



**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, 11 December 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, **9 October 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 MEETING SCHEDULE 2015**

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

The below draft schedule of Council Meetings has been developed after taking into consideration the Council Meeting dates of Members. It follows the traditional pattern of meeting on the second Thursday evening bi-monthly.

The proposed meeting schedule is as follows:

Table 1: HRCC Council Meetings 2015

<b>February Meeting</b>	<b>6.00pm Thursday 12 February 2015</b> at HRCC Office Depot, South Windsor.
<b>April Meeting</b>	<b>6.00pm Thursday 9 April 2015</b> at HRCC Office Depot, South Windsor.
<b>June Meeting</b>	<b>6.00pm Thursday 11 June 2015</b> at HRCC Office Depot, South Windsor.
<b>August Meeting</b>	<b>6.00pm Thursday 13 August 2015</b> at HRCC Office Depot, South Windsor.
<b>October Meeting</b>	<b>6.00pm Thursday 8 October 2015</b> at HRCC Office Depot, South Windsor.
<b>December Meeting</b>	<b>6.00pm Thursday 10 December 2015</b> at HRCC Office Depot, South Windsor.

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

- 1. That the report be received and noted*
- 2. That the times and dates indicated in the meeting schedule for 2015, referred to in this Report, be adopted.*
- 3. That the Meeting Schedule is advertised on Council's website and all Constituent Council General Managers are informed directly.*

## **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 25 September 2014, and was \$1,600,000. The total amount in the transaction account 25 September 2014 was \$93,461.93.

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

On 8 October 2014, a term deposit of **\$300,000** was invested with ME Bank for a period of 182 days at 3.45%, maturing on 8 April 2015.

On 10 October 2014, an AMP Business Saver (On-Call) account was opened.

On 14 October 2014, a term deposit of \$300,000 with Bank of Sydney Ltd. was redeemed at maturity.

On 15 October 2014, a term deposit of **\$200,000** was invested with Bank of Sydney Ltd. for a period of 62 days at 3.35%, maturing on 17 December 2014.

A term deposit of **\$500,000**, remains invested with ME Bank for a period of 271 days, at 3.6%, maturing on 10 March 2015.

A term deposit of **\$200,000** remains invested with WAW Credit Union for a period of 272 days, at 3.6%, maturing on 13 May 2015.

A term deposit of **\$600,000** remains invested with AMP for a period of 279 days at 3.5%, maturing on 24 June 2015.

**On 4 December 2014;**

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

The total amount invested in the on-call account is **\$132,709.08\***.

The total amount in our transaction account is **\$6,893.74**

The RBA Cash Rate was **2.5%**.

*\*This includes Sydney NSW Weeds Action Program funding (**\$98,136** at 31/10/2014) 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 3. STAFFING**

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

Since the last Council meeting held on 9 October 2014 there have been no changes in staffing.

HRCC currently employs a total of 14 people (at FTE of 13.3).

#### ***Recommendation:***

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

### **ITEM GM 4. NSW WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM UPDATE**

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

#### **WAP Year 5 Financial Progress Report**

At the end of November 2014, 92% of the WAP project funds have been spent. This represents almost 100% of the grant funds having been allocated to project partners. This is the most efficient devolving of funds from funding provider (DPI) to funding recipients (Councils) in the course of the five year project.

	<b>Budget*</b>	<b>YTD \$</b>	<b>YTD %</b>
5-3100 WAP Project Admin – Salary	\$70,543	\$24,713	35%
5-3200 WAP Project Grants	\$900,724	\$880,647	98%
5-3300 WAP Project Admin – Operating	\$16,121	\$4,122	26%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$987,388</b>	<b>\$909,483</b>	<b>92%</b>

\*Based on adjusted budget following receipt of grant funds from NSW DPI and within 10% of budget approved by Council in May 2014.

Total WAP Project Grant funds available for 2014/15 was \$900,724, this includes the year 5 grant from DPI plus unspent grant funds carried over from previous years.

\$880,647 or 98% has been allocated to project partners in the form of project grants, including approx. \$51,500 in unspent funds recently allocated to 6 new projects. Only \$20,000 remains unallocated and has been earmarked for a GIS/Mapping project led by the Sydney Weeds Committees, for which an application is pending.

## Planning Weeds Action Program 2015-20 (WAP2)

Planning for the next 5 year Weeds Action Program project is well underway. A draft timetable for coordinating the Sydney region project application is provided below. The shaded fields are the primary responsibility of HRCC as Lead Agency.

Date	Milestone
31 August 2014	Draft WAP 2 Guidelines for consultation from NSW DPI – <b>overdue</b>
November 2014	Project Officer meeting hosted by NSW DPI – <b>postponed</b>
1 January 2015	5 Year Regional Application template available from NSW DPI
31 January 2015	5 Year project partner application form developed
15 March 2015	Review of High Risk Sites & Pathways Plan complete
15 March 2015	Review of High Risk weeds list complete
3 April 2015	Project Partner five year applications due to WAP Project Officer
15 April 2015	Draft five year regional (ie consolidated) application to SWC Steering Group for review
21 April 2015	Draft five year regional application submitted to NSW DPI for feedback
28 April 2015	Feedback received from NSW DPI
1 May 2015	Final five year regional application submitted to NSW DPI

The WAP Project Officer has attended two planning meetings hosted by NSW DPI, however a third meeting planned for 18/11/14 was cancelled.

