



**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, 12 February 2015 commencing at 6.00pm**

1. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

2. APOLOGIES

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Thursday, **11 December 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 2ND QUARTER FINANCIAL REVIEW 2014/15

Reason for Report: Statutory

The financial review for the 2nd Quarter of 2014-15FY (Oct-Dec) has been completed and is enclosed with this report. The period returned an operating deficit of -\$5,434. This is primarily the result of advance payroll required to be paid prior to the holiday period in December 2014. At the YTD point, the situation is healthy as we have an operating surplus of \$40,113.

In terms of capital expenditure, the quarter returned a deficit of -\$53,558 against budget. This is due to the purchase of two new operational council vehicles which forms the majority of the budget allocation. This line will move toward neutrality as the year progresses.

Overall HRCC is in a sound financial position and is on track to deliver a surplus result against budget by the end of the FY.

ENCLOSURE_GM1:	HRCC 2 nd Quarter Financial Review 2014/15
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Recommendation:

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 amounts recorded on 4 December 2014 : investment accounts \$1,800,000, on-call account \$132,709.08, and transaction account \$6,893.74 .

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

On 17 December 2014, a term deposit of \$200,000 invested with Bank of Sydney Ltd. was redeemed at maturity.

On 22 December 2014, a term deposit of **\$120,000** was invested with Bank of Sydney Ltd. for a period of 60 days at 3.35%, maturing on 20 February 2015.

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 **\$300,000** remains invested with ME Bank for a period of 182 days at 3.45%, maturing on 8 April 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 5 February 2015;

The total amount invested is **\$1,720,000***.

The total amount invested in the on-call account is **\$36,241.09**.

The total amount in our transaction account is **\$9,416.00**

The RBA Cash Rate was 2.25%.

This includes Sydney NSW Weeds Action Program funding (\$68,886.54** at 31/12/2014) 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. HRCC REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE TRENDS REPORT 2015

Reason for Report: Informative

Background

The General Manager has completed a review of operating revenue received by HRCC since 2008. The Council's audited Financial Statements were used as a basis to collect the data for this time period up until YE2014. The data for 2015 is based on a current forecast. The focus of the review was on operating revenue, so grants received to purchase capital items are not included.

Operating Expenditure was also tracked against Operating Revenue to provide an insight into Council's overall financial position. This information will be used as background in the development of the HRCC Operational Plan 2015/16 to ensure Council maintains a sustainable financial position.

These trends have been displayed in the figures below:

