



**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, 27 October 2016 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, **18 August 2016** 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. LOCAL GOVERNMENT GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS 2016

Reason for Report: Statutory

The NSW local government election was held 10 September 2016 for non-merging Councils. In terms of HRCC member councils, polls were held for Hawkesbury, Blacktown and Penrith Councils. The Hills Shire council will have an election in September 2017, until that time the existing members of the HRCC board, Councillors Mark Taylor MP (until March 2017) and Alan Haselden, remain elected to HRCC.

The results of the following general elections are as follows, a "*" denotes also elected to HRCC by each Council via Schedule 8 of the NSW Local Government Regulations 2005:

Hawkesbury City Council

12 Councilors across one area.

Sarah RICHARDS
Barry CALVERT
Peter REYNOLDS
Tiffany TREE
Amanda KOTLASH
Patrick CONOLLY
Danielle WHEELER
Mary LYONS-BUCKETT
Emma-Jane GARROW
Paul RASMUSSEN
Nathan ZAMPROGNO
John ROSS

Blacktown City Council

15 Councilors across five wards.

Ward 1
Chris QUILKEY
Jess DIAZ
Moninder SINGH
Ward 2
Leo KELLY
Jaymes DIAZ
Julie GRIFFITHS
Ward 3
Susai BENJAMIN
Kathie COLLINS
Frederick BRILLO
Ward 4
Stephen BALI
Carol ISRAEL
Linda SANTOS
Ward 5
Tony BLEASDALE
Brad BUNTING
Peter CAMILLERI

Penrith City Council

15 Councilors across three wards.

East Ward

Greg DAVIES
Tricia HITCHEN
Todd CARNEY
Bernard BRATUSA
Ben PRICE

North Ward

John THAIN
Ross FOWLER
Aaron DUKE
Marcus CORNISH
Kevin CRAMERI OAM

South Ward

Karen McKEWON
Mark DAVIES
Jim AITKEN
Kath PRESDEEE
Joshua HOOLE

Each of the four constituent Council's has now held individual elections in accordance with Schedule 9, *Local Government (General) Regulations 2005* (NSW) to elect two Members to the Board of HRCC. As such the current Board of eight Members is as follows:

Clr. Mark Taylor MP (Chair)	The Hills Shire Council
Clr. Alan Haselden	The Hills Shire Council
Clr. Marcus Cornish (Deputy Chair)	Penrith City Council
Clr. Karen McKewon	Penrith City Council
Clr. Amanda Kotlash	Hawkesbury City Council
Clr. Nathan Zamprogno	Hawkesbury City Council
Clr. Leo Kelly	Blacktown City Council
Clr. Brad Bunting	Blacktown City Council

Recommendation:

1. *That the report is received and noted.*
2. *The incoming Board Member details are published on the HRCC website, and the General Managers of all member Councils are informed directly.*

ITEM GM 2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR

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, as this is the first meeting after a general election, a Chair and Deputy Chair 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 GM2:	Nomination Forms – HRCC Chair and Deputy
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Recommendations:

- 3. *That the report is received and noted.*
- 4. *That the result of the election is to be declared by the Returning Officer and recorded in the minutes.*
- 5. *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.*