In terms of tasks which are the primary responsibility of HRCC as lead agency, the review of the High Risk Pathways & Site Management Plan and High Risk weeds list has commenced. This is being done in consultation with the Regional Weeds Committees, and is due to be completed by 15 March 2015. These plans will then help guide the regional application for the next five year project.

The draft project guidelines from NSW DPI are overdue and there is some concern that application templates, guidelines, etc. may be delayed in effect, thereby reducing the time in which project partners (ie local councils) have to prepare for the project.

### **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 throughout the county is at its peak at the time of reporting. Terrestrial weed populations in council parks and reserves, as well as along roadsides are currently being targeted by control teams.

Aquatic weed control is also being carried out as weed species are flourishing in ideal situations in our county's water ways. Bio – control measures have been deployed in Salvinia accumulations at several locations along the Nepean River, where council staff have been monitoring Salvinia growth.

##### **Blacktown LGA**

Terrestrial weed control in the Blacktown LGA over the last two months has seen staff treating three priority weed species: Boneseed, African olive and Green cestrum. Boneseed has been detected in a number of new locations such as the Great Western Hwy, Eastern creek, Knox Road, Doonside and an unconfirmed report from Great Western Hwy at Mt. Druitt. Known infestations in Glenwood, Parklea, Kings Langley and Prospect have been treated on a routine basis in an attempt to exhaust the prolific germination from this plant.

African olive has been treated within Nurragingy reserve at Doonside, council road verges at Prospect, Mt.Druitt and Seven Hills. Control works for this species will continue as the distribution is wide. Priority sites such as EEC zones and council recreational assets have been created to receive treatment first.

Green cestrum is a widespread weed in the Blacktown area. Council have continually treated this species this year and will continue to do so, due to the rate of germination and the sporadic distribution of the plant from bird dispersal of the seed. Areas that have been treated for Green cestrum by control teams include Plumpton, Doonside, Quakers Hill, Marsden Park and Schofields.

Aquatic weed treatment this reporting period has revolved around Alligator weed at Arndell Park, Plumpton wetlands, Nurragingy reserve. Metsulfuron methyl has been applied as per best practice for this weed species.

### **The Hills Shire LGA**

Boneseed has been the key species that control teams have been targeting in the Hills this reporting period. Other noxious weed species that have been treated include Mother of Millions, Blackberry, Green cestrum, Privet, Alligator weed, Salvinia and Senegal tea plant.

Boneseed control is still continuing at a steady pace across the Hills, control works have taken place at Bella Vista, Norwest, Glenorie, Maraylya, Cattai, Maroota, and South Maroota. Treatment has been via physical removal and cut stump herbicide application.

37 private property inspections have taken place in Maraylya, Glenorie, Cattai and Maroota. These sites were identified by HRCC staff and NPWS staff who have conducted surveillance and control of this species locally.

Woody weed control targeting Green cestrum and Blackberry is underway. Control teams have been combing the western and north western portions of the shire treating these species with low pressure herbicide application. Areas that have been treated include Cattai, Glenorie, Maraylya, Kenthurst, Dural and Annagrove.

Aquatic weed control within the LGA has yielded mixed results. Alligator weed in the Cattai and Smalls Creek catchment has been treated and successfully controlled. Senegal tea plant has been treated in the Cattai creek catchment and will require follow up herbicide application in February 2015.

Kidney leaf mud plantain has been locally eradicated in small areas of Darling Mills creek around the North Rocks area, however Hills Shire staff have passed on infestation details of mud plantain further downstream, control teams are actively treating these infestations at present.

Salvinia at Heritage Park, Castle Hill has been an ongoing issue for some time. Cyrtobagous weevils have not been successful at this location and herbicide application is not suitable due to the sensitive nature of the surrounding vegetation. HRCC staff and Hills Shire staff decided that harvesting was the most appropriate control technique to employ. Council used the Truxor harvester to remove a small amount of Salvinia before dramatic failure of the machine occurred, this delay has pushed this harvesting operation back until late January 2015, or until the Truxor can be repaired.

### **Penrith LGA**

Weed control activity in the Penrith LGA this period has been very similar to the works carried out in Blacktown. The terrestrial weed species that have been the focus of control works are African olive, Green cestrum, Mother of Millions and Blackberry.

African olive and Green cestrum can be found throughout the LGA with both species having pockets of locally heavy infestation. African olive control has been carried out

in reserves around Cranebrook, Mulgoa, Wallacia, Kemps creek and St. Marys. Primary control technique used has been stem injection with basal barking being used on smaller specimens. African olive control is progressing well within the LGA with long stretches of High risk pathways such as the Northern road and Mulgoa road holding very low level infestations of this weed species.

