

**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, 29 May 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, **10 April 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. REPORT ON MONEY'S INVESTED**

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

The report presented to the last Ordinary Meeting, displayed the total amount invested on 3 APRIL 2014, and was \$1,550,000. The total amount in the transaction account 3 APRIL 2014 was \$16,856.03.

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

On 7 April 2014, a term deposit of \$500,000 invested with Bank of Sydney Ltd. was recalled at maturity.

On 14 April 2014, a term deposit of **\$300,000** was invested with Bank of Sydney Ltd. for a period of 183 days at 3.85%, maturing on 14 October 2014.

On 12 May 2014, a term deposit of \$100,000 invested with Bank of Queensland was recalled at maturity.

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.

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

The total amount invested 20 MAY 2014 is **\$1,250,000\***.

The total amount in our transaction account on 20 MAY 2014 is **\$145,939.80**

*\*This includes Sydney NSW Weeds Action Program funding (**\$204,607** at 31/4/2014) 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 guidelines established by agreement with the Department of Primary Industries.*

**Recommendation:**

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

**ITEM GM 2. HRCC 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.

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 in 2014. At the Ordinary Meeting of 10 April 2014 Council resolved (#1691-4) to place on public exhibition the Draft HRCC Operational Plan 2014/15 for a period of 28 days.

**Exhibition Process**

The General Manager placed the draft plan on exhibition on 14 April 2014 up until 19 May 2014 (35 days). This was done by making the document available on our website and through our office. Hard copies were provided free upon request. The member Councils were informed directly via the HRCC Management Network, and the General Managers were written to directly indicating the expected amount of member contribution for 2014/15.

There were no submissions received.

**Document Changes**

Minor income increase to reflect approved new grant allocation (WAP Unspent Funds). Minor expenditure employment increase to reflect additional works. An additional capital item – Inspector / Education Vehicle (\$40K) was added.

ENCLOSURE_GM2	HRCC Operational Plan 2014-2015
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**Recommendation**

1. *That the report is received and noted.*
2. *That Council adopts the HRCC Annual Operational Plan 2014-2015.*

3. *That the General Manager places the adopted document on the Council website within 28 days.*
4. *That the General Manager informs the NSW Minister for Local Government, the Director General and all constituent Council General Managers by providing a copy of the URL link to access the adopted plans.*

### **ITEM GM 3. HRCC CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY REVIEW**

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

The “Certificate of Authority” is a form that provides the link between a Council’s delegation of powers under the *NSW Noxious Weeds Act 1993* and the Weed Inspector employed to carry out those powers. All of our existing HRCC staff that have delegations as inspectors are currently issued a Certificate of Authority by the General Manager.

The certificate must be in a form approved by the Secretary of the Department of Trade, Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services. Recently the General Manager was advised that the nature of this form has altered by the Secretary, and it therefore requires the General Manager to update our existing certificates. This change will have no impact on our operations. Our current list of delegations remains the same, and is as follows:

- Mr Chris Stanfield
- Ms Karen Jenkin
- Mr Steven Russell
- Mr Gordon Blyth

A copy of the new form is attached below.

#### ***Recommendations:***

1. *That the report is received and noted.*
2. *The General Manager updates all HRCC Certificate of Authorities in the form of Attachment 1.*

## Attachment 1\_GM3

### CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY – INSPECTORS

issued under the

*Noxious Weeds Act 1993*

It is hereby certified that:

[insert **FULL NAME OF INSPECTOR**]

is appointed under section 41 of the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* (the Act) as an Inspector for the purposes of the Act and is authorised to exercise the powers conferred or imposed on an Inspector by or under the Act within the local area of [insert name of Local Control Authority].

The source of the powers conferred on this Inspector is sections 31, 34B, 36A, 39, 40, Part 5 (Division 1), and sections 45, 47, 48, 50, 51, 52, and 63 of the Act. The nature of the powers conferred on this Inspector is attached.

