



**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 February 2016 commencing at 6.00pm**

**1. LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**2. APOLOGIES**

**3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Thursday, **10 December 2015**  
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 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER FINANCIAL REVIEW 2014/15**

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

The financial review for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2015-16FY (Oct-Dec) has been completed and is enclosed with this report. The period returned an operating surplus of \$58,530. This is primarily the result of reduced payroll due to staff levels running lower than budgeted. At the YTD point, the situation is healthy as we have an operating surplus of \$83,057.

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 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter Financial Review 2015/16
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##### ***Recommendation:***

1. *That the report be received and noted*

## **ITEM GM 2. REPORT ON MONIES INVESTED**

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

The report presented to the last Ordinary Meeting, displayed the total amounts recorded on 3 December 2015 (EOD); investment accounts \$1,650,000; on-call account \$348,491.84; and, transaction account \$9988.72.

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

On 25 January 2016 a term deposit of \$250,000 invested with Bank of Queensland for a period of 227 days at 2.95%, was redeemed at maturity.

On 27 January 2016 a term deposit of \$200,000 invested with AMP Bank for a period of 182 days at 2.90%, was redeemed at maturity.

On 29 January 2016, a term deposit of **\$200,000** was invested with Bank of Queensland for a period of 182 days at 3.05%, maturing on 29 July 2016.

A term deposit of **\$100,000** remains invested with Macquarie Bank Ltd. for a period of 270 days at 3.0%, maturing on 16 February 2016.

A term deposit of **\$200,000** remains invested with NAB for a period of 180 days at 2.88%, maturing on 16 March 2016.

A term deposit of **\$100,000** remains invested with NAB for a period of 180 days at 2.93%, maturing on 28 March 2016.

A term deposit of **\$100,000** remains invested with Bank of Queensland for a period of 181 days at 2.95%, maturing on 6 April 2016.

A term deposit of **\$200,000** remains invested with AMP Bank for a period of 270 days at 2.9%, maturing on 17 May 2016.

A term deposit of **\$500,000** remains invested with People's Choice Credit Union for a period of 364 days at 2.93%, maturing on 23 June 2016.

### **On 4 February 2016;**

The total amount invested in Term Deposits is **\$1,400,000\***.

The total amount invested in the on-call account (at 2.55%) is **\$71,918.88**

The total amount in our transaction account (at 0%) is **\$55,349.06**

The RBA Cash Rate was 2.00%.

*\*This includes Sydney NSW Weeds Action Program funding (\$737,603 at 31/12/2015) 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 2016**

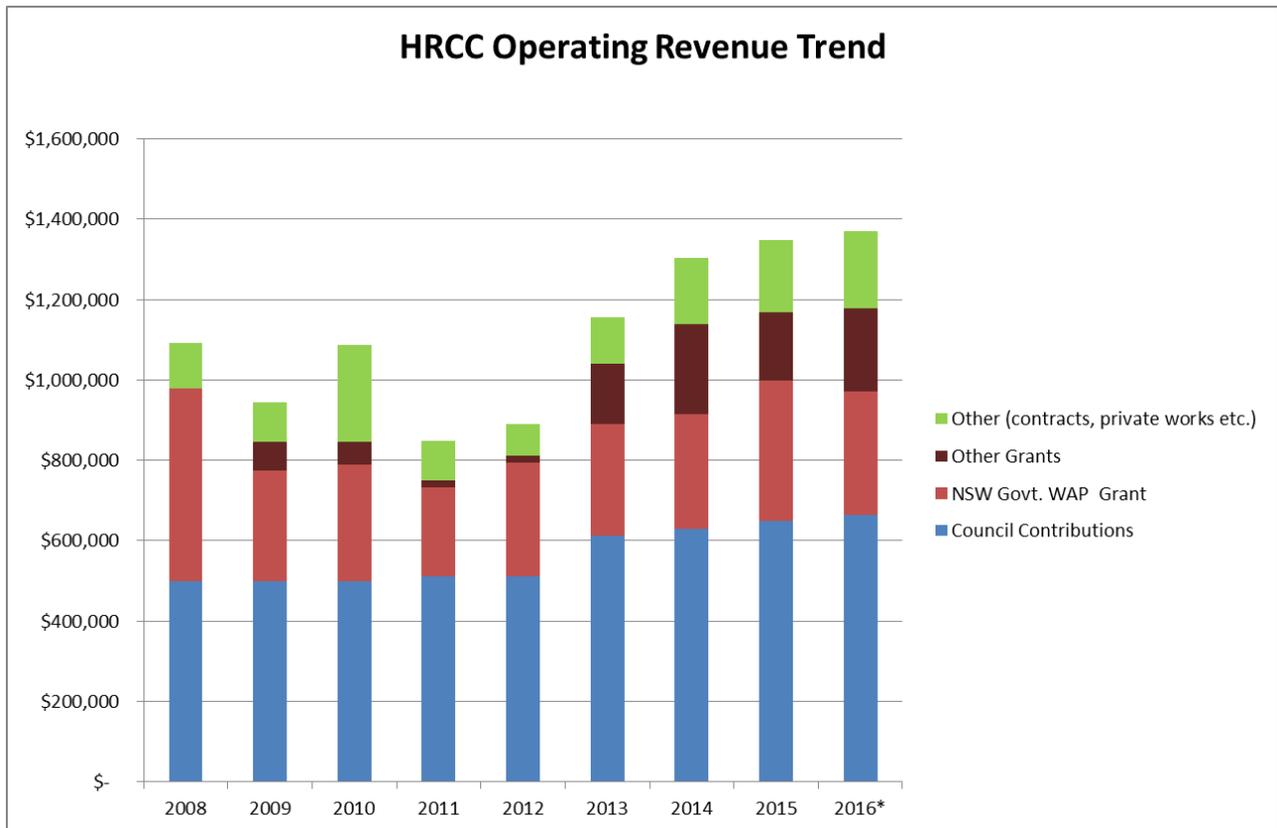
#### ***Reason for Report: Informative***

