



**Business Paper of a duly convened Ordinary Meeting of the  
Hawkesbury River County Council to be held at 6 Walker St, South Windsor on  
Thursday, 8 October 2015 commencing at 6.00pm**

**1. LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**2. APOLOGIES**

**3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Thursday, **13 August 2015** to be confirmed or altered.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

## 5. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL'S OFFICERS:

### a) From the General Manager

To the Chairperson and Council Members

I submit these Reports for Council's consideration:

#### **ITEM GM 1. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND DEPUTY CHARIPERSON**

##### ***Reason for Report: Statutory***

Section 395 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 requires that the Chairperson of a County Council is to be elected in accordance with Schedule 8 of the above Regulation.

Schedule 8, Clause (1) states that: "An election for chairperson of a county council is to be held: (a) at the first meeting of the county council after an ordinary election of members of the county council"(b) at the first meeting of the county council after each anniversary of that ordinary election until the next ordinary election of members of the county council is held."

Therefore, election of a Chairperson will take place at this meeting.

Clause (2) states "The general manager of the county council in respect of which an election is being held (or a person appointed by the general manager) is the returning officer."

The General Manager, Mr Chris Dewhurst, will therefore act as the returning officer for the purpose of this election.

##### **Nomination** (as per Clause 4)

(1) A member of a county council may be nominated without notice for election as chairperson of the county council.

(2) The nomination is to be made in writing by 2 or more members of the county council (one of whom may be the nominee). The nomination is not valid unless the nominee has indicated consent to the nomination in writing.

(3) The nomination is to be delivered or sent to the returning officer.

(4) The returning officer is to announce the names of the nominees at the county council meeting at which the election is to be held.

##### **Election** (as per Clause 5)

(1) If only one member of the county council is nominated, that member is elected.

(2) If more than one member is nominated, the county council is to resolve whether the election is to proceed by preferential ballot, by ordinary ballot or by open voting.

(3) The election is to be held at the county council meeting at which the county council resolves on the method of voting.

(4) In this clause:

"ballot" has its normal meaning of secret ballot.

"open voting" means voting by a show of hands or similar means.

**Result** (as per Clause 15)

The result of the election (including the name of the candidate elected as chairperson of the county council) is:

- (a) to be declared to the members of the county council at the county council meeting at which the election is held by the returning officer, and
- (b) to be delivered or sent to the Chief Executive, Division of Local Government and to the Secretary of the Local Government and Shires Associations of New South Wales.

As per previous Council practice, the election of both the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson will occur at the same meeting. The election of the Chairperson will be conducted first, and the election of the Deputy will follow.

Nomination forms for both the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson have been forwarded to all Members.

|                |                                          |
|----------------|------------------------------------------|
| ENCLOSURE GM1: | Nomination Forms – HRCC Chair and Deputy |
|----------------|------------------------------------------|

**Recommendation:**

1. *That the report is received and noted.*
2. *That the result of the election is to be declared by the Returning Officer and recorded in the minutes.*
3. *That the result of the election is to be sent to the Chief Executive, Division of Local Government and the Secretary of the Local Government and Shires Association of New South Wales and the General Manager of all constituent Councils.*

## **ITEM GM 2. REPORT ON MONEY'S INVESTED**

### ***Reason for Report: Statutory***

The report presented to the last Ordinary Meeting, displayed the total amounts recorded on 5 August 2015 (EOD); investment accounts \$1,450,000, on-call account \$41,325.95 and transaction account \$8,528.15.

Since that report, the following investment decisions have been made:

On 21 August 2015, a term deposit of **\$200,000** was invested with AMP Bank for a period of 270 days at 2.9%, maturing on 17 May 2016.

On 15 September 2016, a term deposit of \$150,000 invested with ME Bank was redeemed at maturity.

On 18 September 2015, a term deposit of **\$200,000** was invested with NAB for a period of 180 days at 2.88%, maturing on 16 March 2016.

