatment programs implemented. All nurseries and aquaria inspected annually.
<i>Publicity</i>	Aquatic weed material was displayed at three events including exhibits at two local shows. Aquatic weed brochures and posters available at displays and distributed to aquaria outlets and private landholders during routine inspections
<i>Facilitation Include details of any integrated control programs</i>	Spray unit and staff are available under contract. Integrated programs of control are implemented involving chemical, mechanical and manual removal. Biological control has been trialled at one site however was unsuccessful.
<i>Control on council land</i>	Previously infested reserves were inspected at least twice over the summer growing season and preventative spraying undertaken where necessary to limit any possible reinfestation. Good control has been achieved with all previously infested reserves now appearing to have been eradicated of the weed.
<i>Govt land (incl VCL)</i>	No known infestations occur on government land.
<i>Future plans</i>	To continue to inspect/monitor and if necessary treat all previously infested sites both private and public on an annual basis until satisfied eradication has been achieved. To continue to inspect all nurseries and waterways to ensure no new outbreaks occur.

<i>General</i>	Good control is beginning to be achieved on this weed with only two infestations now persisting within the region, both on private land. Programs will continue to be maintained to ensure reinfestation does not occur and eradication is achieved on all previously infested lands. No new infestations were found this past year reflecting the benefits of an active inspection program.
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Indicators

Salvinia	Total
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	4
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	-
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	497

Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	Class 4 – Serrated Tussock
<i>Objectives</i>	To prevent the growth and spread of the weed and reduce its numbers and distribution throughout the region.
<i>The infestation</i>	Serrated Tussock is recognised as a weed of only minor occurrence being found as scattered infestations on a number of vacant industrial quarry sites and degraded rural grazing lands. It is occasionally found as scattered plants on roadsides.
<i>New outbreaks</i>	No new infestations were found over the last 12 months.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	High level action plans are implemented due to the limited presence of this weed in the district. All roadside infestations are treated annually in November in line with ongoing private property inspections for this weed. Nurseries are inspected annually to prevent sale of any Serrated Tussock or Nassella species.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	Serrated Tussock inspections occur in November each year. After initial detection infested properties are inspected annually to ensure treatment programs are being continued and control achieved. The aim is to achieve eradication where possible.
<i>Publicity</i>	Brochures and flyers on ST distributed at two displays/shows. AgFacts distributed to affected landholders. ST weed control notes prepared and distributed.
<i>Facilitation</i> <i>Include details of any integrated control programs (eg. Bio-control)</i>	Spray vehicle and staff are available under contract. IDNWA continues to support efforts of Serrated Tussock Task Force and adjoining councils in any appropriate measures deemed as necessary to address the Serrated Tussock problem.
<i>Control on council land</i>	All roadside infestations are treated annually. Where identified Serrated Tussock was treated by 30 November 2011.
<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	Not surveyed. Sydney Water does control this weed annually within the catchment area.
<i>Future plans</i>	Active program, continuing on annual roadside and reserve control and inspections of known infested private lands. Program will be expanded over time within each of the three council areas so as to incorporate any neighbouring but as yet uninspected lands within the Serrated Tussock inspection zones.

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

Serrated Tussock	Total
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	14
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	-
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	923

Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	Class 3 – Water Hyacinth
<i>Objectives</i>	To prevent the spread of the weed and reduce its numbers and distribution. To locate, treat and control all infestations. Water Hyacinth is to be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.
<i>The infestation</i>	Water Hyacinth is found mainly on small farm dams and some creeks throughout the district. It is occasionally found as an ornamental in urban pond situations as well as being sold by nurseries.
<i>New outbreaks</i>	No new outbreaks were found over the last 12 months.
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	Water Hyacinth is inspected year round as part of the normal inspection program. High level action plans are implemented every summer where the weed occurs. Regular inspection of all main waterways occurs throughout the year to ensure no new outbreaks have occurred.
<i>Mapping</i>	All infestations on lands inspected were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).
<i>Regulation</i>	All lands infested with Water hyacinth are inspected at least twice annually over the summer growing period and treatment programs implemented. All nurseries and aquaria inspected annually.
<i>Publicity</i>	Aquatic weed material was displayed at three events including exhibits at two local shows. Aquatic weed brochures and posters available at displays and distributed to aquaria outlets and private landholders during routine inspections
<i>Facilitation Include details of any integrated control programs (eg. Bio-control)</i>	Spray unit and staff are available under contract. Integrated control is adopted where appropriate involving mechanical / manual removal, chemical spraying and water manipulation. Bio-control was previously trialled but proved unsuccessful.
<i>Control on council land</i>	Council lands were inspected and treated up to five times prior to 30 April 2012. Water level was manipulated to encourage germination of seedlings in shallow mud at Jerrara Dam. At least one local creek under council care and control and a public reserve (Jerrara Dam) are known to contain Water Hyacinth.
<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	No known government land infested. Tallawarra Power Station is now under private ownership with good compliance being received from new owners. Annual control program in place.