This Inspector may enter any premises within the local area of [insert name of Local Control Authority], except that part of any premises being used for residential purposes. However, entry to any part of premises being used for residential purposes may be made with the permission of the occupier of that part of the premises or under the authority conferred by a search warrant.

This Certificate of Authority expires when the above-named Inspector ceases duties with [insert name of Local Control Authority].

[signed by General Manager Local Control Authority]  
[insert FULL NAME AND POSITION of person signing the certificate]  
[insert relevant LOCAL CONTROL AUTHORITY]  
[insert DATE]

### **31 Machinery and equipment—spread of noxious weeds into NSW**

(3) The following provisions apply to any machinery or equipment to which this section applies:

(a) The Minister is to make arrangements for inspectors to set up places at or near the borders of New South Wales at which machinery or equipment may be produced for inspection (being places set up on a regular basis or by special arrangement with a person bringing machinery or equipment into New South Wales). The machinery or equipment is to be brought into New South Wales at such a place and produced to an inspector without delay.

(c) An inspector at that place must inspect the machinery or equipment.

(d) Following that inspection, the inspector is to sign a copy of the declaration and return it to the person in charge of the machinery or equipment, unless the inspector is not satisfied that the machinery or equipment has been cleaned as required by the regulations.

(6) An inspector may:

(a) stop and inspect machinery or equipment that the inspector reasonably suspects to have been moved in New South Wales in contravention of subsection (3), and

(b) require any such machinery or equipment to be cleaned as required by the regulations under subsection (3) if the inspector reasonably suspects that it contains notifiable weed material.

(8) In this section, *inspector* includes a border inspector or an authorised officer.

### **34B Powers to stop and search vehicles in respect of quarantine areas**

(1) At any place on or near the boundary of a quarantine area, an inspector may display a traffic sign directing drivers of approaching vehicles to stop their vehicles. A sign must be of a kind prescribed by the regulations and be displayed so as to be clearly visible to the drivers of approaching vehicles.

(3) An inspector may, for the purpose of ascertaining whether a vehicle referred to in subsection (2) is contaminated with a relevant kind of noxious weed:

(a) inspect, enter and search the vehicle and any of its accessories, and

(b) open any door or opening of, or remove any covering from, the vehicle or require the driver of the vehicle to do any of those things, and

(c) take from the vehicle for analysis or further examination samples of any vegetable matter that the inspector reasonably suspects to be a noxious weed of that kind.

(4) In this section *inspector* includes an authorised officer.

### **36A Temporary restrictions during noxious weed control**

(1) The purpose of this section is to enable a local control authority to impose temporary restrictions:

(a) to enable control measures for noxious weeds to be undertaken in accordance with this Act, or

(b) to protect people and animals from risks to their health and safety arising from measures taken to control noxious weeds in accordance with this Act.

(2) A local control authority may require the owner or occupier of land to remove any animals from any part of the land and to prevent animals from entering any part of the land for a specified period. This subsection applies only if the authority is acting under section 20 because a weed control notice has not been complied with.

(3) A local control authority may temporarily close or obstruct public or private roads (other than any State highway, freeway, tollway or State work within the meaning of the *Roads Act 1993*) while measures to control noxious weeds are being taken on land adjacent to those roads.

(4) A local control authority may temporarily close to navigation, or obstruct navigation in, any waters while measures to control noxious weeds are being taken in those waters.

(5) A local control authority may erect notices to warn people not to enter on, or remain on, any land on which measures are being taken to control noxious weeds.

(6) An inspector appointed by a local control authority may give such directions, or take such steps, as are necessary in order to enable the local authority to exercise its functions under this section.

### **39 Noxious weed control functions of inspectors**

An inspector has the following noxious weed control functions in relation to the local area of the local control authority that appointed the inspector:

(a) to inspect land and any other premises for the presence of noxious weed material,

(b) to advise as to the presence of noxious weed material and as to the means of controlling those weeds,

(c) to report to the local control authority on noxious weeds and noxious weed control,

(d) any other functions that are conferred or imposed on inspectors by or under this Act or by the local control authority.