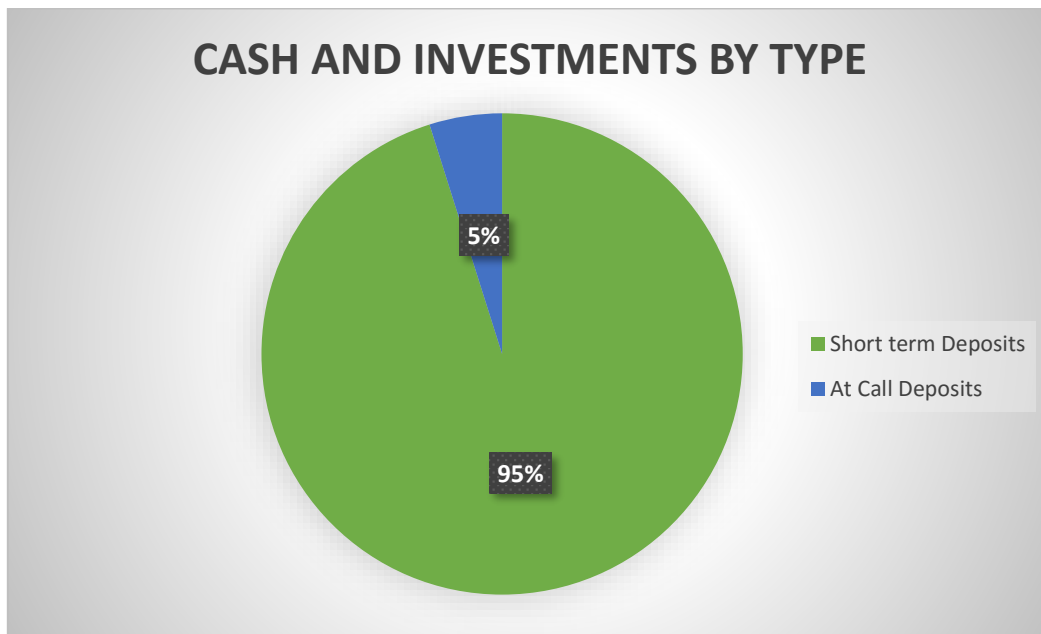
ITEM GM 3. REPORT ON MONEY'S INVESTED

Reason for Report: Statutory

Cash and Investments

The below investment summary represents Council's total investments as at 30 September 2016 in accordance with Clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*.

Short-term Deposits		Term (Days)	Rate	Maturity Date	% of Portfolio	S & P Credit Rating
Bank of Sydney	\$250,000	116	3.05%	17/10/16	14.5%	Unrated
Bank of Queensland	\$100,000	210	3.05%	27/10/16	5.8%	A2
AMP Bank Ltd	\$140,000	186	3.00%	21/11/16	8.12%	A1
AMP Bank Ltd	\$150,000	180	3.00%	20/12/16	8.7%	A1
Bank of Sydney	\$400,000	270	3.25%	17/1/17	23.20%	Unrated
AMP Bank Ltd	\$100,000	180	2.85%	30/1/17	5.8%	A1
AMP Bank Ltd	\$350,000	208	2.95%	14/3/17	20.3%	A1
Bank of Sydney	\$150,000	186	2.80%	4/4/17	8.7%	Unrated
TOTAL	\$1,640,000					
At Call Deposits						
NAB Business Chq A/c	\$10,806	At Call	0.01-0.05%	N/A	.63%	
AMP Business Saver	\$73,294	At Call	2.30%	N/A	4.25%	
TOTAL	\$84,100					
Total Value of Investment Funds	\$1,724,100				100%	



Portfolio Analysis

The RBA's September meeting left the cash rate unchanged at 1.5%. All of the short-term deposits and AMP at call account are above this benchmark.

In his first statement as Governor of Monetary Decision at the RBA, Philip Lowe reiterated that inflation remained low and this was expected to remain the case for some time. Hence we are not expecting any significant increases in the interest rate on term deposits in the short to medium term.

Total funds invested as at 30 September were \$1,724,100 an increase of \$372,267 from 31st July investments which totaled \$1,351,833 as reported in the August 2016 meeting.

This increase is largely due to the receipt of Council contributions from member Councils for the 2016/17 financial year. However, there have also been significant purchases in the period being the final payment on the new roller doors, WHS modifications to the depot, installation of the safety shower, installation of a new hot water system and additional furniture and computer equipment for the office.

Bank Reconciliation as at 30/9/2016

Balance as per Bank Statement	\$10,805.87
Less: Outstanding Cheques	-\$ 477.00
Add: Outstanding Deposits	\$ 0.00
Balance as per MYOB	\$10,328.87

Legal

All investments are in accordance with section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* and Council's Investment Policy.

Recommendation:

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

ITEM GM 4. ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

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 2015/16 reporting period is hereby presented at this meeting.

Highlights for HRCC during the 2015/16 reporting period include:

- **Increase of on-ground weed control undertaken to 375HA. Property inspections over 2,500.**
- **Cost to each rate payer ONLY \$2.49 annually.**
- **Commencing a NSW Landcare coordinator in the Hawkesbury region.**

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 2015/16, publishes it on the Council website and forwards a copy to the Minister for Local Government before 30 November 2016.*
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 2016.*
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 GM4:	Annual Report YE 2015/16
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ITEM GM 5. HRCC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2015/16 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 2015/16 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 18 August 2016 (Minute 1874) the Draft Financial Statements were referred to audit.

The financial audit was carried out by Truman's Chartered Accountants at the HRCC Office on 27 and 28 September 2016. No significant issues were identified by the auditors, and their report is included as part of our financial statements.