On 28 September 2015, a term deposit of **\$100,000** was invested with NAB for a period of 180 days at 2.93%, maturing on 23 March 2016.

A term deposit of **\$250,000** remains invested with Bank of Queensland for a period of 180 days at 2.95%, maturing on 7 October 2015.

A term deposit of **\$250,000** remains invested with Bank of Queensland for a period of 227 days at 2.95%, maturing on 25 January 2016.

A term deposit of **\$200,000** remains invested with AMP Bank for a period of 182 days at 2.90%, maturing on 27 January 2016.

A term deposit of **\$100,000** remains invested with Macquarie Bank Ltd. for a period of 270 days at 3.0%, maturing on 16 February 2016.

A term deposit of **\$500,000** remains invested with People's Choice Credit Union for a period of 364 days at 2.93%, maturing on 23 June 2016.

On **29 September 2015**;

The total amount invested in Term Deposits is **\$1,800,000\***.

The total amount invested in the on-call account (at 2.55%) is **\$61,733.33**

The total amount in our transaction account (at 0%) is **\$5,310.30**

The RBA Cash Rate was 2.00%.

*\*This includes Sydney NSW Weeds Action Program funding (\$113,965.76 at 31/8/2015) as per our role as "Lead Agency" for the Sydney Application to Department of Primary Industries. This funding is quarantined against any HRCC operational or capital expenditure, and is specifically for the purposes of the NSW Weeds Action Program as per guidelines established by agreement with the Department of Primary Industries.*

### ***Recommendation:***

1. *That the report is received and information noted.*

### **ITEM GM 3. ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14**

#### ***Reason for Report: Statutory***

Under Section 428 of the Local Government Act 1993 Council is required to produce an Annual Report by the end of November each year.

The Annual Report for 2014/15 reporting period is hereby presented at this meeting.

#### **Highlights for HRCC during the 2013/14 reporting period include:**

- **Increase of on-ground weed control undertaken to 191HA. Property inspections over 2,300.**
- **Third year in a row of a small surplus budget.**
- **Cost to each rate payer \$2.16 annually.**
- **Facilitating huge Sydney-wide increases in weed management via our role as Lead Agency for NSW Weeds Action Program.**

The Chairperson's Report provides a succinct summary of the achievements of HRCC over the past 12 months and it is recommended that this serves as the basis of subsequent Member Council Reports as a means of updating our constituent Councils.

#### **Recommendations:**

1. *That the report is received and information noted.*
2. *That the Council endorses the HRCC Annual Report for 2014/15, publishes it on the Council website and forwards a copy to the Minister for Local Government before 30 November 2015.*
3. *That the General Manager provides a copy of the report to all General Managers of constituent Councils and the HRCC Management Network by 30 November 2015.*
4. *That the General Manager provides the "Chairman's Report" as a draft Council Report for each constituent Council General Manager and Management Network delegate.*

|                                         |
|-----------------------------------------|
| ENCLOSURE GM3: Annual Report YE 2014/15 |
|-----------------------------------------|

## **ITEM GM 4. HRCC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2014/15 FY**

### ***Reason for Report: Statutory***

### **Development of Financial Statements and External Audit of Council**

In accordance with Section 419 of the Local Government Act 1993, the 2014/15 Annual Financial Statements and Special Schedules, together with the Auditors Report are hereby presented to this meeting.

As per the resolution of the Council Ordinary Meeting 13 August 2015 (Minute 1797) the Draft Financial Statements were referred to audit.

The financial audit was carried out by Trumans Chartered Accountants at the HRCC Office on 7 and 8 September 2015. No significant issues were identified by the auditors, and their report is included as part of our financial statements.