### **40 Further powers in relation to notifiable weed material**

An inspector who has reasonable cause to suspect that a plant, or any seed or other part of a plant, that is a notifiable weed in any part of the State is or may be present in machinery or equipment may require the person apparently in charge of the machinery or equipment to treat the machinery or equipment immediately, in the manner specified by the inspector, to remove any such plant, or seed or other part of a plant.

### **43 Power of entry**

(1) For the purposes of this Act, an inspector, authorised officer or other person authorised by a local authority to control noxious weeds on land may enter any premises.

(2) Entry may be made at all reasonable hours.

### **44 Inspections and investigations**

For the purposes of this Act, an inspector or an authorised officer who has a power to enter premises may do any of the following:

(a) inspect the premises,

(b) search the premises,

(c) examine, take samples, photographs or video recordings of, seize, detain or remove any thing in or about those premises that the inspector or authorised officer reasonably suspects to be noxious weed material or to be vegetable matter, or any other thing, containing noxious weed material,

(c1) test, treat or disinfect any noxious weed material or any vegetable or other matter that the inspector or authorised officer reasonably suspects contains noxious weed material,

(d) require the production of and inspect any records in or about those premises,

(e) take copies of, or extracts or notes from, any such records,

(f) require any person in or about those premises to answer questions or otherwise furnish information,

(g) require the occupier of those premises to provide the inspector or authorised officer with such assistance and facilities as is or are reasonably necessary to enable the inspector or authorised officer to exercise his or her functions,

- (h) remove or destroy or cause to be removed or destroyed anything in or about those premises that the inspector or authorised officer reasonably suspects to be noxious weed material or to be vegetable matter, or any other thing, containing noxious weed material,
- (i) break open and search any box, container, package or receptacle (including any place that could be used as a receptacle) in or about those premises,
- (j) test, treat or disinfest any box, container, package or receptacle (including any place that could be used as a receptacle) in or about those premises that the inspector or authorised officer reasonably suspects contains any noxious weed material or vegetable or other matter containing noxious weed material.

#### **45 Notice of entry**

- (1) Before an inspector, authorised officer or other person authorised to enter premises does so, the local control authority must give the occupier of the premises oral or written notice of the intention to enter the premises on a day or within a period specified in the notice.
- (2) This section does not require notice to be given: (a) if entry to the premises is made with the consent of the occupier of the premises, or (b) if entry is required urgently and the local control authority has authorised in writing (either generally or in the particular case) entry without notice.

#### **46 Use of force**

- (1) Reasonable force may be used for the purpose of gaining entry to any premises (other than residential premises) under a power conferred by this Part by an inspector, authorised officer or other person, but only if authorised by the local control authority in accordance with this section.
- (2) No force is to be exercised in any case unless the local control authority has authorised in writing (either generally or in the particular case) the use of force in the circumstances of the case.
- (3) A general authority given by the local control authority for the use of force is invalid. The authority is to specify the circumstances which are required to exist in a case before force may be used.

#### **47 Notification of use of force or entry without notice**

An inspector, authorised officer or other person authorised to enter premises who:

- (a) uses force for the purpose of gaining entry to the premises, or
- (b) enters the premises without notice having been given to the occupier of the premises of the intention to enter as required by section 45, must promptly advise the local control authority which is to cause written notice to that effect to be served on such persons or authorities as appear to the local control authority to be appropriate in the circumstances.

#### **47A Inspectors and others may inquire as to source or destination of noxious weed material**

- (1) An inspector or authorised officer who reasonably believes that a person has information that may assist in tracing or determining the source or destination of any matter that the inspector or authorised officer reasonably suspects to be noxious weed material may require the person to answer questions for that purpose.
- (3) An inspector or authorised officer may, for the purposes of this Act, divulge information given to the inspector or officer under this section.