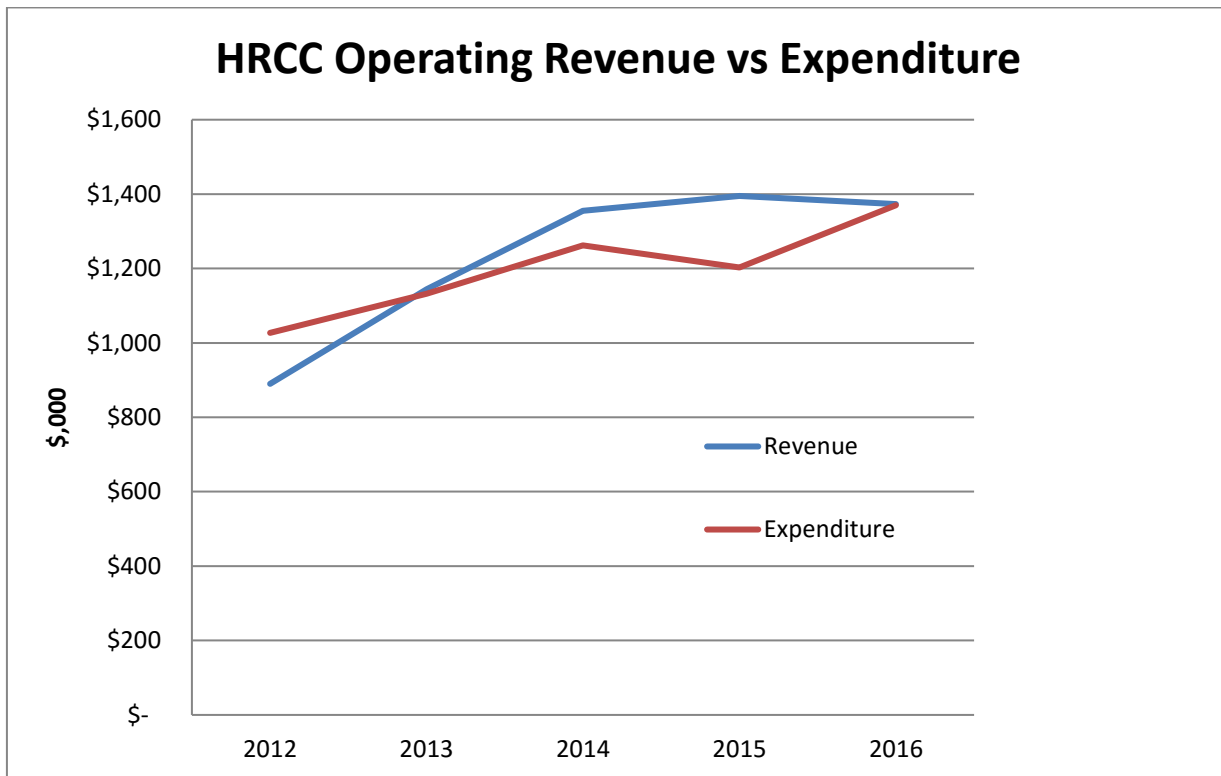
Financial Result

Below is a summary of the financial situation of Hawkesbury River County Council at 30 June 2016:

	2015/16	2014/15
Results from Operations	\$,000	\$,000
Revenue	2,348	2,339
Expenses	2,347	2,196
Net Result	1	144
Financial Position		
Current Assets	1,483	1,513
Current Liabilities'	(459)	(333)
Non-current Assets	1,087	1,087
Non-current Liabilities'	33	107
Total Equity	2,161	2,160
Other Financial Information		
Unrestricted Current Ratio	6:1	8:1
Debt Service Ratio	N/A	N/A

This is a very positive result for Council. The net result is +\$1K on parity with expenditure, and in keeping with the strategic plan to deliver a deficit budget in 2016/17. This has been achieved by continuing to expand expenditure, particularly on employment.

Having maintained 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 GM5:	General Purpose_FS YE 2015/16
	Special Purpose_FS YE 2015/16
	Special Schedule YE 2015/16

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 2015/16 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 2016.*
4. *That Council endorses the Financial Statements for signing by Chairperson, Member and General Manager.*