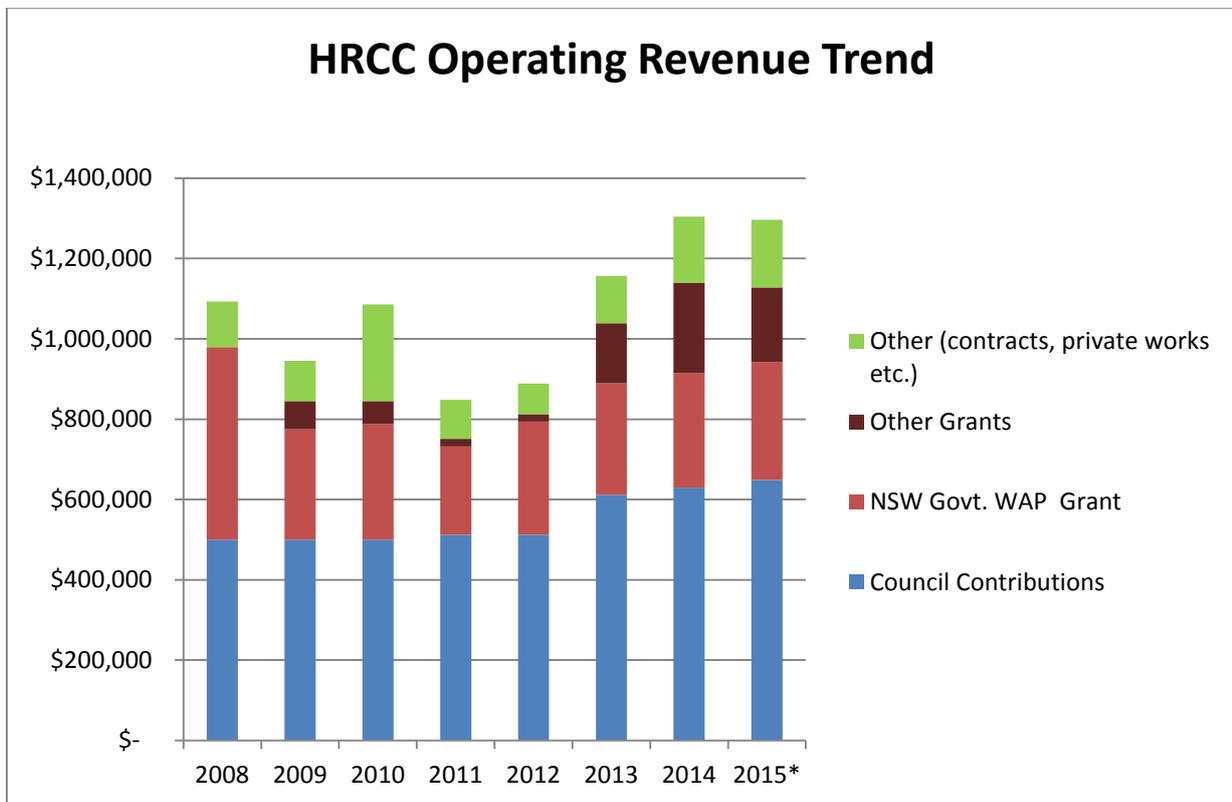


Figure 1: HRCC Operating Revenues, *2015 forecast

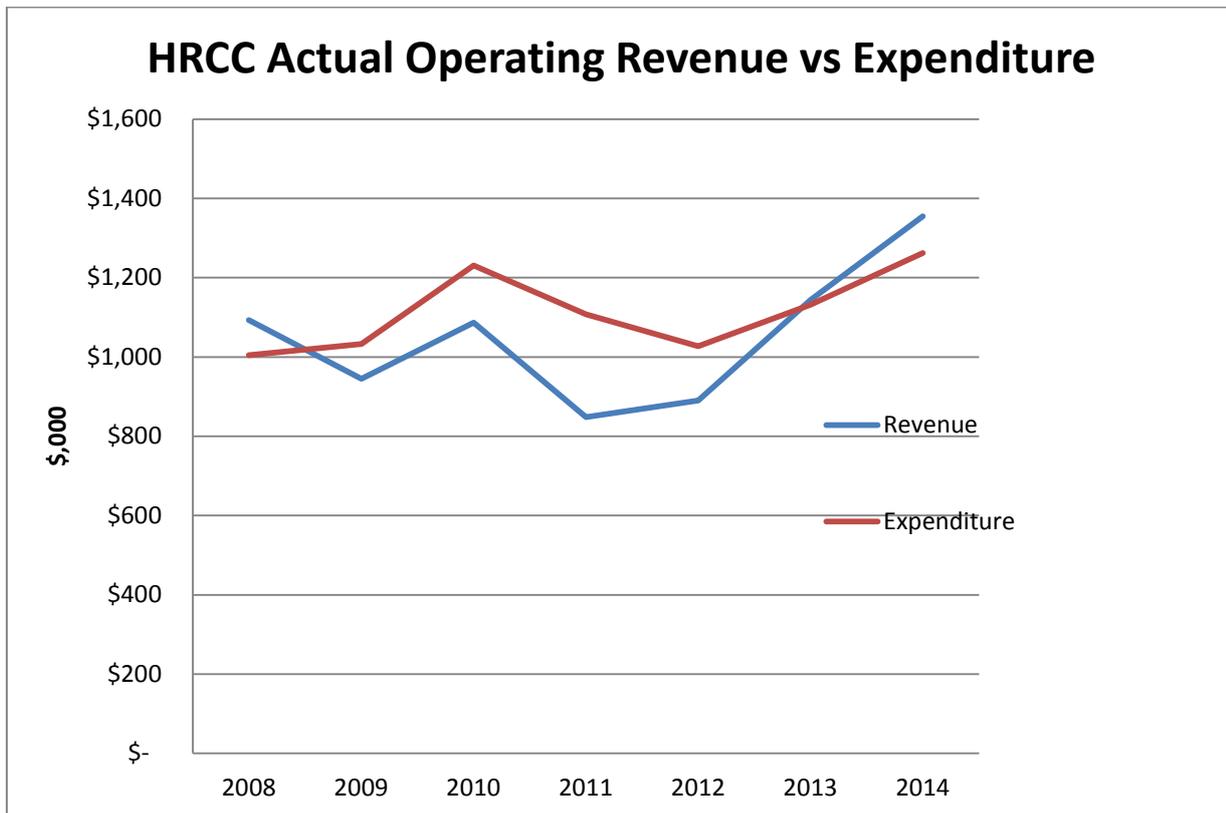


Figure 2: HRCC Operating Actual Revenue vs Operating Expenditure

Revenue Trends

The overall trend we are currently witnessing (Fig 1) appears to be a levelling out of revenue moving into 2015/16FY. Whilst most revenue sources (council contributions, private contracts and NSW WAP grant) are keeping pace with inflation, the decline is in the area of “Other Grants”. This will be explored in more detail below.

Whilst the current County Council system is in place, the Council contributions will remain stable with only rate peg increases being necessary (currently 2.4%). In terms of the external grant landscape, this is an area that changes in response to the broader regional priorities.

External Funding

The NSW Weeds Action Program (NSW DPI) is due to finish on 30 June 2015. This represents around 25% of our income and is our most important funding partner outside of our member Councils. Department of Primary Industries have now indicated this program will extend to 2020, and follow a similar strategic direction to the current program. HRCC, with all other Councils in Sydney will need to reapply. These grant funds align tightly with our core business as a “local control authority” and can therefore be viewed as a relatively stable form of income. HRCC is also currently the “lead agency” for the Sydney region.

The transfer from HNCMA to Local Land Services in January 2014 has had some noticeable impact. This is especially evident in the “other grants” section of revenue, which has dropped most significantly compared to other areas of income. The income

from HNCMA / Local Land Service has halved since the transition. Currently we receive around only 3% of our funds from their grant programs. This is at odds with the findings of the NSW Weeds Management Review and subsequent recommendations of the NSW Government which indicate an increasing responsibility for LLS to fund landscape wide and aquatic weed management. Whilst it is acknowledged that the LLS are receiving less funding than its predecessor from the Commonwealth level, it continues to be funded adequately from the State level. As the Greater Sydney LLS has now been in existence for over 12 months, a continuing lack of a working relationship between our organisations at an executive level is of a growing concern. Many resource sharing and productivity improvement opportunities are being missed, and this is no doubt also contributing to the revenue decline.