#### **48 Care to be taken**

In the exercise of a function under this Act, an inspector, authorised officer or other person authorised to enter premises must do as little damage as possible.

#### **50 Certificates of authority**

- (1) A power conferred by this Act to enter premises or to do anything in or about any premises may not be exercised unless the person proposing to exercise the power is in possession of a certificate of authority and produces the certificate if required to do so by the occupier of the premises.
- (2) A certificate of authority is a certificate (in a form approved by the Director-General) issued by a local control authority which:
  - (a) states that it is issued under this Act, and
  - (b) gives the name of the person to whom it is issued, and
  - (c) describes the nature of the powers conferred and the source of the powers, and
  - (d) states the date (if any) on which it expires, and
  - (e) describes the kind of premises to which the power extends, and
  - (f) bears the signature of the Director-General or the General Manager of a local control authority.
- (3) This section does not apply to a power conferred by a search warrant.

#### **51 In what circumstances can entry be made to a residence?**

The powers of entry and inspection conferred by this Part are not exercisable in relation to that part of any premises being used for residential purposes except when the powers are exercised by an inspector or an authorised officer:

- (a) with the permission of the occupier of that part of the premises, or
- (b) under the authority conferred by a search warrant.

#### **52 Search warrant**

- (1) An inspector or authorised officer under this Act may apply to an authorised officer within the meaning of the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002 for a search warrant if the inspector or authorised officer under this Act has reasonable grounds for believing that a provision of this Act or the regulations has been or is being or is about to be contravened in or about any premises.
- (2) An inspector or authorised officer under this Act may not apply for a search warrant to search premises unless the inspector or authorised officer under this Act has notified the Director-General of the intended application.
- (3) An authorised officer within the meaning of the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002 to whom an application is made under this section may, if satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for doing so, issue a warrant authorising an inspector or authorised officer under this Act named in the warrant to enter the premises and to exercise there the powers under section 44.
- (4) Division 4 of Part 5 of the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002 applies to a search warrant issued under this section.

#### **53 Inspector or authorised officer may request assistance**

- (1) An inspector or authorised officer may request the assistance of any police officer if the inspector or authorised officer reasonably believes that the performance of functions conferred by or under this Act will be obstructed.
- (2) An inspector or authorised officer may request the assistance of any person he or she believes to be capable of providing assistance in the performance of functions conferred by or under this Act.

#### **63 Penalty notices for certain offences**

- (1) An inspector or authorised officer may serve a penalty notice on a person if it appears to the inspector or authorised officer that the person has committed an offence against this Act or the regulations, being an offence prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this section.

## **ITEM GM 4. COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT GREEN ARMY TENDER**

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

### **Background**

The Green Army Programme is the Commonwealth Government's initiative to build an environmental workforce of 15,000 young Australian's per year. It will begin on 1 July 2014 and is committed until 2018-19, and will be a programme of skill building and practical outputs. The projects will include cleaning up riverbanks and creek beds, weed control and revegetating cleared sites. The Government is investing \$300 million over four years in this programme.

The Department of Environment is administering the programme, and are contracting "Service Providers" to recruit, deploy, pay and supervise Green Army Teams. "Project Sponsors" are applicants who wish to have actual work undertaken by the Teams.

### **HRCC Tender as Service Provider**

HRCC has run a successful traineeship program for the past two years, and produced a number of local, qualified young people. During this time we have developed strong relationships with training providers. Additionally we have seen the positive effect this has had on our overall organisation by providing a long term recruitment strategy. If HRCC were to be a successful service provider it would establish a strong second tier to our operations – that of an organisation of skills building and training.

On 31 March 2014 the Department of Environment released the Request for Tender 2014-2017. During the process of tender development the General Manager signed an MOU with TAFE Western Sydney Institute to act as our "Registered Training Organisation" should we be successful. This is to ensure our participants will have tailored training and leave the project with valid certification for their skills.