#### **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 YE2015. The data for 2016 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 2016/17 to ensure Council maintains a sustainable financial position.

These trends have been displayed in the figures below:



**Figure 1: HRCC Operating Revenues, \*2016 forecast**

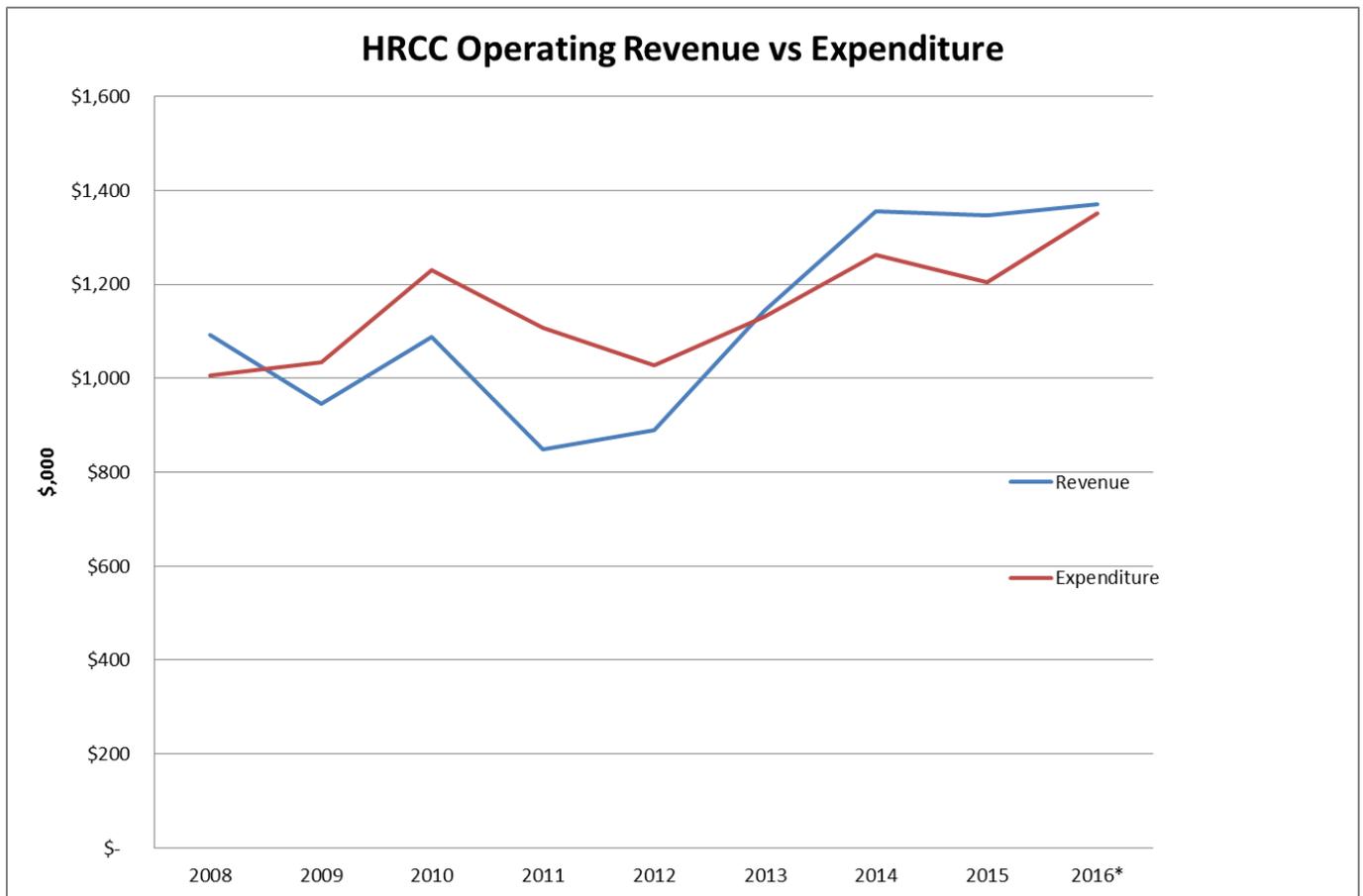


Figure 2: HRCC Operating Actual Revenue vs Operating Expenditure

## Revenue Trends

The overall trend we are currently witnessing (Fig 1) appears to be a modest increase in revenue moving into 2016/17FY. Whilst most revenue sources (council contributions, private contracts and NSW WAP grant) are keeping pace with inflation, there has been a healthy increase in the “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 (1.8% for 2016/17). In terms of the external grant landscape, this is an area that changes in response to the broader regional priorities. It is difficult to plan for over the long term, and therefore requires the organisation to be agile in response to opportunities.

## External Funding

HRCC two main traditional sources of revenue have been Council contributions and NSW Weeds Action Program funding. These appear to remain steady leading into 2016/17FY. Council contributions may be impacted by the merger proposal of two member Councils – Hawkesbury and The Hills Shire, however it appears reasonable options would be available to maintain this stream of funding.

HRCC has experienced a healthy growth in the “other grants” category by successfully achieving two new grants from NSW Landcare and the Commonwealth Government

to the value \$273K over three years. These grants are from non-traditional sources, but still relate to landscape remediation and are therefore within the realms of our organisational vision. Successful delivery of these grants may help to consolidate these new funding streams in the future.