Green cestrum continues to be targeted by control teams, recent activity has occurred in Llandilo, Mulgoa, Wallacia, Luddenham, Londonderry and Cranebrook. HRCC has also been working alongside PCC bush regeneration staff to improve location and treatment of Green cestrum in council reserves. This increased communication should serve well to dramatically improve the process of treating Green cestrum in the Penrith council area.

The last of the Mother of Millions treatments was carried out in early October. Control works for this species pushed well past the traditional control window this year due to the weather. Late season control works were carried out in Llandilo, Wallacia and Kemps creek and were foliar sprayed with a woody weed herbicide – Grazon Xtra, the majority of Mother of Millions infestations were found on council roadside. Blackberry is growing strongly at present and although council land infestation levels are low, a number of hot spots remain. These locations are largely in rural fringe areas such as Erskine Park, Orchard Hills, Wallacia, Luddenham and Mulgoa. Herbicide application has been used to treat these infestations, regrowth will be treated at these blackberry sites in March 2015.

Aquatic weed control in Penrith has seen the commencement of the Alligator weed control program along council riverfront reserves and tributaries that are affected by this weed species. A further two treatments will be carried on these infestations prior to plant shutdown in autumn 2015. Reserves treated include Tench reserve, River road reserve, Devlin road, Fowler reserve and South Creek Park at St. Marys. Salvinia is building in density in the highly disturbed reaches of the Nepean river, control teams have continued the inoculation process of Salvinia with Cyrtobagous weevils which will keep infestations at a manageable level.

Water hyacinth that is located at Devlin road, Castlereagh is scheduled for herbicide treatment in December 2014. This infestation will be treated via herbicide application. Notice of the aquatic weed control program has been posted in the Hawkesbury Gazette and the Penrith Press. The HRCC website will also display this notice.

## **Hawkesbury LGA**

With such a large network of water ways, Hawkesbury LGA has the highest occurrence of aquatic noxious weed issues, of our constituent councils. The Hawkesbury River holds most species of aquatic weed in its upper reaches and a number of tributaries hold class 1 species such as Senegal tea plant.

Aquatic weed control in the Hawkesbury LGA has been building momentum as weed populations become active. Alligator weed is prominent along riverfront reserve shorelines throughout the council area and control teams are applying Metsulfuron methyl to these populations to manage this widespread weed species.

Yarramundi reserve holds infestations of Alligator weed, Water hyacinth and Salvinia, treatment for these species is currently underway and will be ongoing until March 2015.

Terrestrial weed control has also been carried out in the Hawkesbury LGA. In line with the other member councils, weed control has focused on a number of priority weeds. Boneseed, Green cestrum, Mother of Millions, African olive and Blackberry have all been targeted along roadsides and in parks and reserves.

Boneseed with the Hawkesbury LGA has a relatively limited distribution. Whilst control teams were carrying out weed control at Bilpin oval on the 25/11/14 new infestations of this class 1 noxious weed were found. Thorough treatment of public land will be conducted prior to the end of December 2014, and an inspection zone targeting private properties will be conducted during January 2015.

Mother of Millions control has crept into November this year. Residents have been calling the office to report healthy populations of this weed; control teams have addressed these issues. Roadside control of this weed species has been now been finalised for the year.

Woody weed control along roadsides and within council reserves has been targeting the usual suspects – Green cestrum and Blackberry in an effort to keep plant numbers down. Areas that were treated are Wilberforce, Sackville, Lower Portland, Bilpin, Kurrajong Heights and Grose Vale.

Weed control activity within the county is at full capacity at present, aside from a short break at Christmas – teams will be maintaining a high level of activity well into the new year.

### **Property inspection program**

Council inspectors have carried out a variety of inspection and surveillance activities this reporting period. Property inspections have targeted Boneseed, African olive, Salvinia and Water hyacinth as well as numerous inspections that revealed nuisance plant species rather than noxious weed species. Inspectors were still able to assist by giving general weed control information about the plants they found. A total of 381 inspections were carried out.

Weed inspectors have also conducted noxious weed audits on council parks and reserves in our constituent councils. Each audit accounted for numbers and distribution of noxious weed species within these council assets. This information will be used by council staff to program weed control activities for the next year's work plan. A total of 137 of these audits have been completed.

ENCLOSURES_OM1:	Operational Maps Dec 2014
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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. **DATED – 20 October 2014** – Letter from Nick Tobin, Chair, Statewide Mutual. Re: surplus distribution (\$2,295.85)
2. **SENT – 30 October 2014** – Letter to all Member Council General Manager's, Local Land Services, Office of Local Government and Local Government NSW. Re: HRCC election results.
3. **DATED – 4 November 2014** – Letter from Suzanne Stuart, Senior Strategic Planner, Hawkesbury City Council. Re: Upper Hawkesbury River Coastal Zone Management Plan.
4. **SENT – 19 November 2014** – Letter to Suzanne Stuart, Senior Strategic Planner, Hawkesbury City Council. Re: Upper Hawkesbury River Coastal Zone Management Plan.

### ***Recommendation:***

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

## 7. GENERAL BUSINESS / QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

General Manager – External Grant Applications Update

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