ITEM GM 6. HRCC DELIVERY PROGRAM REPORT 2012-2016

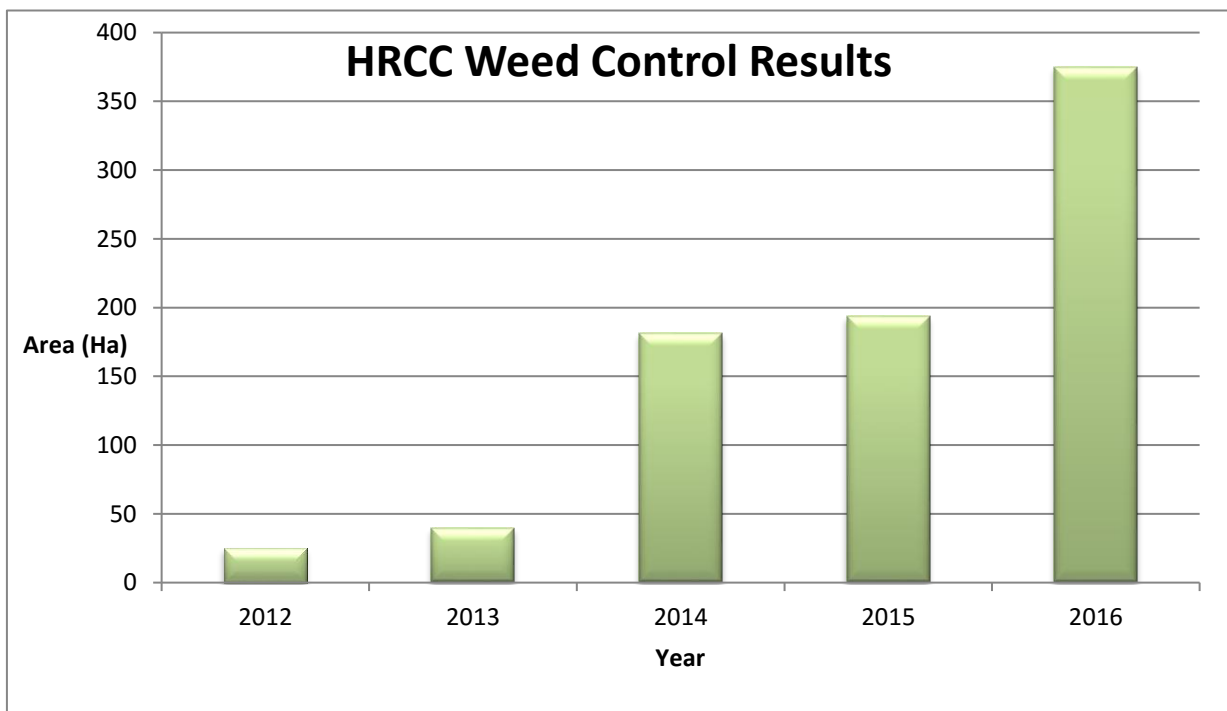
Reason for Report: Statutory

Background

A Council's Delivery Program is an integral part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) documents. It is designed to translate the County Council's guiding strategies, set out in the 10 Year HRCC Business Plan, into tangible outcomes across a term of Council. It is also used to define "principal activities" or in effect, what the community will see us doing. Whilst our outcomes are also reported through our quarterly and annual operational reports, this report allows the observation of trends and serves as a useful "end of term" report.

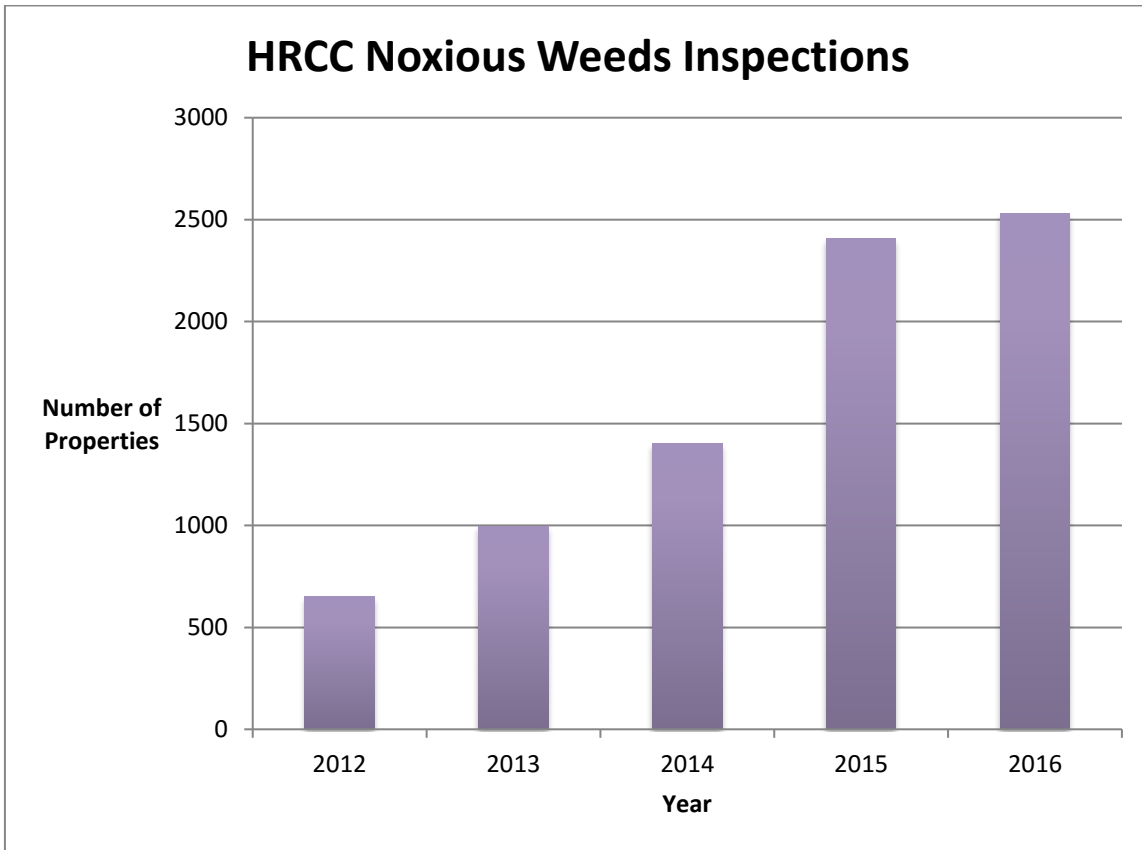
HRCC 4 Year Delivery Program Report 2012-2016

