

**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, 10 April 2014 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 February 2014**
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. HRCC 3RD QUARTER FINANCIAL REVIEW 2013/14

Reason for Report: Statutory

The HRCC Financial Review for Q3 1st January 2014 to 31st March 2014 has been completed and is enclosed with this report. As planned, the budget returned to surplus during this period, however the amount of surplus was higher than anticipated. (Q3 +\$63,213) and in turn moves our YTD result back into positive territory (YTD +\$37,885).

The higher surplus is a combination of receiving grant funds in Q3, in which the expenditure will be incurred in Q4. Additionally, income was boosted by a number of term deposits all maturing in Q3. Staff costs were also lower due to reduced wages costs in January 2014.

This quarterly report shows HRCC to be tracking on a sustainable financial course for 2013/14 and places us in good stead to meeting our HRCC Operational Plan 2013/14 budget targets by the end of this FY.

ENCLOSURE_GM1:	HRCC 3 rd Quarter Financial Review 2013/14
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Recommendations:

1. *That the report be received and noted*

ITEM GM 2. REPORT ON MONEY'S INVESTED

Reason for Report: Statutory

The report presented to the last Ordinary Meeting, displayed the total amount invested on 4 FEBRUARY 2014, was \$1,900,000. The total amount in the transaction account 4 FEBRUARY 2014 was \$281,179.88.

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

On 4 March 2014, a term deposit of \$300,000 invested with Bank of Sydney Ltd. was recalled at maturity.

On 18 March 2014, a term deposit of **\$150,000** was invested with Bank of Sydney for a period of 97 days at 3.75% maturing on 23 June 2014.

A term deposit of **\$500,000** remains invested with Bank of Queensland for a period of 196 days at 3.72% maturing on 7 April 2014.

A term deposit of **\$100,000** remains invested with Bank of Queensland for a period of 214 days at 3.72% maturing on 12 May 2014.

A term deposit of **\$500,000** remains invested with AMP for a period of 183 days at 3.9% maturing on 10 June 2014.

A term deposit of **\$200,000** remains invested with AMP for a period of 182 days at 3.9% maturing on 16 June 2014.

A term deposit of **\$100,000** remains invested with AMP for a period of 180 days at 3.9% maturing on 17 June 2014.

The total amount invested 3 APRIL 2014 is **\$1,550,000***.

The total amount in our transaction account on 3 APRIL 2014 is **\$16,856.03**

**This includes NSW Weeds Action Program funding, and SWC membership funds (\$307,422.69 at 31/3/2014) 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 the MOU dated 5/3/2014 and guidelines established by agreement with the Department of Primary Industries.*

Recommendation:

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

ITEM GM 3. HRCC DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN 2014-15

Reason for Report: Statutory

Background

The main strategic direction for HRCC is provided through the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) framework. It is a requirement of a County Council, following an ordinary election of Councillors, to review their Business Activity Strategic Plan before the 30 June following the election S219(2) *Local Government Regulations*, Div 8. Hence, before 30 June 2013.

Last year, on 13 June 2013 HRCC adopted the following documents:

- HRCC Business Activity Strategic Plan (BASP) 2013-2023
- HRCC Delivery Program 2013-2017
- HRCC Operational Plan 2013-2014

As the BASP and Delivery Program are still current, and HRCC is still in the process of implementing its guidance, only the Operational Plan is required to be updated for this year.

Operational Budgeting

The Bottom Line

HRCC budget is set to aim for a small operating surplus in 2014/15 (+\$9,113). This is comparable to the previous year target, and keeps our organisation in a sustainable fiscal position. It also means that we are delivering the maximum service outcome and value for money back to the community in relation to our resources.

Income

The income for HRCC is based on a combination of Council Contributions (50%) and operating grants from external authorities (40%). These grants have existing contract arrangements with the Department of Primary Industries and Greater Sydney Local Land Services for 2014/15. The remaining 10% is as a result of HRCC's own income generation for external services.

Expenditure

HRCC's biggest expenditure item is staff. The organisation will move into the new FY with 13 positions, same as the previous year, representing 67% of our costs. The remaining 33%, in declining order is composed of; depreciation, plant running, administration, governance, depot and office maintenance.