### **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. Approval has been granted by NSW Department of Primary Industries to extend this program for an additional five years.

### **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 three successive years of surplus conditions. The organisation is currently on track for a fourth. It is anticipated that HRCC will aim to produce a modest deficit budget in 2016/17FY. The increase in expenditure will be used to primarily support the development of new markets related to our core business of biosecurity and landscape remediation.

### **Conclusion and Response**

HRCC has moved into a strong and sound financial position. This can be capitalised upon to develop the organisation to a modern service delivery agent.

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.
- Investment should be made in developing skills and increasing capacity of the HRCC workforce to respond to the new opportunities which will be presented in the coming years.
- 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 2016/17 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) 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL REVIEW**

***Reason for Report: Informative***

The Profit and Loss statement for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of the 2015-16 FY is enclosed with this report. Year to date expenditure against the project budget is summarised below:

	<b>Budget \$</b>	<b>YTD \$</b>	<b>YTD %</b>
5-3100 WAP Project Admin – Salary, Superannuation, Workers Compensation	63,800	22,354	35
5-3200 WAP Project Grants	772,348	281,259	36
5-3250 WAP Other Activities/ contingencies	69,076	0	0
5-3300 WAP Project Admin – Operating Expenses, Accommodation Fee and Lead Agency Commission	29,691	5,881	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$934,915</b>	<b>\$309,494</b>	<b>33%</b>

As of 31 December 2015, 33% of WAP1520 project funds had been spent. Project grants to a value of \$83,825 exc. GST were subsequently paid in January 2016.

