



Hawkesbury River County Council  
**Annual Report**  
2020/21



Hawkesbury River County  
Council  
ABN 21 896 475 450

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NSW 2756  
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# Contents

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HAWKESBURY RIVER COUNTY COUNCIL AT A GLANCE	3
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT	4
REASON FOR ANNUAL REPORT	5
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993	5
LOCAL GOVERNMENT (GENERAL) REGULATION 2005	5
OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES	6
BENEFITS OF A COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE CONTROL OF WEEDS	7
THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES	8
GUIDING STRATEGIES	9
ANNUAL OPERATIONAL RESULTS 2020-2021	10
TERRESTRIAL WEED CONTROL (control land based weeds)	10
ROADSIDE NATIVE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN	15
AQUATIC WEED MANAGEMENT	17
LANDCARE SUPPORT HOURS	21
NEW INCURSIONS	22
LGA WEED CONTROL TOTALS	24
CROWN RESERVES IMPROVEMENT FUND GRANT	26
WEED CONTROL HIGHLIGHTS	29
INSPECTION PROGRAM	30
BLUE MOUNTAINS SHALE CAP FOREST BILPIN GRANT	39
ESTABLISHMENT OF BIOCONTROL SITES	40
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH WESTERN SYDNEY UNI	48
INSPECTION HIGHLIGHTS	42
HAWKESBURY LANDCARE NETWORK	43
WEEDS DECLARED UNDER THE BIOSECURITY ACT (2015)	53
PRIORITY WEED LIST HRCC	54
ADMINISTRATION	59
HRCC ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE	62
PLANNING AND POLICY DOCUMENTS	63
MEMBER COUNCIL INFORMATION	64
MEMBER COUNCIL PROCESS	65
FINANCE, ACCOUNTING & ADMINISTRATION	66



# Hawkesbury River County Council at a glance

## Our origin

Hawkesbury River County Council is a single-purpose authority for the control of declared priority weeds and came into existence in 1948 (Government Gazette of 24/9/1948).

## Our team

We are governed by a Board of 8 council members representing our 4 member councils.

Our General Manager oversees a team of 12 staff in the areas of Operation, Project Management and Administration.

## Our area of operations

We are the Local Weed Control Authority for the councils of Blacktown City, Hawkesbury City, Penrith City and The Hills Shire, which constitute a combined County area of 3,823 square kilometres.

## Funding and revenue

We levy funds equally from the four constituent councils.

We receive grants from the NSW Government, from which we must achieve specific outcomes.

We charge for services and work performed for private land holders.

## Location and contacts



Our Administration office and Works Depot are at 6 Walker Street (Corner Dowling Place) South Windsor NSW 2756



General Manager  
Hawkesbury River County Council  
PO Box 6021  
South Windsor Delivery Centre NSW 2756



[www.hrcc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hrcc.nsw.gov.au)



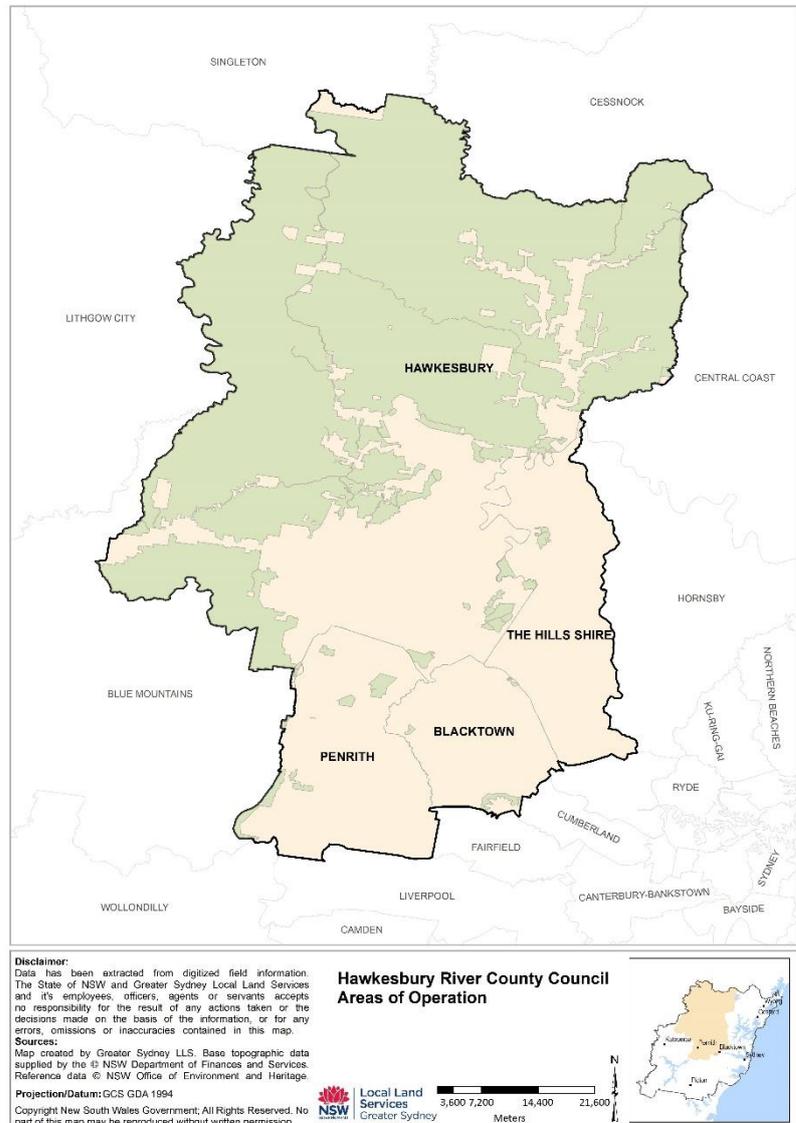
[council@hrcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@hrcc.nsw.gov.au)



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# Chairman's report

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Over the last year, under the operational leadership of the General Manager, Mr Chris Dewhurst, and Coordinators, Ms Natalie James and Mr Phil Price, all of our organisation's visions have been met.

With the support of the Board, we have remained focused on providing tangible outcomes on weed control and coordination throughout the local government areas of Blacktown, Hawkesbury, Penrith and The Hills.

The last 12 months have been another year of unprecedented challenges and change. The organisation faced a severe economic shock with the abrupt withdrawal of Weeds Action Program funds in November 2020. An amount of over \$200,000 was removed without warning by the Greater Sydney Local Land Services. The decision-making process is still under contention, but most devastatingly, it has seen the removal of vital community services such as aquatic weed harvesting and education. As an organisation, we responded by improving our efficiency and seeking new opportunities to provide additional services to the community and diversify our operations and income sources.

The second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic has had far reaching effects on every aspect of our society, and the Hawkesbury River County Council was not spared. Our organisation is almost entirely operational, and our role is considered essential. This has meant that staff have worked every day throughout the pandemic. Frontline staff have modified work programs to ensure they and the community were protected, and highly stringent work health and safety procedures were implemented. No staff were deemed close or casual contacts via their workplace, and our organisation is well on the way to being 100% vaccinated.

Over the past year, we have continued to perform our role as a Local Control Authority under the Biosecurity Act. Our staff are continually refining their control, surveillance, and planning techniques to maximise their efficiency and results. We have continued to build our relationships with industry, and when combined with our continued facilitation of the Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Network, we continue in the position of an industry leader in every facet of weed management.

Over the past year, we have controlled 86.9 hectares of terrestrial and 197 kilometres of aquatic weeds across our four local government areas. We are alleviating a vast operational burden from our member councils. By utilising economies of scale and specialisation of human resources, we can provide this service much more efficiently than the four councils could individually.

Additionally, we undertook 3,335 private property inspections. Our staff have developed a unique approach to their inspection process, which is defined more by education and extension than regulation. We offer all residents the chance to meet personally with an inspector and have any issues explained to them in plain terms before any regulatory processes come into effect.

From a financial perspective, we continue to operate sustainably by living within our means. We seek to broaden our funding base from sources outside of the rates pool, such as Australian and NSW government grants.

In conclusion, even against adversity, this reporting period marks an advancement on the core mission of the Hawkesbury River County Council to deliver valuable, on-ground results in weed management. We are committed to ensuring that our services meet the modern needs of the community and the environment, and I am pleased to lead a team that is so wholeheartedly committed to this goal.



Councillor Nathan Zamprogno BA MTEACH JP  
Chair, Hawkesbury River County Council

# Reason for the Annual Report

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An annual report is one of the key points of accountability between a council and its community. This is not a report to the Office of Local Government or the NSW Government; it is a report to our community.

This report focuses on the implementation of our Delivery Program 2017-2021 and our Operational Plan 2020/21 and includes our Audited Financial Statements 2020/21.

This report also includes information prescribed by the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005. This information is included because it is important for community members to know about it – to help their understanding of how we have been performing both as a business entity and a community leader.

Below is the additional legislative basis for the development of our annual report.

## Local Government Act 1993

Following is a summary of the requirements of Section 404 of the Act:

- The council must prepare an annual report within five months of the end of the financial year.
- The report will outline the council's achievements in implementing its Operational Plan.
- The annual report in the year of the ordinary election will also include an outline of achievements in implementing the Community Strategic Plan (Business Activity Strategic Plan in the case of County Councils).
- The report must contain the council's audited financial statements and notes and any information required by the Regulation or the Guidelines.
- A copy of the report must be posted on the council's website ([www.hrcc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hrcc.nsw.gov.au)) and provided to the Minister for Local Government.

## Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Clause 217 of the Regulation requires the following information to be included in the annual report:

- Details of overseas visits by councilors and council staff
- Details of mayoral and councilor fees, expenses and facilities
- Contracts awarded by the council
- Amounts incurred in relation to legal proceedings
- Private works and financial assistance
- Details of external bodies, companies, and partnerships
- Details of the General Manager's total remuneration
- Details of the total expenditure on Senior Staff remuneration
- Information on stormwater levies and charges
- Information on companion animal management
- A statement of the activities undertaken by the council to implement its equal employment opportunity management plan.

# Our vision, mission and values

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## Vision statement

An improved environment through an integrated approach to weed management and building capacity.

## Mission statement

To provide effective integrated weed management systems to all Constituent Councils fairly and equitably in accordance with the *Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)*.

## Values 'Our compass'

- Staff will act with honesty and integrity, and not tolerate a lack of it in others.
- Management will communicate with staff with openness and respect.
- Staff will communicate with openness and respect with each other, and with management.
- We will deliver measurable results for our community and the environment.
- We will build meaningful relationships within the community.
- We will maintain relationships with our member councils that are effective and productive.
- We will treat the safety of ourselves, others and the environment as the highest priority at all times.



Photo 1: HRCC operational staff

# Benefits of a County Council controlling weeds

Formed over a large area boundary problems are avoided. This is critical to effective weeds management.



Concentration of a few rather than many functions leads to specialisation, more efficient and effective outcomes due to increasing focus.



An outbreak of new invasive weeds anywhere in the County Council's area means that ALL the resources are brought to bear on the problem.

This is exemplified by periodic outbreaks of Water Hyacinth on the Hawkesbury/Nepean River and in 2004, a major outbreak of Salvinia in the same area.



Management and operational plans are prepared for the county area. As such, the revenue is used to focus attention on required strategic outcomes.



Costs of service provision are reduced to our Member Council through the principles of resource sharing and economies of scale.

# Our activities

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Our organisation is constituted under the Local Government Act and is specified as a Local Control Authority under the Biosecurity Act.

We are a special purpose authority formed to administer, control and eradicate declared priority weeds. Our role is summarised below.

Responsible for administering the *Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)*.

Control of priority weeds on land occupied by Constituent Councils.

To ensure, as far as practicable, occupiers of land carry out obligations to control priority weeds imposed under the Act.

To report, at the request of the Minister, on the carrying out of the Local Control Authority's functions under the Act.

Inspection of land within the local area in connection with its priority weed control functions.

To develop, implement, co-ordinate and review priority weed control policies and priority weed control

Supply priority weed control services to occupiers of land including public authorities and other persons and charge for the service.

Such other functions as may be conferred or imposed on the Local Control Authority by or under the Acts.

To co-operate with Local Control Authorities of adjoining areas to control priority weeds, where appropriate.

Private property occupiers are responsible for notifying us of the presence of certain notifiable priority weeds. We can inspect private properties for priority weed infestations and the giving of directions to landowners and occupiers.

# Guiding strategies

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Weed control is dynamic.

It is closely linked to climate, land use and ecology and must, therefore, be managed in order to respond as these attributes change.

There are, however, four key guiding strategies that have been shown to be most effective across a range of conditions.

Our 10 Year Business Activity Statement is closely aligned with these strategies as they have been outlined in the NSW Invasive Species Plan 2017-2027.

The strategies are broad enough to allow an organisation to respond to climate and land use but still, conform to a solid set of management principles.

These strategic objectives also follow the guidance provided by the development of our member councils' 'Community strategic plans'.

**1. Prevent the establishment of new weed species within our County.**

**2. Eliminate the spread of new and existing weed species within our County.**

**3. Reduce the impact of widespread weeds on key assets.**

**4. Support the community, industry and government stakeholders to have the ability and long-term commitment to manage weeds.**

# Our operational results 2020/21

Key: Achieved Minor disruption Major disruption

## 1 Control land-based weeds

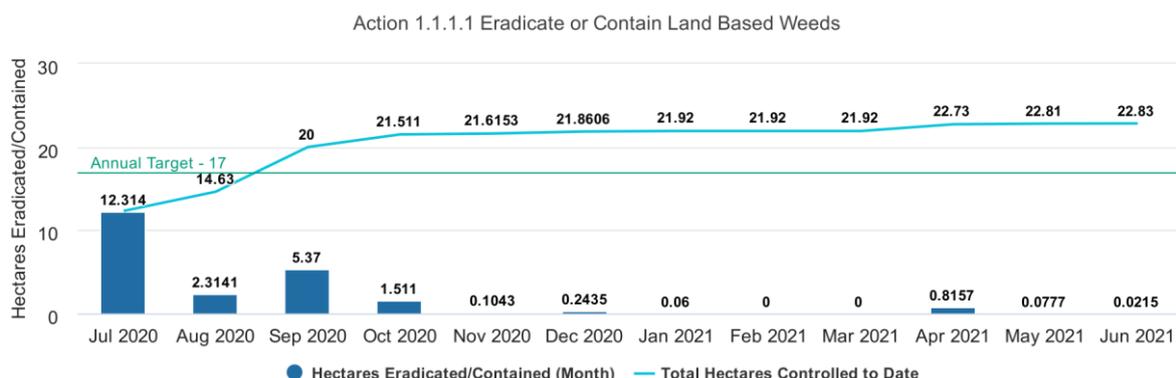
During the operational period, our weed control team saw different environmental conditions across the county.

We experienced milder winter conditions with less frost days recorded, which would normally help in suppressing weeds. Instead, weeds unaffected by winter conditions resulted in an earlier flowering season as soon as warmer temperatures emerged

In addition, our spring and summer were unlike the previous year where we were in drought. We experienced opposite conditions; with the seasons being wetter than normal. The rainfall provided exceptional conditions for weed growth and eventuated in our county experiencing severe flood conditions. The flooding resulted in the spread of weeds and the stimulation of seed bank germination enabling the weeds to flourish across the county.

### 1.1 Eradication or containment land-based weeds controlled (State and Regional)

Target	17.00 hectares
<b>Completed</b>	<b>22.83 hectares</b>



Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera subsp. monilifera*) control was undertaken throughout the county area with known infestation sites within each member council area.

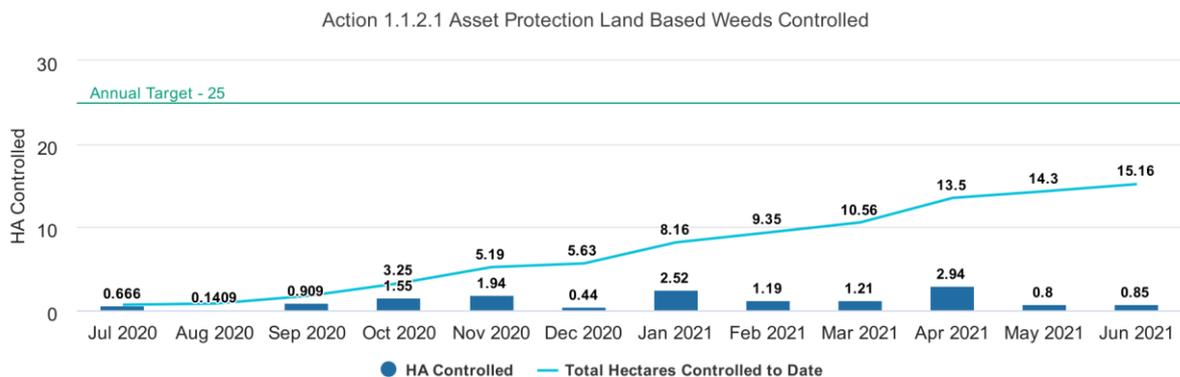
Places that were treated included: Doonside, Glenwood, Oakville, Windsor Downs, Maraylya, Kurrajong Heights, Glenorie, Bella Vista, Erskine Park and Riverstone.

It is essential that plants are treated before they can mature and produce seeds. During one visit staff hand removed 189 seedlings along Montview Way, Glenwood, which demonstrates how important it is to control Boneseed at an early stage in their life cycle.

Other works included African olive weed control in roadside locations around Prospect. The aim of this was to prevent infestations moving further into the Blacktown LGA. Council land was also treated in Leonay, which overlapped with private property inspections conducted by our Biosecurity Weed Inspection team. We treated the plants with basal bark herbicide allowing them to die in-situ.

## 1.2 Asset protection land-based weeds controlled (State and Regional)

Target	25.00 hectares
Completed	15.16 hectares



This target was disrupted due to lack of funding and our not being able to hire new staff during the operational period. Asset protection weeds are the most labour-intensive target for weed control.

In most circumstances Lantana (*Lantana camara*) is controlled by hand as it provides a better outcome. Treating the parent plant directly discourages regrowth. If larger patches are sprayed, total coverage of the parent is not achievable and the plant would re-shoot. Although we did spend a lot of time on this target, our result is reflective of the need for a greater staff capacity at the start of the operational period.

Asset protection weed control works are generated from member council requests, community complaints or have been sighted by our staff while undertaking surveillance.

Works included treating Green cestrum (*Cestrum parqui*) at Seven Hills, Lalor Park, Glossodia, Smalls Creek at Kellyville and St Mary's. Plants were treated with basal bark application of herbicide and diesel.

Lantana was treated along the Great Western Highway at Prospect, Longleat Road Reserve in Kurmond, Cattai Ridge Road at Glenorie and Cranebrook. Plants are treated by cutting the stump and applying neat herbicide to the wound.

Our staff also responded to a resident complaint of Lantana growing along Upper Colo Road which was impacting road visibility. Staff pruned branches off the road and treated stumps with neat Glyphosate.



Photo 2: Lantana impacting road visibility treated along Upper Colo Road

Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*) in Arndell Park, Bilpin, Orchard Hills, Erskine Park, Mamre Road and Cranebrook. Plants are treated with herbicide application to the foliage with either a handheld pump pack or the spray unit.

An incursion of Chilean needle grass (*Nassella neesiana*) was identified by Blacktown City Council staff for control along a road verge in Kellyville Ridge. Although it had been mowed, features could still be identified and the area was treated with herbicide application.

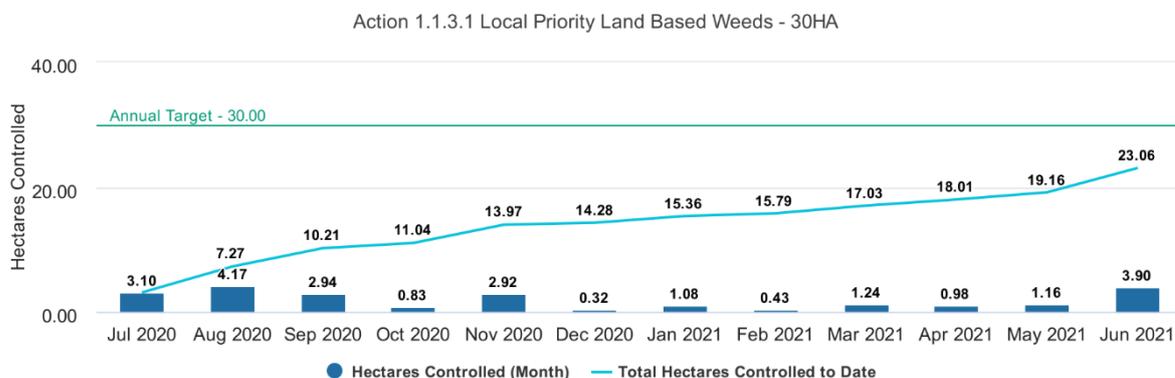
Mowing is a major issue for weed control staff as it spreads weeds further and makes it more difficult for herbicide control.



Photo 3: Chilean needle grass along Fyfe Road, Kellyville Ridge

### 1.3 Local priority/asset land-based weeds controlled

Target	30.00 hectares
Completed	23.06 hectares



This target was disrupted due to the hiring of new staff at the time of Mother of millions (*Bryophyllum* spp) season, which began earlier than usual because of the higher than average rainfall early in 2021. New trainees were yet to be qualified and trained how to spray. This disrupted our operations as only our trained and qualified staff could be allocated to the Mother of millions control season.

Our staff were, however, able to start control works in May and June (normally xxx) allowing us to come close to achieving our target, which was reflective of a greater staff capacity at the start of the operational period.

Local priority/asset weed control works are generated from member council requests, community complaints or have been sighted by our staff while undertaking surveillance.

Works included treating Mother of millions in Riverstone, Vineyard, Glossodia, Freemans Reach, Oakville, Kurmond, South Windsor, Kurrajong, Lower Portland, Cranebrook, Berkshire Park and Mulgoa.

We used targeted herbicide control with the use of pump pack sprayers for targeted application.

This method allows for targeted control reducing off target damage and herbicide wastage, and it is essential that these areas receive follow-up treatment to target seedlings emerging from the seed bank.



**Photo 4: Mother of millions along Fairlight Road, Mulgoa Ridge**

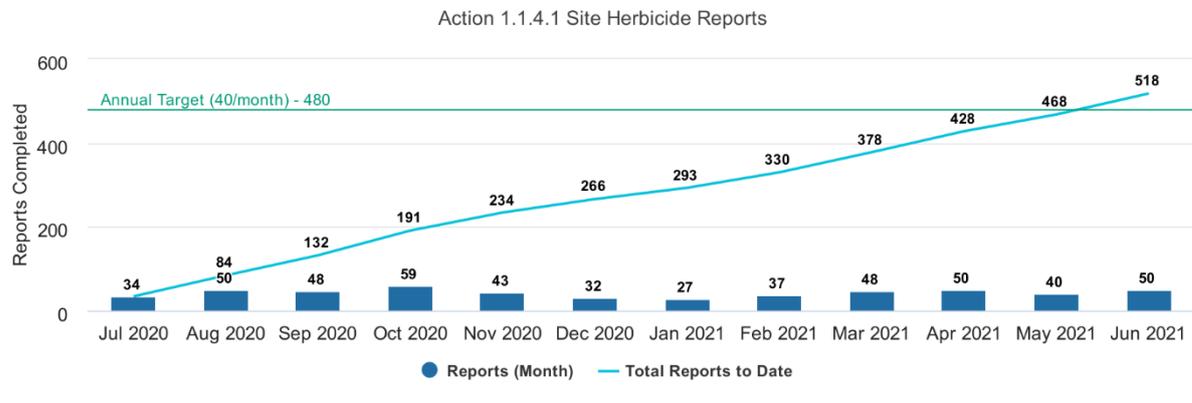
Other works included treating Yellow bells (Tecoma stans) in spring throughout the county and conducting site maintenance at Berger Road Reserve in South Windsor. Maintenance at the Reserve includes removing tree guards and undertaking selective weed control works. Removed tree guards are then recycled in other projects throughout the county.