This expenditure plan is designed to reflect our increasing role in landscape surveillance, inspection and strategic pest plant control, as guided by the HRCC Delivery Program 2013-2017. This requires higher labour inputs and less capital inputs. The high rainfall in the previous few seasons also means that weed growth has declined in aquatic environments, but increased in terrestrial landscapes.

Capital Budgeting

HRCC Capital disposal and purchases are made to directly assist with the delivery of operational result targets as they relate to our Delivery and Operational Plans. They have been made against the background of two continuing trends:

Climatic – Our region is experiencing a period of adequate rainfall and flooding. This means we are doing less control of floating aquatic weeds, but more control of weeds on the river banks and broader landscape. This has the effect of reducing our capital requirements but increasing our labour requirements.

Funding Sources – funding priorities have been increasingly focused on surveillance, new weed incursions and upper catchment activities. Whilst this requires less use of heavy plant, it requires higher staff levels, GIS computer mapping capabilities, and mobility to move around the landscape.

Asset Disposals 2014-15

- Ute mounted boom sprayer - \$500
- Quick Spray Unit - \$500
- FUSO Spray Truck & Tray - \$30,000
- Ride-On Mower \$1000
- Iseki Tractor and Slasher \$5000
- Brushcutter - \$200
- **TOTAL CAPITAL INCOME = \$37,200**

Asset Purchases 2014-15

- Office / Depot Upgrades - \$22,000
- Weed Mapping Tablets - \$5000
- Computer and IT upgrades - \$10,000
- Ute Mounted Boom Sprayer - \$3000
- Herbicide Spray Unit - \$5000
- Toyota Landcruiser 70 Dual Cab - \$70,000
- **TOTAL CAPITAL COSTS = \$115,000**

Operational Delivery

The operations of HRCC are the activities of weed control, weed inspection and surveillance, capacity building and governance. The HRCC Business Activity Statement 2013-2023 sets the guiding strategic principles of the activities undertaken by our staff. These are:

Strategic Objective 1

Prevent the establishment of new weed species within our County – Exclude

Strategic Objective 2

Eliminate the spread of new and existing weed species within our County – Eradicate or Contain

Strategic Objective 3

Reduce the impact of widespread weeds on key assets – Effectively Manage

Strategic Objective 4

Ensure the community, industry and government stakeholders have the ability and long-term commitment to manage weeds – Build Capacity

These strategies are then used to set measurable targets for each of our activities.

In summary, for works 2014/15, the following targets have been set:

	2014/15	2013/14
Total Weed Control	105HA	90HA
Total Private Property Inspections	1300	1300
Total Commercial Inspections	250	250
Weed Mapping	100HA	300HA
Field Days	12	6
Property Weed Mgt. Plans	15	15

ENCLOSURE	HRCC Draft Operational Plan 2014-2015
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Recommendations:

- 1. That the General Manager's report on HRCC DRAFT OPERATIONAL PLAN 2014-15 is received and noted.*
- 2. That the General Manager communicates to each constituent Council manager the cost of HRCC Membership contribution is \$162,104 +GST for 2014/15.*
- 3. That the General Manager consults directly with our member Council's via the HRCC Management Network.*
- 4. That the Council places on public exhibition for a period of 28 days the Draft HRCC Operational Plan 2014-2015, and the General Manager reports back to the next ordinary meeting on any submissions received and changes made.*
- 5. That the Council intends to adopt the plans, with any changes, at the next Ordinary Meeting on 12 June 2014.*

ITEM GM 4. NSW WEEDS MANAGEMENT REVIEW

Reason for Report: Informative

Background

The Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson has requested the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to undertake an independent evaluation of the effectiveness and efficiency of weed management arrangements in NSW with a view to inform the further development of the proposed NSW Biosecurity Act, and other relevant strategies under the NSW Biosecurity Strategy.

As an initial step in the review the NRC prepared an issues paper. HRCC provided a submission to the issues paper on 6 December 2013. Over 200 submissions were received by the NRC.