The HRCC Delivery Program Report has been included as a sub-set of this year's Annual Report. The trends recorded in this report represent distinctive positive trends in all areas of our operations.



Weed control results are measured in hectares (Ha) which represent the physical part of the landscape covered by our work crews. The increase in weed control results is due to a range of factors which include:

- Restructure of the organisation to reduce capital and increase labor.
- Improvement in planning and scheduling arrangements.
- Increased revenue leading to additional staff numbers to undertake work (a total of four weed officers)
- Maximising efficiency of funding, and increasing the capacity of the organisation by the development of Weed Officer Traineeship programs (total of six trainees).



Noxious weeds inspections are performed under the authority of the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*. They not only require a physical visit to the property but also a range of correspondences sent prior to notifying the resident and possibly arrange a time to meet them. They are however measured only in the number of physical visits to property. The strong increase in inspection results is due to a range of factors which include:

- Improved efficiency of inspection process by reducing time travel between sites.
- Developing a strategic rather than reactive inspection program.
- Increase in revenue allowed for the appointment of one inspector per council area in 2015 (total of four inspectors).



Having our community aware of weeds, especially our “High Risk” weeds is most likely the effective long-term strategy to protect our areas from huge cost impacts from weeds in the future. The HRCC Community Awareness activities have a number of roles. From website and social media presence, development of flyers to regular attendance at field days and shopping centres.

All of the activities must be funded. HRCC has been financially sustainable whilst building its revenue base at the time of the delivery program. An increase in revenue of \$500k per annum has been achieved by accessing more diverse external grants and new sources of income by providing contracting services to the community. The majority of the expenditure increases have been spent on labor, with a particular focus on traineeship programs. Overall HRCC has built a sound financial base from which to operate and continue to build its capacity.

ENCLOSURE GM6:	HRCC Delivery Program Report 2012-2016 (included in Annual Report YE 2014/15)
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Recommendation:

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

ITEM GM 7. SYDNEY NSW WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM - FINANCIAL REPORTS

Reason for Report: Statutory

Background

The Weeds Action Program 2015-2020 (WAP1520) is an initiative funded by the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) to reduce the adverse impact of weeds. It follows on from the successful Weeds Action Program 2010-2015. HRCC is the lead agency for the Greater Sydney WAP1520 project under a contractual agreement with NSW DPI, with the project area aligning with the Greater Sydney Local Land Services boundary.

The WAP1520 is an outcomes-based program. Each funded activity must contribute directly to the achievement of the weed management outcomes identified in the Invasive Species Plan. The total value of the funding provided to the region by NSW DPI for this purpose in 2015-16 was \$1,049,915. The annual report was submitted to NSW DPI on 14th October 2016.

The Greater Sydney WAP1520 project achieved significant results in the past 12 months through an effective partnership of 17 local councils and two National Parks & Wildlife Service regions. More than \$2.34 million (\$.89m in grant funds from NSW DPI, \$1.45m in-kind from local governments and the Office of Environment and Heritage - National Parks and Wildlife Service) was spent directly on weed management activities across Greater Sydney. During 2015-16 project partners:

- Inspected 4,338 km of high-risk pathways (11% above original project target of 3,909km);
- Conducted 14,832 regulatory and non-regulatory inspections of private properties (69% greater than original project target of 8,781), and;
- Inspected 3,578 high-risk sites such as nurseries, waste facilities, florists, landscaping suppliers, car parks, boat ramps and aquariums for high-risk weeds (176% greater than original project target of 1,298).