**Photo 5: Staff maintain the revegetation site at Berger Road Reserve, South Windsor**

## 1.4 Site herbicide reports submitted monthly

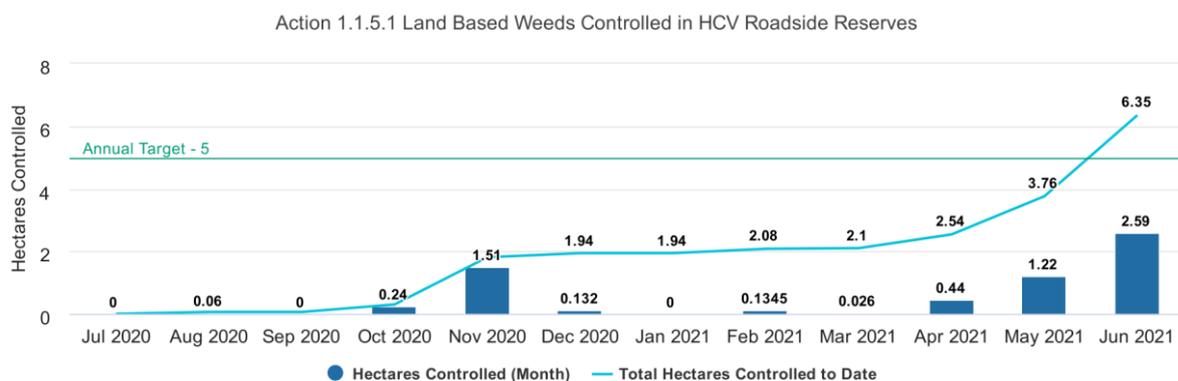
Target	480 reports
Completed	518 reports



Our weed control staff complete herbicide application records daily as regulated in New South Wales by the *Pesticides Act 1999* and its Regulation 2009. Under these documents, it is compulsory for all people who use pesticides for commercial or occupational purposes, to make a record of their pesticide use. Each record is linked to a particular work location and if staff change sites a new record is filled out.

## 1.5 Land-based weeds controlled in high conservation vegetation roadside reserves

Target	5.00 hectares
Completed	6.35 hectares

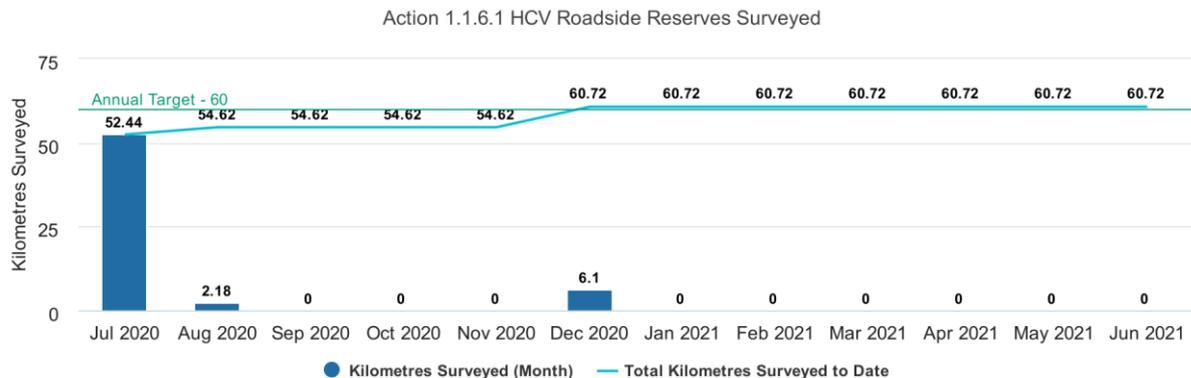


Our staff utilise the weed lists generated from roadside reserve surveillance to undertake weed control works, targeting priority weeds. This involves employing different weed control techniques based on the vegetation classification of the road reserve, if threatened species are present, and the species of weed. For example, Blackberry and Mother of millions treated in a high conservation vegetation roadside reserve must be treated with low volume spraying such as a handheld pump pack. However, the spray unit can be used to treat infestations of Blackberry at a higher volume in a low conservation value roadside reserve.

## 2 Roadside vegetation management plan

### 2.1 High conservation vegetation roadside reserves surveyed

Target	60.00 kilometres
Completed	60.72 kilometres

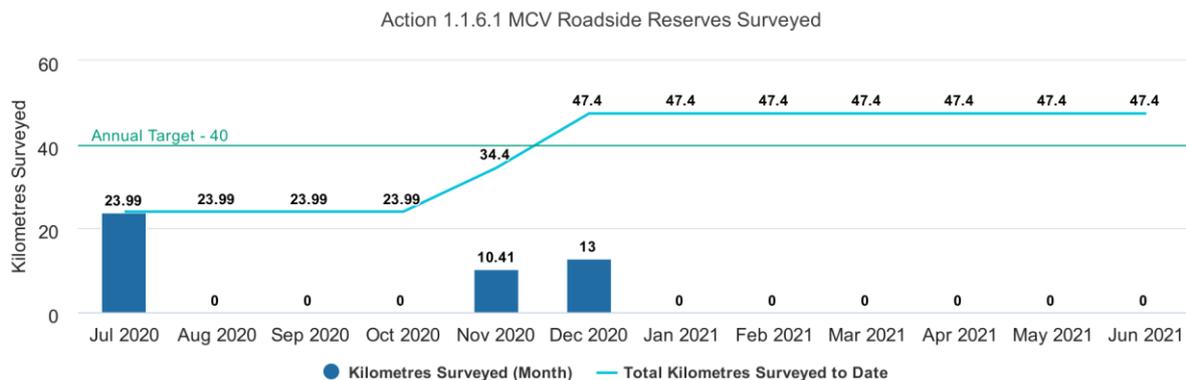


We surveyed high conservation vegetation roadside reserves in the suburbs of Glossodia, Riverstone, Kurrajong, and Bilpin.

We generated a weeds list this data that includes both priority and non-priority weed species. Priority weeds were scheduled for weed control works to achieve this survey.

### 2.2 Medium conservation vegetation roadside reserves surveyed

Target	40.0 kilometres
Completed	47.4 kilometres

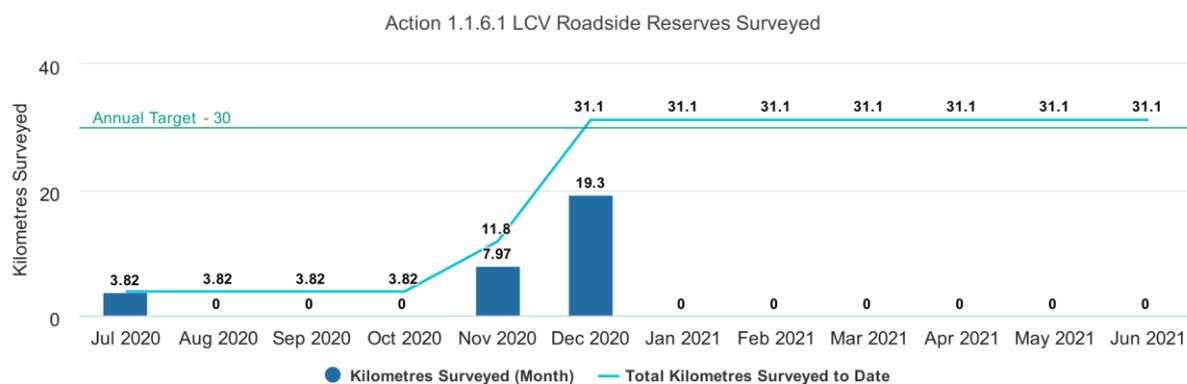


We surveyed medium conservation vegetation roadside reserves in the suburbs of Riverstone, Llandilo, Bilpin, Vineyard, Berkshire Park, Kenthurst, Annangrove, and Lower Portland.

We generated a weeds list from this data that includes both priority and non-priority weed species. Priority weeds were scheduled for weed control works to achieve this survey.

## 2.3 Low conservation vegetation roadside reserves surveyed

**Target** 30.0 kilometres  
**Completed** 31.1 kilometres



We surveyed low conservation vegetation roadside reserves in the suburbs of Riverstone, Schofields, Vineyard, Kenthurst, Annangrove, Sackville and Pitt Town.

We generated a weeds list from this data that includes both priority and non-priority weed species. Priority weeds were scheduled for weed control works to achieve this survey.

No	Date	Surveyor (Staff)	Council Area	Road	Suburb	Weeds present (our priority species weeds in red)	Conservation value	Km	Hours
39	1.12.2021	TW, MC, DLR, AP	Hawkesbury	West Portland Road	Lower Portland	African lovegrass, <u>Purple</u> top, Rhodes grass, Coreopsis, Dandelion, Lantana, Balloon vine, Fleabane, Senna, Jacaranda, African olive, Moth vine, Bidens, Lamb's tongue, Blackberry nightshade, Privet, Mother of millions, Spear thistle, Ochna, Purple morning glory, Black eyed <u>susan</u> , Wild tobacco, Prickly lettuce, <u>Sida</u> , Honey locust	Medium	13	1.4
40	1.12.2021	TW, MC, DLR, AP	Hawkesbury	Pitt Town Road	Pitt Town	Chinese tallowwood, Acer negundo, White clover, Lamb's tongue, Fleabane, Prickly lettuce, Sticky nightshade, <u>Purple</u> top, Fennel, Giant paspalum, Balloon vine, Barnyard grass, Honey locust, Rhodes grass, Bidens, Johnsons grass, Jacaranda, Opuntia stricta, Lantana, Blackberry, <u>Coxspur</u> coral tree	Low	4.1	0.4
41	1.12.2021	TW, MC, DLR, AP	Hawkesbury	Creek Ridge Road	Glossodia	African lovegrass, Lantana, Fleabane, Fireweed, Lamb's tongue, Ochna, Purple top, <u>Sida</u> , Sticky nightshade, Giant paspalum, Jacaranda, Agapanthus, Privet, Green cestrum, Privet (Large leaf), Paspalum, Moth vine, <u>Rhodes</u> grass, Bidens, <u>Parvonia hastata</u> , red natal grass, Stinking <u>rodger</u> , Balloon vine, Mother of Millions	High	6.1	0.52

Figure 1: Example weed listed generated from roadside reserve surveys under the Roadside Vegetation Management Plan

### 3 Control aquatic weeds

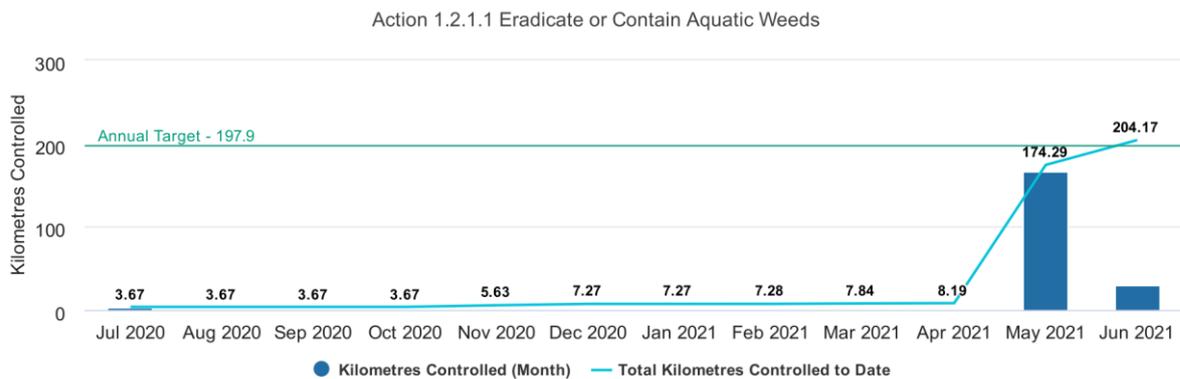
During the operational period works focused on asset protection from aquatic weeds generated from member council requests.

Works were delayed on the Hawkesbury Nepean River for eradication and containment of aquatic weeds as the river levels were higher than normal due to Water NSW’s constant releases from Warragamba Dam. These occurred throughout spring and summer which assisted with flushing out the river system.

With a predicted rainfall event and releases from the dam, a major flood event occurred in mid-March 2021 that caused the temporary closure of our operations. Our weed control staff waited for the river height to return to normal and navigation markers were installed before assessing the weed situation.

#### 3.1 Eradication or containment aquatic weeds controlled (State and Regional)

Target	198.00 kilometres
<b>Completed</b>	<b>204.17 kilometres</b>



Our staff undertook surveillance in Excelsior Creek and Darling Mills Creek in Baulkham Hills as follow-up of a previously treated infestation of Kidney leaf mud plantain (*Heteranthera reniformis*). No plants were located during these works. Alligator weed was treated as per Blacktown council requests in Breakfast Creek and Bungarribee Creek.

Our staff also undertook weed control works along the Hawkesbury-Nepean River between Lower Portland and Sackville when the river returned to normal conditions following flooding in early 2021. Our staff found Water hyacinth plants surviving in flood debris both in the water and on the banks. It was essential that we treat those plants with herbicide and successfully controlled them before the infestation could establish.



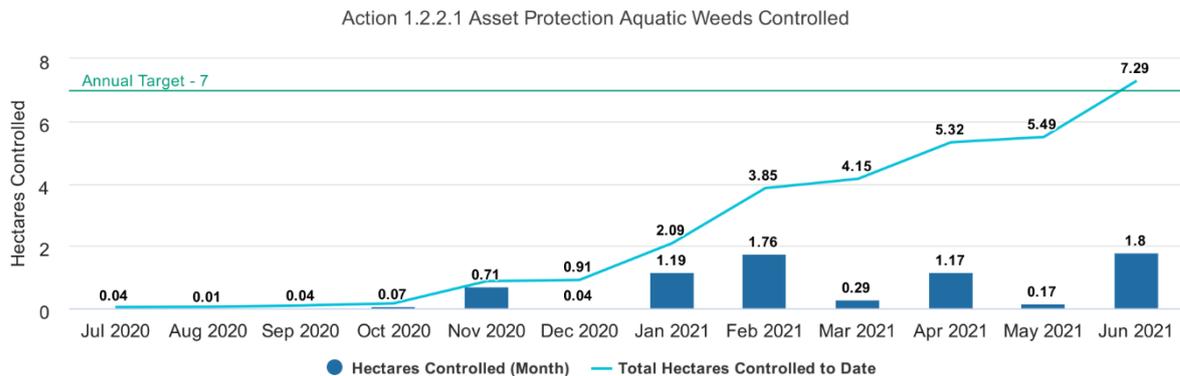
**Photo 6: Debris left from major flooding of the Hawkesbury-Nepean River was seen to be creating floating rafts for weeds to colonise. Weeds such as Water hyacinth needed to be controlled between Sackville and Lower Portland**



**Photo 7: HRCC staff undertook control in the form of herbicide application of small infestations of Water hyacinth with the use of our tinny boat and a 200 Litre spray unit**

### 3.2 Asset protection aquatic weeds controlled (State and Regional)

Target	7.00 hectares
Completed	7.29 hectares



Asset protection weed control works are generated from member council requests, community complaints or have been sighted by our staff while undertaking surveillance.

Works included treating:

- Sagittaria (*Sagittaria platyphylla*) in Caddies Creek, Blacktown Creek and Darling Mills Creek.
- Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) infestations within council reserves including Castle Hill Heritage Park and Crossmans Reserve in Wallacia.
- Water primrose (*Ludwigia peruviana*) in McGraths Hill, Agnes Banks, Freemans Reach, Kellyville, Baulkham Hills, West Pennant Hills, Bella Vista, Erskine Park, Berkshire Park, Penrith and Orchard Hills.

We also responded to a request from staff at the Australian Pioneer Village who asked for our help in treating Water primrose (*Ludwigia peruviana*) growing around an island in the middle of its dam. Our staff used a canoe to access and spray the infestation.

When treating aquatic weeds, our staff utilise a variety of control methods including the use of vehicle spray units, pump packs and kayaks and canoes to undertake control works.



**Photo 8: Water primrose in a dam at Australian Pioneer Village.**  
Note that *Azolla pinnata*, a native species, covers most of the water body.

### 3.3 Local priority aquatic weeds controlled

Target	5.00 hectares
Completed	0.26 hectares

During the year the harvester was out of operation as it was being repaired in Newcastle for flood damage. It was however ready for the summer 2020/21 operations, however, the NSW Government's funding that previously supported the harvesting of native species within the Nepean River at Penrith was withdrawn and this prevented the completion of this target.

After the major flooding of the Nepean River in early 2021, small infestations of Parrot's feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) were sighted and treated with herbicide control. These have been found in small creeks and along the banks of the river. It is essential to monitor areas for new weed incursions after flood events and prevent them from establishing into new areas.



**Photo 9: The harvester was repaired at Midcoast Boatyard, Central Coast.**  
Final checks were undertaken before it was floated back to our depot



**Photo 10: The Small patches of Parrot's feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) were treated in the County to go towards this target**

## 4 Landcare support hours

Target	200 hours
<b>Completed</b>	<b>200 hours</b>

We conducted weed control works to assist local organisations and contribute to our in-kind hours for grants including:

- Works undertaken at Castle Heritage Park to assist with in-kind hours for a Hills Shire Council grant that was disrupted due to COVID.
- In-kind hours undertaken at Price Morris Cottage in St Albans to assist a private landholder in meeting their grant obligations of in-kind hours of weed control.
- Work undertaken targeting Moth vine (*Araujia sericifera*) to assist the Mulgoa Landcare group with site maintenance which had been absent.
- Assistance given to the Wallacia Progress association in conjunction with the Crossmans Reserve Bushcare group at Wallacia. Privet control was undertaken along the roadside which was not suitable for volunteers to undertake.



**Photos 11 & 12: Our staff completed 24 hours of weed control works to assist the Mulgoa Landcare group.**



## 5 New species identified and assessed (Incursions)

Target 4 species  
Completed 4 species

Date identified	Species	Priority listing	Location	Private / roadside	Density	Notes	Council
13.07.20	Perennial soybean <i>Neonotonia wightii</i>	Not listed	Doonside Cres Bushland Reserve from Paperbark Dr along Lantana Pl Woodcroft	Council	70-90%	Species unknown. Identification from herbarium. Control advice given. Weeds treated.	Blacktown
16.07.20	Water hyacinth	Regional asset	27Z-57Z Oxlade St. Access via Myles Cres Kellyville (Retention basin)	Council	20%	Reported by Council, weed identified by HRCC. Infestation treated	Hills
24.07.20	Perennial soybean <i>Neonotonia wightii</i>	Not listed	Corner of Sunnyholt Rd and Turner St Blacktown	Council	60%	Confirmed same species as Lantana Pl. Sample identified by herbarium. Control advice given. Weeds treated.	Blacktown
02.10.20	Bitou bush	State containment	Homemaker Centre Richmond Rd Marsden Park	Roadside/ Garden	1-10%	Cut and painted 06.10.2020	Blacktown

Figure 2: New incursions identified in the county in the operational period



Photos 13 & 14: Perennial soybean (*Neonotonia wightii*) was identified in two locations within the Blacktown LGA.

A positive identification was confirmed by the herbarium after flowers and seed pods were discovered. Control advice was provided by a staff member at Gold Coast City Council and HRCC staff applied herbicide to the foliage.



**Photo 15: New incursion of Bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera subsp. rotundata*) that was treated at the Homemaker Centre at Marsden Park.**

We identified and listed 37 other weeds during weed control and private property inspections. The majority of weeds were Yellow bells (*Tecoma stans*), which can be found across the county. This list allows for control to be organised as well as creating inspections that build on the works conducted by our weed control staff. Species such as Yellow bells for the majority of the time are found on the roadside as well as private land.

Date	Species	Priority listing	Location	Private/roadside	Density	Notes	Council
24.2.2021	Yellow bells	Local eradication	Mills Rd, Glenhaven	Private	1-10%	Inspected by weed control staff, found 7 large mature plants and 2 smaller plants on private property not roadside. Passed onto inspectors.	Hills
24.2.2021	Yellow bells	Local eradication	166 Glenhaven Rd, Glenhaven	Roadside	1-10%	Treated 17.0.21	Hills

**Figure 3: An example of the data captured.**

## 6 LGA weed control totals

<b>Blacktown LGA</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Performance measure</b>		
	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Hectares</b>	<b>Km</b>
<b>Control land-based weeds</b>			
State and Regional Eradication and Containment Weeds	205.99	3.3855	0
State and Regional Asset Protection Weeds	989.127	3.78955	0
Local Priority Weeds	110.09	2.1644	0
<b>Roadside vegetation management plan</b>			
HCV Hectares of Weeds Managed	26.66	0.1045	0
Surveillance of HVC Roadside	7.5	0	4.62
Surveillance of MCV Roadside	2.45	0	2.886
Surveillance of LCV Roadside	1.09	0	2.222
<b>Control aquatic weeds</b>			
State and Regional Eradication and Containment Weeds Aquatic	33.01	1.2296	0
State and Regional Asset Protection Weeds Aquatic	81.43	1.6509	0
Local Priority Weeds Aquatic	0	0	
Support Landcare Hours	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1457.347</b>	<b>12.32445</b>	<b>9.728</b>

<b>Hawkesbury LGA</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Performance measure</b>		
	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Hectares</b>	<b>Km</b>
<b>Control land-based weeds</b>			
State and Regional Eradication and Containment Weeds	18.43	7.8169	0
State and Regional Asset Protection Weeds	331.025	3.83285	0
Local Priority Weeds	900.648	12.5785	0
<b>Roadside vegetation management plan</b>			
HCV Hectares of Weeds Managed	228.688	3.37955	0
Surveillance of HVC Roadside	5.02	0	56.1
Surveillance of MCV Roadside	8.86	9.7	34.1
Surveillance of LCV Roadside	3.5	0	20.9
<b>Control aquatic weeds</b>			
State and Regional Eradication and Containment Weeds Aquatic	76.72	0	196.565
State and Regional Asset Protection Weeds Aquatic	28.64	0.9595	0
Local Priority Weeds Aquatic	0.67	0.111	0
Support Landcare Hours	40.56	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1642.761</b>	<b>38.3783</b>	<b>307.665</b>

## The Hills LGA

Action	Performance measure		
	Hours	Hectares	Km
<b>Control land-based weeds</b>			
State and Regional Eradication and Containment Weeds	113.69	7.7993	0
State and Regional Asset Protection Weeds	151.48	0.6306	0
Local Priority Weeds	259.48	3.0762	0
<b>Roadside vegetation management plan</b>			
HCV Hectares of Weeds Managed	86.08	1.9899	0
Surveillance of HVC Roadside	0	0	0
Surveillance of MCV Roadside	1.28	0.714	0.714
Surveillance of LCV Roadside	7.88	0	7.975
<b>Control aquatic weeds</b>			
State and Regional Eradication and Containment Weeds Aquatic	6.78	0.192	0
State and Regional Asset Protection Weeds Aquatic	122.02	3.2767	0
Local Priority Weeds Aquatic	13.1	0.0855	0
Support Landcare Hours	50.4	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>812.19</b>	<b>17.7642</b>	<b>8.689</b>

## Penrith LGA

Action	Performance measure		
	Hours	Hectares	Km
<b>Control land-based weeds</b>			
State and Regional Eradication and Containment Weeds	101.23	3.8365	0
State and Regional Asset Protection Weeds	677.065	6.9016	0
Local Priority Weeds	315.53	5.2414	0
<b>Roadside vegetation management plan</b>			
HCV Hectares of Weeds Managed	187.975	0.8722	0
Surveillance of HVC Roadside	0	0	0
Surveillance of MCV Roadside	4.14	0	9.7
Surveillance of LCV Roadside	0	0	0
<b>Control aquatic weeds</b>			
State and Regional Eradication and Containment Weeds Aquatic	19.93	0.1735	0.4215
State and Regional Asset Protection Weeds Aquatic	69.84	1.394	0
Local Priority Weeds Aquatic	5	0.06	0
Support Landcare Hours	109.04	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1489.75</b>	<b>18.4792</b>	<b>10.1215</b>

## 7 Crown Reserves improvement fund grant

Target	1,070.0 hours
Completed	1,070.3 hours

We were awarded \$48,938 under the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund Grant to complete weed control works on Crown Land. Our in-kind contribution was \$56,279.