Hawkesbury Nepean Aquatic Weed Management Program (HNAWMP)

The 2015/16 FY will be the final year of the Hawkesbury Nepean Aquatic Weed Management Program. This program was developed to run for four years from 2012-2016. It was funded directly from NSW DPI and matched by the County Council. It currently provides for a \$200K revenue contribution each year. Advocacy of the programs results and future opportunities should commence with the 2014/15FY.

Other Grants

In the past six months, HRCC has applied for funding with the following programs: Commonwealth Green Army, Commonwealth 20 Million Trees, NSW DPI Innovation Grants. Unfortunately the organisation was not successful to date. Should any of these projects have been successful the “other grants” revenue result would have been dramatically reversed. None of these programs represent the historical core business of our organisation, however significant increases in staff training mean we are quite capable of delivering them. As such, HRCC should continue to apply in non-traditional grant programs. A successful application will allow us to build experience in these new areas of business.

More generally public funding toward natural resource management has been continually declining for the past 10 years; additionally there is increased competition from State Government organisations (such as NPWS) for existing funding pools. HRCC must therefore continue to broaden its revenue base by maintaining highly skilled and multi-disciplined workforce.

Living Within in Our Means

The graph in Fig. 2 compares HRCC expenditure against revenue, and is therefore an important indicator of our ongoing sustainability. The organisation worked hard to reverse a trend of deficit budgets, and has now enjoyed two successive years of surplus conditions. The organisation is currently on track for a third. This is a result of having a resourcing strategy that tightly aligns with our strategic direction.