### **Financial Result**

Below is a summary of the financial situation of Hawkesbury River County Council at 30 June 2015:

|                                    | <b>2014/15</b> | <b>2013/14</b> |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Results from Operations</b>     | \$,000         | \$,000         |
| Revenue                            | 2,339          | 2,348          |
| Expenses                           | 2,196          | 2,301          |
| Net Result                         | 144            | 47             |
|                                    |                |                |
| <b>Financial Position</b>          |                |                |
| Current Assets                     | 1,513          | 1,303          |
| Current Liabilities'               | (333)          | (378)          |
| Non-current Assets                 | 1,087          | 1,091          |
| Non-current Liabilities'           | 107            | 0              |
| Total Equity                       | 2,160          | 2,016          |
|                                    |                |                |
| <b>Other Financial Information</b> |                |                |
| Unrestricted Current Ratio         | 8:1            | 5:1            |
| Debt Service Ratio                 | N/A            | N/A            |

This is a very positive result for Council. The net result is +\$144K has created a small surplus for the third year in a row. This has been achieved by continuing to contain expenditure but increasing revenue, mainly via grants over the reporting period. This moves HRCC into an era of financial sustainability.

Having now achieved a platform of financial sustainability it places HRCC in a strong position to continue to offer return on investment both to the community and our funding providers. The graphs below show our revenue result trend over the past 6 years, and how the increase in revenue has been a strong driver to our fiscal result.

|                 |                               |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| ENCLOSURES GM4: | General Purpose_FS YE 2014/15 |
|                 | Special Purpose_FS YE 2014/15 |
|                 | Special Schedule YE 2014/15   |

**Recommendations:**

1. *That the report is received and noted.*
2. *That pursuant to Section 413 of the Local Government Act, it is of Council's opinion that the Financial Statements YE 2014/15 and Schedules have been drawn up in accordance with the Local Government Act and its Regulations, the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Australian Accounting Standards.*
3. *That the Financial Statements present fairly the Council's fiscal position as at 30 June 2015.*
4. *That Council endorses the Financial Statements for signing by Chairperson, Member and General Manager.*

## **ITEM GM 5. SYDNEY NSW WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM - FINANCIAL REPORTS**

### ***Reason for Report: Statutory***

### **Background**

The Sydney Weeds Action Program 2010-2015 (WAP1015) project was a five year grant project funded by the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) to address priority weed issues in Sydney and the Blue Mountains. The total value of the funding provided by DPI over the five years was \$4,292,919 and the total project value exceeded \$8.5million. HRCC was the lead agency for the project under a contractual agreement with NSW DPI.

The annual report for 2014-15 was submitted to NSW DPI on 28 August 2015. 2014-15 was the fifth and final year of the project and saw more than \$2.5million (\$1.18m from the NSW Government and \$1.4m from local governments and the National Parks and Wildlife Service) spent directly on weed management activities across the Greater Sydney region. The project continued to align more closely with the NSW Invasive Species Plan goals and priorities.

The project achieved significant results in the past 12 months including an 11% increase in the number of private property inspections, a 13% increase in the number of inspections of high risk pathways, and an 11% increase in the level of co-contributions from project partners. A comprehensive summary of results is contained in the Sydney Weeds Action Program 2014-15 Summary & Highlights (enclosed).

### **Financial Report 2014-15**

The Sydney Weeds Action Program (WAP) income for 2014-15 comprised \$901,253 annual grant from NSW DPI and \$86,135.77 surplus from previous years. HRCC spent \$965,608.95 against this income, predominantly in the form of devolved grant allocations to project partners.

| <b>Income</b>                          | <b>Year 5<br/>2014-15<br/>(Actuals)</b> |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Annual Grant from NSW DPI              | \$901,253                               |
| Funds carried over from previous years | \$86,135.77                             |
| <b>Total Income</b>                    | <b>\$987,388.77</b>                     |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                     |                                         |
| Administration                         | \$90,689.74                             |
| Project Partner Allocations            | \$900,872                               |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>               | <b>\$991,561.74</b>                     |
| <b>Net</b>                             | <b>-4,172.97*</b>                       |

## Weeds Action Program 2015-2020

HRCC is the lead agency for the WAP1520 project. The WAP project officer convened a regional assessment panel met on Wednesday 16 September 2015 to determine annual allocations for the 20 project proponents that submitted grant applications. Applicants will be notified informally by email of the meeting outcomes. Formal letters of offer will be sent as soon as the funds are received from NSW DPI.