The NRC has been asked to:

- assess (based on existing data) the distribution and abundance of weeds across NSW and their impacts and likely trajectories
- evaluate current regulatory and institutional arrangements across both public and private tenures
- evaluate weed management programs funded by the Australian and NSW Governments
- identify and assess viable alternative weed management arrangements
- provide advice on potential transitional arrangements for the future implementation of the NSW Biosecurity Act and NSW Biosecurity Strategy.

For the purpose of the review, 'weeds' are defined as both introduced and native species but are limited to terrestrial and freshwater aquatic species only.

The Minister has asked the Commissioner to establish a steering committee to ensure the terms of reference are met and that stakeholder input is properly considered. The steering committee consists of Dr John Keniry (Commissioner), Cr Reg Kidd, Chair of the Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee, Dr Bruce Christie of Biosecurity NSW, and Mr Mick O'Flynn of the Office of Environment and Heritage.

The Draft NSW Weeds Management Review Paper Findings

The impact of weeds on the NSW economy is immense. The NRC have estimated a real term impact of \$1.8 billion annually in cost of control and lost productivity. The vast majority (71%) of this cost is borne by private landowners, most notably primary producers. The government, at all levels, only account for about 6% of the spending on weeds.

Overall, the NRC found that the effectiveness of weed management varies greatly across NSW. And, there are significant opportunities to simplify often complex planning, funding and delivery arrangements to improve efficiency and deliver better outcomes. Many of these findings have been identified in previous reviews and are already supported by stakeholders. The NRC recommends strong leadership and improved accountability to implement the changes.

The NRC Recommendations to Government

A summarised version of the NRC recommendations is below:

1. The NSW Government should revise the current model for weed management based on a tenure-neutral approach (all land managers have the same level of responsibility).
2. The NSW Government should be accountable for the management of new weed incursions.
3. The NSW Government should simplify and improve the transparency of weed declarations.
4. The NSW Government should support the local and regional management of widespread weeds.
5. The NSW Government should improve performance and accountability by strengthening enforcement legislation, developing state-wide service delivery standards, auditing of LCA's and providing a state-wide mapping template.
6. The NSW Government should improve risk management by establishing a property weed status certification scheme, registration of high risk commercial entities and appoint the LLS as the single authority to control declared aquatic noxious weeds within a specified region.
7. The NSW Government should actively support weed research and development.

It is clear that the recommendations are designed to work as a complete package, and as such require a large commitment from State and Local government. The cost impacts of the recommendations are not clearly stated in the draft review, and this may be included in the final report. Whilst some of the recommendations are more resource intensive, a number also streamlined current approaches or open up new sources of revenue.

Impact on Local Control Authorities HRCC Operations

The review made a strong positive point of many LCA's (Councils) such as HRCC with comments such as this:

"Local service delivery is a key component of weed management in NSW. Many weed officers have built strong relationships with local landholders and have significant local knowledge.....weed officers are, in general, highly professional and skilled workers." (P61, Draft Review of NSW Weed Management, Feb 2014)

"Local service delivery by LCA's is a significant strength of the NSW system, and should be maintained, consistent with the NSW commitment to localism." (P92, Draft Review of NSW Weed Management, Feb 2014)

As a result, the review went on to recommend local government should continue to provide the delivery of weed management services such as surveillance, "initial" enforcement, engagement, capacity building and control of weeds on their own land. It was also noted that some regions had effectively organised this role into a Weed County Council model, and this should continue to be a regional decision.

The most significant recommended changes likely to affect HRCC, if recommendations are adopted and implemented will be that the County Council will:

- Undertake property certifications and renew them every five years.
 - This will require systematic inspections of all properties every five years, with cost likely to be self-funded. HRCC currently inspects 1300 properties per year; this would have to increase to 22 inspectors if this was implemented against all rateable land.
- Administer industry registration of nursery, fodder and aquarium trade within the County.
 - This will require systematic inspections of all commercial trades with a weed risk. HRCC currently undertakes this (85 inspections) using funding from the NSW Weeds Action Program. Funding would shift to being industry self-funded.
- Weed data collection and input into the state system.
 - HRCC currently maps weeds using a system based on Google maps, this would only require a process variation, and small cost increase.
- Participate in the “Regional Weeds Committee”
 - HRCC currently involves itself at all levels of participation of the Sydney Weeds Committees. This newly formed committee would be statutory and report directly to the Greater Sydney Local Land Services Board, making its contribution much more effective and worthwhile.