A comprehensive summary of results is contained in the Sydney Weeds Action Program 2015-16 Summary & Highlights (enclosed).

Financial Report 2015-16

The Greater Sydney WAP1520 project income for 2015-16 comprised \$1,068,583. HRCC spent \$958,675.50 against this income, predominantly in the form of devolved grant allocations to project partners.

Income	Year 1 2015-16 (Actuals)
Annual Grant from NSW DPI	\$1,049,915
Unspent funds returned from WAP1015 project partners	\$22,841
2014-15 Net	-\$4,172.97
Total Income	\$1,068,583.03
Expenditure	
Administration (includes WAP1520 capacity building program costs)	\$104,991.50
Project Partner Allocations	\$853,684
Total Expenditure	\$958,675.50
Net	109,907.50

Weeds Action Program 2016-17

HRCC received the Funding Deed for Year 2 of WAP1520 from NSW DPI on 6 October 2016, confirming that the project grant for the Sydney Region for 2016-17 is \$955,182. This represents a 9% decrease from 2015-16 and a \$9,457 (1%) increase on the budget forecast submitted to Council at the June 2016 meeting. An invoice for the grant funds will be forwarded to NSW DPI with the executed Funding Deed.

2016-17 project partner allocations were determined in September 2015 by a regional assessment panel. Formal letters of offer will be sent to project partners as soon as the funds are received from NSW DPI. Five former project partners have been affected by council amalgamations and must resubmit project applications which are to be assessed by the same regional assessment panel.

\$86,973 (9%) of the grant will be retained for project administration. \$25,000 (2.6%) has been allocated to the review of the five strategic planning documents that were developed under WAP1015 and the development of the Greater Sydney Strategic Weed Management Strategy. These are mandatory outcomes that must be delivered by the end of Year 2. Greater Sydney LLS is responsible for delivering that project component. HRCC will contribute substantial input through the Regional Weed Committee and associated Technical Sub-Committees. 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.

GM7 ENCLOSURES:	Greater Sydney Weeds Action Program 2015-16 Summary & Highlights
	Greater Sydney WAP1520 Project Expenditure Map 2015-16

Recommendation

1. That the report is received and noted.

ITEM GM 8. 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 2016).

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

- Clr Kevin Crameri OAM - Complete
- Clr Bob Porter - Complete
- Clr Warwick Mackay OAM - Complete
- Clr Marcus Cornish - Complete
- Clr Jess Diaz - Pending
- Clr Andrew Jeffries - Pending
- Clr Mark Taylor MP – Complete
- Clr. Walter Smith - Complete
- Mr. Chris Dewhurst, General Manager - Complete

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

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

Section 450A of the Act provided 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. In addition, the first returns of councillors newly elected will be required by 30 December 2016. This includes:

- Clr Alan Haselden (first return)
- Clr Karen McKewon (first return)
- Clr. Amanda Kotlash (first return)
- Clr. Nathan Zamprogno (first return)
- Clr. Leo Kelly (first return)
- Clr. Brad Bunting (first return)

ENCLOSURE GM8:	Schedule 3 - First Disclosure Form
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Recommendations:

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

ITEM GM 9. 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 26 March 2016. Under Section 239 of the Act, Hawkesbury River County Council is categorised as “County Council - Other.”

In 2015/16 FY the fees adopted by Council were:

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

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	\$1,700	\$5,630
Additional fee for Chairperson	\$3,640	\$10,270

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 increased cost of 2.5%, and this has been provided for in the Council Budget for 2016/17 (HRCC Operational Plan 2015/16).

Recommendations:

- 1. That the report be received and noted.*
- 2. That Council increases the payment to Members to \$5,630 for payments due after 28 October 2016.*
- 3. That Council increases the additional payment fee to the Chairperson to \$10,270 for payments due after 28 October 2016.*

ITEM GM 10. STAFFING

Reason for Report: Informative

Since the last Council meeting held on 18 August 2016, there has been no changes in council staff.

HRCC currently employs a total of 18 people (at FTE of 17.6).

Recommendation:

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

ITEM GM 11. GENERAL MANAGER PERFORMANCE ACTION PLAN

Reason for Report: Contractual

The General Manager's (3 Year) contract began 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 10 December 2015.

The General Manager hereby presents his "Performance Action Plan 2016" for the first year of his current contract, with the expected review date to be the Ordinary Meeting of 8 December 2016.