Conclusion and Response

It is clear that good progress has been made for HRCC to become a financially sustainable organisation. However if the trend of falling revenues are not reversed, some difficult decisions will need to be made over the short to medium term.

The following approaches are recommended:

- Results must be returned to the community and communicated clearly to them, our constituent councils and the other funding bodies to consolidate their investment in our organisation.
- HRCC itself must not lock itself into a narrow vision of itself, and be prepared to respond to NSW Government and Local Government reforms as a “delivery organisation” for a range of natural resource management (NRM) and agricultural services. This will broaden the base of our grant funding and allow the development of a more multi-skilled workforce.
- HRCC has been steadily increasing the amount of private contract work undertaken by around 5% per annum. This must continue as it fosters a working culture of customer service, delivery, professional quality and a sense of opportunity and growth amongst staff.

As HRCC moves towards the development of the 2015/16 Operational Plan, these strategies will be implemented.

Recommendation:

1. *That the General Manager’s report on Revenue and Expenditure Trends is received and noted.*

ITEM GM 4. NSW WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM (WAP) 2ND QUARTER FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL REVIEW

Reason for Report: Statutory

WAP Year 5 Financial Progress Report

The Profit and Loss statement for Q2 is enclosed with this report. The year to date expenditure v budget is summarised below.

	Budget*	YTD \$	YTD %
5-3100 WAP Project Admin – Salary	\$70,543	\$32,693	43.34%
5-3200 WAP Project Grants	\$900,724	\$880,647	97.77%
5-3300 WAP Project Admin – Operating	\$16,121	\$5,162	32.02%
TOTAL	\$987,388	\$918,502	93.02%

Table 1: NSW WAP Sydney Q2 2014/15 Cost Summary

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

At the end of December 98% of WAP project funds have been spent. Only \$20,000 remains unallocated and has been earmarked for a GIS/Mapping project led by the Sydney Weeds Committees, for which an application remains pending.

Weeds Action Program 2015-20

Planning for WAP1520 is progressing well. An updated timetable for coordinating the Sydney Region project application is provided below. The shaded fields are primary responsibility of HRCC as Lead Agency

The draft project guidelines were received from NSW DPI on 12 December 2014 and limit applications (ie lead agency) from LLS, Local Control Authorities (ie Councils), other public authorities and Regional Organisations of Councils. Applications from incorporated associations will only be considered under exceptional circumstances. The General Manager made a submission to NSW DPI during their formal consultation phase of the guidelines. HRCC has also indicated its willingness to continue its role of Lead Agency for the Sydney WAP project for 2015-20.

Date	Milestone
31 August 2014	Draft WAP 2 Guidelines for consultation from NSW DPI – received 12 December 2014
November 2014	Project Officer meeting hosted by NSW DPI – postponed
1 January 2015	5 Year Regional Application template available from NSW DPI – overdue
31 January 2015	5 Year project partner application developed – draft complete
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 applications due to WAP Project Officer
15 April 2015	Draft WAP 2 application to Steering Group for review
21 April 2015	Draft WAP 2 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

Table 2: NSW WAP1520 Sydney Application Planning Guideline

The draft project guidelines were received from NSW DPI on 12 December 2014 and limit applications (ie lead agency) from LLS, Local Control Authorities (ie Councils), other public authorities and Regional Organisations of Councils. Applications from incorporated associations will only be considered under exceptional circumstances. The General Manager made a submission to NSW DPI during their formal consultation phase of the guidelines. HRCC has also indicated its willingness to continue its role of Lead Agency for the Sydney WAP project for 2015-20.

The WAP Project Officer has developed a draft document outlining the proposed activities for the Sydney region over the next five years, and demonstrating alignment with the NSW Invasive Species Plan. This document, along with a draft grant application form has been distributed to current project partners, steering group members and NSW DPI for comment.

Review of the High Risk Pathways & Site Management Plan and High Risk weeds list is on track to be completed in March 2015. Once complete, the documents will help prioritise activities for the next five year project.

NSW DPI is yet to provide final project guidelines, a regional application template and information regarding new mandatory outcomes/activities.