HRCC received the WAP1520 Funding Deed from NSW DPI on 24 September 2015, confirming that the project grant for the Sydney Region for 2015-16 is \$1,034,915. This represents a 15% increase over 2014-15 and \$18,315 (2.8%) more than projected in the budget forecast submitted to Council at the June 2015 meeting. An invoice for the grant funds will be forwarded to NSW DPI with the executed Funding Deed.

\$93,492 (9%) of the grant will be retained for project administration. The review of five strategic documents that were developed under WAP1015 and the development of a Regional Weeds Strategy are mandatory outcomes that must be delivered by the end of Year 2 of WAP1520. \$15,000 (1.4%) has been allocated toward these activities in 2015-16. The remaining funds will be expended on on-ground activities (i.e. inspections, surveillance, management of high risk and noxious weeds and education/capacity building) as per the funding guidelines.

|                    |                                                          |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| GM5<br>ENCLOSURES: | Sydney Weeds Action Program 2014-15 Summary & Highlights |
|                    | Sydney Region Project Expenditure Map 2014-15            |

### ***Recommendation***

- 1. That the report is received and noted.*

## **ITEM GM 6. RETURN OF PUBLIC DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

### ***Reason for Report: Statutory***

Section 449 of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires that a Councillor or Designated Person holding that position at 30 June in any year must complete and lodge a return with the General Manager, within three months of that date (30 September 2015).

The following Members and General Manager were required to complete and lodge a disclosure of interest return:

- Clr Kevin Crameri OAM
- Clr Bob Porter
- Clr Warwick Mackay OAM
- Clr Marcus Cornish
- Clr Jess Diaz
- Clr Andrew Jeffries
- Clr Mark Taylor
- Mr Chris Dewhurst, General Manager

The following Designated Staff were required to complete and lodge a disclosure of interest return:

- Mr Chris Stanfield, Operations Manager
- Mr Steve Russell, Weeds Inspector
- Mr Karen Jenkin, Weeds Inspector
- Mr Gordon Blyth, Weeds Inspector
- Mr Daniel Cacatian, Weeds Inspector

Section 450A of the Act provides that the above mentioned returns lodged with the General Manager must be kept in a register and tabled at the first Council meeting held after the last day of lodgement. In compliance with this requirement, the register will be tabled at this meeting.

### **Recommendations:**

1. *That the report be received and noted.*
2. *The General Manager tables the Register of Pecuniary Interest.*

## **ITEM GM 7. STAFFING**

### ***Reason for Report: Informative***

Since the last Council meeting held on 13 August 2015 there Council has received the resignation of:

- Ms Sophie Mills – Trainee Weeds Officer

HRCC currently employs a total of 13 people (at FTE of 12.1).

### ***Recommendation:***

1. *That the report is received and noted.*

## **ITEM GM 8. GENERAL MANAGER PERFORMANCE ACTION PLAN**

### ***Reason for Report: Contractual***

The General Manager's (3 Year) contract begins on 1 November 2015. It is a requirement of the contract under Clause 7 to prepare a performance plan and review this annually (Clause 7.5). This last took place at the ordinary meeting of 11 December 2014.

The General Manager hereby presents his "Performance Action Plan 2015" for the fifth year of his contract previous contract, with the expected review date to be the Ordinary Meeting of 10 December 2015.