13 of the 18 WAP1520 project partners have executed and returned the governing Funding Deeds. The remainder are expected before the end of the 3rd Quarter, which will result in an additional \$407,264 exc. GST being paid to project partners.

Mid-year progress report templates have been distributed to project partners and are due on Friday 19 February.

The WAP project officer submitted a revised grant application for the Greater Sydney WAP1520 project on 13 January 2016, which was a requirement of the Department of Primary Industries. Total funding sought is \$4,439,008. This is the amount that DPI has preliminarily indicated the region will receive over the full five year term of the project. The General Manager of Greater Sydney Local Land Services signed off on the final submission on 23 December 2015.

A workshop will be held on Friday 12 February 2016 to launch and give a demonstration of the free, web-based, collaborative weed mapping and reporting tool developed by Greater Sydney Local Land Services. The development of the Sydney WeedMap tool was funded as part of WAP1015. HRCC operational staff were involved in the trial process and provided pragmatic feedback. Representatives from each Local Control Authority in the region and several state government agencies have been invited to attend the workshop.

***Recommendation***

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

**ITEM GM 5. HRCC SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATION 20 MILLION TREES – SHAW’S ISLAND REVEGETATION**

***Reason for Report: Informative***

**Funding Authority:** Commonwealth Government, Department of Environment  
**Amount:** \$93,314  
**Time Period:** 3 years  
**Outcomes:** 18,000 trees  
**Work Commences:** February 2016

HRCC has been successful in receiving a three year project under the federal government’s “20 Million Trees” program. This will involve the revegetation of 18,000 trees on Shaw’s Island, located within the Nepean River at Castlereagh. The funding will allow HRCC to propagate the trees and prepare the site for planting. Additionally, HRCC will sponsor a Green Army team to assist with the project

***Recommendation:***

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

**ITEM GM 6. HRCC SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATION –LOCAL LANDCARE FACILITATOR**

***Reason for Report: Informative***

<b>Funding Authority:</b>	NSW Government, Landcare NSW
<b>Amount:</b>	\$125,000
<b>Time Period:</b>	3.5 years
<b>Outcomes:</b>	Employment of part-time Landcare facilitator to work with Hawkesbury Landcare Network
<b>Work Commences:</b>	March 2016

HRCC has been successful in receiving a three and a half year project to employ a Local Landcare Facilitator. The position will be managed by HRCC with strategic direction being provided by the Hawkesbury Landcare Network. The principal aim of the position will be to increase the involvement of local landholders in Landcare activities within the greater Hawkesbury region.

***Recommendation:***

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

## **ITEM GM 7. PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL VEHICLE**

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

HRCC has recently received two additional grants requiring the employment of four new staff. This has placed pressure on our existing vehicle fleet and often leaves some staff difficulty in accessing either the work site or inspections.

### **Vehicle Type and Use**

It is anticipated that a general purpose vehicle such as a dual cab Toyota Hilux will meet a variety of requirements whilst functioning as an effective people mover. The vehicle will be for council use only and not offered for leaseback. It will be employed two days per week by the new Local Landcare Facilitator, and the other three days for general HRCC use.

### **Cost to Council**

The vehicle will cost approximately \$48K, with running costs and depreciation billed against the respective grants it will service. A budget variation will not be required due to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter surplus created by HRCC.

### ***Recommendations:***

- 1. That the report is received and noted.*
- 2. That Council approves the purchase of a Dual Cab Toyota Hilux.*

## **ITEM GM 8. HRCC DRAFT CODE OF CONDUCT**

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

#### **Revised Code of Conduct**

A revised Model Code of Conduct has been introduced by the Office of Local Government (OLG) and is supported by the *Local Government Act 1993*. It sets the standard in which a Council must adopt as minimum requirements for their own code of conduct.

The HRCC Code of Conduct was last revised in March 2013, so it is an appropriate time to conduct another review. The General Manager has used the model to prepare the HRCC Code of Conduct, Feb 2016 (enclosed). Additional to Councillors, every staff member will be provided a copy and supplied with training via regular "All Staff" meetings.

The General Manager has appointed staff member, Mrs Sue Holz as the "Complaints Coordinator" as per the Model Code of Conduct – OLG Procedures (enclosed).