On 7 May 2014 at 2:00pm the General Manager lodged the HRCC tender to be a Green Army Service Provider.

### **Recommendation:**

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

## **ITEM GM5. SYDNEY WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM ALLOCATION OF UNSPENT FUNDS**

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

#### **Background**

The Sydney Weeds Action Program (WAP) project is 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 to the value of \$4.5 million.

As the lead agency HRCC is responsible for distributing approximately \$875,000 in annual grant funds to 20 project partners across Sydney. All projects must be completed, and funds spent, by the end of the five year project (30 June 2015).

Approximately \$130,000 of WAP grant funds have carried over from previous years and remain unspent.

#### **The Process**

A process to allocate all unspent funds commenced on 9 April 2014. Letters seeking applications were sent to all Councils and NPWS offices within the Sydney region. Application forms and information about the process were also posted on the HRCC website. The closing date for applications was Friday 9 May, however this was extended to Friday 15 May for all applicants.

Applications for 27 projects were received from 13 organisations. The total amount of funds applied for was \$289,300.

A panel comprised of Rod Ensbey (NSW DPI), Anthony Schofield (WAP Project Officer, HRCC), Jeff Hill (Woollahra Council) and Anne Duncan (Sydney Weeds Committee) met on 20 May at NSW DPI's office in Sydney to consider the applications.

Each project was assessed and scored based on the risk of the weed(s) being targeted, alignment with the NSW Invasive Species Plan, alignment with regional priorities and the level of co-contribution. The final score was used to prioritise the projects and determine which should be approved given the limited funds available.

HRCC was successful in securing \$57,400 for three new projects. The complete list of projects, which the panel determined and should be funded are outlined in the Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Sydney WAP Allocation of Unspent Funds**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>WAP funds approved (GST exc.)</b>
Noxious weed inspection, Sydney Flower Markets Flemington	Strathfield Council	\$17,500
Eradication of Kidney Leaf Mud Plantain – inspections & control	HRCC	\$29,000
Inspections & control of Senegal tea and Boneseed, Royal National Park	NPWS & Sutherland Council	\$7,500
Inspection & mapping of high risk pathways	HRCC	\$5,000
Inspection & control of high risk weeds (Horsetail, Senegal Tea and Boneseed)	Pittwater Council	\$13,800
Boneseed control, Palm Beach	Pittwater Council	\$15,000
Monitoring / surveillance of Horsetail	Pittwater Council, Warringah Council & NPWS	\$3,000
Boneseed control, Cumberland Area	NPWS	\$8,000
High risk site inspections - earthmoving & fodder industries	HRCC	\$23,400
Control of Ludwigia and <i>Maurandya barclayana</i>	Wollondilly	\$3,800
Boneseed control Thirlmere Lakes and Nattai National Park	NPWS	\$4,000
		<b>\$130,000</b>

***Recommendation:***

1. That the report is received and information noted.

**ITEM GM 6. SYDNEY WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM PROJECT BUDGET 2014/15**

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

**Background**

The Sydney Weeds Action Program (WAP) project is 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.

HRCC is the lead agency for the project and, under a contractual agreement with NSW DPI, is responsible for distributing annual grant funds to 20 project partners across Sydney and the Blue Mountains. HRCC also employs a Project Officer to administer the Sydney WAP Project.

NSW DPI has advised that up to 10% of the project grant may be retained for project administration, and the remaining 90% must be expended on the activities outlined in the project application.

A forecasted budget (Table 2) has been prepared for the 2014/15 FY. The proposed budget includes the expected funding allocation from NSW DPI, proposed payment of grant allocations, and administration costs.