### **Recommendations:**

- 1. That the report be received and noted*
- 2. That the Council endorses the General Manager, Mr Chris Dewhurst, Performance Action Plan for 1 November 2014 to 1 November 2015.*
- 3. That the Council endorses the remuneration plan contained within the Performance Action Plan.*
- 4. That the Chairperson and General Manager sign the endorsed plan.*

|                |                                              |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------|
| ENCLOSURE GM8: | General Manager Performance Action Plan 2015 |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------|

## **ITEM GM 9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW CONFERENCE DELEGATES**

### ***Reason for Report: Decision Required***

The Local Government NSW Annual Conference is due to be held 11 to 13 October 2015 at Rosehill Gardens Racecourse. HRCC is entitled to two (2) voting delegates to vote on conference motions, but not executive positions.

Due to the deadline required for nomination of delegates the General Manager nominated the current Chair – Clr. Jess Diaz and, Deputy Chair – Clr. Mark Taylor as voting delegates.

### ***Recommendations:***

- 1. That the report is received and noted.*
- 2. That the Council nominates Clr. Jess Diaz and Clr. Mark Taylor as delegates to the 2015 LGNSW conference.*

## **ITEM GM 10. FEES PAYABLE TO CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS**

### ***Reason for Report: Statutory***

Pursuant to Section 241 of the *Local Government Act 1993* the NSW Local Government Remuneration Tribunal completed its annual review and determination of fees on 13 April 2015. Under Section 239 of the Act, Hawkesbury River County Council is categorised as "County Council Other".

In 2013/14 FY the fees adopted by Council were:

|                                |         |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Member                         | \$5,230 |
| Additional fee for Chairperson | \$9,540 |

In 2014/15 FY fee options were:

|                                | <u>Minimum</u> | <u>Maximum</u> |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Member                         | \$1,620        | \$5,360        |
| Additional fee for Chairperson | \$3,460        | \$9,780        |

No fee increases were recommended for 2014/15.

In the case of Hawkesbury River County Council for 2015/16 FY, the NSW Local Government Remuneration Tribunal has determined as follows:

|                                | <u>Minimum</u> | <u>Maximum</u> |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Member                         | \$1,660        | \$5,490        |
| Additional fee for Chairperson | \$3,550        | \$10,020       |

It is Council's practice to pay the maximum fee on a monthly basis as the majority of the County is categorised as "metropolitan major". This would represent an increase cost of 4.8% and this has been provided for in the Council Budget for 2015/16 (HRCC Operational Plan 2015/16).

|             |                                                                    |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ENCLOSURE : | Local Government Remuneration Tribunal determinations<br>2013-2016 |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|

### **Recommendations:**

- 1. That the report be received and noted.*
- 2. That Council increase the payment to Members to \$5,360 for payments due after 1 July 2014.*
- 3. That Council increase the additional payment fee to the Chairperson to \$9,780 for payments due after 1 July 2014.*
- 4. That Council increase the payment to Members to \$5,490 for payments due after 1 July 2015.*
- 5. That Council increase the additional payment fee to the Chairperson to \$10,020 for payments due after 1 July 2015.*

## 5. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL'S OFFICERS:

### (b) Operations Manager

To the Chairperson and Council Members,

I submit the following for your consideration:

#### **ITEM OM1. OPERATIONAL REPORT**

##### ***Reason for Report: Statutory***

Spring has arrived across the county, bringing longer days and generally warmer air temperatures. Weed growth has responded accordingly with terrestrial and aquatic weed populations showing strong signs of growth. Weed species such as Boneseed are in the height of flowering, these strikingly bright yellow flowered plants stand out readily to a weed controller, resulting in greater control of this class 1 weed at this time of year. Aquatic weeds are just beginning their annual cycle and are just beginning to poke their heads up along the edges of the river and various waterways, in the case of Salvinia this also means that the predatory Salvinia weevil is also slowly awakening from its winter dormancy. Better than average weather conditions have been experienced across the county so far and, our weed control teams have been busy tackling the remnants of the cool season weeds as well as expanding control works into the warm season weeds.