Lead Agency Arrangements

The draft WAP guidelines published by NSW DPI indicate that applications for regional WAP projects will only be accepted from Local Lands Services (LLS), Local Control Authorities, Public Authorities and Regional Organisations of Councils (ROC's).

The guidelines also state that *“previously, some incorporated Regional Weed Committees have been eligible but, given the rapidly changing status of these and the amount of change foreshadowed in the next months, this will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.”*

To date the Greater Sydney LLS has resisted any formal or increased role in weed management in the Sydney Region. Therefore, the Greater Sydney LLS is not currently in a position to take on the Lead Agency role.

HRCC has demonstrated a capability and willingness to continue the Lead Agency role for the next five year project. Since taking on the Lead Agency role in 2012, HRCC has;

- Completed five strategic documents which were overdue,
- Facilitated a review of the region’s Alligator Weed strategy,
- Achieved greater alignment of grant expenditure with NSW Invasive Species Plan goals,
- Improved project administration and reporting of project partner co-contributions,
- Allocated more than \$180,000 of unspent grant funds for new regional projects, including funding for surveillance activities at Sydney Flower Markets, a known high risk site, and
- Improved relations with the funding body, NSW DPI, leading to greater stability and co-operation throughout the region.

The WAP Project Officer (HRCC) has been driving planning for the next five year application for the Sydney Region and HRCC has been actively facilitating the project application process.

ENCLOSURES GM4:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NSW WAP Sydney Region Draft Application 2015-20• NSW WAP Sydney Region 2014/15 Q2 Profit / Loss
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Recommendations:

1. *That the report is received and noted.*
2. *Council continues to facilitate and prepare the Sydney Region NSW WAP application in the capacity of lead agency.*

ITEM GM 5. HRCC DRAFT WEEDS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY BOUNDARIES POLICY

Reason for Report: Decision Required

Background

Increasingly HRCC Weed Inspectors are being called to inspect properties for weeds on an adjoining neighbors land. It often becomes quickly evident that a dispute between the neighbors is underway, and they are seeking the County Council to force an action from their neighbor. On occasions there is a valid reason for the complaint, such as public safety or human health impacts caused by the weed. However, most often the weed in question is very low priority and causing no community or environmental impact. These processes can absorb significant time and resources of the County Council which could be much better directed to higher priorities. It is therefore felt worthwhile to develop a policy that supports the credible use of Council resources and the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*.

Weed Prioritisation Process

Plants are scheduled “noxious” when listed in a Weed Control Order by the Minister under the guidance of the *NSW Noxious Weeds Act 1993*. HRCC currently has 121 plants listed as noxious within its jurisdiction. As a local control authority HRCC has the discretion to implement programs of weed management that prioritise resources towards different weed species. The prioritisation process is guided by a range of factors including:

1. State legislation, plants are listed Class 1 or 2 under *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* and must be eradicated.
2. National and State policy and strategy. Such as the NSW Invasive Species Plan which prioritise new incursions over widespread weeds.
3. Regional Priorities – Agreement reached Sydney wide by all Councils.
4. Local priorities – HRCC established priorities.

Policy Development

The policy has been written to cover the work of HRCC within its own jurisdiction and under the continued direction of the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*. It covers areas of land which involve two private property owners (private/public and public/public boundaries have been excluded). As this issue is primarily civil in nature, therefore minimal government attention or resources should be attracted to it unless there is an overriding community or environmental benefit evident. The policy is not overly prescriptive so as to allow Weed Inspectors a level of discretion when undertaking their duties.

The most common weeds which trigger this type of community response are privet, bamboo and lantana.

Financial Implications

This policy will have a positive impact on Council as any costs of policy implementation will be offset by reduced officer involvement in civil disputes.