**Notes**

- Following a process to allocate \$130,000 of unspent funds, no funds are expected to be carried over from previous years.
- Weeds Action Project Grant – NSW DPI (\$898,622) based on 2013-14 allocation plus 2.5% increase for CPI.
- WAP Project Officer - Salary (\$70,543) includes base salary, superannuation, worker’s compensation and accommodation expenses.
- WAP Project Operating (\$19,319) includes lead agency administration fee and overspend carried over from 2013-14.
- Total project administration (Salary + Operating) is 10% of annual grant allocation.

**Table 2: Sydney WAP Program Budget 2014/15**

<p><b>Sydney Weeds Action Program Operating Budget 2014-15</b></p>	
<p><b>Item</b></p>	<p><b>Income</b></p>
<p>Weeds Action Project Grant – NSW DPI</p>	<p>\$898,622</p>
<p><b>Total</b></p>	<p><b>\$898,622</b></p>
<td data-bbox="1050 1572 1473 1612"> </td>	
<p><b>Item</b></p>	<p><b>Expenditure</b></p>
<p>WAP Project Officer – Salary</p>	<p>\$70,543</p>
<p>WAP Project - Operating</p>	<p>\$19,319</p>
<p>Project Partner Grants</p>	<p>\$808,756</p>
<p><b>Total</b></p>	<p><b>\$898,618</b></p>

## **Recommendations**

1. *That the report is received and noted.*
2. *That Council approves the Sydney Weeds Action Program Operating Budget for 2014-15.*

## **ITEM GM 7. STAFFING**

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

Since the last Council meeting held on 10 April 2014, Mr Dave Wallace has ceased employment at HRCC.

HRCC currently employs a total of 12 people (at FTE of 11.3).

Recruitment will commence shortly for two new Weed Officer Trainees.

### ***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***

##### **Summary**

Weed growth has eased over the county as colder night temperatures have become commonplace. The slowing of plant growth has allowed work teams to catch up on spraying activities with roadside and reserve weed control being a focus of attention. June will most likely be the last opportunity for foliar treatment of woody noxious weed before plant growth stops for the winter season. Cut and paint treatments and chipping weed tree species will now feature prominently in work operations. Mother of millions spraying is also carried out at this time of year.

##### **Blacktown LGA**

Roadside and reserve woody weed control has been conducted, with staff treating Blackberry, Boneseed, African boxthorn, Green cestrum, Bridal creeper and Asparagus weed species with herbicide application in the following suburbs: Quakers Hill, Schofields, Marsden Park, Mt Druitt, Seven Hills and Rooty Hill.

Aquatic weed treatment has been carried out at: Woodcroft Lake for Salvinia, Alligator weed and Ludwigia has been treated at Arndell Park within Bungarribee Creek, Nurragingy reserve Doonside and Plumpton wetland. Saggitaria has also been treated by staff after a request for treatment came from Blacktown City Council staff. HRCC have also been engaged by Blacktown City Council to provide a maintenance service, harvesting Ribbon weed from Woodcroft Lake. This harvesting will take place biennially to address resident's issues associated with rampant growth of this weed within the lake.

##### **Penrith LGA**

Work teams have spent time catching up with herbicide application along roadsides and within council's parks and reserves to contain weed growth. The primary targets for this spraying operation have been: Blackberry, Green cestrum, African olive and African boxthorn. The areas that have been treated during this process are: Wallacia, Regentville, Mulgoa, Erskine Park, Luddenham, Penrith, Llandilo, Londonderry and Jamiesontown.

Aquatic weed control within the LGA has seen work teams targeting road crossings and culverts to treat Alligator weed (Luddenham, Kemp's creek and St. Clair). Ludwigia around the North Penrith area and along the Great River Walk trail – whilst inspecting this area, staff also targeted Kudzu outbreaks below Boundary creek. No kudzu was detected during this survey.