Other recommendations directed at Local Land Services likely to have an impact on LCA’s include:

- Regional control (Greater Sydney LLS) of declared aquatic weeds.
 - HRCC currently does not have legal control of aquatic weeds on the river (apart from small sections of riverside public reserve). The large amounts of private land make the management of noxious weeds impractical. HRCC’s role of control and inspections is likely to continue, however the strategic guidance and funding would be provided by the Greater Sydney Local Land Services, rather than the current DPI / local government partnership.
- Allocate state funding to LCA’s.
 - HRCC is currently undertaking this role as the “Lead Agency” for the NSW Weeds Action Program – Sydney Application. This “lead agency” role would be transferred to the Greater Sydney Local Land Service. HRCC currently employs a part-time project officer and administers the funding for less than \$80K annually. This funding and position would be transferred to the LLS. HRCC would continue to be a partner and recipient of NSW WAP funding.

Cost Implications

The draft report is light on cost implications of the various recommendations, and it is expected this detail may emerge with the final report. The most significant cost impact to HRCC would be implementing the program of property weed certification. Full scale implementation across our whole County would be in the vicinity of \$1.7Mil annually. To cover this cost, it is also proposed that an LLS Weed Levy is rated against all properties to the estimated value of \$4/yr per property.

HRCC Submission

Due to the timing of the meeting and submission deadline (4/4/2014) it was not possible for Council to endorse the submission made by the General Manager to the Natural Resource Commission on the Draft NSW Weeds Management Review. The submission will be included as a late report to the meeting.

Recommendation:

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

ITEM GM 5. SYDNEY WEEDS COMMITTEES (SWC) RETURN OF FUNDS

Reason for Report: Informative

Background

At the Council Meeting of 9 August 2012 it was resolved (#1539) to sign an MOU with the four regional sub-committees of Sydney for the purposes of the lead agency role for the Weeds Action Project (WAP) and the Sydney Weeds Committees Inc. membership funds.

Since that time HRCC has administered all funding in accordance with relevant legislation, the WAP guidelines and the MOU. The SWC has requested in writing the return of membership funds. As the original MOU clearly states HRCC is to administer their funds, a revised MOU is required to be in place prior to the transfer of funds.

At the Council meeting held on 12 December 2013 it was resolved (#1673) that:

1. A revised MOU is drafted, signed and implemented by all parties to replace the existing MOU of 9 August 2012.
2. HRCC returns Sydney Weeds Committees Inc. membership funds that it is currently administering on their behalf.

Revised MOU

A revised MOU was drafted for the Ordinary Meeting of 13 February 2014 and signed by HRCC Chair and Deputy. This has since been signed by the executive of each regional sub-committee.

Process of Returning the SWC Funds

At the last Ordinary Meeting the following process was agreed to:

1. The HRCC Chair and Deputy are to sign the MOU.
2. The Chair or Deputy of each Regional Weeds Committee is to sign the MOU.
3. Copies are to be provided by HRCC to all parties and original is to be filed in HRCC Council Minutes.
4. The HRCC General Manager will write to the SWC specifying the exact amount being held by HRCC of membership and other funds at that date (cognisant of

this report and any other reportable expenditure against the membership funds since), and request an invoice be sent to HRCC for that amount. All transfers are GST exclusive.

5. HRCC to pay the invoice within 30 days upon receipt.

At the time of this report, all steps have been completed up to step 5. HRCC will discharge all funds relating to the SWC Inc. totalling **\$82,807.69** by 11/4/2014.

Recommendations:

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

ITEM GM 6. NEW NOXIOUS WEEDS LIST- WEED CONTROL ORDER 30

Reason for Report: Informative

Background

Pursuant to Section 7 of the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*, the Minister must publish a "Weed Control Order" in the NSW Government Gazette. This order is relevant in each Local Control Authority within NSW. HRCC is the Local Control Authority (LCA) for Blacktown, Penrith, The Hills Shire and Hawkesbury LGA's. The Weed Control Order becomes the noxious weeds list for that LCA and lasts for a period of up to five years. The most recent order was published on 28 February 2014.