ENCLOSURE_GM5:	Draft HRCC Weeds on Private Property Boundaries Policy 2015
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Recommendations:

- 1. That the report is received and noted.*
- 2. That Council places on public exhibition for a period of 28 days the Draft HRCC Weeds on Private Property Boundaries Policy.*
- 3. That the General Manager report back to Council at the next Ordinary Meeting with a report of any submissions received or proposed changes.*
- 4. That Council adopts the HRCC Weeds on Private Property Boundaries Policy at the next Ordinary Meeting.*

ITEM GM 6. PENRITH LAKES PARKLANDS – DRAFT VISION PLAN

Reason for Report: Informative

Background

Penrith Lakes is a 1,940HA site on the eastern side of the Nepean River, within 2km of the Penrith City CBD. Since the 1980's, Penrith Lakes Development Corporation (PLDC) has operated a sand and gravel quarry on the site. In 1987 a Deed of Agreement between PLDC and the NSW Government allows for the transfer of land back to the State Government once mining operations close. The site currently hosts the Sydney International Rowing Centre and the Penrith Whitewater Stadium. The mining has approximately 5 months extractive life remaining.

In 2011, the NSW Government established the Office of Penrith Lakes, within the NSW Office of Sport. They have recently released a Draft Vision Plan for Penrith Lakes Parkland (Enc.).

Draft Plan Overview

The draft plan breaks the site into seven precincts with different management goals. These include areas focussing on sport, leisure and passive recreation, urbanisation and wildlife and heritage protection. Each precinct is considered in detail and has proposed a character, objectives and potential future use.

The plan makes clear that the public open space, including the lake system, will be managed by the NSW Government as a Sydney's fourth regional park – Penrith Lakes Parkland. The others are Centennial Parklands, Sydney Olympic Park and Western Sydney Parklands.

Potential Weed Issues

The plan highlights that the completed project will include up to 640HA of open fresh water. This water will not be part of the main river system, and therefore subject to reduced flow. It will be fed primarily from stormwater (treated by 11 "remedial ponds") and topped up from the main river system. It is unlikely that these lakes will be free from existing weeds such as salvinia, water hyacinth and Egeria. To ensure long term viability of the lake system, a programmed maintenance regime, similar to the one HRCC currently has on the open river system will be required.

In relation to terrestrial weeds the site is likely to have up to 830HA of "parkland". These will be areas of open space, currently either under extractive processing or primary rehabilitation. It takes a period of five to ten years before a site is often established well enough to enforce defence against weed invasion. In the transition between PLDC and NSW Govt. this needs to be well managed to ensure the community is not lumbered with the double cost of rehabilitation and weed control.

It should be noted, that HRCC will not be legally responsible for the control of weeds under this draft plan. The public land is earmarked to return to the NSW Government and not Penrith City Council. However, HRCC will remain the Local Control Authority for purposes of surveillance and inspection.

Other Issues

The lakes scheme has indicated that it is likely to use water from the main river system. This will be required to counter the effects of evaporation from 640HA of open water. This will cause reduced flow levels, especially during drought conditions when 80% of water flows are already from treated sewerage. Reduced flow levels will lead to a shallower, warm river which advantages aquatic weed growth.

Conclusion

The Draft Plan represents the beginning of a long process for the Penrith lakes precinct. The plan presents some good ideas and planning principles, however it needs to be shaped by the community and stakeholders from this point forward. HRCC should offer its expertise in the areas of weed management in both the aquatic and terrestrial domains.

ENCLOSURE_GM6:	Penrith Lakes Parklands – Draft Vision Plan
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Recommendations:

- 1. That the report is received and noted.*
- 2. That the General Manager prepares a draft submission on the Penrith Lakes Parkland Vision for the next ordinary meeting.*
- 3. That the HRCC submission focuses on the management of aquatic and terrestrial weeds across the site and long term cost impacts to the community.*

ITEM GM 7. STAFFING

Reason for Report: Informative

Since the last Council meeting held on 11 December 2014 there have been no changes to staffing.

Roger Vukobratavic has completed his weeds officer traineeship.

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

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

Frequent rainfall, high humidity and temperatures in the mid 30's have been the feature over the last two months across our county. The "tropical" conditions have made for uncomfortable conditions to work in and have provided optimal growth conditions for most of our targeted weed species. A number of weed treatment programs have been disrupted due to heavy rain and our crews are currently working to an amended work plan in response.