##### **Mother of Millions**

The Mother of millions control program is just wrapping up for the year, a limited number of council reserves will still be treated for this species as part of wider ranging weed control programs, however the majority of roadside control works have been completed for this year upon Mother of millions. Control teams were able to treat large tracts of public land for this species this season which will see much less work requiring to be done next year on this widespread weed.

##### **Boneseed**

Boneseed control has been a priority for the teams over the last two months. The current infestations of this weed are much reduced due to ongoing maintenance of known locations however; new smaller infestations are being detected by HRCC staff on a regular basis. A new incursion of Boneseed was recently detected in South Windsor on council land; unsurprisingly a private land infestation (under management) occurs several hundred metres away. August, September and October are prime time for locating and controlling Boneseed as the adult plants are in full bloom. The profuse yellow blooms make spotting Boneseed amongst other flowering vegetation quite easy, and tilt favour toward the weed controller.

## **Green Cestrum**

Green cestrum has been quick to recover from winter conditions and is powering on now that the frosts have passed. Regentville, South Penrith, Kellyville, North Sackville, Lower Portland, Seven Hills and Lalor Park have been identified as high priority control areas to be targeted during spring. Property inspections will also be conducted at this time in these areas to drive home the message about the dangers of letting this toxic plant species establishing in home gardens. Continuation of the control works for this species along waterfront reserves in all council areas has also recently commenced.

## **Smooth Tree Pear**

Smooth tree pear is a noxious cactus species that has been resurgent in a number of reserves in the Blacktown and Penrith LGA's. These infestations of pear have been treated with basal bark application of a herbicide and diesel mix, applied at extremely low pressure. It is quite unusual for this species not to come under attack from the cactoblastis biocontrol agent, staff will seed these areas with cactoblastis moth affected Smooth tree pear to ensure future control of the pear can be assisted by the moth.

## **Cats Claw Creeper**

Cats claw creeper still presents great issues in regard to long term control. Teams have once again treated locations that were initially treated 12 months ago. Regrowth has diminished slightly although the fact that this will be the third treatment of these sites and regrowth is still high is cause for concern for this weed species as a whole. This weed species is present in all our council areas however; the Hawkesbury and Hills Shire have particularly large infestations of this weed species, in particular Kurrajong, Grose Vale and Kurrajong heights in the Hawkesbury LGA, and Cattai, Maraylya and Glenorie in the Hills Shire.

## **African Boxthorn**

African boxthorn has been heavily targeted by control teams in recent times. Areas that have received treatment for this species have been, Colyton, Mt. Druitt, Orchard Hills, Llandilo, Minchinbury, Pitt town and Oakville. The majority of these infestations have been located on council roadsides and within reserves. Basal barking has been the primary method of control with some additional high volume spraying being conducted as well.

## **Bush Regeneration**

Bush regeneration has been conducted in Nurragingy reserve, Doonside where council has invested a substantial amount of resources, working to rehabilitate a stand of Cumberland Plain Woodland that was overcome by weed infestation. This site is bearing fruit from the effort placed upon this patch by staff as a myriad of native plants are establishing amongst the remnant weed populations.

## **Aquatic Weeds**

Aquatic weeds are becoming active in the warmer water temperatures. Weed species such as Alligator weed, Senegal tea plant and Sagitaria are just starting to make their

presence felt across the county. Treatment for these species is due to commence 7 October 2015. Thankfully aquatic species such as Salvinia and Water hyacinth are low in number at present across the county. The recent dam spill at Warragamba certainly gave the Hawkesbury/Nepean system a timely flush which is looking great at present, and should continue to provide unimpeded access for river users over the warmer weather.

Weed control teams will have a heavy work load for the foreseeable future as we move into prime growth conditions for many of our local weed species. If the trend of fine, stable weather continues – our teams will continue to be active and getting the weed control results we desire.