Recommendations:

- 1. That the report is received and noted*
- 2. That the Council endorses the General Manager, Mr Chris Dewhurst, Performance Action Plan for 1 November 2015 to 1 November 2016.*
- 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 GM11:	General Manager Performance Action Plan 2016
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ITEM GM 12. RETIREMENT OF FORMER COUNCILLOR BOB PORTER

Reason for Report: Informative



At the September 2016 election, Former Councillor Bob Porter retired from local government politics. As a Hawkesbury Councillor, he had been a Member of the HRCC Board since 2004, serving three consecutive terms, and Chairman in 2008 and 2014.

Whilst Mr. Porter was very active in all areas of his Councillor portfolio he took a special interest in the matters of floodplain management and issues which affected rural property owners. He managed a grazing property on the banks of the Hawkesbury River at Wilberforce and therefore had the first-hand experience in many of these matters.

Mr. Porter is also a strong advocate for efficient weed management and pursued this vision with Hawkesbury River County Council. His 12 years at HRCC correlates clearly to the modernisation of the organisation. It has been transformed by the purchase of equipment such as the “Weedosaurus” mechanical weed harvester which greatly reduces chemical application in the aquatic environment. Mr. Porter was also central to the campaign that allowed HRCC to establish the first ever river maintenance program. This partnership with NSW Department of Primary Industries is still in place today. Additionally, during his tenure, the organisation has greatly reduced operating costs and increased outputs by the implementation of a number of re-structures, planning, and monitoring changes. The leadership of former Councillor Porter was a driving force in these reforms.

In honor of Former Councillor Porter’s long and successful tenure at HRCC, and his retirement from local politics, he is to be presented a recognition of outstanding service award.

Recommendations:

- 1. That the report is received and noted.*
- 2. The Council congratulates and thanks Former Councillor Porter for his tenure, service, and contributions to HRCC.*
- 3. That the Chairman presents Former Councillor Porter a “Recognition of Outstanding Service” award.*

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

A decidedly wet couple of months has been experienced over winter and spring across the county. The onset of warmer spring conditions has definitely triggered the activity of a whole range of noxious weed species, of particular note is the abundance of Boneseed germination that has been treated across all four constituent council areas. Cool season weeds such as Mother of millions have tapered off with staff having a massive impact on this species this year.

Aquatic noxious weed species are also appearing in the landscape, the annual aquatic spray program is underway and although the river is at an elevated level good progress is being made on a number of weed species. Floating aquatic weed species such as Salvinia and Water hyacinth are currently very low in number.

Blacktown City Council

Mother of millions treatment was completed by early September, with treatment winding down in the Vineyard and Riverstone areas. A very satisfactory result was gained by work crews this season. Boneseed has exhibited very strong growth so far this season, ideal conditions have triggered a much larger germination of seed than in previous years. Weed control teams have repeatedly treated sites around Glenwood, Kings Langley, and Seven hills. Many of the Boneseed plants have been removed physically as seedlings of 50mm in height, at this size, it takes a keen eye to spot the seedlings. Woody weed species; Green Cestrum and Privet have been treated by staff at Soldiers settlement reserve as part of ongoing control programs.

Aquatic weed control in the Blacktown LGA has just commenced with staff working on Alligator weed and Ludwigia in Bungarabee creek around Arndell Park. Future treatment sites include parks and stormwater infrastructure in Plumpton, Doonside, and Blacktown. Salvinia in Lake Woodcroft was treated for regrowth, herbicide application on the lake has been very successful with mopping up action now required to complete the treatment.

Hawkesbury City Council

Mother of millions of control works continued to take place in the Hawkesbury LGA well into August. Treatment sites were spread across the council area and included;

Pitt town, Scheyville, Freemans reach, Wilberforce, Sackville, Kurmond, and Kurrajong Hills.

Boneseed has a wide distribution over the Hawkesbury, weed control teams have encountered Boneseed across the LGA from Scheyville and Pitt town, through to Bilpin and Berambing. Inspections have been organised to be carried out in South Windsor, protecting Boneseed control works conducted by both NPWS and HRCC. Inspections and control works have also been conducted by HRCC and NPWS in the Windsor Downs area with NPWS conducting weed control whilst HRCC carried out operations on public lands and private residences.

Aquatic weed treatment has begun on waterfront reserves across the LGA as aquatic weed species come into season. Senegal tea plant, Alligator weed, and floating aquatic weed species are the target of this program in the following areas; North Richmond, Windsor, Cattai and Ebenezer. This treatment program will continue over the warmer weather.

The Hills Shire Council

Weed control in the Hills area has seen similar weed species treated in other council areas with a tapering off of the Mother of millions program, increase in Boneseed control and Green cestrum and some Running bamboo control as well. Aquatic weed control is commencing in the Shire with council waterfront reserves in Sackville, Lower Portland and Glenorie coming under treatment.