### **The Hills Shire LGA**

Weed control within the Hills Shire this period has seen work teams conducting roadside woody weed control, weed tree injection and manual removal throughout the LGA. Roadside woody weed control has targeted Blackberry and Green cestrum, as these two species appear to be the most prevalent of the active woody weed species at present. These weeds were treated in: Cattai, Box hill, Maraylyla, Kellyville and Beaumont Hills. Herbicide application was used to treat these weed species. Injection and frilling of African olive continues along roadsides in the shale areas of the shire, the focus of treatment this round were the suburbs of Nelson, Scheyville, Maraylyla, Annangrove, Box hill, Rouse Hill and some minor infestations in Glenhaven.

Manual removal of Boneseed has continued with renewed germination from the seed bank. Hot spots for this activity are Bella Vista, Annangrove, Cattai, Maroota and a number of isolated infestations around Kellyville.

Aquatic weed control within the Hills shire has focused on Alligator weed control in urban waterways, areas treated were: Glenhaven, Castle hill and North Rocks. Ludwigia and kidney leaf mud plantain has also been treated in Darling Mills creek, although much less than previous infestations the kidney leaf mud plantain is proving persistent.

### **Hawkesbury LGA**

Green cestrum and Blackberry have been heavily targeted during weed control activities within the Hawkesbury this reporting period. These two species have been prevalent in the areas of: Pitt town, Windsor, Oakville, Ebenezer, North Richmond and the Richmond lowlands. These infestations were treated via foliar herbicide application. Injection of African olive and suitable woody weed species has also taken place across the LGA, work teams have treated African olive, African boxthorn and Privet along roadsides and reserves in: Pitt town, Scheyville, North Richmond, Kurrajong, Kurmond and Freemans reach.

Aquatic weed control within the LGA has slowed as aquatic weed species are slowing down growth with the cooler weather we are experiencing now. Culverts along roads in McGraths Hill and Oakville have been sprayed for Alligator weed. Ludwigia and a number of aquatic weed species have been sprayed at Little Manly (Freemans Reach) to open Boat access and reduce the weed burden at this location

### **Hawkesbury Nepean Aquatic Weed Maintenance Program (HNAWMP)**

The main river is in excellent condition as we head into the winter months. Weed populations along the length of the river are low, from Wallacia in the south, downstream to Wiseman's ferry.

A joint river inspection was conducted with Neighbouring Liverpool City council staff of the upper reaches of the Nepean River. No *Salvinia* was sighted in the river or the feeder creeks from Wallacia upstream to Bent's Basin. Alligator weed is present within this stretch of the river, however infestations are at a low, managed level.

Inspections of HRCC weed containment booms at the confluence of the Nepean/Warragamba Rivers, Yarramundi and Cordner's corner has shown little in the way of collected weed material or rubbish and debris.

Traces of *Salvinia* that were spotted in the Nepean River around the Devlin road area near Castlereagh have been linked to a small pocket of *Salvinia* located in a bay, upstream at Shaw's Island, measures are in place to contain and treat this infestation prior to the warmer months when *Salvinia* becomes an issue. Overall the condition of the river is excellent with no major issues on the horizon for some time to come.

ENCLOSURES_OM1:	HRCC LGA Operational Maps
	HRCC 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter Operational Report
	HNAWMP 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter Operational Report

***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 – 17 March 2014** – Letter from Mr Bruce Christie, Executive Director, Biosecurity NSW to HRCC General Manager re: changes to the form template for “Certificate of Authority” for weed inspectors. Report GM3 29/5/2014.
2. **DATED – 15 April 2014** – Letter from Mr Tim Hager, Area Manager Sydney Metro, NSW Department of Environment and Heritage to HRCC General Manager re: “Eradicating Cane Toads in Sydney”.
3. **DATED – 15 April 2014** – Letter from Katrina Hodgkinson MP, Minister for Primary Industries re: Reply to HRCC letter dated 19 December 2013 – LLS elections.
4. **SENT – 13 May 2014** – Letter to all member Council General Managers from HRCC General Manager advising of expected Council contribution to HRCC in 2014/15.

### ***Recommendation:***

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

## 7. GENERAL BUSINESS / QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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