#### **Revised Model Code of Conduct and Procedures - Key Changes**

- The new Model Code of Conduct has been developed following extensive consultation with councils and other key stakeholders.
- Based on feedback, the Division is giving councils greater flexibility to resolve less serious matters informally. It is also providing for stronger penalties to help deter ongoing disruptive behaviour and serious misconduct.
- The new code is designed to introduce greater fairness. The investigation of all complaints about councillors and general managers is now managed from start to finish by an independent conduct reviewer.
- New standards have been included to address misuse of the code. Minor changes have also been made to standards previously covered by the code.
- Clearer procedures have been introduced to help make the code easier to understand and use.
- The Division has more options to directly manage administration of the code and address its misuse. Both the Division and the Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal will be able to impose stronger penalties for repeated misconduct.
- These changes will help councils get on with the core business of serving their communities.

<b>ENCLOSURES:</b>	HRCC Draft Code of Conduct Feb 2016 Model Code of Conduct – OLG Procedures
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#### ***Recommendations:***

1. *That the report is received and noted*
2. *That the places on public exhibition for a period of 28 days the Draft HRCC Code of Conduct.*
3. *That the General Manager reports back to Council at the next Ordinary Meeting any submissions made during the exhibition process.*
4. *That the Council seeks to adopt Code of Conduct at the next Ordinary Meeting.*

## **ITEM GM 9. HRCC PURCHASING POLICY REVIEW**

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

The HRCC Purchasing Policy was adopted at the Council Meeting of 14 February 2013, it is therefore required to be reviewed. Whilst the policy has been functioning effectively it will no doubt require some updates to reflect broader legislative changes and spending patterns of HRCC.

The General Manager will conduct a review of the policy and consult with key staff that are responsible for spending of Council monies. This will include the quotation process and delegations across Council.

ENCLOSURE:	HRCC Purchasing Policy – Feb 2013
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### **Recommendations:**

- 1. That this report is received and information noted.*
- 2. That General Manager undertakes an internal review of the Purchasing Policy and reports back to Council at the next Council meeting.*

## **ITEM GM 10. STAFFING**

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

Since the last Council meeting held on 10 December 2015 the following staff have been employed as Weed Officer Trainees:

- Adriana Bogic
- Courtney Romano
- Max Krensel
- Dana Pank
- Viniana Vererua

HRCC currently employs a total of 17 people (at FTE of 16.2).

### ***Recommendation:***

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

## **ITEM GM 11. NSW BIOSECURITY ACT 2105**

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

#### **Background**

“Biosecurity” is the general term to protect the community, economy and environment from the negative impacts of pest plants, animals and disease.

The Biosecurity Act 2015 (the Biosecurity Act), was assented to in September 2015 and is expected to come into effect in 2017. The regulations, instruments, policies and procedures that will underpin the Biosecurity Act are currently being developed and consultation process is underway.

In 2013, the NSW Government released the NSW Biosecurity Strategy 2013 – 2021, that is based on the principle that biosecurity is a shared responsibility between governments, industries and individuals. The Strategy outlines how government, industry and the community need to work together to identify, prevent, eradicate, minimise, respond to and manage biosecurity risks.

The Biosecurity Act complements that principle, and provides for a range of tools and powers that can be used to support risk based management and allow for increasing efficiency and decreasing regulation. Unlike the current situation where something needs to be listed before response action can be initiated, the Biosecurity Act allows for a response to be mounted regardless of whether we know what the actual biosecurity matter is.

The Biosecurity Act also reflects the work that has been undertaken to make sure the legislation is compatible with biosecurity legislation across Australia. It is a significant piece of modern legislation that will provide NSW with the essential tools and powers to manage animal and plant pests and diseases, weeds and contaminants that threaten the NSW economy, environment and community.

#### **Impact on the *NSW Noxious Weeds Act 1993* and HRCC**

The NSW Noxious Weeds Act 1993 is one of 14 pieces of legislation that comes under the term “biosecurity”. This act has a central role in the operation of HRCC. It will be repealed when the new Biosecurity Act comes into force in 2017. There will be provisions in the regulations of the new Act that specifically deal with weeds and these are currently being developed. A paper (enclosed) has been prepared by NSW Department of Primary Industries outlining how weeds, as “biosecurity matter” may be managed in the future. The discussion paper is quite preliminary in regards to how the biosecurity regulations may work and serves mostly to introduce stakeholders to new terms and concepts.