The grant ran for the duration of 2020/21 targeting State asset weeds and Local priority weeds impacting these reserves. Our staff employ bush regeneration techniques in these areas to encourage natural regeneration of native species (Refer figure 4 for results).

Another requirement of the grant was to conduct weed surveillance across a nominated list of Crown Reserves throughout the financial year based on hours. Bigger reserves were granted more hours to cover the larger areas. We produced a weed list for each site and submitted this to the funding authority at the end of the project. (Refer figure 6 for an example).

These lists will assist us in subsequent grant applications as they highlight areas that we can conduct weed control in future years.

We produced 10 weed maps as part of the grant, mapping all the weeds in the specified crown reserves (Refer figure 5 for an example). A report for this grant has been produced and is yet to be submitted to the funding authority. The report will also be submitted to the staff of member councils for records.

Hectares treated	Target hours	Hours achieved
<b>Cattai Bridge Reserve – Hawkesbury LGA</b>		
0.3407	80	99
Weeds treated	Cats claw, Morning glory, Lantana and Annual weeds	
<b>Holland Reserve – Hills LGA</b>		
0.9071	90	126.07
Weeds treated	Lantana, Green cestrum, Crofton weed and Annual weeds	
<b>Lukas Avenue Kenthurst – Hills LGA</b>		
0.5467	160	179.74
Weeds treated	Privet and Lantana	
<b>Skeleton Rocks – Hawkesbury LGA</b>		
0.3702	180	180.45
Weeds treated	Lantana, Privet, Yellow bells and Annual weeds	
<b>Leonay Oval – Penrith LGA</b>		
1.3703	180	241.32
Weeds treated	Lantana, Privet, Madeira vine, Passionfruit, Crofton weed, Balloon vine and Honey suckle	
<b>MacDonald Valley – Hawkesbury LGA</b>		
0.6648	200	243.70
Weeds treated	Arundo grass, Green cestrum, Tree of heaven and Wild tobacco	
<b>Shaw's Island – Hawkesbury LGA</b>		
0	180	0
Weeds treated	No weeds treated due to no access available after flooding	

Totals for Crown Reserve	LGA	Target hours	Hours achieved	Hectares treated
Weed control	All	1070	1070.3	-
Weed surveillance	All	159	159	-
Weed mapping	All	66	66	-
	Total	1295	1295.28	4.2293

Figure 4. Crown Land reserves grant

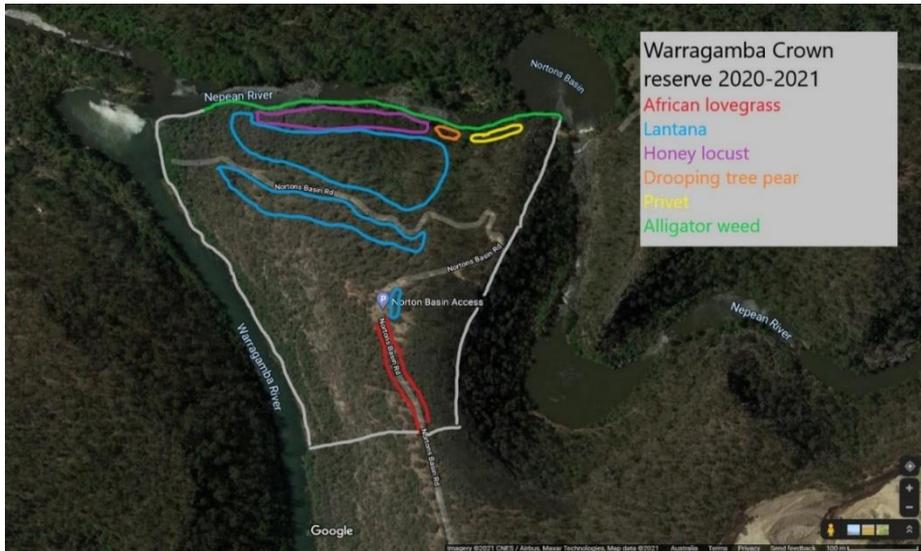


Figure 5: Example of the weed map produced for the Crown Reserve Improvement



Photo 16: Staff undertaking works at Skeleton rocks treating Lantana (Lantana camera).

### Crown Reserves improvement fund program: 2020/21 HRCC surveillance program

Reserve name	Location	Street	Council	Reserve size = Ha	Surveillance hours	Priority weeds	Other weeds	Dates undertaken	Site hours	Staff	Hours completed	Sum of hours	Remaining hours	Completed
Maroota South Reserve (Cattai Creek)	Cattai	638Z Halcrows Road off Crown Road	HSC	1.4	6	Willows	No other weeds	19.02.2020	1.02	3	3.06	6.00	0	x
						Blackberry	Fleabane, African lovegrass, Purpletop, Crack willow, Wild tobacco, Privet, Noogoora Burr, Sticky nightshade, Stinking rodger, Bindweed	18.03.21	0.98	3	2.94			
Old Northern Road Reserve	Wisemans Ferry	5210-5224 Old Northern Road Maroota	HSC	114.8	10		African lovegrass, Bidens, Sow thistle	26.10.2020	1.12	3	3.36	9.99	0.01	x
							No new weeds	19.03.21	2.21	3	6.63			

Figure 6: Example of the weeds list produced for the Crown Reserves improvement



## 8 Weed control highlights

5,402 hours  
of land-based weed  
control



86.94615 hectares  
land-based weed control



196.99 kilometres  
aquatic weed control



139.22 kilometres  
roadside surveillance



66 hours  
weed mapping in  
Crown Reserves

189 Boneseed seedlings hand removed in one day

## 9 Inspection program

During this operational period, our Biosecurity inspection team endured the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, unexpected staffing shortages, changing grant-based targets, and extreme weather events.

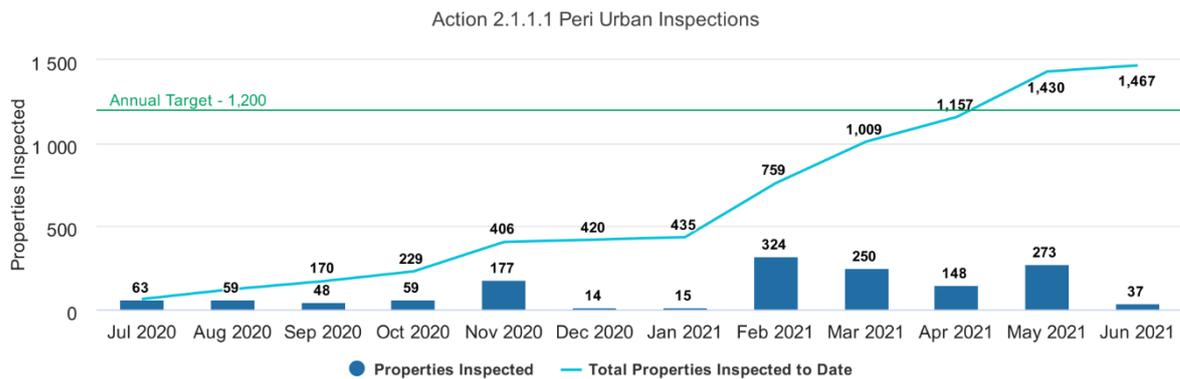
The mild winter conditions, warmer temperatures, and above-average rainfall, at times resulting in flood conditions, enabling established priority weed species to flourish across the county as well as the excessive germination of seed banks. This resulted in our Inspection team recording a greater weed density in inspected areas.

The team's enthusiasm, attention to detail, and positivity in the face of challenges resulted in it successfully overachieving seven of its eight operational targets and exceeding in extra operational grants and initiatives.

### 9.1 Private property inspections

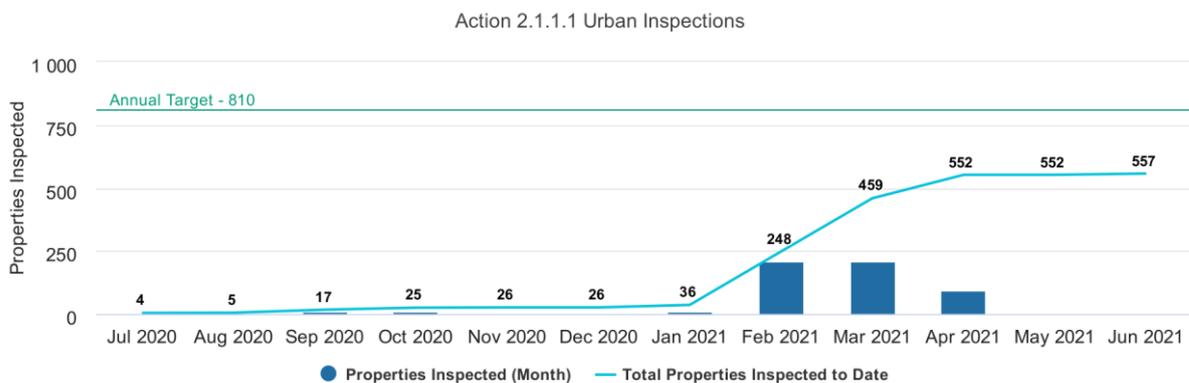
'Peri Urban' inspections (1,000 m<sup>2</sup> to 2 hectares)

Original target	1,200
Weeds action program grant revised target	1,200
<b>Completed</b>	<b>1,467</b>



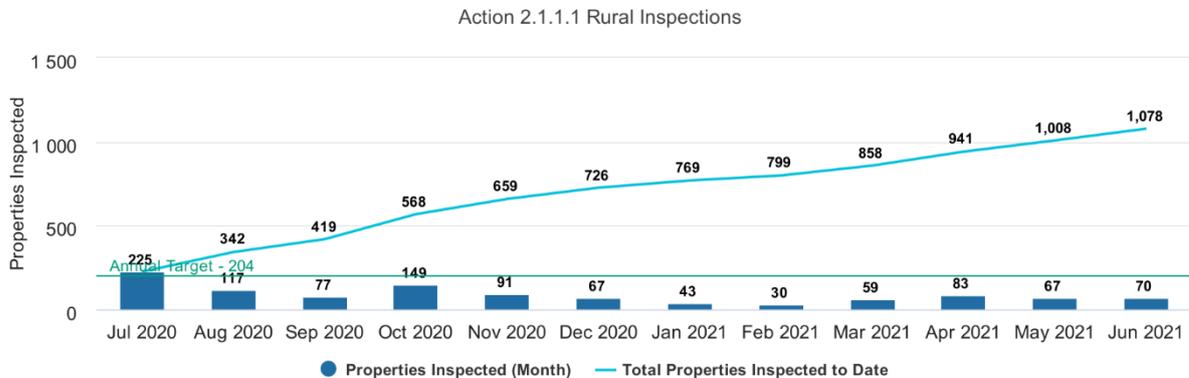
'Urban' inspections (under 1,000 m<sup>2</sup>)

Original target	810
Weeds action program grant revised target	420
<b>Completed</b>	<b>557</b>



'Rural' inspections (over 2 hectares)

Original target	204
Weeds action program grant revised target	420
<b>Completed</b>	<b>1,078</b>



We undertook private property inspections in a number of locations across the county.

Kurrajong, Kurmond, and North Richmond were all part of the rural inspections program. Angus Banks and Castlereagh were inspected for weed presence on poor soil. In Berkshire Park regular inspections were undertaken; Kemps Creek properties were inspected targeting Kei apple (*Dovyalis caffra*) eradication), Mount Vernon properties to monitor border incursions from the neighbouring Local Control Authority and Glenhaven and Castle Hill were covered in two regular inspection rounds.

The inspection team was able to surpass its target inspection numbers of 1,824 inspections by 1,275 inspections achieving a total of 3,099. This was an increase of 60% - achieved though the integration of the previous year's mapping and data collection technology, staff training, and operational changes made within the inspection team.

Of particular note, is the highly successful Kei apple (*Dovyalis caffra*) inspection program within the Kemps Creek area that is on track to achieve the eradication of this priority weed species. The inspection team was able to identify over 150 plants with over 80 of these plants now being voluntarily controlled by landholders through the actions of the team's education and regulatory process.

Also of note, is the discovery of Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*) within an active construction site which resulted in immediate action by our inspection team. This event allowed the team to test its reactivity time and processes regarding high-risk weeds. It found that these processes worked well and allowed for a flexible but timely response within the regulatory framework.

This incident also allowed the team to gain valuable knowledge and insight from the construction and property developer industries. This insight has prompted the team to investigate better involvement and training of those industries concerning priority weeds and their responsibility under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* all of which those industry members have expressed they welcome.

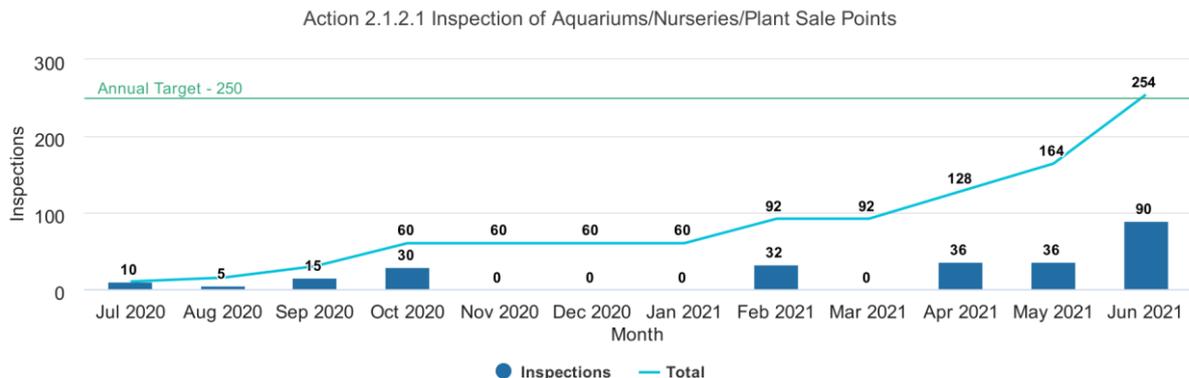
The inspection rounds in Glenhaven and Castle Hill were also highly successful with the most community involvement and interaction recorded so far. It also resulted in the identification of a new incursion of Frogbit (*Limnobium laevigatum*) within a private property that was able to be eradicated by the landholder.



Photo 17: Mature Kei apple 'Forest' discovered by inspectors on an abandoned Kemps Creek property

## 9.2 Inspection of nurseries, pet stores and aquariums

Original target	434
Weeds action program grant revised target	250
<b>Completed</b>	<b>254</b>



Our inspection team was able to slightly overachieve its revised target.

The continued development of relationships with industry groups, small and large businesses and government bodies has been highly beneficial, resulting in our reaching this target and are ability to continue to do so.

These relationships are allowing the process to become streamlined and highly effective at detecting priority weeds in a timely fashion. Numerous representatives have begun to actively contact the council and our inspection team for advice and recommendations as to whether particular plants are a priority species. These enquiries have also resulted in reports of new incursions by pop-up sellers and backyard operators.

Other valuable relationships from industry and government have also grown throughout this year most notably those with the Department of Planning, Industry, and Environment through the inspection teams work on the *Salvinia (Salvinia molesta)* outbreak on the Penrith Lakes; the poultry industry through the continued surveillance of *Parthenium weed (Parthenium hysterophorus)* and West Link M7 with its surveillance and control of priority weeds.



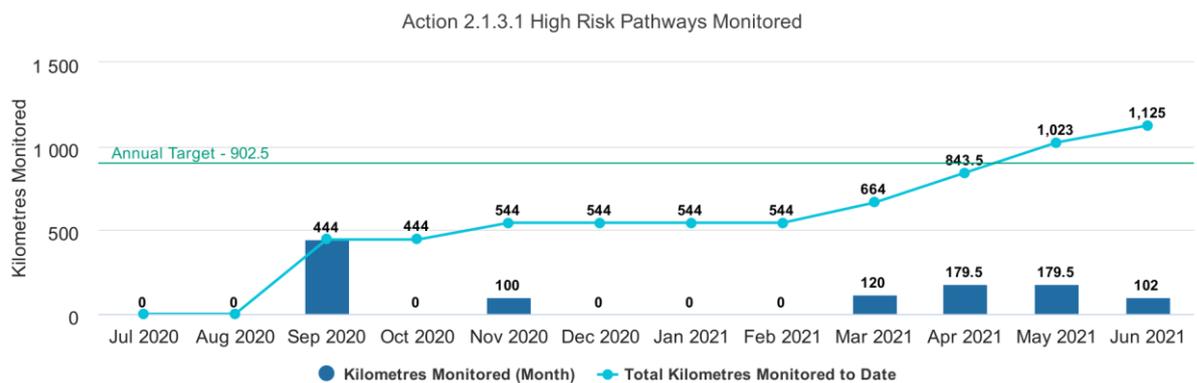
Photo 18: Opuntia species that were being sold at a roadside nursery



Photo 19: Frogbit found by inspectors on display in a commercial aquarium

### 9.3 Surveillance of high-risk pathways and high-risk sites

Target	902.5 km
Completed	1,125.0 km



Target	126
<b>Completed</b>	<b>144</b>



Our inspection team was able to overachieve the target of monitoring high-risk pathways and high-risk sites. The new inspection process trialled last year for high-risk pathways and sites has continued to be highly effective at timely detection and mapping of priority weed species.

The team was also successful in establishing and building a relationship with the NSW Roads and Maritime Service after the floods. This resulted in effective information sharing and cooperation between both organisations to reach our mutual goals on the major waterways of the county.

Of particular note, the incursion of Frogbit in the Camden and Liverpool LGAs provided the opportunity for our inspection team to demonstrate its in-field and plant identification expertise as well as gain valuable experience and networking opportunities through participating in an emergency response operation. Throughout both responses, our team was able to inspect over 200 hectares of private land for Frogbit.

Along with undertaking 144 inspections on known dumping sites, stockpile sites, and boat ramps this year, the team was also able to undertake an audit on the list of previously visited sites, removing sites that had not been active for several years and adding new sites that had been discovered.



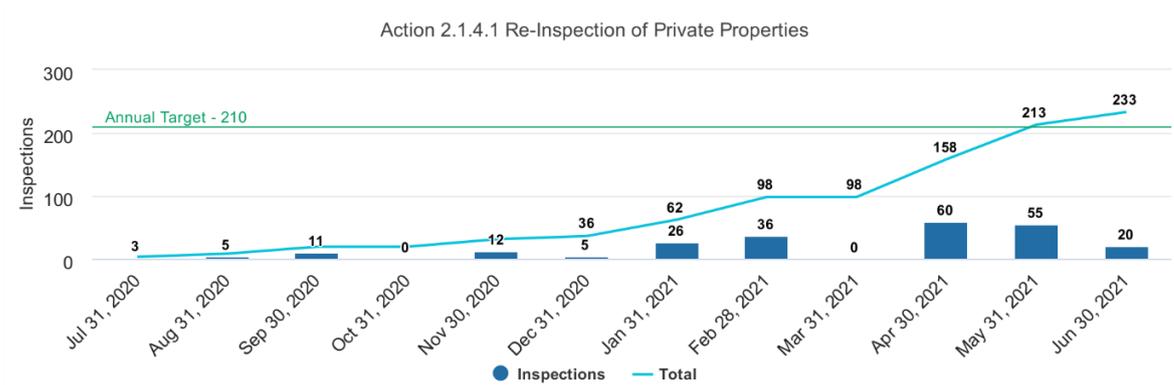
**Photo 20: The Biosecurity Coordinator inspecting a private property for Frogbit**



Photo 21: The inspection team undertaking surveillance on the Nepean River

#### 9.4 Private property re-inspections

Target	210
Completed	233



Our inspection team overachieved its property reinspection's target. Most of these properties were found to be compliant. This is a positive testament to the effective education that the team provides landholders during their initial inspection and the post-inspection process, through the presence of weeds letters and information packs.

The team has also conducted many reactionary inspections on private property, triggered by communication from the public. Some of these reports have led to the successful identification of new weed incursions within the county.

#### 9.5 Landholders provided with advice

Target	600
Completed	777



The majority of this year’s advice and assistance to landholders was given through face-to-face interactions (pre-COVID), over the phone, posted information packs, and/or via email correspondence with factsheets and other copy.

### 9.6 Weed management plans and mentoring of landholders

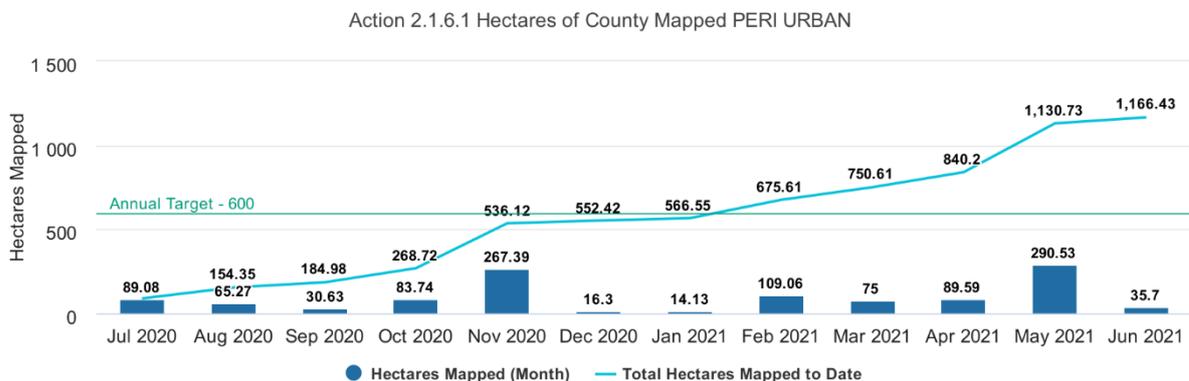
Target	20
Completed	5

Although this target was not achieved, the lack of weed management plans was not seen as a negative result as it continues to demonstrate that the highly effective initial consultation and information being provided to landholders by the inspection team is continuing to be satisfactory for the landholders to undertake weed control without the need for entering a weed management plan.