Blacktown LGA

Terrestrial weed control within Blacktown this reporting period has been highly disrupted due to wet weather. Manual weed control activities such as cutting and painting and physical removal have been the order of the day. Boneseed, Green cestrum, Blackberry and African olive are again the primary weed targets. Glenwood, Lalor Park, Kings Langley, Prospect and Blacktown have been the focus of this work.

Herbicide application has been conducted for woody weed species along council's roadsides at intermittent intervals. African boxthorn and blackberry have been treated during these exercises. Areas that have been treated include Riverstone, Vineyard, Marsden Park, Tregear and Schofields.

Aquatic weed control has been subject to the rise and fall of the creeks and stormwater drains. One planned Alligator herbicide has been completed and the biological control agent (Alligator weed flea beetle) is currently active, decimating aquatic infestations of this weed species. A further herbicide application is due to be carried out in early March, as prescribed for best practice management of this species. Salvinia has been active within the reed beds at Woodcroft Lake. This infestation of Salvinia has been treated with herbicide in an attempt to eradicate it from this popular recreational site, ongoing spot spraying of this Salvinia will be required to control this species at Woodcroft.

With further rain and warm weather predicted well into autumn, weed control teams are planning for a busy couple of months ahead.

Hawkesbury LGA

Aquatic weed control has been the focus of activities this reporting period in the Hawkesbury LGA. Senegal tea plant (class 1) has been treated in the Hawkesbury river, as well as Alligator weed (class 3), Salvinia (class 3), Primrose Willow (class 3) and Water Hyacinth (class 4).

An extensive spot herbicide application has been carried upon the Hawkesbury River from Yarramundi downstream to Lower Portland. The primary target of this spray program is Senegal tea plant that is proving to be a persistent weed species. Senegal tea plant is a class 1 weed within our county, a high priority. Although this weed's distribution is not extending greatly, it is recovering from herbicide treatment. A three herbicide application per year similar to Alligator weed is being implemented this year in an effort to reign in this weed species.

Council waterfront parks and reserves have been treated for Alligator weed. This species is most commonly found at Yarramundi reserve, Navua reserve, North Richmond Park and Little Manly. Brush off herbicide has been used to treat these infestations and the Alligator weed flea beetle has been very active during late December 2014 and January 2015.

Salvinia has been steadily increasing at Yarramundi Lake. Since November 2014 council have been monitoring the development of the Salvinia infestation building at the back of the lake at Yarramundi reserve, south. Staff had been waiting for the weed to develop enough maturity to inoculate the infestation with Cyrtobogous weevil. Council staff introduced three cubic metres of weevil laden Salvinia into the infestation mid- January 2015.

The week starting the 20th of January 2015 saw consistent rain fall across the county, the ensuing rise in the river released the Yarramundi Salvinia into the river. The infestation has broken up and is travelling on the downstream flow toward the brackish river stretches where it will die.

Salvinia that is left in the tidal freshwater stretches of the river contains a growing population of Salvinia weevil, safe guarding the river against the Salvinia problems the river has experienced in the past.

The Hills Shire LGA

Aquatic weed treatment has also been conducted within the waterways of the Hills shire. Senegal tea plant has been treated in the Cattai creek catchment from Glenorie through to Cattai. Alligator weed has been treated in Small's creek, downstream of Withers road as well as in Cattai creek.

Ludwigia and Saggitaria are two aquatic species that are increasingly being seen in stormwater infrastructure. The latest sites that were treated for these species were in Bella Vista and Castle Hill. These infestations were treated with herbicide application. Terrestrial weed control has seen weed species such as Pampas grass, Boneseed and Green cestrum treated along roadsides and in reserves. Locations treated for these species include Glenorie, Kenthurst, Annangrove, Beaumont Hills and Kellyville.

Penrith LGA

Weed control activity in the Penrith LGA has been widespread treating both terrestrial and aquatic weed infestations across reserves, roadsides, parks and water ways. Work crews have been treating common weed targets such as Green cestrum, Blackberry, African olive as well as an increased number of Bitou bush plants. Green cestrum has been treated at Wallacia, Regentville, Llandilo and Werrington. African olive has been treated at Mulgoa, Wallacia, Luddenham and Cranebrook. Blackberry spraying is currently underway along roadsides in Londonderry, St. Marys, Mulgoa, Luddenham and Wallacia.