Submissions are currently being accepted and the General Manager intends to lodge one on behalf of HRCC.

ENCLOSURES:	Biosecurity Act 2015 - Overview
	Biosecurity Act – Weeds Discussion Paper

**Recommendations:**

1. *That this report is received and information noted.*
2. *That General Manager lodges a submission to NSW Department of Primary Industries on the Biosecurity Act "Weeds Discussion Paper".*

## 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**

Extremes in weather have once again hampered weed control activities over the county this reporting period. Oppressive humidity, storms and heat have created ideal conditions for weed proliferation and oppressive conditions for staff.

Despite the weather, the teams have been treating terrestrial weed populations in council reserves and conducting aquatic weed control where possible. Green cestrum, African boxthorn, Boneseed, Blackberry, Honey locust and Bitou bush have all been targeted. Aquatic weed control has targeted Alligator weed and Ludwigia in Blacktown.

##### **Blacktown LGA**

Terrestrial weed control in Blacktown has centred around locations such as Bungarribee reserve, Nurragingy reserve, Whalan reserve and RAAF reserve. Green cestrum, Lantana and African boxthorn were the most numerous weed species treated in these reserves.

Boneseed has been targeted in the north of the LGA. Many young Boneseed plants have been treated in Troubador park, Lady Penhryn park and Schaefer terrace in Glenwood.

Aquatic weed control has taken place in Bungarribee reserve, Nurragingy reserve and Plumpton park for Alligator weed, Bungarribee reserve for Ludwigia and Woodcroft lake for Salvinia.

##### **Hawkesbury LGA**

Terrestrial weed control conducted within the Hawkesbury LGA has targeted weed species such as Boneseed, Green cestrum, African boxthorn, Privet and African olive have been treated in the following reserves; Macquarie park, Governor Philip Park, Chain of Ponds reserve, Swallow rock reserve, Deerubbin reserve and the breakaway. Boneseed has been treated in Vineyard pony club and several roadside locations around Vineyard and McGraths Hill. Although numbers of this weed species continue

to fall, council need to regularly treat known infestations due to the ever present threat of seed germination.

Aquatic weeds treated in the LGA have been Senegal tea plant, *Salvinia*, Alligator weed, *Ludwigia* and a small amount of Water hyacinth, trapped amongst other vegetation. The locations of these treatments were; Hannah park, Governor Philip park, Macquarie park, The breakaway, Gorricks lane and Swallow rock reserve.

### **The Hills Shire**

The majority of weed control in the Hills Shire this reporting period has been targeting terrestrial weed species within council reserves. Priority weed targets have been Boneseed, Lantana and Green cestrum and these plants have been treated across the LGA. Boneseed and Lantana has been treated in the following reserves; Newman road reserve, Sackville memorial park, Cattai creek conservation area, Francesco Ave. park and Bella Vista farm park. Bella Vista continues to be the centre of Boneseed activity.

Green cestrum is growing strongly across the LGA with the weather conditions being experienced at the moment; weed control teams are battling burgeoning infestations in Glenhaven, Maraylya, Nelson and Annangrove. In Cattai creek council have been able to treat Senegal tea plant with herbicide as water levels dropped.

### **Penrith LGA**

Weed control in the Penrith area has seen the teams targeting woody weed species such as Blackberry, African olive, African boxthorn, Green cestrum, *Ludwigia* and St John's wort. Treatment areas have been a mixture of parks, reserves and council roadsides and have included; Fowler reserve, Tench reserve, Regatta park, River road reserve, Boronia park and South creek park.

Roadside control Blackberry, Green cestrum, St John's wort and African olive has taken place along The Northern road, Luddenham road, Mamre road, fourth, fifth and sixth avenues. Foliar herbicide application and cut stump have been the predominant control techniques used.

A minor application of herbicide has been applied to Alligator weed on the foreshore of Tench reserve at Penrith. Weed control teams walked the reserve and applied low pressure spray applications to Alligator weed that hadn't been affected by the biological control agent (flea beetle) that is active at this time of year. Further treatment along the Penrith waterfront parks is due over the next month.

### **Private Property Inspection Program**

529 private properties were inspected this period by council inspectors. Approximately 330 programmed inspections were conducted targeting Green cestrum in our four council areas, as this species is very active this season. Areas inspected were; Penrith, Richmond, Annangrove and Riverstone.