Impact on HRCC

There has been significant change since the previous list (Weed Control Order 28). There is a 30% shift in plants moving on and off since the update. The Department of Primary Industries did a very long consultation in the development of WCO30 that lasted almost two years. HRCC made a number of submissions to the process and the majority of our suggested changes are reflected in the new list, with a couple of exceptions.

HRCC staff are now engaged in identifying the presence and distribution of any new weeds added to the list. It is expected that for each high priority species, a "Pest Plant Management Plan" will be developed at the operational level.

The HRCC website has been updated and media releases distributed to inform the public.

New Weeds on the HRCC Noxious Weeds List

1. Alligator weed *Alternanthera philoxeroides**
2. Asparagus *Asparagus species except A. officinalis and A. racemosus*
3. Black willow *Salix nigra*
4. Boneseed *Chrysanthemoides monilifera subspecies monilifera**
5. Broad-leaf pepper tree *Schinus terebinthifolius*
6. Cat's claw creeper *Dolichandra unguis-cati*
7. Chinese celtis *Celtis sinensis*
8. Climbing Asparagus *Asparagus africanus (syn. Protasparagus africanus)*
9. Coolatai grass *Hyparrhenia hirta*
10. Frogbit/Spongeplant *Limnobium laevigatum and L. spongia*
11. Grey willow *Salix cinerea*
12. Hydrocotyl/Water pennywort *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*
13. Kidney Leaf mud plantain / Heteranthera *Heteranthera reniformis*
14. Koster's curse/Clidemia *Clidemia hirta*
15. Kudzu *Pueraria lobata*
16. Mikania vine *Mikania micrantha*
17. Ming (Pompom/Zig zag) asparagus fern *Asparagus macowanii var. zuluensis (syn. A. retrofractus)*
18. Montpellier/Cape broom *Genista monspessulana*
19. Paper mulberry *Broussonetia papyrifera*
20. Rhizomatous bamboo *Phyllostachys species*
21. Sagittaria *Sagittaria platyphylla*
22. Scotch/English broom *Cytisus scoparius subspecies scoparius*
23. Serrated tussock *Nassella trichotoma*
24. St. John's wort *Hypericum perforatum*
25. Tussock paspalum *Paspalum quadrifarium*
26. Yellow bells *Tecoma stans*

*Class change only

Removed Weed from the HRCC Noxious Weeds List

1. Fine-bristled burr grass *Cenchrus brownii*
2. Bitou bush *Chrysanthemoides monilifera subspecies rotundata*
3. Bathurst/Noogoora/Hunter/South American/Californian/Cockle burr *Xanthium species*
4. Box elder *Acer negundo*
5. Columbus grass *Sorghum x alum*
6. Crofton weed *Ageratina adenophora*
7. East Indian hygrophila *Hygrophila polysperma*
8. Johnson Grass *Sorghum halepense*
9. Pellitory *Parietaria judaica*
10. Spiny burrgrass *Cenchrus incertus*
11. Spiny burrgrass *Cenchrus longispinus*

The HRCC Noxious Weeds List

The list that came into effect on 28 February 2014 under Weed Control Order 30 is listed below:

Common Name, Botanical Name, Class.