Bitou bush has been found in the rock lined drainage channels in the Erskine park business park. Weed control teams have treated isolated growth here in the past; recently teams have treated up to 65 plants varying from seedlings through to mature specimens. Regular inspection of this site will be required to prevent this species from establishing at this site.

Weather conditions over the recent months has hampered aquatic weed control activities, Alligator weed that was not affected by biological control agents has finally been treated after many false starts.

Salvinia at Devlin road Castlereagh has had biological control agent introduced to mature plants but has since been flushed out of this area with high river levels and increased flows. This area will be monitored for further establishment of this species. Spot treatment of various aquatic weed species has been carried out along the waterfront parks – Tench reserve and River road reserve, this section of river holds populations of Alligator weed but is otherwise clear of the more problematic noxious weed species.

ENCLOSURE_OM1-1:	HRCC Q2 Operational Report 2014-15
ENCLOSURE_OM1-2:	HRCC Q2 Operational Maps 2014-15

Recommendation:

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

ITEM OM2. HAWKESBURY-NEPEAN AQUATIC WEED MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Reason for Report: Informative

Background

The Hawkesbury River Aquatic Weeds Project is the first long term maintenance program focussed on aquatic weeds within the Hawkesbury Nepean River. The project runs from 2012 to 2016.

Year 2 Mid-Year Report (July – Dec 2014)

Frequent storm activity and good rainfall has dramatically changed the river landscape this reporting period. Although the rises in the river have been short and sharp they have changed aquatic weed behaviour along the entire length of the river.

Salvinia has been the major player during these river rises. Yarramundi Lake has been holding a growing infestation of Salvinia that council staff had been monitoring. Salvinia weevils had been introduced into the infestation to control this infestation, and to act as on-river nursery site.

Salvinia has also been inoculated with Salvinia weevil at Devlin road, Castlereagh. Salvinia here is trapped in a bay that is difficult to harvest, so weevils were deemed to be the most appropriate form of weed control.

Senegal tea plant has been comprehensively treated in the Hawkesbury River and Cattai creek. This weed species is a high priority for weed control activities for council. The treatment zone stretches from North Richmond downstream to Lower Portland.

Alligator, Ludwigia and Saggitaria have also been targeted during the Senegal tea plant control program, control of these species has been primarily carried out at riverfront reserves such as Yarramundi reserve, Hannah Park, Macquarie Park, Governor Philip Park and Swallow rock reserve.

Upstream on the Nepean River the Alligator weed has been the focus of attention along the water's edge at locations such as Tench reserve and River road reserve. There is Ludwigia growth from Penrith weir onwards downstream; weed control teams will be actively treating these plants over the summer months.

Egeria is beginning to become noticeable in the upper Nepean River at Wallacia, there isn't a lot that can be done to treat this weed species at this location and it will have a negligible impact on river users such as canoeists and anglers.

During the closing stages of 2014, the Cordner's corner weed containment boom was released during an act of vandalism. After repairing the boom and researching rainfall predictions for the coming months it was decided to leave the boom open to allow the river to naturally flush woody debris downstream.

Aquatic weed levels are increasing as to be expected during the warmer months, the waterways are clear for recreational activities such as boating, fishing, canoeing and swimming. The overall condition of the river is still good.

Recommendation:

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

7. 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. **RECEIVED – 16 October 2014** – Letter from HCC GM, Mr Peter Jackson advising positions of Mayor (Clr. Kim Ford) and Deputy Mayor (Clr. Bob Porter) and HRCC Representatives Clr. Bob Porter and Clr. Warwick Mackay OAM.
2. **RECEIVED – 21 November 2014** – Letter from Andrew Sanger. NSW DPI. Advising HRCC of unsuccessful grant application.
3. **SENT – 15 December 2014** – Letter to all HRCC member council GM's. Meeting schedule 2015. Actioning #1743-3.
4. **SENT – 23 December 2014** – Email to NSW DPI. Submission on WAP1520 Grant guidelines.

Recommendation:

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

8. GENERAL BUSINESS / QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

The next Ordinary Meeting will be held on Thursday, **9 April 2015**, 6:00pm

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