A large proportion of reactive inspections were from community reports and issues with neighbours harbouring noxious weed species. Running Bamboo (*Phyllostachys* spp.) is quickly replacing the Privets (*Ligustrum* spp.) as the most frequently discussed

weed between council and the community. Over 70 calls and inspections regarding Running bamboo have been dealt with by inspection staff, the bulk of these issues relate to bamboo entering properties from unmanaged bamboo in neighbouring properties. Running bamboo may be grown within the county under noxious weed legislation as long as the plant is managed and not allowed to spread (a class 4 weed). Sadly, the majority of running bamboo found within the county is not managed, so this weed species is expected to figure prominently in coming years as knowledge of this species' noxious status is increased within the community.

High risk site inspections continue with inspection staff visiting aquariums, nurseries, homemaker centres, stockfeed retailers and council stockpile sites. 124 inspections revealed that retailers and land managers are heeding the noxious weed message from our inspectors.

A trend that has been observed is the steady loss of small retail nurseries across the county. Homemaker centres and large retailers such as Bunnings, Masters and Flower Power are largest retailers of ornamental plants at present; it is predicted with this shift in plant sales that a reduction in the sale of noxious plants will also decrease to negligible levels.

Council has also had quite a presence online recently. Over the last two months there has been a definite spike in online sales of noxious weed species on sites such as Gumtree and Ebay. At least a dozen ads had been detected selling noxious plant species.

The weeds on offer have been predominantly aquatic weeds for ponds; however there have been two instances of people selling Prickly Pear species. All of these sellers have removed their advertisements from these online sites once council has contacted them and enlightened them on the weeds they are selling, and the associated legal requirements.

ENCLOSURE_OM1:	HRCC Operational Maps 2014-15
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***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 current project runs from 2012 to 2016. It has recently been extended to 2020 by NSW Department of Primary Industries.

### **Year 4 Jan-Feb 2016 Report**

Heavy rain and storms resulted in several river rises this reporting period. The weed control booms had been closed only for a short period of time before they were opened to allow the river to flush. Observation of the river flows showed very little floating aquatic weed material, which is an indication of the regular flushing events that have taken place over spring and summer, and the generally low levels of nuisance aquatic weeds in the river.

As a result, river levels remain higher than usual, and are discoloured from flood run off. Aquatic weed levels remain low throughout the river, small infestations of *Egaria densa*, which were growing around North Richmond have now been ripped from the river bed and flushed downstream.

Further damage to the Warragamba boom has been experienced recently and this boom will need replacement boom sections installed before deployment. The long range rainfall prediction is for similar rain events to occur over the coming months, council will manage opening and closing of the containment booms to reduce the risk of boom damage, and to allow natural river processes to occur.

Herbicide application has resumed along the river and in the major tributaries. This program will be primarily targeting Senegal tea plant. Duration of this program will be reliant upon river levels and rain activity.

Once turbidity in the river settles and flows return to normal, the river will continue to be in great condition with very little noxious or environmental weed growth to deter river users.

ENCLOSURE_OM2:	HN Aquatic Weed Operational Report Q1-Q2 2014-15
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### ***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. **SENT – 15 December 2015** – Letter Alan Stoneham, PCC; Peter Jackson, HCC; Dave Walker, HSC; Kerry Robinson, BCC. Re: HRCC Ordinary Meeting Schedule 2016. Actioning Minute #1818-3.
2. **SENT – 15 December 2015** – Letter to Mr Roger Vukobratavic. Re: Appreciation of good service to HRCC. Actioning Minute #1823-3.
3. **RECEIVED – 16 December 2015** – Letter from Mr Scott Hansen, Director General, NSW Department of Primary Industries. Re: incoming Biosecurity Act legislation
4. **RECEIVED – 17 December 2015** – Letter from The Hon. Greg Hunt MP, Minister for Environment. Re: Successful 20 Million Trees grant application, Shaw's Island
5. **RECEIVED – 17 December 2015** – Letter from Louise Markus MP, Member for Macquarie. Re: Successful 20 Million Trees grant application, Shaw's Island
6. **SENT – 28 January 2016** – Letter to the Hon. Niall Blair MP, Minister for Primary Industries. Re: Invitation to attend HRCC.

### ***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, **7 April 2016**, 6:00pm

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