1. African boxthorn, *Lycium ferocissimum*, 4
2. African feather grass, *Cenchrus macrourus*, 5
3. African Olive , *Olea europaea subspecies cuspidata*, 4
4. African turnip weed, *Sisymbrium runcinatum*, 5
5. African turnip weed, *Sisymbrium thellungii*, 5
6. Alligator weed, *Alternanthera philoxeroides*, 3 P2
7. Anchored water hyacinth, *Eichhornia azurea*, 1
8. Annual ragweed, *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*, 5
9. Arrowhead, *Sagittaria calycina variety calycina*, 4
10. Artichoke thistle, *Cynara cardunculus*, 5
11. Asparagus, *Asparagus species except A. officinalis and A. racemosus*, 4
12. Athel tree/Athel pine, *Tamarix aphylla*, 5
13. Bear-skin fescue, *Festuca gautieri*, 5
14. Bellyache bush, *Jatropha gossypifolia*, 5
15. Black knapweed, *Centaurea xmoncktonii*, 1
16. Black willow, *Salix nigra*, 2
17. Blackberry, *Rubus fruticosus aggregate species*, 4
18. Boneseed, *Chrysanthemoides monilifera subspecies monilifera*, 1
19. Broad-leaf pepper tree, *Schinus terebinthifolius* , 2
20. Broomrapes , *Orobanche species except the native O. cernua variety australiana and O. minor*, 1
21. Burr ragweed, *Ambrosia confertiflora*, 5
22. Cabomba, *All Cabomba species except C. furcata*, 5
23. Cat's claw creeper, *Dolichandra unguis-cati (syn. Macfadyena unguiscati)*, 4
24. Cayenne snakeweed, *Stachytarpheta cayennensis*, 5
25. Chilean needle grass, *Nassella neesiana*, 4
26. Chinese celtis, *Celtis sinensis*, 4
27. Chinese violet, *Asystasia gangetica subspecies micrantha*, 1
28. Climbing Asparagus, *Asparagus africanus (syn. Protasparagus africanus)*, 2
29. Clockweed, *Oenothera curtiflora*, 5
30. Coolatai grass, *Hyparrhenia hirta*, 3 P1
31. Corn sowthistle, *Sonchus arvensis*, 5
32. Dodder, *All Cuscuta species except the native species C. australis, C. tasmanica and C. victoriana* , 5
33. Elodea / Egeria / Leafy Elodea, *Egeria densa*, 4
34. Espartillo, *Amelichloa brachychaeta*, 5
35. Espartillo, *Amelichloa caudata*, 5
36. Eurasian water milfoil, *Myriophyllum spicatum*, 1
37. Fine-bristled burr grass, *Cenchrus brownii*, 5
38. Fountain grass, *Cenchrus setaceus*, 5
39. Frogbit/Spongeplant, *Limnobium laevigatum and L. spongia*, 1
40. Gallon's curse, *Cenchrus biflorus*, 5
41. Gamba grass, *Andropogon gayanus*, 5

42. Giant Parramatta grass, *Sporobolus fertilis*, 3 P2
43. Glaucous star thistle, *Carthamus glaucus*, 5
44. Golden dodder, *Cuscuta campestris*, 4
45. Golden thistle, *Scolymus hispanicus*, 5
46. Gorse, *Ulex europaeus*, 3 P2
47. Green cestrum, *Cestrum parqui*, 3 P2
48. Grey willow, *Salix cinerea*, 2
49. Groundsel bush, *Baccharis halimifolia*, 3 P2
50. Harrisia cactus, *Harrisia species*, 4
51. Hawkweed, *Hieracium species*, 1
52. Horsetail, *Equisetum species*, 1
53. Hydrocotyl/Water pennywort, *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*, 1
54. Hygrophila, *Hygrophila costata*, 2
55. Hymenachne, *Hymenachne amplexicaulis and hybrids*, 1
56. Karoo thorn, *Vachellia karroo*, 1
57. Kidney Leaf mud plantain / Heteranthera, *Heteranthera reniformis*, 1
58. Kochia, *Bassia scoparia except B. scoparia subspecies trichophylla*, 1
59. Koster's curse/Clidemia, *Clidemia hirta*, 1
60. Kudzu, *Pueraria lobata*, 2
61. Lagarosiphon, *Lagarosiphon major*, 1
62. Lantana, *Lantana species*, 4
63. Lippia, *Phyla canescens*, 4
64. Long-leaf willow primrose, *Ludwigia longifolia*, 3 P2
65. Ludwigia, *Ludwigia peruviana*, 3 P2
66. Mexican feather grass, *Nassella tenuissima*, 1
67. Mexican poppy, *Argemone mexicana*, 5
68. Miconia, *Miconia species*, 1
69. Mikania vine, *Mikania micrantha*, 1
70. Mimosa, *Mimosa pigra*, 1
71. Ming (Pompom/Zig zag) asparagus fern, *Asparagus macowaniivar. zuluensis* (syn. *A. retrofractus*), 2
72. Montpellier/Cape broom, *Genista monspessulana*, 3 P1
73. Mossman River grass, *Cenchrus echinatus*, 5
74. Mother-of-millions, *Bryophyllum daigremontianum; B. delagoense; B. xhoughtonii; B. pinnatum; B. proliferum*, 3 P1
75. Pampas grass, *Cortaderia species*, 3 P1
76. Paper mulberry, *Broussonetia papyrifera*, 2
77. Parthenium weed, *Parthenium hysterophorus*, 1
78. Paterson's curse, Vipers bugloss, Italian bugloss, *Echium plantagineum, E. vulgare and E. italicum*, 4
79. Pond apple, *Annona glabra*, 1
80. Prickly acacia, *Vachellia nilotica*, 1
81. Prickly pear, *Cylindropuntia species*, 4
82. Prickly pear, *Opuntia species*, 4
83. Privet (Broad-leaf), *Ligustrum lucidum*, 4
84. Privet (Narrow-leaf/Chinese), *Ligustrum sinense*, 4
85. Red rice, *Oryza rufipogon*, 5
86. Rhizomatous bamboo, *Phyllostachys species*, 4
87. Rubbervine, *Cryptostegia grandiflora*, 1
88. Sagittaria, *Sagittaria platyphylla*, 4
89. Salvinia, *Salvinia molesta*, 3 P2
90. Scotch/English broom, *Cytisus scoparius subspecies scoparius*, 4