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

Indicators

Water Hyacinth	Total
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	15
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	-
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	1,133

Overview

<i>Declaration</i>	<p>Non Declared High Priority species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coolatai grass - Glory Lily - Ludwigia - Sea spurge - Spiny Burr Grass
<i>Objectives</i>	<p>To prevent the growth and spread of these weeds and reduce their numbers and distribution throughout the region.</p> <p>To eradicate where possible.</p>
<i>The infestation</i>	<p>All are recognised as emerging weeds within the area. Coolatai is of limited distribution in Kiama and Shellharbour being confined to sporadic roadside infestations. It is targeted for eradication in these areas. Glory Lily and Spiny Burr Grass occur as one population at Gerringong and Ludwigia at Dunmore. Sea Spurge is found at Gerroa, Bass Point and two locations to the north in Wollongong.</p>
<i>New outbreaks</i>	<p>Two small outbreaks of Sea spurge were found at Windang and Towradgi for the first time</p>
<i>Policy and Planning</i>	<p>Operational programs are undertaken annually.</p> <p>Spiny Burr Grass- March</p> <p>Sea spurge- July/August</p> <p>Ludwigia & Glory Lily- September</p> <p>Coolatai- October</p>
<i>Mapping</i>	<p>All infestations on lands inspected and treated were recorded using AGM references (1:25,000 topographic maps).</p>
<i>Regulation</i>	<p>Not declared so not actively enforced. All infestations to date have been on council (public) lands. Where found on private properties however landholders will be advised of the potential threat of the weed and assisted where possible to control the infestation.</p>
<i>Publicity</i>	<p>All emerging weed species are promoted through posters, brochures, flyers and various handouts.</p>
<i>Facilitation</i>	<p>Spray vehicle and staff are available under contract.</p>
<i>Control on council land</i>	<p>Treated annually.</p> <p>Spiny Burr Grass- March</p> <p>Sea spurge- July/August</p> <p>Ludwigia & Glory Lily- September</p> <p>Coolatai- October</p>

<i>Govt land (including vacant crown land)</i>	Not surveyed.
<i>Future plans</i>	Active operational program, continuing on annual roadside and reserve control.
<i>General</i>	Each non declared high priority species is given high priority for control due to its recent emergence and limited distribution within the region. When identified, it is incorporated into the annual treatment program for that weed as outlined above.

Indicators

Non declared high priority species	Total
<i>No. of inspections made this year</i>	-
<i>No. of legal notices this year</i>	-
<i>Expenditure on roadsides (\$)</i>	1,221

Gerroa's growing concern

DAVID HALL

THERE was genuine concern in the voice of veterinarian Michael Hindmarsh when he described noxious weed Spiny Burr Grass last week.

The weed, also known as Mossman River Grass in Queensland and Shearers Holiday in NSW, is thriving again in Gerroa due to severe summer La Nina rainfall.

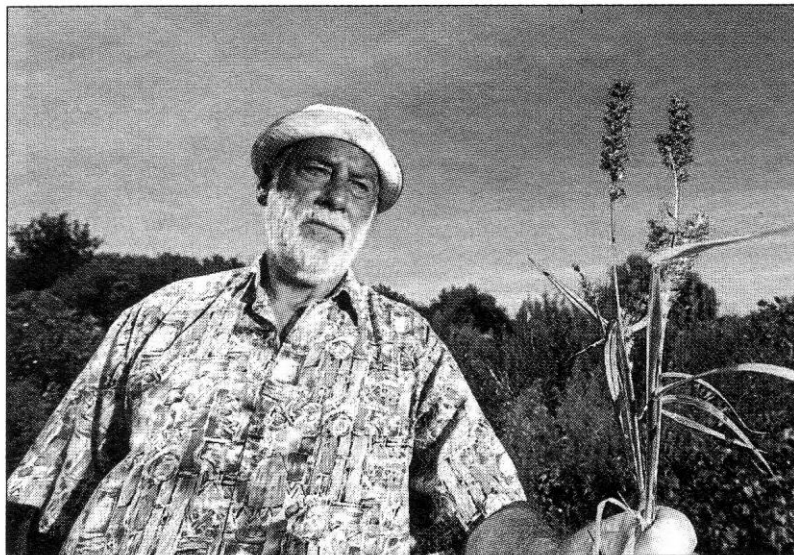
Dr Hindmarsh had first hand experience when he was district veterinarian for the Condoblin Rural Lands Board in the centre of NSW.

"Our weeds team were combating a massive outbreak beside the Lachlan River and, on inspecting the outbreak my socks were infiltrated by the spines," Dr Hindmarsh said.

"Later, while inspecting travelling sheep for lice I was ambushed again by its spines in the wool, while in 2007 I again encountered its spines when chasing feral dogs at the Aurukun Community on Cape York in far north Queensland."

However it is the outbreak at Gerroa that has Dr Hindmarsh concerned about its impact on the local area and tourism.

"I first observed an outbreak at Seven Mile Beach in June 2006 and after protracted negotiations with Kiama Municipal Council, a management plan was approved by the Illawarra



• Local resident Michael Hindmarsh has found a noxious weed in the Gerroa area.

Picture: DYLAN ROBINSON

District Noxious Weeds Authority in March 2008," he said.

"The plan was successfully implemented with no weeds found for four years, however its dormant seeds have again been activated by recent heavy rains."

He said the grass was noxious and easily spread.

"Anyone who encounters this weed is unlikely to return, with its sharp spines causing extreme irritation and the seeds can easily be picked up and spread on clothing and towels," he said.

"In fact in areas where sheep are farmed the spines can cause frenzied rubbing, causing wool damage and skin infections, while shearers down their handpieces

and walk off the boards because of the discomfort of coming into contact with the weed in the wool," he added.

Illawarra District Noxious Weeds Authority Chief Weeds Officer David Pomeroy said the authority planned to spray the area this week.

"We have been keeping an eye out for the Spiny Burr Grass for several years and it looked like we had beaten it, and will be concentrating on the area where it has reoccurred in our current spraying," Mr Pomeroy said.

"The seed needs a lot of moisture and temperatures of around 15-20 degrees to germinate and unfortunately the wet summer has seen it re-emerge," he added.

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