Mother of millions control works were carried out in the following areas; Maroota, South Maroota, North Sackville and Leetsvale. Spot spraying of Mother of millions using herbicide was conducted along council roadsides. Good levels of control were achieved during this program.

Boneseed is also widespread across the Hills Shire. The core of the Sydney Boneseed infestation is based around the Bella Vista and Norwest. This area has been a hotbed of seed germination and weed control teams have been treating this species in areas such as Bella Vista farm and Bella Vista Oval, these boneseed plants have been around 50mm in height but their growth rate at this time of year is exceedingly fast!

Outlying infestations of Boneseed have also been treated in the following areas; South Maroota, Cattai, Glenorie, Sackville North, Wisemans Ferry, Annangrove, Kenthurst, and Baulkham Hills. Treatment for these weed species is via physical removal, cut stump or spot spraying with herbicide.

Boneseed treatment will be carried out in the Hills Shire for some time to come. Treatment of Running bamboo regrowth at Glenhaven and Dural has been carried out on council roadside reserves to prevent re-establishment of this troublesome weed species.

The aquatic noxious weed control program has just commenced at the time of reporting. Council reserves and land fronting the Hawkesbury River and Cattai Creek is being treated for weed species such as Senegal Tea plant, Alligator weed, Ludwigia and floating aquatic weeds such as Water hyacinth and Salvinia.

Penrith City Council

A variety of noxious weed species has been treated by weed control teams this reporting period over the Penrith LGA. Terrestrial woody weeds and seasonal weeds have been the focus of activities, with species such as; Green Cestrum, Boneseed, Bitou bush, African boxthorn, Privet and Mother of millions coming under intense scrutiny in council reserves and along roadsides.

Known locations of Boneseed number at less than five in the Penrith LGA, primarily situated around the Erskine Park area, these sites are regularly checked for seed bank germination from this persistent weed species, and these sites had both seedling Boneseed plants and a small number of immature plants growing on roadside corridors.

Bitou bush is a close relative of Boneseed, once thought to be a strictly coastal weed, it is found in Erskine Park in the business park development and constructed stormwater drains.

Hawkesbury/Nepean Aquatic Weed Maintenance Program Q1 2016

Consistent water releases from Warragamba dam as well a number of natural rain events have kept aquatic weed levels very low in the Hawkesbury/Nepean River system. Weed containment booms have remained opened due to the unpredictable nature of the river flows over the last couple of months. Floating aquatic weed populations are very low at present, with very little visible *Salvinia* or Water hyacinth being recorded by staff when conducting river inspections.

The annual noxious aquatic weed herbicide application program has recently commenced with boat based control teams conducting spot spraying for aquatic weeds such as Senegal tea plant, Alligator weed, *Ludwigia* and the odd floating aquatic weed.

Aquatic weed activity is growing steadily at present however herbicide application is being conducted prior to these plants flowering. The areas that have been treated thus far have been; North Richmond, Freemans reach, Richmond lowlands, Windsor and the middle reaches of Cattai creek from Glenorie to Cattai.

Biological control agent populations in the river have suffered from recent rain events. Council's staff are currently in the process of assessing biological control agent numbers in readiness for the coming summer. Off river nursery sites for biological control agents have fared much better than the river bio-control agents.

Weed control booms along the river are currently open to take advantage of the strong river flows associated with the release of water from Warragamba Dam. Water release from the dam has been going on since July 2016. These flows have been carrying remnant aquatic weeds and general river debris well downstream into the broader tidal stretches of the Hawkesbury River.

Aquatic weed populations in the Hawkesbury/Nepean River are extremely low at the time of reporting. River use is on the increase as the temperature warms, and the river is open to all recreational activities.

ENCLOSURES_OM1:	HRCC 1 st Quarter Operational Report 2016/17
	Operational Maps Oct 2016

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 – 15 August 2016** – Letter from Mr. Peter Doyle, The Hills Shire Council, announcing Clr. Alan Haselden as replacement of Andrew Jefferies on HRCC Board.
2. **DATED – 30 September 2016** – Email from Kerry Robinson, General Manager, Blacktown City Council. Re: Clr. Kelly and Clr. Bunting elected to HRCC
3. **DATED – 30 September 2016** – Email from Tamara Henry, Executive Assistant, Penrith City Council. Re: Clr. Cornish and Clr. McKeown elected to HRCC.
4. **DATED – 17 October 2016** – Email from Laurie Mifsud, Acting General Manager, Hawkesbury City Council. Re: Clr. Kotlash and Clr. Zamprogno elected to HRCC

Recommendation:

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

7. GENERAL BUSINESS / QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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