91. Senegal tea plant, *Gymnocoronis spilanthoides*, 1
92. Serrated tussock, *Nassella trichotoma*, 3 P1
93. Siam weed, *Chromolaena odorata*, 1
94. Silver-leaf nightshade, *Solanum elaeagnifolium*, 4
95. Smooth-stemmed turnip, *Brassica barrelieri subspecies oxyrrhina*, 5
96. Soldier thistle, *Picnomon acarna*, 5
97. Spotted knapweed, *Centaurea stoebe subspecies micranthos*, 1
98. St. John's wort, *Hypericum perforatum*, 4
99. Texas blueweed, *Helianthus ciliaris*, 5
100. Tropical soda apple, *Solanum viarum*, 1
101. Tussock paspalum, *Paspalum quadrifarium*, 4
102. Water caltrop, *Trapa species*, 1
103. Water hyacinth, *Eichhornia crassipes*, 3 P2
104. Water lettuce, *Pistia stratiotes*, 1
105. Water soldier, *Stratiotes aloides*, 1
106. Willows, *Salix species except S. babylonica, S. xreichardtii, S. xcalodendron*, 5
107. Witchweed, *Striga species except the native Striga parviflora*, 1
108. Yellow bells, *Tecoma stans*, 3 P2
109. Yellow burrhead, *Limnocharis flava*, 1
110. Yellow nutgrass, *Cyperus esculentus*, 5

Recommendations:

1. That the report is received and noted.

ITEM GM 7. STAFFING

Reason for Report: Informative

Since the last Council meeting held on 13 February 2014 Council has received the resignation of Ms Kathryn Leotta.

Council has commenced employment of two trainees; Mr Daniel Warrick and Mr Richie Benson.

HRCC currently employs a total of 13 people (at FTE of 12.5).

Recommendation:

1. That the report is received and noted.

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

Rain has been a feature of the weather patterns this reporting period, this long term pattern of rainfall has led to a slight deviation from councils work plans with a heavy focus being placed upon manual weed control and bush regeneration type weed control.

Terrestrial weed growth has been spurred on by all the rain and the ensuing germination of weed seed has created hot spots of noxious weed in council reserves. Treatment of these species has begun when herbicide application has been possible and will continue for some time to come. Weed control activities that have taken place over the last two months have been at the following locations:

Hawkesbury LGA

Terrestrial weed control has seen teams again working through council's reserve network. Sites along high risk pathways such as the Hawkesbury River were targeted for species such as Green cestrum, Blackberry, Alligator weed, Ludwigia, Senegal tea plant and Smooth tree pear. The sites that were treated were: Ebenezer wharf road, Swallow rock reserve, Punt road (Pitt town), Macquarie park, Cattai bridge reserve, Breakaway reserve and Hanna park.