### **Property inspection program**

Private property inspection activities continue to take place throughout the county. The emphasis of recent inspections have been to compliment local council environmental projects, inspection of high risk sites for weeds and inspection of zones that may contain new weed incursions.

**719** private property inspections have been conducted across the county this reporting period. Due to refinement of our inspection process, many more residents are booking appointments to spend time with our inspectors to learn more about noxious weeds and weed management on their properties.

Speers road in Northmead lies in close proximity to Darling Mills creek, a known location for Kidney leaf mud plantain – a class 1 aquatic weed. **119** property inspections were carried out at this location, targeting this weed species and other weed threats that are entering properties from the nearby reserves and creek line. Thankfully no new incursions of Kidney leaf mud plantain were located, however a number of class 3 terrestrial weeds were detected on private properties, and landholders informed of their obligations to control these weeds.

Douglas siding reserve in Quakers Hill had an inspection perimeter set up around it after Boneseed (class 1) was detected in this reserve. Boneseed has historically been unwittingly grown in home gardens as an ornamental plant due to its similarity to African daisy. **47** inspections were carried out upon surrounding residences – no new Boneseed incursions were found.

**270** inspections were carried out around the Kingswood park area. These inspections were general in nature and served as an introduction to residents in regards to HRCC and noxious weeds, and the health risks some weed species can pose. These inspections did pick up a new incursion of a weed called Yellow bells which is class 3 within the county, yet not often seen. It was purchased some years ago from a local nursery. This plant has now been destroyed.

**228** private property inspections have been conducted along Terrace road in North Richmond and Freemans reach. The priority target weed species for these inspections were Mother of millions and Green cestrum. Over 100 residents booked appointments to meet with our inspectorial staff to discuss various weed issues, including the weed burden along the terrace (a shale escarpment above the Hawkesbury River) which is council owned. Our inspectors explained the impossibility of wholesale weed control being conducted on this fragile site, and the reason for these inspections were to arm the residents with identifications tools and council contacts to deal with impending

invasion from weed species onto their properties. A number of properties were identified as containing Mother of millions. These landholders have been made aware of their weed control obligations.

Approximately **55** reactive inspections were carried out by staff, from members of the public calling the office in regards to noxious plants affecting their health, weed identification, weed information and mentoring from HRCC staff with property weed management plans. This is a part of our core business that continues to improve, and is yielding good results in large scale weed control and containment within the county.

|                 |                                                         |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| ENCLOSURES_OM1: | HRCC 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Operational Report 2015/16 |
|                 | Operational Maps Oct 2015                               |

***Recommendation:***

1. *That the report is received and noted.*

## 6. COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

From the Office of the General Manager, to the Chairperson and Members, I submit the following report on, correspondence of note, which has been received and sent by Council since the last Ordinary meeting:

1. **DATED – 18 August 2015** – Letter from Mr Tony Hodgson, Manager, Environmental Protection Authority Re: HRCC Pesticide Use Notification Plan
2. **DATED – 17 September 2015** – Letter from Clr. Keith Rhodes, President, LGNSW Re: LGNSW Annual Report 2014/15
3. **DATED – 23 September 2015** – Letter from Mr Peter Jackson, General Manager, Hawkesbury City Council. Re: Mayoral election results: Mayor – Clr. Ford, Deputy Mayor – Clr. Mackay.
4. **DATED – 24 September 2015** – Letter from Mr Quentin Hart, A/Director Invasive Species, NSW DPI. Re: Weeds Actions Program funding agreement.
5. **SENT – 25 September 2015** – Letter to Peter Bray, Partner, Trumans Accountants. Re: Audit disclosure.
6. **DATED – 25 September 2015** – Letter from Peter Bray, Partner, Trumans Accountants. Re: 2014-15 Audit Report.

***Recommendation:***

1. *That the report on Correspondences is received and information noted.*

**7. GENERAL BUSINESS / QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

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