### 9.7 Mapping the extent of priority weeds species, and map all State and Local priority weeds species within the County

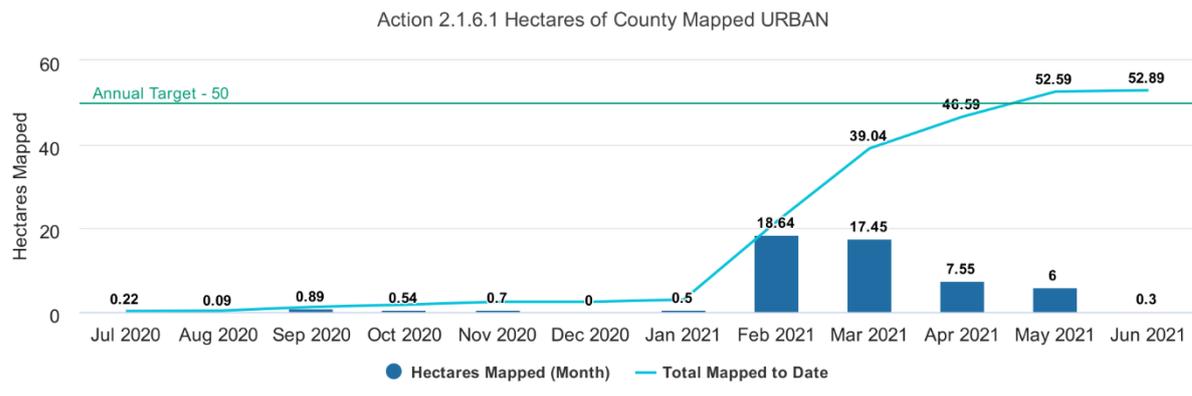
Hectares of ‘Peri urban’ mapped (1,000 m<sup>2</sup> to 2 hectares)

Target	600.00 hectares
Completed	1,166.43 hectares



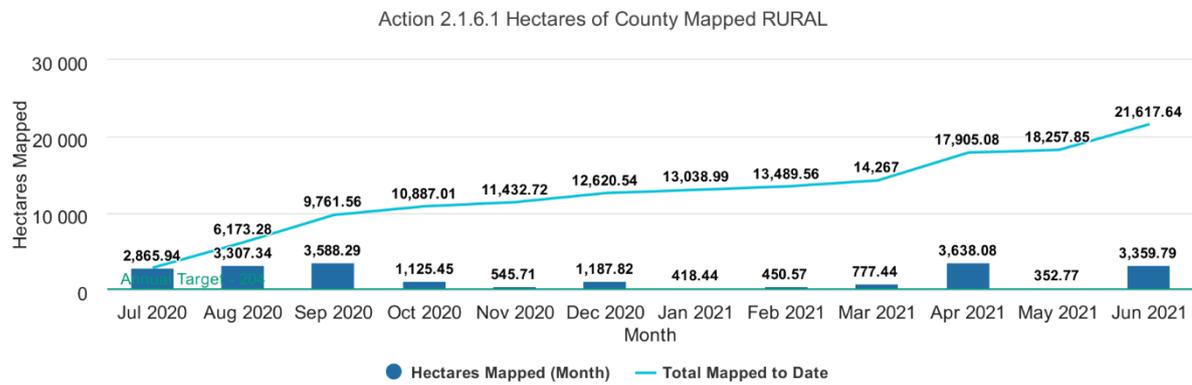
Hectares of ‘Urban’ mapped (under 1,000,m<sup>2</sup>)

Target	50.00 hectares
Completed	52.89 hectares



Hectares of 'Rural' mapped (over 2 hectares)

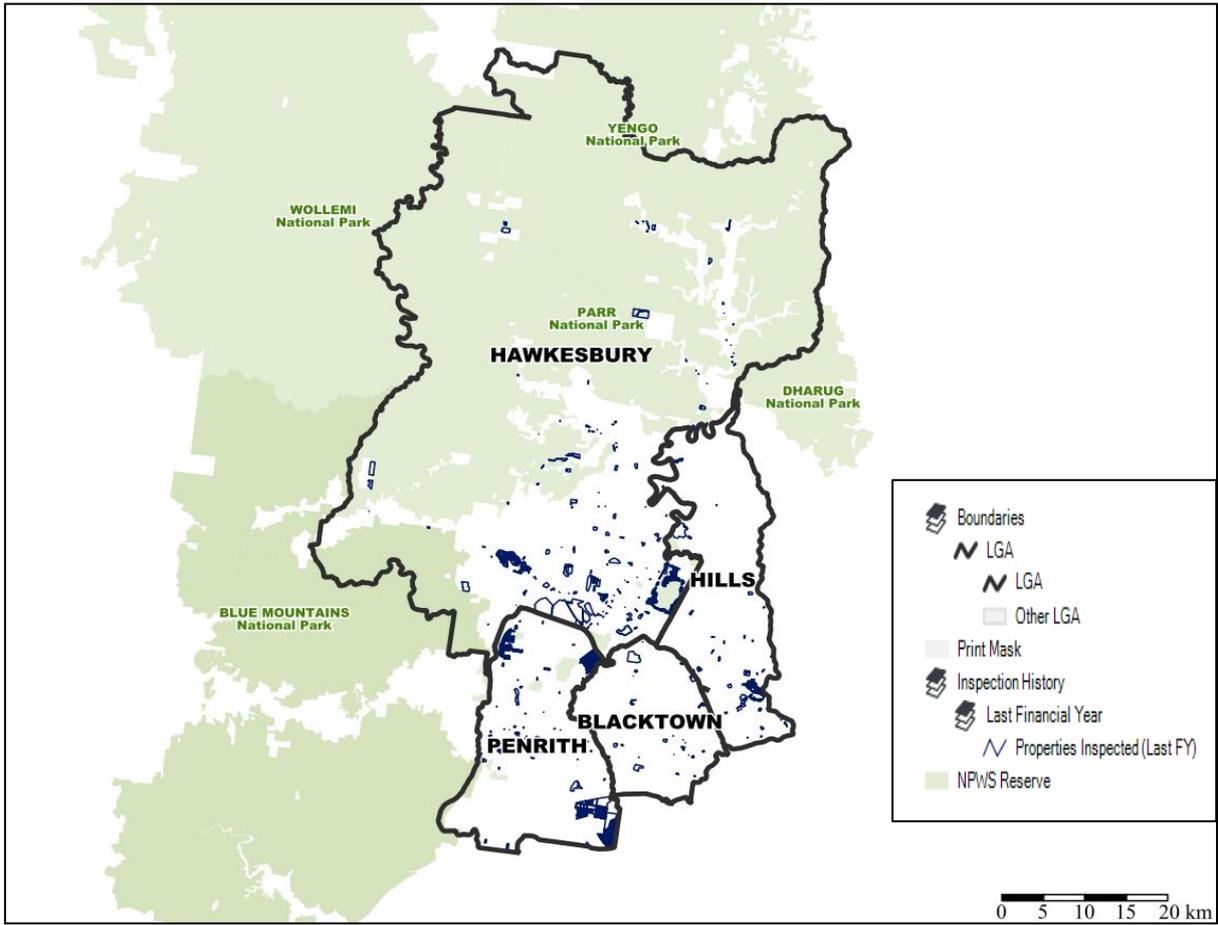
<b>Target</b>	<b>240.00 hectares</b>
<b>Completed</b>	<b>21,617.64 hectares</b>



Our inspection team has successfully mapped a total of 22,836.96 hectares of the county for the presence of priority weeds in this operational period.

The use of GIS (Geographic Information System) mapping and recording systems is continuing to propel the inspection team to the forefront of the industry for the use of these systems, with several other Local Control Authorities making inquiries into what these systems are and how they work within the framework of a Local Control Authority.



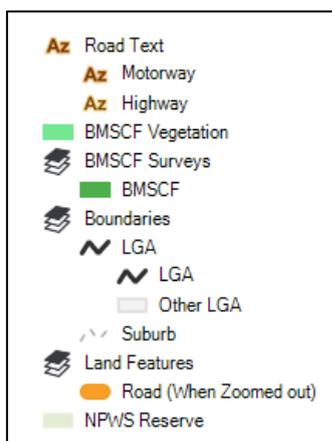
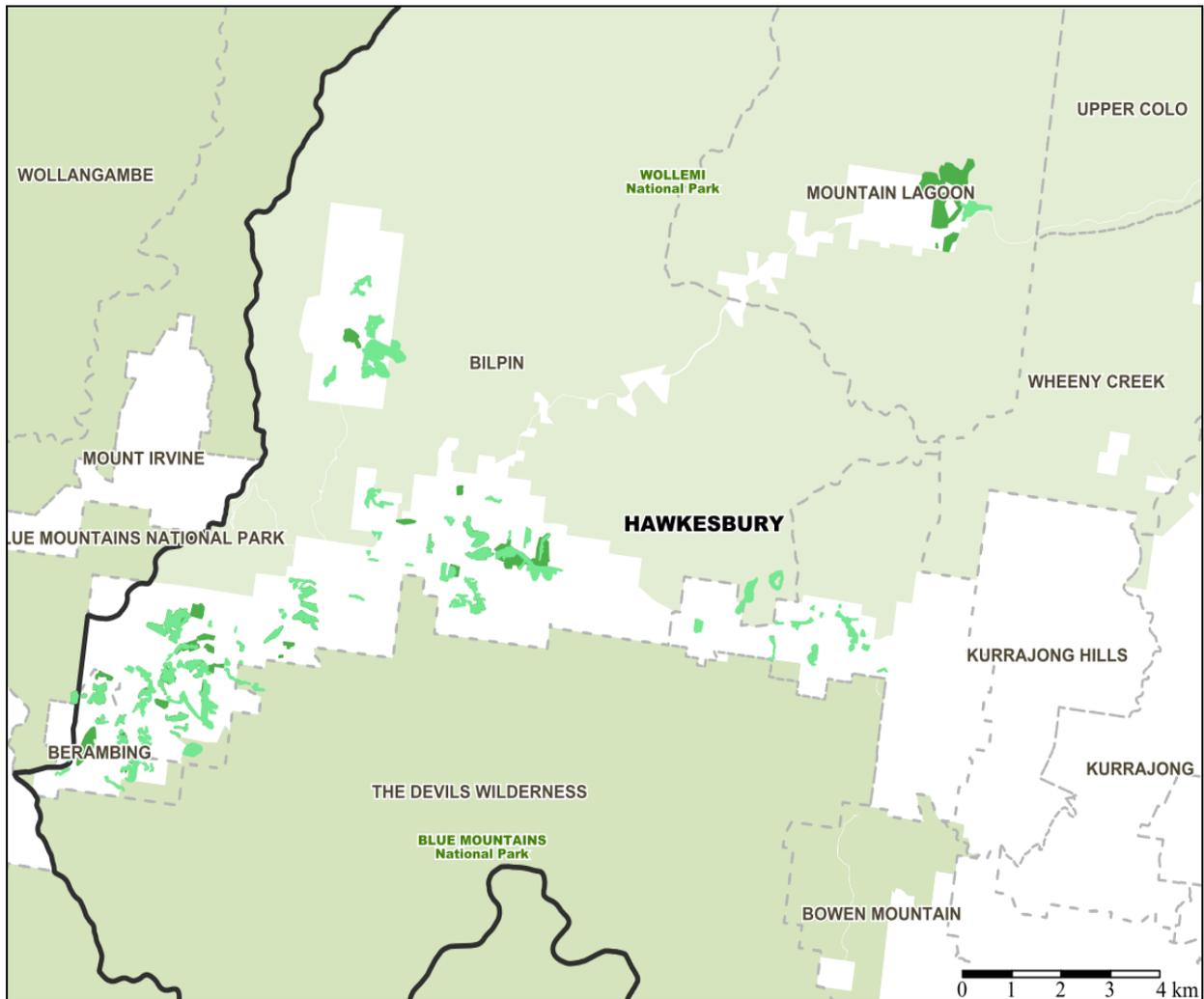


Map 1: Inspected area of County Council in 2020/21 Operational Plan

## 10 Blue Mountains Shale Cap Forest Bilpin grant

We were pleased to organise the launch of the Blue Mountains Shale Cap Forest Bilpin Project by our Chair, Councillor Nathan Zamprogno and Local MP, Robyn Preston.

The project regardless of the constraints caused by COVID-19 has been able to make great strides in reaching its aim to protect, preserve, and regenerate the endangered Blue Mountain Shale Cap Forest vegetation community as well as building the capacity of the community to achieve these aims long into the future. The project has so far confirmed the expected distribution of Blue Mountains Shale Cap, and also confirmed significant range extensions on private and public lands. It has also had over 15 local landholders express their interest in becoming project partners as well.



**Map 2: Blue Mountains Shale cap layer**

Light Green BMSCF is the confirmed expected distribution of the community.

Dark Green BMSCF layer is the significant range extensions of the community discovered during on-ground surveys



Photo 22: Left to Right: HRCC Local Landcare Coordinator Katherine Clare, Bilpin landholder, HRCC Biosecurity Coordinator Philip Price, MP Robyn Preston, Bilpin landholder, Chair Clr. Nathan Zamprogno, at launch event.

## 11 Establishment of biocontrol sites

With the assistance of member councils, our inspection and weed control teams were successful in securing the use of water bodies with active *Salvinia* (*Salvinia molesta*) populations to inoculate with *Salvinia* weevil (*Cyrtobagous salviniae*). These sites will become nurseries for the *Salvinia* weevil to breed in and establish strong populations, which will be used to treat emerging *Salvinia* populations throughout the county for years to come.



Photo 23: HRCC staff and Penrith City Council staff discussing the release of weevils and observing the release of *Salvinia* weevils

## 12 Memorandum of understanding with Western Sydney University

Our inspection team developed and established a memorandum of understanding between Hawkesbury River County Council and Western Sydney University to foster a positive relationship and creating the means for both parties to work together in industry-driven research for the betterment of the communities and environment within the county.

Unfortunately, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, direct on-ground research has not been able to take place this year. However, our Biosecurity Weeds Coordinator was able to assist in the development of an assessment that required the university students studying the unit Conservation Biology to undertake a mock Weed risk assessment using the current assessment system that we and other industry professionals use.

This led to a guest lecture by the coordinator, attended by over 60 students who learned about our role and the use of Weed risk assessments at a State and Local government level.

The coordinator expects this relationship will continue to grow and be beneficial to both parties and the community as a whole.

# Inspection highlights

254  
nursery and sales  
outlet inspections



144  
high risk site  
inspections



1,125 km  
of high risk pathways  
monitored



22,837 hectares  
of the county mapped



233  
private property  
re-inspections



777  
landholders provided  
with advice



Completed 3,335 private property inspections

# Hawkesbury Landcare Network



Over the past 12 months, Landcare throughout the region has expanded with successful collaboration pursued and successful projects occurring on a local and regional scale. Major grants were completed, membership grew, new collaborations began, and existing relationships were strengthened.

## Community of practice

Our Local Landcare Coordinator attended four Community of practice events and supported another six regional and local events for the community through attendance and organisation, with the Regional Landcare Coordinator and other Local Landcare Coordinators. These events support new networks and new relationships and further develop knowledge of issues that are relevant to the community.

Our Local Landcare Coordinator also attended the Landcare NSW State Gathering Overall, this improves their ability to support and plan for the community.

## Building relationships and partnerships across the region

We maintained connections with 11 community and/or Landcare groups and engaged in regular positive communication with larger organisations that operate in the region such as Local Land Services, Greater Sydney Landcare Network, Conservation Volunteers Australia, and National Parks and Wildlife Services. We leveraged many opportunities for Landcare groups in the region as a result including over \$44 675 of in-kind value across the region.

We formed four new partnerships with OzFish Unlimited, Hawkesbury Community Outreach Services, District Gazette and NSW Farmers.



Photos 24 & 25 (over page): Conservation Volunteers Australia assisting with days to support Fire Recovery and Platypus Habitat



In each of our member council areas, we have facilitated stronger collaboration and relationships between organisations working in the natural resource management space, specifically local councils, local Landcare groups, and local progress associations.

Between July 2020 and June 2021, seven meetings were held. The outcomes of these meetings are stronger relationships and collaboration. Some of the outcomes include collaboration on grants such as the School House Creek with Penrith City Council, an aquatic weed education campaign with Blacktown City Council, addressing community concerns in The Hills Shire Council, and in-kind input to the Kurrajong Koala grant from Hawkesbury City Council.

In November, our Local Landcare Coordinator successfully organised and held an online Annual General Meeting for Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Network. Six landholders, groups, and partners presented a 'Landcare Snapshot' of the work they are doing in the region as part of network. The AGM was well attended, the 28 attendees represented all four member councils reflecting the growth of Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Network in the region.

### **Supporting community groups**

We are actively supporting 7 community groups through regularly attending meetings, assisting with grant activities where needed, developing websites, supporting social media, promoting group events, and identifying training opportunities.

The groups are Cattai Hills Environment Network, Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Network, Mulgoa Valley Landcare, Hawkesbury Wetlands Group, Little Wheeny Creek Landcare, School House Creek Bushcare and Cumberland Land Conservancy. Additionally, we promote events of each member council's Bushcare groups.

**Environmental education**

Our Local Landcare Coordinator LLC visited eight schools for education days, offering support and actively supporting five as part of ongoing projects at Penrith Anglican College, Lorien Novalis in Dural, Oakville Preschool, Chisolm Primary School in Bligh Park, and West Pennant Hills Montessori. Our Coordinator also attended six environmental education network meetings within each member council’s local government area to offer support and assistance.



**Photo 26: Lorien Novalis Landcare Group**

At Lorien Novalis, a two week in-situ bush regeneration day was supported for Year 9 students, an additional Madeira vine management day and a Lorien Landcare group started with Cattai Hills Environment Network. At Chisolm Primary, our Local Landcare Coordinator gave advice for a planting day and attended two days to teach students about native vegetation and the importance of creating habitat.



**Photo 27: Lorien Novalis in-situ school program**



Photo 28: Chisolm Public School

### Supporting landholders

Our Local Landcare Coordinator supported 20 landowners that contacted us for support through on-site visits and information on weeds, managing conservation areas, and other topics that landowners expressed an interest in, be it sustainable farming or citizen science.

As knowledge of Landcare grows, more landowners are contacting us for support, for example, Rose Farm contacted the Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Network to assist with revegetation and building a koala corridor. The result has been growth in Landcare involvement in Penrith, Kurrajong, the Hills and Blacktown (particularly schools).

In addition to property visits, advice is often given through phone calls, emails and at events such as the Hawkesbury Recovery Hubs which Hawkesbury City Council established and invited the Network to join.

### Managing grants and funding

In June 2021, our Local Landcare Coordinator finalised two large grants and one minor grant and continued existing grants on behalf of Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Network.

- The first *Connecting Koala Habitat in the Little Wheeny Creek Catchment, Kurrajong* involved 13 landowners in Kurrajong who committed to building a koala habitat corridor and restoring Western Sydney Dry Rainforest.

The project exemplifies of how collaboration between landowners can have successful outcomes for them as well as the environment.

Between July 2020 and June 2021, four events were held to create a community, establish a Landcare group and extend awareness of Landcare to other residents.

A new threatened species was discovered, Science for Wildlife became involved in tracking, and much more. Overall, the project attracted attention from Landcare NSW, Landcare Australia, research bodies and more



**Photo 29: At the Koala project wrap up day: landholders with new signs, GSLLS, Science for Wildlife, and other residents in the area who were interested in Landcare**

- The second, *Hawkesbury Wetland Site Assessment Program* was an assessment of the current state of wetlands in the Hawkesbury local government area. It involved landowner engagement and provided citizen science opportunities such as a Rapid Wetlands Assessment Training Day and practical days at privately owned wetlands in Colo, Lower Portland and Ebenezer.

The baseline data collected and observations made in the project will be used to form a basis for the strategic restoration of Hawkesbury's network of wetlands. The aim of citizen science projects and engaging landholders especially those adjacent to and bordering wetlands is to improve their understanding of the value of wetlands and the need to protect them.



**Photo 30: Rapid Wetlands Assessment Training Day**



**Photo 31: Rapid Wetlands Assessment Training Day**

In June last year, the Working Wetlands Group became Hawkesbury Wetlandcare. The group meets regularly and has visited private property wetlands since forming, as part of citizen science opportunities. The Hawkesbury Site Assessment project was completed in June and a formal forum will be organised to present the report and reflect on its recommendations.

Our Local Landcare Coordinator's work in this project has led to an oral history project starting amongst the wetlands group, the celebration of World Wetlands Day, a collaboration with Western Sydney University on water balances in wetlands and the effect of current and historical development and ongoing support for Hawkesbury Environment Network.

- The third and current grant, *Regenerating Our Bushland after Fire, Hawkesbury* funded by the Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal began in February 2021. It aims to increase local community capacity to manage environmental recovery through skill-based workshops and on-ground support in Upper Hawkesbury including Bilpin, Mountain Lagoon, Kurrajong to East Kurrajong, Colo, and Colo Heights, St Albans, MacDonald Valley and surrounds.



**Photo 32: Bilpin Bush regeneration with Conservation Volunteers Australia**



**Photo 33: Bilpin Bush regeneration with Conservation Volunteers Australia**

Through this grant, our Local Landcare Coordinator is providing support to bushfire-affected properties and providing advice on post-fire land management (e.g. weeds, soil) and conservation in the form of visiting properties, organising workshops on topics of interest to the community, and building networks for long-term wildlife recovery and bushland management.

Collaboration with Conservation Volunteers Australia brought three extra hands-on days valued at around \$14,800 in-kind value for wombat monitoring and weed management.

Further collaboration with RuffTRACK in December 2021 will bring four more hands-on working events to support landholders and much-needed manual labour for landholders who need fencing assistance.

- The first minor grant, *School House Creek Fish Habitat Project* funded by OzFish Unlimited and in partnership with Penrith City Council, aimed to restore riparian vegetation, stabilise a section of bank and improve fish habitat along School House Creek at two sites: a current Penrith City Council Bushcare site and private property.

This area is typically River Flat Eucalypt Forest, it contains suitable habitat for fish, it is directly connected to the Nepean River and downstream from Glenmore Loch.

The project engaged local recreational fishermen, educating them more about not only aquatic ecology but the River Flat Forest too. The project attracted new members from the region which supports both Bushcare and the landholders.

In total five events were held, 30 volunteers involved, almost \$16,000 of in-kind support to the two sites, and 545 plants planted.

Since the project, further funding and in-kind support has been achieved for the two sites and a third property owner on School House Creek has joined.

The project highlights the value of small, targeted initiatives in improving environmental outcomes and building community involvement.



Photos 34 & 35: School House Creek, Site 2 event planting for habitat and erosion control.



- The second minor grant *Identifying Western Sydney Dry Rainforest* funded by Greater Sydney Local Land Services is the development of a pocketbook on Western Sydney Dry Rainforest resources for landholders that will educate and help them engage with the endangered ecological community on their property.

The project also includes creating an updated species list and hopefully revitalising the Hawkesbury Rainforest Network. Meetings have begun for this project and the resource is due to be complete in October 2021.

Our Local Landcare Coordinator also has a supportive role for grants run by community groups which include assisting in data sampling or meeting with new Project Officers, such as the Cattai Aware Urban Project Officer and being involved in community engagement for the Blue Mountains Shale Cap Project.

### **Regional projects and working groups**

Our Local Landcare Coordinator is part of 4 working groups aiming to deliver regional projects that the community needs, has requested, or would benefit from.

These include Landcare and Biodiversity Conservation Trust partnership and funding for the Greater Sydney area, Land for Wildlife, the Great Eastern Ranges working group, and the Riverkeeper Working Group which delivered a forum and paper in August last year and has planned events for 2021.

The Coordinator's everyday engagement with a range of community groups and landholders across the region has proven valuable in understanding the unique needs and challenges of each local government area and the communities within it. This insight has proven important for ensuring regional projects are tailored to each of the community's needs that we operate in.

### **Additional work**

Farm it Forward is a program that has been promoted by us. It started with a plot at the Secret Gardens on the Western Sydney University's Hawkesbury Campus and is run by students. There has been support from the charity RuffTRACK of the plot and the LLC supported the charity to also get materials donated from Bunnings for an additional plot at RuffTRACK.

Another collaboration has been between the University's Student Collective, Local Land Services and Farm it Forward Blue Mountains. In the next 6 months, an orchard care program will be starting for landholders with support from NSW Farmers who have recognised backyard fruit trees as a major concern for commercial farmers and therefore an area that needs more attention.

Hawkesbury Nepean Landcare's social media engagement has grown 50% since July 2020 (and 220% since January 2020) with an active Penrith Landcare Group and Hawkesbury Farm it Forward Group on Facebook. There is also now an Instagram page that has boosted the promotion of the network and what people know about it. Surveys post-events show that social media is an important tool for education, awareness about events and engagement.



**Photos 36 & 37: Student Farm It Forward plot engaging RuffTRACK assistance**



In summary, in the last 12 months, there has been growth in the region for Landcare and groups that align with the values of Landcare despite all the challenges faced.

Plans are in place for another excellent year including; beginning fire recovery workshops, extending wetlands projects, growing Landcare in Kurrajong, growing Farm it Forward in Hawkesbury and Hills, supporting ongoing Landcare activities in schools, growing Landcare in Blacktown through Habitat for Wildlife and Stormwater education, restoring wildlife habitat, and overall improving land management and community engagement across the region.

# Weeds declared under Biosecurity Act (2015)

The *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* was repealed on 1 July 2017 and replaced with the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

State priority weed objective	
PREVENTION	These weeds are currently not found in the state, pose significant biosecurity risk and Prevention of the biosecurity risk is a reasonably practical objective
ERADICATION	These weeds are present in limited distribution and abundance in some parts of the state. Elimination of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is a reasonably practical objective.
CONTAINMENT	These weeds are widely distributed in some parts of the state. While broad scale elimination is not practicable, minimisation of the biosecurity risk posed these weeds is reasonably practicable.
ASSET PROTECTION (Whole of State)	These weeds are widely distributed in some areas of the State. As Weeds of National Significance, their spread must be minimised to protect priority assets.

A1.2 Regional priority weeds	
PREVENTION	These weeds are currently not found in the Greater Sydney region, pose significant biosecurity risk and prevention of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is a reasonably practical objective
ERADICATION	These weeds are present in limited distribution and abundance. Elimination of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is a reasonably practical objective.
CONTAINMENT	These weeds are widely distributed in the region. While broad scale elimination is not practicable, minimisation of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is reasonably practicable
ASSET PROTECTION	These weed species are common and widespread in the landscape. Strategic management of these species may apply in specific circumstances and may be enforced by a local control authority under a landholder's general biosecurity duty.

**Regional Strategic Response:** Identify priority assets for targeted management.

Refer to Greater Sydney Local Land Services, Greater Sydney, Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022 Appendix 1.2 which can be found on the Greater Sydney Local Land Services website <https://greatersydney.lls.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/weed-control>

# Refer Appendix 1.2 Prevention.

† Refer Appendix 1.2 Eradication.

†† Refer Appendix 1.2 Containment.

‡ Refer Appendix 1.2 Asset Protection.

# Priority weed list September 2020

Common name	Botanical name	Objective	Listing
African boxthorn	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	ASSET	STATE
African milk bush	<i>Synadenium grantii</i>	ERADICATION	LOCAL
African olive	<i>Olea europaea</i> subsp. <i>cuspidata</i>	CONTAINMENT (Exclusion zone west of Nepean River in PENRITH LGA)	REGIONAL
Alligator weed	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	CONTAINMENT	STATE
Alligator weed	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	CONTAINMENT	REGIONAL
Anchored water hyacinth	<i>Eichhornia azurea</i>	PREVENTION	STATE
Arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria calycina</i> var. <i>calycina</i>	CONTAINMENT	LOCAL
Asparagus fern	<i>Asparagus virgatus</i>	CONTAINMENT	LOCAL
Asparagus fern	<i>Asparagus virgatus</i>	CONTAINMENT	REGIONAL
Asparagus weeds	<i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i> , † <i>A. africanus</i> , <i>A. asparagoides</i> including the Western Cape form*, <i>A. plumosus</i> , and <i>A. scandens</i>	ASSET	STATE
Athel pine	<i>Tamarix aphylla</i>	ASSET	STATE
Bellyache bush	<i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i>	ASSET	STATE
Bitou bush	<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i> subsp. <i>rotundata</i>	CONTAINMENT	STATE
Black knapweed	<i>Centaurea x moncktonii</i>	PREVENTION	STATE
Black willow	<i>Salix nigra</i>	ERADICATION	REGIONAL
Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. (Blackberry except the varieties Chester Thornless, Dirksen Thornless, Loch Ness, Silvan, Black Satin, Murrindindi, Smooth Stem, Thornfree and Chehalem)	ASSET	STATE
Boneseed	<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i> subspecies <i>monilifera</i>	ERADICATION	STATE
Bridal veil creeper	<i>Asparagus declinatus</i>	PREVENTION	STATE
Broadleaf pepper tree	<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	ERADICATION	LOCAL
Broomrape	<i>Orobancha</i> spp. (all species except the native <i>O. cernua</i> var. <i>australiana</i> and <i>O. minor</i> )	PREVENTION	STATE
Cabomba	<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>	ASSET	REGIONAL
Cabomba ‡	<i>Cabomba caroliniana</i>	ASSET	STATE
Cape/Montpellier broom	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	ASSET	STATE
Cat's claw creeper	<i>Dolichandra unguis-cati</i>	ASSET	REGIONAL
Cat's Claw Creeper ‡	<i>Dolichandra unguis-cati</i>	ASSET	STATE
Chilean needle grass	<i>Nassella neesiana</i>	ASSET	STATE
Chinese celtis	<i>Celtis sinensis</i>	CONTAINMENT	LOCAL

Common name	Botanical name	Objective	Listing
Chinese knotweed	<i>Persicaria chinensis</i>	ERADICATION	REGIONAL
Chinese violet	<i>Asystasia gangetica</i>	ERADICATION	STATE
Climbing asparagus	<i>Asparagus africanus</i>	ERADICATION	REGIONAL
Coolatai grass	<i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i>	ERADICATION	LOCAL
Coral creeper	<i>Barleria repens</i>	PREVENTION	REGIONAL
Corky passionfruit	<i>Passiflora suberosa</i>	CONTAINMENT	LOCAL
Crofton weed	<i>Ageratina adenophora</i>	ASSET	LOCAL
East Indian hygrophila	<i>Hygrophila polysperma</i>	PREVENTION	REGIONAL
Eurasian water milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	PREVENTION	STATE
Fireweed	<i>Senecio madagascariensis</i>	ASSET	STATE
Flax-leaf broom	<i>Genista linifolia</i>	ASSET	STATE
Frogbit / Spongeplant	<i>Limnobium</i> spp. (all species)	PREVENTION	STATE
Gamba grass	<i>Andropogon gayanus</i>	PREVENTION	STATE
Giant devil's fig	<i>Solanum chrysotrichum</i>	PREVENTION	REGIONAL
Giant rats tail grass	<i>Sporobolus pyramidalis</i>	PREVENTION	REGIONAL
Giant reed	<i>Arundo donax</i>	ASSET	REGIONAL
Glory lily	<i>Gloriosa superba</i>	ERADICATION	REGIONAL
Gorse	<i>Ulex - europaeus</i>	CONTAINMENT	REGIONAL
Gorse ††	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	ASSET	STATE
Green cestrum	<i>Cestrum parqui</i>	ASSET	REGIONAL
Grey sallow	<i>Salix cinerea</i>	ERADICATION	REGIONAL
Groundsel bush	<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	ERADICATION	REGIONAL
Hawkweed	<i>Hieracium</i> spp (all species)	PREVENTION	STATE
Holly-leaved senecio	<i>Senecio glastifolius</i>	CONTAINMENT	REGIONAL
Honey locust	<i>Gleditsia tricanthos</i>	CONTAINMENT	LOCAL
Horsetails	<i>Equisetum</i> spp.	CONTAINMENT	REGIONAL
Hydrocotyl/Water pennywort	<i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i>	PREVENTION	STATE
Hygrophilla	<i>Hygrophilla costata</i>	ERADICATION	REGIONAL



Asparagus Weed



Broadleaf Pepper



Cats Claw Creeper

Common name	Botanical name	Objective	Listing
Hymenachne	Hymenachne amplexicaulis	PREVENTION	REGIONAL
Hymenachne #	Hymenachne amplexicaulis	ASSET	STATE
Karoo acacia	Vachellia karroo (syn. Acacia karroo)	PREVENTION	STATE
Kei apple	Dovyalis caffra	ERADICATION	REGIONAL
Kidney leaf mud plantain	Heteranthera reniformis	ERADICATION	REGIONAL
Kochia	Bassia scoparia (excluding subsp. trichophylla)	PREVENTION	STATE
Koster's curse	Clidemia hirta	PREVENTION	STATE
Kudzu	Pueraria lobata	ERADICATION	REGIONAL
Lagarosiphon	Lagarosiphon major	PREVENTION	STATE
Lantana	Lantana camara	ASSET	STATE
Leaf cactus	Pereskia aculeata	ERADICATION	REGIONAL
Leafy elodea	Egeria densa	CONTAINMENT	LOCAL
Lippia	Phyla canescens	ERADICATION	LOCAL
Long leaf willow primrose	Ludwigia longifolia	CONTAINMENT	LOCAL
Madeira vine	Anredera cordifolia	ASSET	STATE
Mesquite	Prosopis spp.	ASSET	STATE
Mexican feather grass	Nassella tenuissima (syn. Stipa tenuissima)	PREVENTION	STATE



Frogbit



Kei Apple



Opuntia

Miconia	Miconia spp. (all species)	PREVENTION	STATE
Mikania vine	Mikania micrantha	PREVENTION	STATE
Mimosa	Mimosa pigra	PREVENTION	STATE
Ming fern	Asparagus macowanii var. zuluensis	ERADICATION	REGIONAL
Mother of millions	Bryophyllum species	ASSET	LOCAL
Mysore thorn	Caesalpinia decapetala	ERADICATION	REGIONAL
Nodding thistle	Carduus nutans	PREVENTION	REGIONAL

Common name	Botanical name	Objective	Listing
Opuntia	Opuntia spp., Cylindropuntia spp., Austrocyllindropuntia spp. (Excludes O. ficus- indica)	ASSET	STATE
Ox eye daisy	Leucanthemum vulgare	ERADICATION	LOCAL
Pampus grass	Cortaderia jubata and spp	ASSET	STATE
Paper mulberry	Broussonetia papyrifera	PREVENTION	LOCAL
Parkinsonia	Parkinsonia aculeata	ERADICATION	STATE
Parthenium weed	Parthenium hysterophorus	PREVENTION	STATE
Pond apple	Annona glabra	PREVENTION	STATE
Prickly acacia	Vachellia nilotica (syn. Acacia nilotica)	PREVENTION	STATE
Rattlepods	Crotolaria lunata	ASSET	LOCAL
Rubber vine	Cryptostegia grandiflora	PREVENTION	STATE
Sagittaria	Sagittaria platyphylla	ASSET	STATE
Salvinia	Salvinia molesta	CONTAINMENT	REGIONAL
Salvinia ††	Salvinia molesta	ASSET	STATE
Scotch/English broom	Cytisus scoparius	ASSET	REGIONAL
Scotch/English broom ‡	Cytisus scoparius subsp. scoparius	ASSET	STATE
Sea spurge	Euphorbia paralias	CONTAINMENT	REGIONAL
Senegal tea	Gymnocoronis spilanthoides	CONTAINMENT	REGIONAL
Serrated tussock	Nassella trichotoma	CONTAINMENT	REGIONAL
Serrated tussock ††	Nassella trichotoma	ASSET	STATE
Siam weed	Chromolaena odorata	PREVENTION	STATE
Sicilian sea lavender	Limonium hyblaenum	ERADICATION	REGIONAL
Sicklethorn	Asparagus falcatus	ERADICATION	REGIONAL
Silver-leaf nightshade	Solanum elaeagnifolium	ASSET	STATE
Singapore daisy	Sphagneticola trilobata	ASSET	REGIONAL
Skunk vine	Paederia foetida	ERADICATION	REGIONAL
Spanish broom	Spartium junceum	PREVENTION	REGIONAL
Spotted knapweed	Centaurea stoebe subsp.australis	PREVENTION	STATE
Tiger pear	Opuntia aurantiaca	CONTAINMENT	REGIONAL
Tropical soda apple	Solanum viarum	ERADICATION	STATE
Water caltrop	Trapa spp. (all species)	PREVENTION	STATE
Water hyacinth	Eichhornia crassipes	CONTAINMENT	STATE
Water hyacinth	Eichhornia crassipes	ASSET	REGIONAL
Water lettuce	Pistia stratiotes	PREVENTION	REGIONAL
Water poppy	Hydrocleys nymphoides	CONTAINMENT	REGIONAL
Water soldier	Stratiotes aloides	PREVENTION	STATE
Water star grass	Heteranthera zosterifolia	PREVENTION	REGIONAL
White blackberry / Mysore raspberry	Rubus niveus	PREVENTION	REGIONAL

Common name	Botanical name	Objective	Listing
Velvety tree pear		ERADICATION	LOCAL
Willow-leaf primrose/ Water primrose	Ludwigia peruviana	ASSET	REGIONAL
Willows †	Salix spp.(excludes S.babylonica, S.X calodendron & S. x reichardtiji)	ASSET	STATE
Witchweed	Striga spp. (except the native S. parviflora)	PREVENTION	STATE
Yellow bells	Tecoma stans	ERADICATION	LOCAL
Yellow burrhead	Limnocharis flava	PREVENTION	STATE



Salvinia

Senegal Tea

Water Poppy

# Administration

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## Condition of public works

We operate as a special purpose authority, which is to control declared priority weeds on the four constituent councils' roads and reserves.

We do not own public facilities as referred to in Section 428(2)(d) of the Local Government Act, 1993.

The only non-current assets held by Council are listed below:

A. Freehold Land	Re-valued July, 2019
B. Works depot/ Administration office	Re-valued June, 2020. Building in satisfactory condition
C. Vehicles & Other plant and equipment	(i) Vehicles are only kept generally for 3 years or 60,000 km, whichever occurs first. All vehicles are in first class condition. (ii) Other plant and equipment are all in good condition.
D. Furniture and fittings	Most is in a good condition. Replaced as required.

## Legal proceedings

No legal proceedings were taken during the year for offences involving the failure to control declared priority weeds.

There were no outstanding legal matters carried forward.

## Elected members

We have adopted a 'Payment of expenses and the provision of facilities to members' policy.

The objective of this policy is to reimburse the chairperson and members for expenses reasonably incurred in performing their duties and to provide them with a standard and range of facilities in discharging the functions of civic office.

The following allowances, fees and expenses have been provided to Members or incurred as a result of their activities during 2020/2021:

Chairperson's allowance	\$11,060
Members' fees	\$48,617
Travelling expenses	\$862
Conference & delegates expenses	NIL
Local Government Association subscriptions	\$1,878
Insurance	\$8,005
Miscellaneous Council expenses	\$2,465

Limited use of facilities is available in line with the policy and no other expenses were incurred.

## Attendance at meetings by Board Members 2020/21 (Maximum 6)

Member	Council	Meetings	Notes
Clr. Brad Bunting	Blacktown	5	Elected 9/2016
Clr. Marcus Cornish	Penrith	6	Elected 9/2012
Clr. Julie Griffiths	Blacktown	5	Elected 4/2017
Clr. Jacob Jackson	The Hills	3	Elected 10/2020.
Clr. Amanda Kotlash	Hawkesbury	6	Elected 9/2016
Clr. Karen McKeown OAM	Penrith	6	Elected 9/2016
Clr. Robyn Preston MP	The Hills	1	Elected 10/2018. Resigned 10/2020.
Clr. Samuel Uno	The Hills	6	Elected 2/2020 - Deputy
Clr. Nathan Zamprogno	Hawkesbury	6	Elected 9/2016 - Chair

### Senior staff remuneration

The total remuneration provided during the year, comprising the salary and employer's contribution to superannuation, including payments of accumulated benefits was \$180,000.

The General Manager is the only Senior Staff member. He commenced his duties on 1 November 2010.

### Major contracts awarded

No major contracts were awarded during the year.

### Bushfire hazard reduction program

We are a special purpose authority charged with responsibilities for Declared Priority Weeds. Thus, bushfire activities are not within our functions.

### Private works

We provided contract spraying and aquatic weed harvesting services.

Most of the work carried out during the year was undertaken on behalf of our member councils, NSW Government agencies or departments.

Regular private property weed control activities are taking place, however these are generally of low economic value. Quite a proportion of these works arise from requests from landholders whom have been visited by our inspectors.

### Contributions/Donations

There were no contributions or donations under Section 356 of the Local Government Act.

### Human Resources activities

Most staff undertook a number of training courses to assist them in their career development, and/or are necessary to meet appropriate certification and license requirements. Please also refer to Priority Weeds Control Operations Report and Performance Management Report for further Human Resources activities.

## Activities to implement EEO Management Plan

We have adopted an Equal Employment Opportunity Management Policy and strategies in place in line with the Local Government Act 1993. All our articles and policies adhere to EEO principles.

We have adopted a Harassment policy and Anti-bullying policy, and a contact officer has been appointed as the first point of contact.

EEO and anti-discrimination publications and articles concerning sexual harassment are all distributed to staff when received.

## Number of staff

Full-time	7
Trainee	3
Part Time	2
Casual	0
TOTAL	12

## External bodies exercising Council functions

There were no external bodies to which we delegated any of our functions.  
Controlling interest in companies

We did not hold a controlling interest in any companies either singularly or jointly with other councils.

## Partnerships, co-operatives and joint ventures

We were not a party to any partnerships, co-operatives or joint ventures.  
Rates and charges written off

We are not a rating authority and therefore rates and extra charges are not written off. No debts were written off.

## Overseas visits funded by Council

There were no overseas visits undertaken during the year by our members or staff.

## Activities for children

We are a special purpose authority charged with the administration of declared priority weeds. Thus activities for children are not within our functions.

## Access and equity service to all

We advertised services and access to services, as required by the Local Government Act. However, as we are a 'single purpose' County Council, only minimal advertising was necessary.

## Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act) – Statistical Report

The statistics for requests for information via GIPA Act were as follows

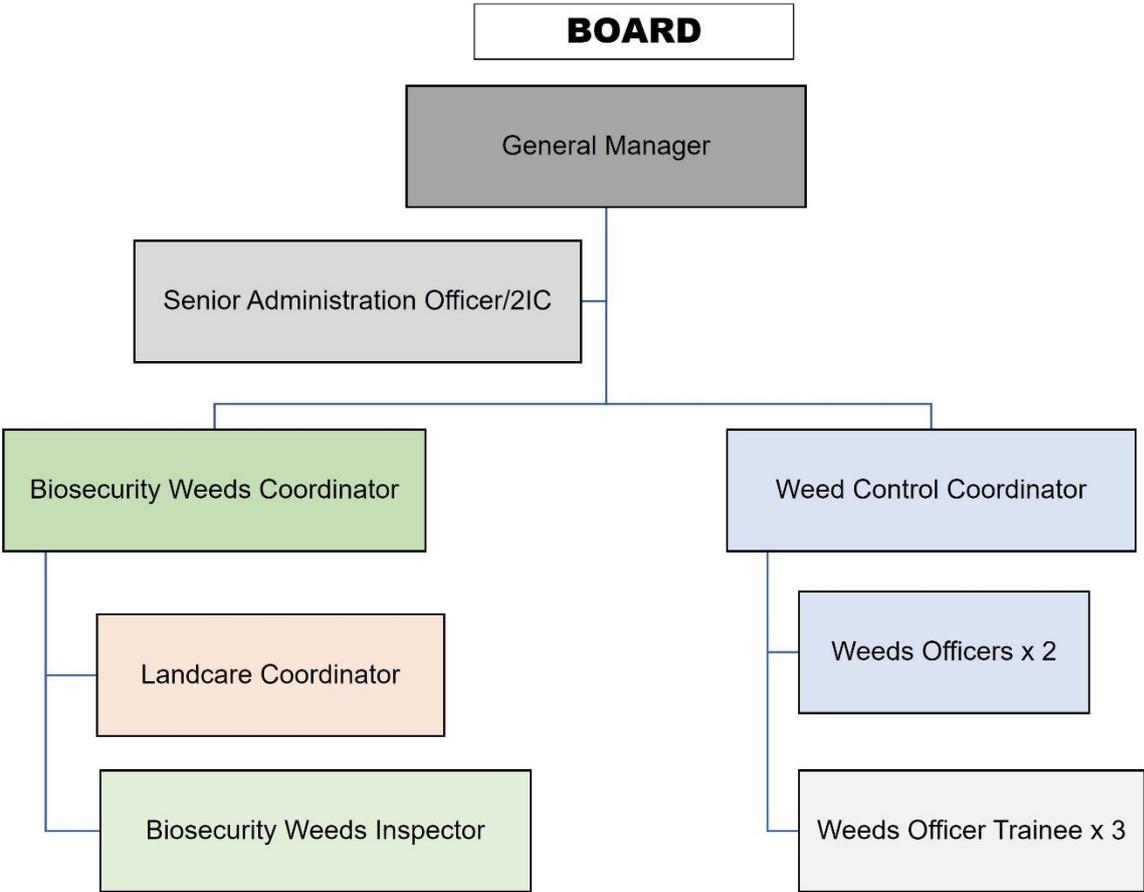
	2020/21
Public information requests	Nil
Public information results	Nil

There are no circumstances in which the Ombudsman has made enquiries of Council. We have published our 'Publication Guide' on our website in line with the guidelines of the Act. This guide navigates public access to Council information.



# Our organisational structure

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# Planning and policy documents

We participate in the discharge of the following legislation, policy and plans:

<b>State Legislation</b>	Local Government At 1993 (and Regulations) (NSW) Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW) Workplace Health and Safety Act 2012 (NSW) Pesticides Act 1999 (NSW) Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW)
<b>State weeds strategies</b>	NSW Invasive Species Plan 2017-2022
<b>Council policies</b>	Code of Conduct Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Council Members Procurement Policy Protected Disclosures Act 1994 – Internal Reporting Policy Staff Records Management Anti-Bullying Policy Vehicle Leaseback Management Policy Investment Policy Pesticide Use Notification Plan Biosecurity Local Weeds Plan Employee Assistance Program Pandemic Response Policy
<b>Local procedures and plans</b>	Financial Reports; Auditor’s Reports and Annual Reports to the Community Delegation of Authority – via Council Minutes. 10 Year Business Activity Statement 2017-2027 (includes Resourcing Strategy) 4 Year Delivery Plan 2017-2021 Operational Plan 2019/2020 Minutes of Council and Committee Meetings Minutes of All Staff Meetings Authorised Officers – Authority and Powers of Entry Pecuniary Interest Disclosures – Members, General Manager, Coordinators, Authorised Officers Register of Investments Summary and Statement of Affairs Process for Inspection of Private Properties Pandemic Response Plan
<b>Employee management</b>	Personal Files Values Statement E. E. O WHS System Special Leave for Emergencies and Fire Fighting Staff Recruitment & Procedures Employee Policies and Procedures Register

# Member Council information

## Role of Council Members

Members' duties include attending Council and Committee meetings, and organised site inspections as required. They are responsible for making major decisions and deciding on policies which set the direction Council will take in its operations, services and activities. They are not paid a salary but receive a fee. Most Councillors have other full or part-time jobs.

## Your representatives

### The Hills Shire Council



Clr Jacob Jackson  
PO Box 7064  
BAULKHAM HILLS  
2153  
Mobile: 0439 118 575



Clr Samuel Uno  
48 Highs Road  
WEST PENNANT HILLS  
2125  
Mobile: 0438 248 085

### Blacktown City Council



Clr Brad Bunting  
31 Shackleton Avenue  
TREGEAR 2770  
Mobile: 0429 858 532



Clr Julie Griffiths  
15 Toomey Crescent  
QUAKERS HILL 2763  
Mobile: 0448 725 473

### Hawkesbury City Council



Clr Amanda Kotlash  
PO Box 14  
KURMOND 2757  
Mobile: 0427 039 714



Clr Nathan Zamprogno  
332 Saunders Road  
OAKVILLE 2765  
Mobile: 0427 122 419

### Penrith City Council



Clr Marcus Cornish  
7 Darwin Drive  
LAPSTONE 2773  
Mobile: 0481 033 419



Clr Karen McKeown OAM  
52 Leonay Parade  
LEONAY 2750  
Mobile: 0401 995 945

## Member Council process

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Each of the four constituent councils elect two delegates from amongst their Councillors to comprise the governing body of the Hawkesbury River County Council.

If the number of Councillors seeking election is no more than the required two delegates, then membership of the County Council is by appointment of the constituent council.

These elections or appointments take place after the constituent Councils quadrennial (four yearly) elections are finalised or to fill a casual vacancy.

The resultant eight, in the case of this County Council, comprise the governing body.

For County Councils these delegates are referred to as 'members'.

The Chairperson is elected or, if unopposed appointed, in October each year.

The County Council meets regularly on a two-monthly basis and at other times when required.



# Finance, accounting and administration

## Functions/Activity – Cost Report

Our audited financial results are presented in the form of General Purpose Financial Statements. This same financial information is used in compiling this report which is based on the following functions/activities:

Health – Biosecurity Weeds	Administration, inspections and weed control activities associated with priority weeds.
Economic Affairs	Private Works (Category 2 Business Activity) related to weed control on private lands and training services for O.H & S.
Governance	Costs relating to the Council's role as a component of democratic government, including members' fees and expenses, subscriptions to local authority associations, meetings of council and policymaking committees, reporting, area representation and public disclosure and compliance, together with related administration costs.
Administration	Costs not otherwise attributed to other functions



A copy of our Audited Financial Statements 2020/21 are included on the following pages.

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# Hawkesbury River County Council

GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 2021



# Hawkesbury River County Council

## General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2021

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Contents	Page
<b>Understanding Council's Financial Statements</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Statement by Councillors and Management</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Primary Financial Statements:</b>	
Income Statement	5
Statement of Comprehensive Income	6
Statement of Financial Position	7
Statement of Changes in Equity	8
Statement of Cash Flows	9
<b>Notes to the Financial Statements</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Independent Auditor's Reports:</b>	
On the Financial Statements (Sect 417 [2])	48
On the Financial Statements (Sect 417 [3])	53

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### Overview

Hawkesbury River County Council is constituted under the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) and has its principal place of business at:

6 Walker Street  
South Windsor NSW 2756

Council's guiding principles are detailed in Chapter 3 of the LGA and includes:

- principles applying to the exercise of functions generally by council,
- principles to be applied when making decisions,
- principles of community participation,
- principles of sound financial management, and
- principles for strategic planning relating to the development of an integrated planning and reporting framework.

A description of the nature of Council's operations and its principal activities are provided in Note B1-2.

Through the use of the internet, we have ensured that our reporting is timely, complete and available at minimum cost. All press releases, financial statements and other information are publicly available on our website: [www.hrcc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hrcc.nsw.gov.au).

# Hawkesbury River County Council

## General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2021

### Understanding Council's Financial Statements

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#### Introduction

Each year NSW local governments are required to present audited financial statements to their council and community.

#### What you will find in the Statements

The financial statements set out the financial performance, financial position and cash flows of Council for the financial year ended 30 June 2021.

The format of the financial statements is standard across all NSW Councils and complies with both the accounting and reporting requirements of Australian Accounting Standards and requirements as set down by the Office of Local Government.

#### About the Councillor/Management Statement

The financial statements must be certified by senior staff as 'presenting fairly' the Council's financial results for the year and are required to be adopted by Council – ensuring both responsibility for and ownership of the financial statements.

#### About the Primary Financial Statements

The financial statements incorporate five "primary" financial statements:

##### 1. The Income Statement

Summarises Council's financial performance for the year, listing all income and expenses. This statement also displays Council's original adopted budget to provide a comparison between what was projected and what actually occurred.

##### 2. The Statement of Comprehensive Income

Primarily records changes in the fair value of Council's Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment.

##### 3. The Statement of Financial Position

A 30 June snapshot of Council's financial position indicating its assets, liabilities and "net wealth".

##### 4. The Statement of Changes in Equity

The overall change for the year (in dollars) of Council's "net wealth".

##### 5. The Statement of Cash Flows

Indicates where Council's cash came from and where it was spent. This statement also displays Council's original adopted budget to provide a comparison between what was projected and what actually occurred.

#### About the Notes to the Financial Statements

The Notes to the Financial Statements provide greater detail and additional information on the five primary financial statements.

#### About the Auditor's Reports

Council's financial statements are required to be audited by the NSW Audit Office.

In NSW the auditor provides 2 audit reports:

1. an opinion on whether the financial statements present fairly the Council's financial performance and position, and
2. their observations on the conduct of the audit, including commentary on the Council's financial performance and financial position.

#### Who uses the Financial Statements?

The financial statements are publicly available documents and must be presented at a Council meeting between seven days and five weeks after the date of the audit report.

The public can make submissions to Council up to seven days subsequent to the public presentation of the financial statements.

Council is required to forward an audited set of financial statements to the Office of Local Government.

## Hawkesbury River County Council

### General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2021

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#### Statement by Councillors and Management made pursuant to Section 413(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW)

The attached general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

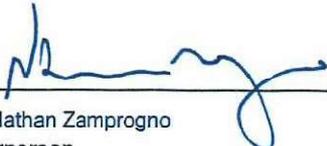
- the *Local Government Act 1993* and the regulations made thereunder,
- the Australian Accounting Standards and other pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board
- the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:

- present fairly the Council's operating result and financial position for the year
- accord with Council's accounting and other records.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 14 October 2021.



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Clr. Nathan Zamprogno  
Chairperson  
14 October 2021



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Clr. Samuel Uno  
Deputy  
14 October 2021



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Chris Dewhurst  
General Manager  
14 October 2021



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Chris Dewhurst  
Responsible Accounting Officer  
14 October 2021



## Hawkesbury River County Council

### Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2021

<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Net operating result for the year – from Income Statement</b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to Council</b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>89</b>

The above Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Hawkesbury River County Council

### Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2021

\$ '000	Notes	2021	2020
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	C1-1	914	616
Investments	C1-2	350	750
Receivables	C1-4	2	17
Inventories	C1-5	5	6
Other		-	19
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>1,271</b>	<b>1,408</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-6	1,503	1,500
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>1,503</b>	<b>1,500</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>2,774</b>	<b>2,908</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Payables	C2-1	34	58
Contract liabilities	C2-2	97	193
Employee benefit provisions	C2-3	216	222
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>347</b>	<b>473</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>347</b>	<b>473</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>2,427</b>	<b>2,435</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Accumulated surplus		1,159	1,167
IPPE revaluation reserve	C3-1	1,268	1,268
<b>Council Funds interest</b>		<b>2,427</b>	<b>2,435</b>
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>2,427</b>	<b>2,435</b>

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Hawkesbury River County Council

### Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2021

\$ '000	as at 30/06/21			as at 30/06/20		
	Accumulated surplus	IPPE revaluation reserve	Total equity	Accumulated surplus	IPPE revaluation reserve	Total equity
Opening balance at 1 July	1,167	1,268	2,435	1,078	1,268	2,346
Net operating result for the year	(8)	–	(8)	89	–	89
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Closing balance at 30 June</b>	<b>1,159</b>	<b>1,268</b>	<b>2,427</b>	<b>1,167</b>	<b>1,268</b>	<b>2,435</b>

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Hawkesbury River County Council

### Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2021

Original unaudited budget 2021	\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2021	Actual 2020
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>				
<i>Receipts:</i>				
-	User charges and fees		12	88
-	Investment and interest revenue received		25	36
-	Grants and contributions		1,257	1,209
-	Other		127	99
<i>Payments:</i>				
-	Employee benefits and on-costs		(979)	(941)
-	Materials and services		(454)	(154)
-	Other		(51)	(352)
-	<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>	F1-1	<b>(63)</b>	<b>(15)</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>				
<i>Receipts:</i>				
-	Sale of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		87	28
<i>Payments:</i>				
-	Renewal of investment securities		-	(100)
-	Redemption of term deposits		400	-
-	Purchase of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		(126)	(153)
-	<b>Net cash flows from investing activities</b>		<b>361</b>	<b>(225)</b>
-	<b>Net change in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>298</b>	<b>(240)</b>
-	Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		616	856
-	<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>	C1-1	<b>914</b>	<b>616</b>

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

# Hawkesbury River County Council

## Contents for the notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

<b>A About Council and these financial statements</b>	<b>12</b>
A1-1 Basis of preparation	12
<b>B Financial Performance</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>B1 Functions or activities</b>	<b>14</b>
B1-1 Functions or activities – income, expenses and assets	14
B1-2 Components of functions or activities	15
<b>B2 Sources of income</b>	<b>16</b>
B2-1 User charges and fees	16
B2-2 Other revenue	17
B2-3 Grants and contributions	17
B2-4 Interest and investment income	18
<b>B3 Costs of providing services</b>	<b>19</b>
B3-1 Employee benefits and on-costs	19
B3-2 Materials and services	19
B3-3 Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	20
<b>B4 Gains or losses</b>	<b>21</b>
B4-1 Gain or loss from the disposal, replacement and de-recognition of assets	21
<b>B5 Performance against budget</b>	<b>22</b>
B5-1 Material budget variations	22
<b>C Financial position</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>C1 Assets we manage</b>	<b>23</b>
C1-1 Cash and cash equivalents	23
C1-2 Financial investments	24
C1-3 Restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments	25
C1-4 Receivables	25
C1-5 Inventories	26
C1-6 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	27
<b>C2 Liabilities of Council</b>	<b>30</b>
C2-1 Payables	30
C2-2 Contract Liabilities	30
C2-3 Employee benefit provisions	31
<b>C3 Reserves</b>	<b>32</b>
C3-1 Nature and purpose of reserves	32
<b>D Risks and accounting uncertainties</b>	<b>33</b>
D1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held	33
D2 Fair value measurement	36
<b>E People and relationships</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>E1 Related party disclosures</b>	<b>37</b>
E1 Key management personnel (KMP)	37
E1-2 Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses	38

# Hawkesbury River County Council

## Contents for the notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

---

<b>E2 Other relationships</b>	<b>39</b>
E2-1 Audit fees	39
<b>F Other matters</b>	<b>40</b>
F1-1 Statement of Cash Flows information	40
F2-1 Events occurring after the reporting date	41
<b>F3 Statement of performance measures</b>	<b>42</b>
F3-1 Statement of performance measures – consolidated results	42
F3-2 Statement of performance measures by fund	43
<b>G Additional Council disclosures (unaudited)</b>	<b>44</b>
G1-1 Statement of performance measures – consolidated results (graphs)	44
G1-2 Financial review	46
G1-3 Council information and contact details	47

## A About Council and these financial statements

### A1-1 Basis of preparation

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These financial statements were authorised for issue by Council on 07 October 2021. Council has the power to amend and reissue these financial statements in cases where critical information is received from public submissions or where the OLG directs Council to amend the financial statements.

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below.

These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations, the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* and Regulations, and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

Council is a not for-profit entity.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

Except when an Australian Accounting Standard permits or requires otherwise, comparative information is presented in respect of the previous period for all amounts reported in the financial statements.

#### Historical cost convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain infrastructure, property, plant and equipment and investment property.

#### Significant accounting estimates and judgements

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Council's accounting policies.

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that may have a financial impact on the Council and that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

#### Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

Council makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future.

The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results.

The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year include:

- i. estimated fair values of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment – refer Note C1-6
- ii. employee benefit provisions – refer Note C2-3

#### Significant judgements in applying the Council's accounting policies

Council has made a significant judgement about the impairment of a number of its receivables

#### Monies and other assets received by Council

##### The Consolidated Fund

In accordance with the provisions of Section 409(1) of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW), all money and property received by Council is held in the Council's Consolidated Fund unless it is required to be held in the Council's Trust Fund.

The Consolidated Fund has been included in the financial statements of Council.

Cash and other assets of the following entities have been included as part of the Consolidated Fund:

- General purpose operations

## A1-1 Basis of preparation (continued)

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### **The Trust Fund**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 411 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* (as amended), a separate and distinct Trust Fund is maintained to account for all money and property received by the council in trust which must be applied only for the purposes of, or in accordance with, the trusts relating to those monies.

Trust monies and property subject to Council's control have been included in these reports.

### **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority. In this case it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included with other receivables or payables in the Statement of Financial Position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities that are recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority, are presented as operating cash flows.

### **Volunteer services**

Council does not rely on volunteers to perform its work. We have decided not to recognise the work done by Volunteers as we do not consider the amount to be material.

### **New accounting standards adopted during the year**

No new accounting standards applicable during the year for the first time had a significant impact on Council.

## B Financial Performance

### B1 Functions or activities

#### B1-1 Functions or activities – income, expenses and assets

Income, expenses and assets have been directly attributed to the following functions or activities. Details of those functions or activities are provided in Note B1-2.

\$ '000	Income		Expenses		Operating result		Grants and contributions		Carrying amount of assets	
	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
<b>Functions or activities</b>										
Governance	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1,515	1,190
Environment	1,370	1,434	1,461	1,402	(91)	32	1,238	552	1,259	1,718
General Purpose Income	16	29	–	–	16	29	–	–	–	–
Other	67	28	–	–	67	28	–	699	–	–
<b>Total functions and activities</b>	<b>1,453</b>	<b>1,491</b>	<b>1,461</b>	<b>1,402</b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>1,238</b>	<b>1,251</b>	<b>2,774</b>	<b>2,908</b>

## B1-2 Components of functions or activities

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Details relating to the Council's functions or activities as reported in B1-1 are as follows:

### **Governance**

Includes costs relating to Council's role as a component of democratic government, including elections, members' fees and expenses, subscriptions to local authority associations, meetings of Council and policy-making committees, public disclosure (e.g. GIPA), and legislative compliance.

### **Environment**

Noxious plants control.

### **General Purpose Income**

Council receives Interest on the money it has Invested.

### **Other Revenue**

Council receives Commissions & Agency Fees on the projects it manages.

## B2 Sources of income

### B2-1 User charges and fees

\$ '000	2021	2020
<b>Other user charges and fees</b>		
<b>(i) Fees and charges – statutory and regulatory functions (per s.608)</b>		
Issue certificate – property	–	1
Private works – section 67	11	87
<b>Total fees and charges – statutory/regulatory</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Total user charges and fees</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Timing of revenue recognition for user charges and fees</b>		
User charges and fees recognised over time (1)	–	–
User charges and fees recognised at a point in time (2)	11	88
<b>Total user charges and fees</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>88</b>

#### Accounting policy

Revenue arising from user charges and fees is recognised when or as the performance obligation is completed and the customer receives the benefit of the goods / services being provided.

The performance obligation relates to the specific services which are provided to the customers and generally the payment terms are within 30 days of the provision of the service or in some cases such as caravan parks, the customer is required to pay on arrival. There is no material obligation for Council in relation to refunds or returns.

## B2-2 Other revenue

\$ '000	2021	2020
Commissions and fees for Service	59	54
Employee contribution on motor vehicle	25	22
Sales – general	37	19
<b>Total other revenue</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>95</b>

### Timing of revenue recognition for other revenue

Other revenue recognised over time (1)	–	–
Other revenue recognised at a point in time (2)	121	95
<b>Total other revenue</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>95</b>

### Accounting policy for other revenue

Where the revenue is earned for the provision of specified goods / services under an enforceable contract, revenue is recognised when or as the obligations are satisfied.

Statutory fees and fines are recognised as revenue when the service has been provided, the payment is received or when the penalty has been applied, whichever occurs first.

Other revenue is recorded when the payment is due, the value of the payment is notified, or the payment is received, whichever occurs first.

## B2-3 Grants and contributions

\$ '000	Operating 2021	Operating 2020	Capital 2021	Capital 2020
<b>Cash contributions</b>				
<b>Previously specific grants:</b>				
Environmental Programs	460	493	–	–
Constituent councils	778	758	–	–
<b>Total grants and non-developer contributions</b>	<b>1,238</b>	<b>1,251</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Comprising:</b>				
– State funding	460	493	–	–
– Local Council members	778	758	–	–
	<b>1,238</b>	<b>1,251</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>

## Unspent grants and contributions

Certain grants and contributions are obtained by Council on the condition they be spent in a specified manner or in a future period but which are not yet spent in accordance with those conditions are as follows:

\$ '000	Operating 2021	Operating 2020	Capital 2021	Capital 2020
<b>Unspent grants and contributions</b>				
Unspent funds at 1 July	193	154	–	–
<b>Add:</b> Funds recognised as revenue in the reporting year but not yet spent in accordance with the conditions	–	–	–	–
<b>Add:</b> Funds received and not recognised as revenue in the current year	95	193	–	–
<b>Less:</b> Funds recognised as revenue in previous years that have been spent during the reporting year	–	(154)	–	–
<b>Less:</b> Funds received in prior year but revenue recognised and funds spent in current year	(191)	–	–	–
<b>Unspent funds at 30 June</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>

## B2-3 Grants and contributions (continued)

### Accounting policy

The AASB notation (above) identifies the revenue recognition pattern for material items of Council revenue:

- 15 (1) indicates income recognised under AASB 15 “at a point in time”,
- 15 (2) indicates income recognised under AASB 15 “over time”,
- 1058 (1) indicates income recognised under AASB 1058 “at a point in time”, while
- 1058 (2) indicates income recognised under AASB 1058 “over time”.

### Grant income under AASB 15

Where grant income arises from an agreement which is enforceable and contains sufficiently specific performance obligations then the revenue are recognised when control of each performance obligations is satisfied.

The performance obligations are varied based on the agreement but include obligations in grants agreements. Payment terms vary depending on the terms of the grant, cash is received upfront for some grants and on the achievement of certain payment milestones for others.

Each performance obligation is considered to ensure that the revenue recognition reflects the transfer of control and within grant agreements there may be some performance obligations where control transfers at a point in time and others which have continuous transfer of control over the life of the contract.

Where control is transferred over time, generally the input methods being either costs or time incurred are deemed to be the most appropriate methods to reflect the transfer of benefit.

### Grant income

Assets arising from grants in the scope of AASB 1058 are recognised at the assets fair value when the asset is received. Councils considers whether there are any related liability or equity items associated with the asset which are recognised in accordance with the relevant accounting standard.

Once the assets and liabilities have been recognised then income is recognised for any remaining asset value at the time that the asset is received

### Capital grants

Capital grants received to enable Council to acquire or construct an item of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment to identified specifications which will be under Council’s control and which is enforceable are recognised as revenue as and when the obligation to construct or purchase is completed.

For construction projects, this is generally as the construction progresses in accordance with costs incurred since this is deemed to be the most appropriate measure of the completeness of the construction project as there is no profit margin.

For acquisitions of assets, the revenue is recognised when the asset is acquired and controlled by the Council.

## B2-4 Interest and investment income

\$ '000	2021	2020
<b>Interest on financial assets measured at amortised cost</b>		
– Cash and investments	16	29
Finance income on the net investment in the lease	–	–
<b>Total interest and investment income (losses)</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Interest and investment income is attributable to:</b>		
<b>Unrestricted investments/financial assets:</b>		
General Council cash and investments	16	29
<b>Total interest and investment income</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>29</b>

### Accounting policy

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest rate at the date that interest is earned.

## B3 Costs of providing services

### B3-1 Employee benefits and on-costs

\$ '000	2021	2020
Salaries and wages	811	629
Employee leave entitlements (ELE)	25	171
Superannuation	77	75
Workers' compensation insurance	21	19
Fringe benefit tax (FBT)	1	1
Protective clothing	7	6
<b>Total employee costs expended</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>901</b>

#### Accounting policy

Employee benefit expenses are recorded when the service has been provided by the employee.

All employees of the Council are entitled to benefits on retirement, disability or death. Council contributes to various defined benefit plans and defined contribution plans on behalf of its employees.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense as they become payable. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payments is available.

Council participates in a defined benefit plan under the Local Government Superannuation Scheme, however, sufficient information to account for the plan as a defined benefit is not available and therefore Council accounts for its obligations to defined benefit plans on the same basis as its obligations to defined contribution plans, i.e. as an expense when it becomes payable.

### B3-2 Materials and services

\$ '000	Notes	2021	2020
Raw materials and consumables		7	17
Audit Fees	E2-1	14	14
Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses	E1-2	63	63
Bank charges		-	1
Cleaning		4	4
Computer software charges		23	21
Electricity and heating		3	3
Insurance		71	66
Office expenses (including computer expenses)		11	7
Postage		3	2
Printing and stationery		5	4
Telephone and communications		10	12
Travel expenses		-	-
Depot services		2	7
Training costs (other than salaries and wages)		5	2
Other expenses		37	45
Other grant and other programs		72	37
Plant running		86	78
<b>Total materials and services</b>		<b>416</b>	<b>383</b>

#### Accounting policy

Expenses are recorded on an accruals basis as the Council receives the goods or services.

### B3-3 Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets

\$ '000	Notes	2021	2020
<b>Depreciation and amortisation</b>			
Plant and equipment		94	101
Office equipment		5	9
<b>Infrastructure:</b>	C1-6		
– Buildings – specialised		4	8
<b>Total gross depreciation and amortisation costs</b>		<b>103</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>Total depreciation and amortisation costs</b>		<b>103</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>Total depreciation, amortisation and impairment for non-financial assets</b>		<b>103</b>	<b>118</b>

#### Accounting policy

##### Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation and amortisation are calculated using the straight line method to allocate their cost, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives.

##### Impairment of non-financial assets

Council assets held at fair value that are not held primarily for their ability to generate net cash flow, and that are deemed to be specialised, are not tested for impairment since these assets are assessed on an annual basis to ensure that the carrying amount is not materially different from fair value and therefore an impairment loss would be captured during this assessment.

Intangible assets not yet available for use, are tested annually for impairment, or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that they might be impaired.

Other non-financial assets that do not meet the criteria above are tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use.

For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets (cash-generating units).

Impairment losses for revalued assets are firstly offset against the amount in the revaluation surplus for the class of asset, with only the excess to be recognised in the Income Statement.

**B4 Gains or losses****B4-1 Gain or loss from the disposal, replacement and de-recognition of assets**

<b>\$ '000</b>	Notes	<b>2021</b>	2020
<b>Gain (or loss) on disposal of plant and equipment</b>	C1-6		
Proceeds from disposal – plant and equipment		<b>87</b>	28
Less: carrying amount of plant and equipment assets sold/written off		<b>(20)</b>	–
<b>Gain (or loss) on disposal</b>		<b>67</b>	<b>28</b>

**Accounting policy**

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with carrying amount. These are included in the Income Statement.

The gain or loss on sale of an asset is determined when control of the asset has irrevocably passed to the buyer and the asset is de-recognised.

## B5 Performance against budget

### B5-1 Material budget variations

Council's original budget was adopted by the Council on 11/06/2020 and is not required to be audited. The original projections on which the budget was based have been affected by a number of factors. These include state and federal government decisions, including new grant programs, changing economic activity, environmental factors, and by decisions made by Council.

While these General Purpose Financial Statements include the original budget adopted by Council, the Act requires Council to review its financial budget on a quarterly basis, so it is able to manage the variation between actuals and budget that invariably occur during the year.

**Material variations of more than 10%** between original budget and actual results or where the variance is considered material by nature are explained below.

**Variation Key:** **F** = Favourable budget variation, **U** = Unfavourable budget variation.

\$ '000	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2021 ----- Variance -----	
<b>REVENUES</b>				
<b>User charges and fees</b>	22	11	(11)	(50)% <b>U</b>
With the Covid period, clients were reluctant to get private property work.				
<b>Other revenues</b>	64	121	57	89% <b>F</b>
This is mainly due to the better than expected result from the Profit on the Sale of Assets				
<b>Operating grants and contributions</b>	1,411	1,238	(173)	(12)% <b>U</b>
Some of the Budget Income did not eventuate, especially the Environmental Restoration Fund (Nepean), NSW DPI Aquatic Weed Control Program, NSW DPI Weed Action Program.				
<b>Interest and investment revenue</b>	30	16	(14)	(47)% <b>U</b>
For the Budget we were expecting Interest Rates to start increasing during FYE 2021.				
<b>Net gains from disposal of assets</b>	-	67	67	∞ <b>F</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
<b>Employee benefits and on-costs</b>	1,150	942	208	18% <b>F</b>
Staff numbers were reduced due to the loss of a few Grants				
<b>Materials and services</b>	390	416	(26)	(7)% <b>U</b>
<b>Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets</b>	90	103	(13)	(14)% <b>U</b>
Due to the timing of Asset Sales & Purchases				
<b>STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS</b>				
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>	-	(63)	(63)	∞ <b>U</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>	-	361	361	∞ <b>F</b>

## C Financial position

### C1 Assets we manage

#### C1-1 Cash and cash equivalents

\$ '000	2021	2020
<b>Cash and cash equivalents</b>		
Cash on hand and at bank	11	24
Cash-equivalent assets		
– Short-term deposits	903	592
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>616</b>

#### Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents

Total cash and cash equivalents per Statement of Financial Position	914	616
<b>Balance as per the Statement of Cash Flows</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>616</b>

#### Accounting policy

For Statement of Cash Flow presentation purposes, cash and cash equivalents include: cash on hand; deposits held at call with financial institutions; other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value; and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the Statement of Financial Position.

## C1-2 Financial investments

\$ '000	2021 Current	2021 Non-current	2020 Current	2020 Non-current
<b>Debt securities at amortised cost</b>				
Long term deposits	350	-	750	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total financial investments</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total cash assets, cash equivalents and investments</b>	<b>1,264</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,366</b>	<b>-</b>

### Accounting policy

Financial instruments are recognised initially on the date that the Council becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

On initial recognition, all financial instruments are measured at fair value plus transaction costs (except for instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss where transaction costs are expensed as incurred).

### Financial assets

All recognised financial assets are subsequently measured in their entirety at either amortised cost or fair value, depending on the classification of the financial assets.

### Classification

On initial recognition, Council classifies its financial assets into the following categories – those measured at:

- amortised cost
- fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL)
- fair value through other comprehensive income – equity instrument (FVOCI-equity)

Financial assets are not reclassified subsequent to their initial recognition.

### Amortised cost

Assets measured at amortised cost are financial assets where:

- the business model is to hold assets to collect contractual cash flows, and
- the contractual terms give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

Council's financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise trade and other receivables, term deposits and cash and cash equivalents in the Statement of Financial Position. Term deposits with an initial term of more than 3 months are classified as investments rather than cash and cash equivalents.

Subsequent to initial recognition, these assets are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method less provision for impairment.

Interest income, impairment and gains or loss on de-recognition are recognised in profit or loss.

## C1-3 Restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments

\$ '000	2021 Current	2021 Non-current	2020 Current	2020 Non-current
Total cash, cash equivalents and investments	1,264	–	1,366	–

\$ '000	2021	2020
---------	------	------

### Details of restrictions

#### External restrictions – other

External restrictions included in cash, cash equivalents and investments above comprise:

#### External restrictions – included in liabilities

Specific purpose unexpended grants – general fund

	97	193
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<b>Total external restrictions</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>193</b>
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#### Internal restrictions

Council has internally restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments:

<b>Total internal restrictions</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
------------------------------------	----------	----------

Internal restrictions over cash, cash equivalents and investments are those assets restricted only by a resolution of the elected Council.

## C1-4 Receivables

\$ '000	2021 Current	2021 Non-current	2020 Current	2020 Non-current
<b>Purpose</b>				
Accrued revenues				
– Interest on investments	1	–	10	–
Amounts due from other councils	1	–	7	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total net receivables</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>–</b>

## C1-5 Inventories

\$ '000	2021 Current	2021 Non-current	2020 Current	2020 Non-current
<b>(i) Inventories at cost</b>				
Stores and materials	5	-	6	-
<b>Total inventories at cost</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total inventories</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-</b>

### Accounting policy

#### Raw materials and stores, work in progress and finished goods

Raw materials and stores, work in progress and finished goods are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Costs are assigned to individual items of inventory on the basis of weighted average costs. Costs of purchased inventory are determined after deducting rebates and discounts. Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business less the estimated costs of completion and the estimated costs necessary to make the sale.

## C1-6 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

By aggregated asset class	At 1 July 2020			Asset movements during the reporting period			At 30 June 2021		
	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount	Additions new assets	Carrying value of disposals	Depreciation expense	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount
<b>\$ '000</b>									
Plant and equipment	1,276	(982)	294	112	20	(94)	953	(662)	291
Office equipment	144	(130)	14	14	–	(5)	147	(122)	25
<b>Land:</b>									
– Operational land	911	–	911	–	–	–	911	–	911
<b>Infrastructure:</b>									
– Buildings – specialised	495	(214)	281	–	–	(4)	495	(219)	276
<b>Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment</b>	<b>2,826</b>	<b>(1,326)</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>(103)</b>	<b>2,506</b>	<b>(1,003)</b>	<b>1,503</b>

## C1-6 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

By aggregated asset class	At 1 July 2019			Asset movements during the reporting period			At 30 June 2020		
	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount	Additions new assets	Carrying value of disposals	Depreciation expense	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount
<b>\$ '000</b>									
Plant and equipment	1,129	(881)	248	247	(100)	(101)	1,276	(982)	294
Office equipment	138	(121)	17	6	–	(9)	144	(130)	14
<b>Land:</b>									
– Operational land	911	–	911	–	–	–	911	–	911
<b>Infrastructure:</b>									
– Buildings – specialised	495	(206)	289	–	–	(8)	495	(214)	281
<b>Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment</b>	<b>2,673</b>	<b>(1,208)</b>	<b>1,465</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>(100)</b>	<b>(118)</b>	<b>2,826</b>	<b>(1,326)</b>	<b>1,500</b>

## C1-6 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

### Accounting policy

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment are held at fair value. Independent comprehensive valuations are performed at least every five years, however the carrying amount of assets is assessed by Council at each reporting date to confirm that it is not materially different from current fair value. A valuation was done on the land & buildings as at 30/6/19 by an independent valuer and our land & buildings have been adjusted to match the independent valuer.

Increases in the carrying amounts arising on revaluation are credited to the revaluation reserve. To the extent that the increase reverses a decrease previously recognising profit or loss relating to that asset class, the increase is first recognised as profit or loss. Decreases that reverse previous increases of assets in the same class are first charged against revaluation reserves directly in equity to the extent of the remaining reserve attributable to the class; all other decreases are charged to the Income Statement.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the Income Statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

When infrastructure, property, plant and equipment are acquired by Council for nil or nominal consideration, the assets are initially recognised at their fair value at acquisition date.

Land is not depreciated. The property, plant and equipment acquired under finance leases is depreciated over the asset's useful life or over the shorter of the asset's useful life and the lease term if there is no reasonable certainty that the Council will obtain ownership at the end of the lease term. Depreciation on other assets is calculated using the straight-line method to allocate their cost, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives as follows:

<b>Plant and Equipment</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Buildings</b>	<b>Years</b>
Office furniture & equipment	5 to 20	Buildings: masonry	50 to 100
Computer Equipment	4	Buildings: other	20 to 40
Vehicles	5 to 8		
Other plant and equipment	5 to 15		

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each reporting date.

## C2 Liabilities of Council

### C2-1 Payables

\$ '000	2021 Current	2021 Non-current	2020 Current	2020 Non-current
<b>Payables</b>				
Accrued expenses:				
– Salaries and Wages & PAYG Withholding	19	–	48	–
– Expense other	15	–	10	–
<b>Total payables</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total payables</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>–</b>

#### Accounting policy

Council measures all financial liabilities initially at fair value less transaction costs, subsequently financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to Council prior to the end of financial year that are unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

### C2-2 Contract Liabilities

#### Contract liabilities relating to restricted assets

\$ '000	2021 Current	2021 Non-current	2020 Current	2020 Non-current
<b>Externally restricted assets</b>				
Unspent grants held as contract liabilities	97	–	216	–
<b>Contract liabilities relating to externally restricted assets</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total contract liabilities relating to restricted assets</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total contract liabilities relating to unrestricted assets</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(23)</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total contract liabilities</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>–</b>

#### Accounting policy

Contract liabilities are recorded when consideration is received from a customer / fund provider prior to Council transferring a good or service to the customer, Council presents the funds which exceed revenue recognised as a contract liability.

## C2-3 Employee benefit provisions

\$ '000	2021	2021	2020	2020
	Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
Annual leave	60	–	52	–
Long service leave	134	–	151	–
Annual leave – on costs	7	–	5	–
Long service leave – on costs	15	–	14	–
<b>Total employee benefit provisions</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>–</b>

### Current employee benefit provisions not anticipated to be settled within the next twelve months

\$ '000	2021	2020
The following provisions, even though classified as current, are not expected to be settled in the next 12 months.		
Provisions – employees benefits	149	170
	<b>149</b>	<b>170</b>

### Accounting policy

Employee benefit provisions are presented as current liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position if Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur and therefore all annual leave and vested long service leave (or that which vests within 12 months) is presented as current.

### Short-term obligations

Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and accumulating sick leave expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service) are recognised in respect of employees' services up to the end of the reporting period and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. The liability for annual leave and accumulating sick leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables.

### Other long-term employee benefit obligations

The liability for long-service leave and annual leave that is not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service is recognised in the provision for employee benefits and measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the end of the reporting period using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures, and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

### On-costs

The employee benefit provisions include the aggregate on-cost liabilities that will arise when payment of current employee benefits is made in future periods.

These amounts include superannuation, payroll tax and workers compensation expenses which will be payable upon the future payment of certain leave liabilities which employees are entitled to at the reporting period.

## C3 Reserves

### C3-1 Nature and purpose of reserves

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#### **Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment revaluation reserve**

The infrastructure, property, plant and equipment revaluation reserve is used to record increments / decrements of non-current asset values due to their revaluation.

## D Risks and accounting uncertainties

### D1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held

Council's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks including **(1)** price risk, **(2)** credit risk, **(3)** liquidity risk and **(4)** interest rate risk.

The Council's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of the Council.

Council does not engage in transactions expressed in foreign currencies and is therefore not subject to foreign currency risk.

Financial risk management is carried out by Council's finance section under policies approved by the Council.

The fair value of Council's financial assets and financial liabilities approximates their carrying amount.

Fair value is determined as follows:

- **Cash and cash equivalents, receivables, payables, term deposits** – are estimated to be the carrying value that approximates market value.
- Financial assets classified (i) **'at fair value through profit and loss'** or (ii) **'available-for-sale'** – are based upon quoted market prices (in active markets for identical investments) at the reporting date or independent valuation.

Council's objective is to maximise its return on cash and investments whilst maintaining an adequate level of liquidity and preserving capital.

Council has an investment policy which complies with the Local Government Act 1993 and Minister's investment order 625. This policy is regularly reviewed by Council and its staff and an investment report is tabled before Council on a monthly basis setting out the portfolio breakup and its performance as required by Local Government regulations.

The risks associated with the instruments held are:

- **Price risk** – the risk that the capital value of Investments may fluctuate due to changes in market prices, whether these changes are caused by factors specific to individual financial instruments or their issuers or are caused by factors affecting similar instruments traded in a market.
- **Interest rate risk** – the risk that movements in interest rates could affect returns and income.
- **Liquidity risk** – the risk that Council will not be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.
- **Credit risk** – the risk that the investment counterparty will not complete their obligations particular to a financial instrument, resulting in a financial loss to Council – be it of a capital or income nature.
- Council manages these risks (amongst other measures) by diversifying its portfolio and only purchasing investments with high credit ratings or capital guarantees.

#### (a) Market risk – interest rate and price risk

\$ '000	2021	2020
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The impact on result for the year and equity of a reasonably possible movement in the price of investments held and interest rates is shown below. The reasonably possible movements were determined based on historical movements and economic conditions in place at the reporting date.

Impact of a 1% movement in interest rates

– Equity / Income Statement

16

12

Impact of a 10% movement in price of investments

#### (b) Credit risk

Council's major receivables comprise (ii) user charges and fees.

Council manages the credit risk associated with these receivables by monitoring outstanding debt and employing stringent debt recovery procedures. Council also encourages ratepayers to pay their rates by the due date through incentives.

## D1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held (continued)

The credit risk for liquid funds and other short-term financial assets is considered negligible, since the counterparties are reputable banks with high quality external credit ratings.

There are no material receivables that have been subjected to a re-negotiation of repayment terms.

### Receivables - non-rates and annual charges and contract assets

Council applies the simplified approach for non-rates and annual charges debtors to provide for expected credit losses prescribed by AASB 9, which permits the use of the lifetime expected loss provision. To measure the expected credit losses, non-rates and annual charges debtors have been grouped based on shared credit risk characteristics and the days past due. Historically our bad debts are nil.

\$ '000	Not yet overdue	0 - 30 days overdue	31 - 60 days overdue	61 - 90 days overdue	> 91 days overdue	Total
<b>2021</b>						
Gross carrying amount	2	–	–	–	–	2
Expected loss rate (%)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
ECL provision	–	–	–	–	–	–
<b>2020</b>						
Gross carrying amount	17	–	–	–	–	17
Expected loss rate (%)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
ECL provision	–	–	–	–	–	–

## D1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held (continued)

### (c) Liquidity risk

Payables, lease liabilities and borrowings are both subject to liquidity risk; that is, the risk that insufficient funds may be on hand to meet payment obligations as and when they fall due.

Council manages this risk by monitoring its cash flow requirements and liquidity levels, and by maintaining an adequate cash buffer. Payment terms can be extended, and overdraft facilities drawn upon in extenuating circumstances.

Borrowings are also subject to interest rate risk: the risk that movements in interest rates could adversely affect funding costs. Council manages this risk through diversification of borrowing types, maturities and interest rate structures.

The finance team regularly reviews interest rate movements to determine if it would be advantageous to refinance or renegotiate part or all of the loan portfolio.

The timing of cash flows presented in the table below to settle financial liabilities reflects the earliest contractual settlement dates. The timing of expected outflows is not expected to be materially different from contracted cashflows.

The amounts disclosed in the table are the undiscounted contracted cash flows for non-lease liabilities (refer to Note C2-1(b) for lease liabilities) and therefore the balances in the table may not equal the balances in the Statement of Financial Position due to the effect of discounting.

\$ '000	Weighted average interest rate	Subject to no maturity	payable in: ≤ 1 Year	1 - 5 Years	> 5 Years	Total cash outflows	Actual carrying values
<b>2021</b>							
Trade/other payables	0.00%	–	34	–	–	34	34
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>2020</b>							
Trade/other payables	0.00%	–	58	–	–	58	58
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>58</b>

## D2 Fair value measurement

The Council measures the following asset and liability classes at fair value on a recurring basis:

– Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

The fair value of assets and liabilities must be estimated in accordance with various accounting standards for either recognition and measurement requirements or for disclosure purposes.

AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement requires all assets and liabilities measured at fair value to be assigned to a 'level' in the fair value hierarchy as follows:

**Level 1:** Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.

**Level 2:** Inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

**Level 3:** Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

\$ '000	Notes	Fair value measurement hierarchy							
		Date of latest valuation		Level 2 Significant observable inputs		Level 3 Significant unobservable inputs		Total	
		2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
<b>Recurring fair value measurements</b>									
<b>Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment</b> <span style="float: right;">C1-6</span>									
		30/06/19	30/06/19	911	911	–	–	911	911
		30/06/19	30/06/19	–	–	276	281	276	281
				<b>911</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>1,187</b>	<b>1,192</b>

### Valuation techniques

Where Council is unable to derive fair valuations using quoted market prices of identical assets (ie. level 1 inputs) Council instead utilises a spread of both observable inputs (level 2 inputs) and unobservable inputs (level 3 inputs).

The fair valuation techniques Council has employed while utilising level 2 and level 3 inputs are as follows:

#### Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE)

For the Land & Buildings, the Council uses a registered Valuer to determine the fair value every 5 years.

#### Highest and best use

All of Council's non-financial assets are considered as being utilised for their highest and best use.

## E People and relationships

### E1 Related party disclosures

#### E1 Key management personnel (KMP)

Key management personnel (KMP) of the council are those persons having the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the council, directly or indirectly.

There were no other transactions with KMP and their related parties in the current year.

The aggregate amount of KMP compensation included in the Income Statement is:

\$ '000	2021	2020
<b>Compensation:</b>		
Short-term benefits	180	162
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>162</b>

## E1-2 Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses

\$ '000	2021	2020
The aggregate amount of Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses included in materials and services expenses in the Income Statement are:		
Member expenses – chairperson fee	11	11
Member expenses – members' fees	49	48
Members' expenses (incl. chairperson) – other (excluding fees above)	3	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>63</b>

## E2 Other relationships

### E2-1 Audit fees

\$ '000	2021	2020
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During the year, the following fees were incurred for services provided by the auditor of Council, related practices and non-related audit firms

#### **Auditors of the Council - NSW Auditor-General:**

##### **(i) Audit and other assurance services**

Audit and review of financial statements

	14	14
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#### **Remuneration for audit and other assurance services**

	14	14
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#### **Total Auditor-General remuneration**

	14	14
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## F Other matters

### F1-1 Statement of Cash Flows information

#### Reconciliation of net operating result to cash provided from operating activities

\$ '000	2021	2020
<b>Net operating result from Income Statement</b>	<b>(8)</b>	89
<b>Adjust for non-cash items:</b>		
Depreciation and amortisation	<b>103</b>	118
Net losses/(gains) on disposal of assets	<b>(67)</b>	(28)
<b>+/- Movement in operating assets and liabilities and other cash items:</b>		
Decrease/(increase) in receivables	<b>15</b>	14
Decrease/(increase) in inventories	<b>1</b>	5
Decrease/(increase) in other assets	<b>19</b>	(12)
Increase/(decrease) in other accrued expenses payable	<b>(24)</b>	(6)
Increase/(decrease) in other liabilities	<b>-</b>	(339)
Increase/(decrease) in contract liabilities	<b>(96)</b>	193
Increase/(decrease) in employee leave entitlements	<b>(6)</b>	(49)
<b>Net cash provided from/(used in) operating activities from the Statement of Cash Flows</b>	<b>(63)</b>	(15)

## F2-1 Events occurring after the reporting date

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Council has been slightly effected by Covid-19. We have stopped face to face meetings, closed the depot to the public, Council Meetings are now held Remotely, workshops for grants have been put on hold, are staff are takeing the necessary precautions to stay safe. Some of our work has been slightly delayed and there has been a small expenditure on Personal Protective Equipment to keep staff safe. Overall we do not believe that Covid-19 will have a material impact.

Council has closely monitored the economic impacts (both locally and globally) arising from the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the implications in preparing these financial statements. Council will continue to monitor the actions and directives issued by both State and Federal Government's to ensure that the spread of COVID-19 is eradicated and assist local economic recovery in a fiscally responsible manner. Council is closely monitoring the developments and implications of the COVID-19 pandemic in the coming financial year through the detailed scenarios and business continuity planning to minimise operational business interruptions. No other matters have arisen subsequent to the balance date that would require these Financial Statements to be amended.

We are unaware of any other material or significant 'non-adjusting events' that should be disclosed.

## F3 Statement of performance measures

### F3-1 Statement of performance measures – consolidated results

\$ '000	Amounts 2021	Indicator 2021	Indicators 2020      2019		Benchmark
<b>1. Operating performance ratio</b>					
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions less operating expenses <sup>1,2</sup>	<b>(75)</b>	<b>(5.41)%</b>	4.17%	(2.02)%	> 0.00%
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions <sup>1</sup>	<b>1,386</b>				
<b>2. Own source operating revenue ratio</b>					
Total continuing operating revenue excluding all grants and contributions <sup>1</sup>	<b>148</b>	<b>10.68%</b>	14.49%	20.40%	> 60.00%
Total continuing operating revenue <sup>1</sup>	<b>1,386</b>				
<b>3. Unrestricted current ratio</b>					
Current assets less all external restrictions	<b>1,174</b>	<b>11.62x</b>	13.97x	2.58x	> 1.50x
Current liabilities less specific purpose liabilities	<b>101</b>				
<b>4. Debt service cover ratio</b>					
Operating result before capital excluding interest and depreciation/impairment/amortisation <sup>1</sup>	<b>28</b>	$\infty$	$\infty$	$\infty$	> 2.00x
Principal repayments (Statement of Cash Flows) plus borrowing costs (Income Statement)	<b>–</b>				
<b>6. Cash expense cover ratio</b>					
Current year's cash and cash equivalents plus all term deposits	<b>1,264</b>	<b>10.22 mths</b>	11.33 mths	6.23 mths	> 3.00 mths
Monthly payments from cash flow of operating and financing activities	<b>124</b>				

(1) Excludes fair value increments on investment properties, reversal of revaluation decrements, reversal of impairment losses on receivables, net gain on sale of assets and net share of interests in joint ventures and associates using the equity method and includes pensioner rate subsidies

(2) Excludes impairment/revaluation decrements of IPPE, fair value decrements on investment properties, net loss on disposal of assets and net loss on share of interests in joint ventures and associates using the equity method

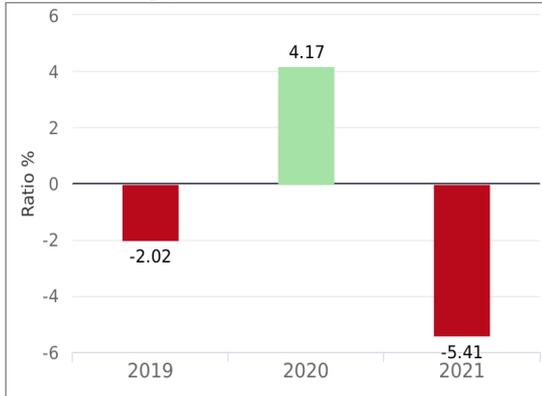
## F3-2 Statement of performance measures by fund

\$ '000	General Indicators <sup>3</sup>		Benchmark
	2021	2020	
<b>1. Operating performance ratio</b>			
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions less operating expenses <sup>1,2</sup>	<b>(5.41)%</b>	4.17%	> 0.00%
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions <sup>1</sup>			
<b>2. Own source operating revenue ratio</b>			
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions <sup>1</sup>	<b>10.68%</b>	14.49%	> 60.00%
Total continuing operating revenue <sup>1</sup>			
<b>3. Unrestricted current ratio</b>			
Current assets less all external restrictions	<b>11.62x</b>	13.97x	> 1.50x
Current liabilities less specific purpose liabilities			
<b>4. Debt service cover ratio</b>			
Operating result before capital excluding interest and depreciation/impairment/amortisation <sup>1</sup>	∞	∞	> 2.00x
Principal repayments (Statement of Cash Flows) plus borrowing costs (Income Statement)			
<b>6. Cash expense cover ratio</b>			
Current year's cash and cash equivalents plus all term deposits	<b>10.22 mths</b>	11.33 mths	> 3.00 mths
Monthly payments from cash flow of operating and financing activities			

## G Additional Council disclosures (unaudited)

### G1-1 Statement of performance measures – consolidated results (graphs)

#### 1. Operating performance ratio



##### Purpose of operating performance ratio

This ratio measures Council's achievement of containing operating expenditure within operating revenue.

##### Commentary on 2020/21 result

2020/21 ratio (5.41)%

Management is happy with operating expenses.

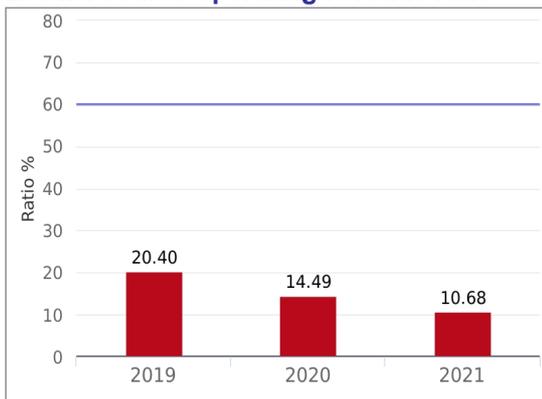
Benchmark: — > 0.00%

Source of benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

Ratio achieves benchmark

Ratio is outside benchmark

#### 2. Own source operating revenue ratio



##### Purpose of own source operating revenue ratio

This ratio measures fiscal flexibility. It is the degree of reliance on external funding sources such as operating grants and contributions.

##### Commentary on 2020/21 result

2020/21 ratio 10.68%

Council relies on external funding sources.

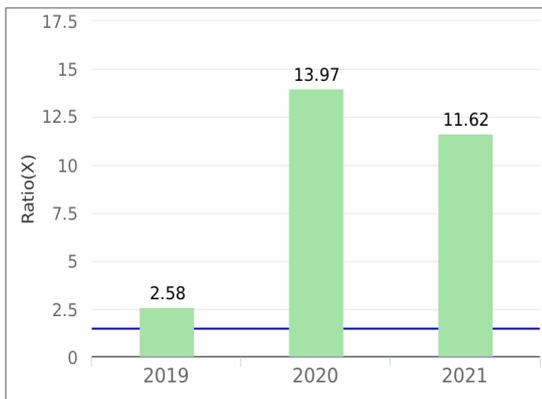
Benchmark: — > 60.00%

Source of benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

Ratio achieves benchmark

Ratio is outside benchmark

#### 3. Unrestricted current ratio



##### Purpose of unrestricted current ratio

To assess the adequacy of working capital and its ability to satisfy obligations in the short term for the unrestricted activities of Council.

##### Commentary on 2020/21 result

2020/21 ratio 11.62x

Council has adequate working capital to cover its short term activities.

Benchmark: — > 1.50x

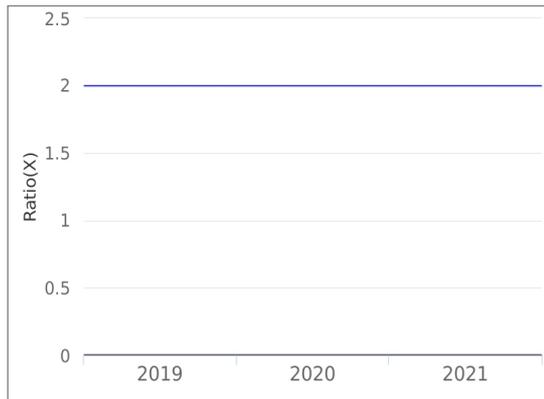
Source of benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

Ratio achieves benchmark

Ratio is outside benchmark

## G1-1 Statement of performance measures – consolidated results (graphs) (continued)

### 4. Debt service cover ratio



**Purpose of debt service cover ratio**

This ratio measures the availability of operating cash to service debt including interest, principal and lease payments

**Commentary on 2020/21 result**

2020/21 ratio ∞

N/A

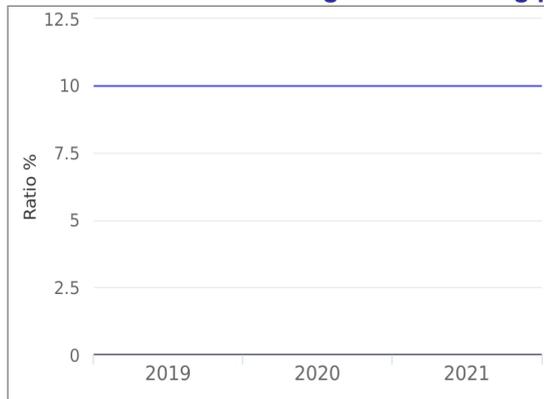
Benchmark: — > 2.00x

Source of benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

Ratio achieves benchmark

Ratio is outside benchmark

### 5. Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage



**Purpose of rates and annual charges outstanding percentage**

To assess the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on Council's liquidity and the adequacy of recovery efforts.

**Commentary on 2020/21 result**

2020/21 ratio ∞

N/A

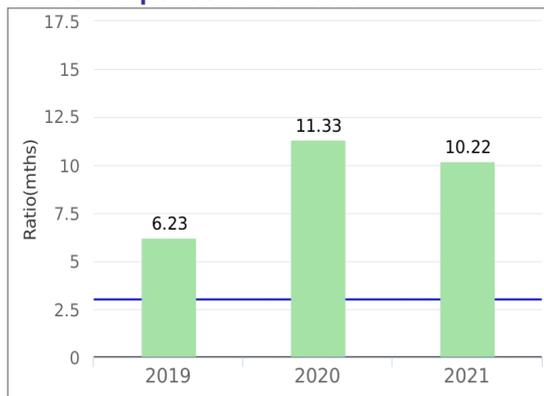
Benchmark: — < 10.00%

Source of benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

Ratio achieves benchmark

Ratio is outside benchmark

### 6. Cash expense cover ratio



**Purpose of cash expense cover ratio**

This liquidity ratio indicates the number of months a Council can continue paying for its immediate expenses without additional cash inflow.

**Commentary on 2020/21 result**

2020/21 ratio 10.22 mths

We believe we will not have a short term problem meeting our future obligations

Benchmark: — > 3.00mths

Source of benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

Ratio achieves benchmark

Ratio is outside benchmark

## G1-2 Financial review

### Key financial figures of Council over the past 5 years

\$ '000	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
<b>Inflows:</b>					
User charges revenue	11	88	53	76	–
Interest and investment revenue (losses)	16	29	53	48	–
Grants income – operating and capital	1,238	1,251	519	519	–
Total income from continuing operations	1,453	1,491	1,542	1,527	–
Sale proceeds from IPPE	87	28	8	78	–
<b>Outflows:</b>					
Employee benefits and on-cost expenses	942	901	979	1,105	–
Materials and contracts expenses	416	383	261	159	–
Total expenses from continuing operations	1,461	1,402	1,565	1,595	–
Total cash purchases of IPPE	126	153	35	121	–
Operating surplus/(deficit) (excl. capital income)	(8)	89	(23)	(68)	–
<b>Financial position figures</b>					
Current assets	1,271	1,408	1,555	2,519	–
Current liabilities	347	473	674	1,676	–
Net current assets	924	935	881	843	–
Available working capital (Unrestricted net current assets)	1,140	1,180	998	731	–
Cash and investments – unrestricted	1,167	1,173	1,352	1,259	–
Cash and investments – total	1,264	1,366	1,506	1,615	–
Total value of IPPE (excl. land and earthworks)	1,595	1,915	1,762	1,648	–
Total accumulated depreciation	1,003	1,326	1,208	1,112	–
Indicative remaining useful life (as a % of GBV)	37%	31%	31%	33%	100%

**Source:** published audited financial statements of Council (current year and prior year)

## G1-3 Council information and contact details

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**Principal place of business:**

6 Walker Street  
South Windsor NSW 2756

### Contact details

**Mailing Address:**

PO Box 6021  
South Windsor DC 2756

**Telephone:** (02) 4574 9600

**Facsimile:** (02) 4587 7354

**Opening hours:**

8:30am - 4:00pm  
Monday to Friday

**Internet:** [www.hrcc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.hrcc.nsw.gov.au)

**Email:** [council@hrcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@hrcc.nsw.gov.au)

### Officers

**General Manager**

Chris Dewhurst

**Responsible Accounting Officer**

Chris Dewhurst

**Public Officer**

Chris Dewhurst

**Auditors**

Audit Office of NSW  
Level 19, Tower 2 Darling Park  
201 Sussex St  
Sydney NSW 2000

### Elected members

**Chairperson**

Clr. Nathan Zamprogno

**Councillors**

Clr. Nathan Zamprogno  
Clr. Samuel Uno  
Clr. Julie Girffiths  
Clr. Brad Bunting  
Clr. Marcus Cornish  
Clr. Karen McKeown OAM  
Clr. Amanda Kotlash  
Clr. Jacob Jackson

### Other information

**ABN:** 21 896 475 450



Cr Nathan Zamprogno  
 Chairperson  
 Hawkesbury River County Council  
 6 Walker Street  
 SOUTH WINDSOR NSW 2756

Contact: Kenneth Leung  
 Phone no: 02 9275 7257  
 Our ref: D2122833/1818

25 October 2021

Dear Cr Zamprogno

**Report on the Conduct of the Audit  
 for the year ended 30 June 2021  
 Hawkesbury River County Council**

I have audited the general purpose financial statements (GPFS) of the Hawkesbury River County Council (Council) for the year ended 30 June 2021 as required by section 415 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act).

I expressed an unmodified opinion on Council's GPFS.

This Report on the Conduct of the Audit (the Report) for Council for the year ended 30 June 2021 is issued in accordance with section 417 of the Act. This Report should be read in conjunction with my audit opinion on the GPFS issued under section 417(2) of the Act.

**INCOME STATEMENT**

**Operating result**

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000	Variance %
User charges and fees	11	88	87.5
Grants and contributions revenue	1,238	1,251	1.0
Operating result from continuing operations	(8)	89	109.0
Net operating result before capital grants and contributions	(8)	89	109.0

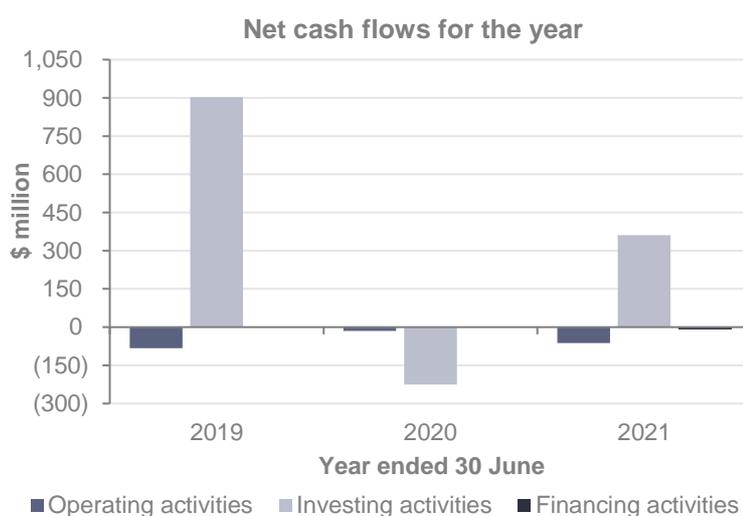
Council's net loss from continuing operations (\$8,000) (including depreciation and amortisation expense of \$103,000) was \$97,000 lower than the 2019–20 result.

The decrease was mainly due to:

- reduction of user charges and fees of \$77,000
- increase in employee benefits and on-costs of \$41, 000
- increase in materials and contracts expenses of \$33,000
- offset by increase in net gains from disposal of assets of \$39,000 and reduction in depreciation, amortisation and impairment expenses of \$15,000.

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

- Cash outflows in operating activities increased due to uplift in employee benefits and on-costs and materials and services expenditure.
- Cash flows from investing activities increased due to the fact that proceeds from redemption of term deposits in 2020–21.
- Council does not engage in any financing activities.



## FINANCIAL POSITION

### Cash and investments

Cash and investments	2021	2020	Commentary
	\$'000	\$'000	
<b>Total cash, cash equivalents and investments</b>	<b>1,264</b>	<b>1,366</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Externally restricted funds relate to specific purpose unexpended grants, which increased in the current year.</li> </ul>
Restricted cash and investments:			
• External restrictions	260	170	
• Internal restrictions	--	--	

# PERFORMANCE

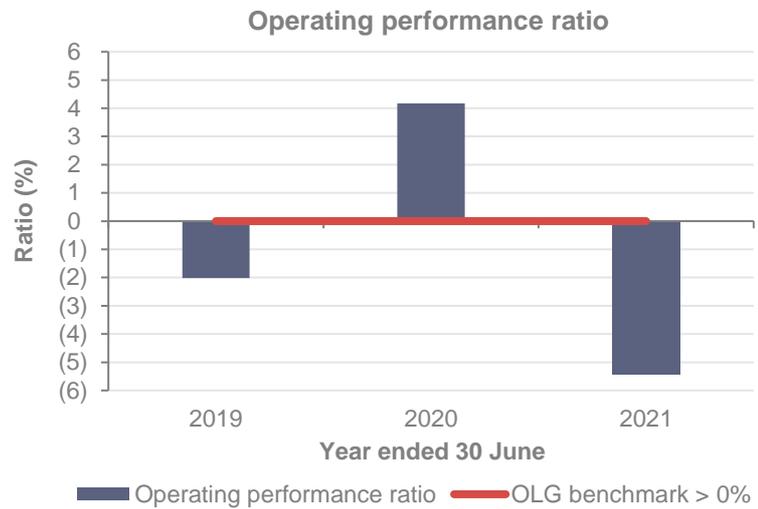
## Performance measures

The following section provides an overview of Council's performance against the performance measures and performance benchmarks set by the Office of Local Government (OLG) within the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

### Operating performance ratio

- Council did not meet the OLG benchmark for the current reporting period.
- The ratio decreased in 2020–21 due to the reduction in revenue.

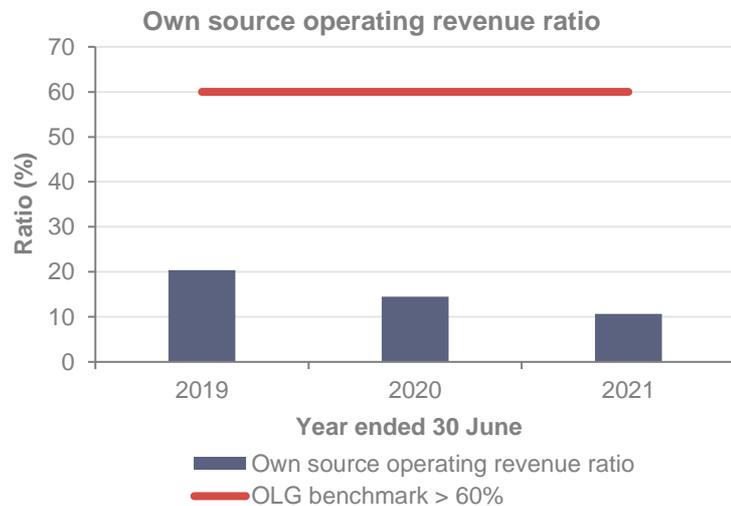
The 'operating performance ratio' measures how well council contained operating expenditure within operating revenue (excluding capital grants and contributions, fair value adjustments, and reversal of revaluation decrements). The benchmark set by OLG is greater than zero per cent.



### Own source operating revenue ratio

- Council did not meet the OLG benchmark for the current reporting period.
- This ratio has remained consistent year on year.
- The ratio reflects that Council's main source of income is derived from government grants and contributions.
- This is expected given Council was established for a specific purpose.

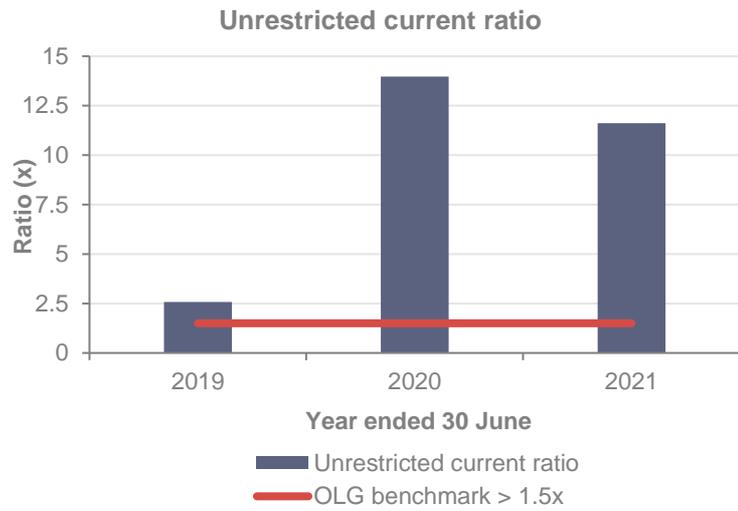
The 'own source operating revenue ratio' measures council's fiscal flexibility and the degree to which it relies on external funding sources such as operating grants and contributions. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than 60 per cent.



### Unrestricted current ratio

Council exceeded the OLG benchmark for the past three reporting periods.

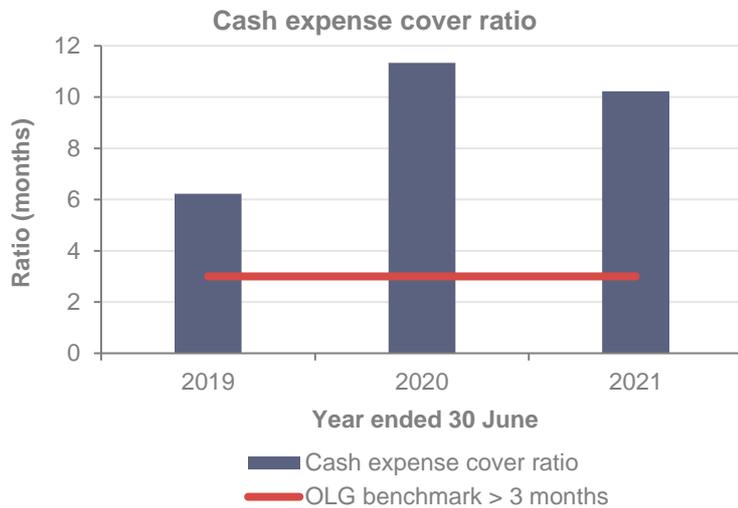
The 'unrestricted current ratio' is specific to local government and represents council's ability to meet its short-term obligations as they fall due. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than 1.5 times.



### Cash expense cover ratio

Council exceeded the OLG benchmark for the current reporting period.

This liquidity ratio indicates the number of months Council can continue paying for its immediate expenses without additional cash inflow. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than three months.



## OTHER MATTERS

### Legislative compliance

My audit procedures did not identify any instances of non-compliance with legislative requirements or a material deficiency in Council's accounting records or financial statements. Council's:

- accounting records were maintained in a manner and form to allow the GPFS to be prepared and effectively audited
- staff provided all accounting records and information relevant to the audit.



Kenneth Leung  
Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

cc: Mr Chris Dewhurst, General Manager  
Mr Jim Betts, Secretary of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### Report on the general purpose financial statements

#### Hawkesbury River County Council

To the Councillors of the Hawkesbury River County Council

### Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Hawkesbury River County Council (the Council), which comprise the Statement by Councillors and Management, the Income Statement and Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2021, the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2021, the Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended and notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In my opinion:

- the Council's accounting records have been kept in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Chapter 13, Part 3, Division 2 (the Division)
- the financial statements:
  - have been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the requirements of this Division
  - are consistent with the Council's accounting records
  - present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at 30 June 2021, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards
- all information relevant to the conduct of the audit has been obtained
- no material deficiencies in the accounting records or financial statements have come to light during the audit.

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

### Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the standards are described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of my report.

I am independent of the Council in accordance with the requirements of the:

- Australian Auditing Standards
- Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)' (APES 110).

I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with APES 110.

Parliament promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of councils
- precluding the Auditor-General from providing non-audit services.

I believe the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

### **Other Information**

The Council's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2021 includes other information in addition to the financial statements and my Independent Auditor's Report thereon. The Councillors are responsible for the other information.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion on the other information.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude there is a material misstatement of the other information, I must report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

### **The Councillors' Responsibilities for the Financial Statements**

The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Local Government Act 1993*, and for such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Councillors are responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

My objectives are to:

- obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatements. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions users take based on the financial statements.

A description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: [www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\\_responsibilities/ar4.pdf](http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf). The description forms part of my auditor's report.

The scope of my audit does not include, nor provide assurance:

- that the Council carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- on the Original Budget information included in the Income Statement, Statement of Cash Flows, and Note B5-1 Material budget variations
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited financial statements on any website where they may be presented
- about any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the financial statements.



Kenneth Leung  
Delegate of the Auditor-General for New South Wales

25 October 2021  
SYDNEY