Penrith LGA

The reserves within the Penrith LGA have no shortage of weed growth at present, terrestrial and woody weeds are the focus of control works. Work crews have treated South creek park, the Kingsway, Devlin road, Tench reserve and River road reserve. Target weed species included: Green cestrum, Pampas grass, Privet species, African boxthorn, African olive and Lantana.

High water levels have meant that Alligator weed infestations have been out of reach for spray operations along the river and creek lines for days on end, when conditions have allowed, the work teams have been spraying Alligator weed along the Nepean River and South creek. It had been observed by staff that the biological control flea beetle had very little effect upon Alligator weed infestations this season, resulting in advanced growth from this species. The teams will need to be conducting control well into May to bring weed levels back inline.

The Hills Shire LGA

Roadside weed control has been the focus of activity in the Hills Shire this reporting period. Work teams have been utilising good weather periods to spot spray roadside growth of familiar weed species such as Green cestrum, Blackberry, African boxthorn, Boneseed, African olive and some Lantana. On days where the weather has closed in, staff have turned to manual weed removal and bush regeneration techniques to treat target weeds on roadsides and council reserves. Locations treated by staff include: Glenhaven, Beaumont Hills, Kellyville, Maraylya, Cattai and Glenorie.

Treatment of urban waterways for aquatic weed continues throughout the LGA. The Kidney leaf mud plantain infestation in Darling Mills creek has sadly comeback downstream cleared areas through water movement from heavy rainfall. Our staff have now treated the weed in this creek line as well as tracing the weed movement back into Christmas bush creek. Alligator weed control has been sporadic as poor weather has disrupted spray plans.

Blacktown LGA

Work teams have been busy in the Blacktown LGA over the last two months. Both terrestrial and aquatic weed species have been targeted within council's reserves and along roadsides. Reserve sites that have been treated for noxious weeds include: Knudsen reserve, Nurragingy reserve, RAAF Park, Timbertop reserve, Banks reserve, Bungarabee reserve and council managed lands around Prospect, Seven Hills and Doonside. The primary target weeds were: African boxthorn, Green cestrum, Privet, Blackberry, Boneseed and Smooth tree pear.

Aquatic weed control over the last two months has seen crews targeting Alligator weed and Ludwigia in Bungarabee creek, Eastern creek, Bells creek and Plumpton wetlands, Joseph Franks Park and storm water infrastructure within the area. Bungarabee and Eastern creeks were also treated for Ludwigia, treatment for this species will need to be ongoing as Ludwigia is notoriously persistent.

Blacktown council staff had informed HRCC of Salvinia that had released into Woodcraft Lake. Work teams have spent two days removing this Salvinia by hand amongst the native reed beds, at the time of reporting the Salvinia requires a further day to have it completely removed from the lake.

The noxious weed inspection program continues to build on previous achievements. The new county noxious weeds list is now in force and a prominent inclusion amongst the new weeds is the Amazon frogbit - an aquatic weed that has been increasingly sold by aquariums and has been extremely popular amongst fish keepers. This plant is now a Class 1 noxious weed within NSW.

Both in store and online inspections have been fruitful, an aquarium shop in St. Marys collected frogbit from a prospective seller and kept the plants so council staff could dispose of the weed.

ENCLOSURE_OM1:	HRCC Operational Maps
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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. **SENT – 25 February 2014** – Letter to Minister for Primary Industries, Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson, MP from Clr. Bob Porter, Chair, HRCC Re: eligibility for LLS elections. Action#1686.
2. **RECEIVED – 12 March 2014** – Letter from Jonathan Sanders, President, SWC to Clr. Bob Porter. Re: Return of SWC Inc. membership funds and signed MOU.
3. **SENT – 21 March 2014** – Letter to Jonathan Sanders, President, SWC confirming amount to invoice HRCC for the return of SWC Inc. membership funds. Action#1680-4.
4. **RECEIVED – 27 March 2014** – Invoice from SWC Inc. for \$82,807.69 for return of all SWC funds.

Recommendation:

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

7. GENERAL BUSINESS / QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE
