



ILLAWARRA DISTRICT WEEDS AUTHORITY

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ANNUAL REPORT

2017 – 2018

Illawarra District Weeds Authority

Chairperson's Message

2017/18 marked the third year of the five year Weeds Action Program (WAP) - 2015-2020. After receiving a 10 % cut to its budget in 2015/16 and a 20% cut in 2016/17 the IDWA received a 1% increase this year bringing its total share of State allocation to \$85, 258.00, up from \$84,000.00 last year. Unfortunately such an increase fails to keep pace with inflation and does not recognise the 2.4% local government award wage increase. In real terms the IDWA continues to go backwards under this program.

In a major shift from activities undertaken in WAP 1 the Lead Agency (Palerang- Queanbeyan Regional Council) has insisted that all partners to the program conform to the Weed Inspection Priority Map generated by the Lead Agency. This maps land across the region according to its priority for weed inspection. Unfortunately, the mapping is not based on any reliable data when it comes to where (high risk) weed burden lies. Despite the IDWA consistently arguing that our highest risk weed burden area is our smaller properties and subsequently reporting more high risk weeds to NSW DPI than any other LCA in the region including several State listed Priority weeds, the IDWA now receives the second lowest allocation of funds in the region.

1st July 2017 also marked the commencement of the Biosecurity Act 2015 in NSW. The Biosecurity Act 2015 replaced the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 and established a number of biosecurity duties for the NSW population. In doing so, The Act has provided a framework for sharing biosecurity risk management between government, industry and the community. The new legislation has not been without its hiccups but it does provide for greater flexibility to respond to, manage and control all weed species.

Specifically, over the last 12 months the IDWA inspected and controlled priority weeds along 1,673km of high risk pathways, 386km of priority pathway and managed and protected 24 high priority public reserves from widespread priority weeds. An additional 227ha of priority weeds were controlled in other council reserves. A total of 2,065 parcels of land were inspected of which 1,252 were found to have an infestation of one or more priority weed. 155 high risk sites were inspected as part of this process and 547 compliance reinspections were undertaken.

A four (4) year program of increased operational works has continued to be implemented to utilise the Authority's unrestricted reserve funds. \$59,392.00 of private works income has been generated this year and the Authority has also purchased appropriate software and hardware to become compliant with the new Biosecurity reporting required under the Biosecurity Act 2015.

The Authority met on four occasions during 2017/18, with the year proving to be yet another busy time. The committee continued to be of great assistance in both policy and technical support and I would like to thank the members for their ongoing commitment to the successful operation of the Authority.

As we commence operations for the fourth year of WAP 2 (2015/20) the IDWA will strive as budget constraints permit, to deliver on key Policy and Management Plan outcomes. Ongoing implementation of the Biosecurity Act and funding issues related to the delivery of WAP 2 will ensure the Authority is kept busy over the next 12 months.

I am pleased to have had the opportunity to Chair the Authority over the last 12 months and I look forward to the next 12 months, which from all indications promises to be a challenging and interesting period. I extend my thanks to all those who have been involved with the Authority over the past 12 months.

Councillor Kathy Rice

Chairperson

Illawarra District Weeds Authority

Weed Control Program Report 2017/18 Summary of Activities and Outcomes from 01 July 2017 – 30 June 2018

**A Final Report for the constituent member councils of the IDWA
Wollongong City Council, Shellharbour City Council and Kiama
Municipal Council**

Covering page and General Manager Endorsement

A Final Report prepared for the constituent member councils of the IDWA on activities
completed from July 2017- June 2018

Name of Organisation	Illawarra District Weeds Authority
Address	PO Box 148 Kiama 2533

Administrative contact (name, position, fax, phone)	<i>Mr David Pomery Chief Weeds Officer Ph 02 4233 1129 email: dpomery@isjo.org.au</i>
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Technical contact (name, position, fax, phone)	<i>Mr David Pomery Chief Weeds Officer Ph 02 4233 1129 email: dpomery@isjo.org.au</i>
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Total Amount of funds received (Income)	<i>Grant - \$85,258.00</i>	For financial year/s	2017-2018
	<i>Council - \$155,879.00</i>		
	TOTAL- \$241,137.00		

Funds	TOTAL
Regional Coordination (staff administration)	<i>\$53,829.00</i>
Property Inspections (Including compliance)	<i>\$102,524.00</i>
Priority Weed Control	<i>\$57,413.00</i>
WAP Priorities	<i>\$42,815.00</i>
TOTAL	<i>\$256,581.00</i>

DECLARATION

Signature of responsible officer of organisation	
Printed name	David Pomery
Position in Organisation	Chief Weeds Officer
Contact Telephone Number	02 4233 1129
Date	7th November 2018

Report on Weed Control Coordination Assistance 2017/2018

**Outcomes and results from July 2017-June 2018
A Final Report prepared for the constituent member councils of the
IDWA**

Name Of Organisation	Illawarra District Weeds Authority
Address	PO Box 148 Kiama NSW 2533
Administrative contact (name, position, fax, phone)	David Pomery Chief Weeds Officer Ph: 42 331129 Email: dpomery@isjo.org.au
Technical contact (name, position, fax, phone)	David Pomery Chief Weeds Officer Ph: 42 331129 Email: dpomery@isjo.org.au

FINANCIAL REPORT

Activity	Expenditure
Private property inspections – Including compliance	\$102,524.00
WAP Priorities	
Publicity	\$3,753.00
Training	\$12,386.00
NRM Integration	\$2,209.00
High Risk Sites	\$9,358.00
High Risk Pathways	\$15,109.00
Total	\$145,339.00*

* Includes on costs

Printed name	David Pomery
Position in Organisation	Chief Weeds Officer
Contact Telephone Number	02-42 331129
Date	7th November 2018
Written report attached (Please tick)	√

Report on Weed Control Operational Assistance 2017/2018

Outcomes and results from July 2017-June 2018 A Final Report prepared for the constituent member councils of the IDWA

Name Of Organisation	Illawarra District Weeds Authority
Address	PO Box 148 Kiama NSW 2533

Administrative contact (name, position, fax, phone)	David Pomery Chief Weeds Officer Ph: 42 331129 E mail: dpomery@isjo.org.au
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Technical contact (name, position, fax, phone)	David Pomery Chief Weeds Officer Ph: 42 331129 E mail: dpomery@isjo.org.au
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FINANCIAL REPORT

Actual Expenditure*			
	Total \$	Total \$	Total \$
Priority Weeds	State Priority Weeds	Regional Priority Weeds	Local Priority Weeds
African Lovegrass	-	\$180.00	-
African Boxthorn	-	-	-
Alligator Weed	\$3,378.00	-	-
Bitou Bush	\$22,295.00	-	-
Boneseed	\$1,571.00	-	-
Blackberry	-	-	\$8,215.00
Cats Claw Creeper	-	\$136.00	-
Chilean Needle Grass	-	-	\$556.00
Coolatai Grass	-	\$5,569.00	-
Gorse	-	-	-
Groundsel Bush	-	\$4,010.00	-
Pink Lantana	-	-	-
Ludwigia	-	\$574.00	-
Mysore Thorn	-	\$3,057.00	-
Pampas Grass	-	-	-
Prickly Pear	-	-	-
Giant Parramatta Grass	-	\$3,719.00	-
Rhus Tree	-	-	-
Salvinia	-	\$793.00	-
Sea Spurge	-	-	-
Serrated Tussock	-	\$258.00	-
St Johns Wort	-	-	\$839.00
Water hyacinth	\$2,263.00	-	-
Total	\$29,507.00	\$18,296.00	\$9,610.00

Total Expenditure	\$57,413.00*
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* Includes on costs

Administration Expenses Report Form

Administration Staff:

Salaries and Allowances:	\$19,680.00
Contribution to SCG Secretariat:	\$ 8,514.00
Contribution to Kiama Municipal Council:	\$ 10,092.00
Extra Clerical Assistance:	

Sub-Total **\$38,286.00**

Office Expenses:

Depot Rental and Maintenance:	\$ 2,897.00
Office Equipment Rental and Maintenance:	-
Advertising (not noxious weed publicity)	-
Printing and Stationery:	\$ 1,908.00
Postage:	\$ 412.00
Telephones:	\$ 3,435.00
Photocopying:	\$ -

Sub-Total **\$ 8,652.00**

Computer Expenses:

(e.g. maintenance, agreements)	\$ 7,671.00
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Sub-Total **\$ 7,671 .00**

Members Expenses:

Chairman's Allowance	-
Members Meeting Fees:	-
Travelling Expenses – Councillors:	-
Delegates Expenses:	\$1,054.00
Refreshments:	-

Sub-Total

Other Administration Expenses:

Audit Fees:	-
Legal Expenses:	-
Insurances:	\$6,905.00
(Professional Indemnity, Public Liability, Accident & Property not covered by on-costs of field staff or plant running costs)	
Sundry Expenses:	\$ 760.00

Sub-Total **\$8,719.00**

TOTAL: **\$63,328.00**

85% for Apportionment to Grant Program:	\$53,829.00
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TOTAL **\$53,829.00**

Other Programs Report

Vacant Crown Land Program

Income:

Vacant Crown Lands Grant - \$5,909.00

Expenditure:

IDWA staff \$ 6,279.00

Chemical/materials \$625.00

TOTAL \$6,904.00

Funding for Bitou Bush control was approved by the NSW Department of Industry – Lands and Forestry for Weed Control on Crown Land at the following site in 2017/18.:

1. Coomaditchie lagoon -Northern end of Perkins beach, Port Kembla, (\$5,909.00)

Whilst funding of \$27,585.00 had been requested across four (4) sites in 2017/18, only Coomaditchie lagoon was successful. This was in direct contrast to the prior corresponding year where Coomaditchie Lagoon was the only unsuccessful site whilst all other sites were provided funding. Consistency in funding is a major cause for concern with Crown lands and something that needs to be understood by the Department in its annual allocation of funds.

Despite the inconsistency in resource allocation the funding of the Coomaditchie lagoon site ensured a coordinated and strategic approach to Bitou bush control in the local area was maintained. It also contributed and helped achieve the stated aims of National, State, and Regional Management Plans by –

1. Supporting landholders in a collective program to contain the spread of Bitou Bush.
2. Ensuring funds are targeted to species management where it will deliver the greatest benefit (i.e. asset protection).
3. Developing and implementing programs to reduce environmental degradation and the loss of biodiversity through weed invasion (i.e. NSW Threat Abatement Plan for Key Threatening Processes).
4. Preventing the spread of Bitou Bush within the local area.
5. Reducing the area and distribution of Bitou Bush within the local area.

As with any weed control program, on-going control over several years will be required to control any regrowth or missed plants, and prevent previous time and expense being wasted.

Coastal Connections Program

Income:

Grant: \$17,111.00

Expenditure:

IDWA Weed control: \$21,434.00

Contractors \$2,500.00

TOTAL \$23,934.00

The IDWA was successful in securing funding for two sites under the Coastal Connections program in 2017/18. Korrungulla Swamp Primbee and the Dunmore Wetlands received funding of

\$17,111.00 in total. The purpose of each program was to mitigate the threatening processes of a number of identified State and Regional priority weeds on the habitat value of the listed EECs found at each site. The program aimed to support the efforts achieved under the IDWA local management programs for these weeds by ensuring ongoing suppression of infestations, as well as addressing other weeds impacting the sites.

Private works

Income:	\$59,392.00
Expenditure:	
Labour:	\$ 24,265.00
Administration:	\$ 9,563.00
Chemicals:	\$ 1,000.00
VRC:	\$ 8,128.00
TOTAL	<u>\$42,956.00</u>
PROFIT:	\$16,436.00

The IDWA has a policy to promote the use of Authority plant for contract weed control for private and government landholders. This policy allows for continuous and efficient use of resources. When demand exceeds resources the IDWA will employ sub-contractors for either the public or private works.

Aim:

To provide an efficient and effective private works capability.

Outcomes:

The IDWA generated an annual gross income from commercial spraying operations in 2017/18 of \$59,392.00. Operating profit net of all expenses was \$16,436.00.

Unrestricted Reserves Proposal

The IDWA has designed a four-year capital expenditure program which utilises the unrestricted reserve funds the IDWA has available. The four-year program has two components, an expanded operational works program and a mapping component.

The operational component involved the purchase and outfitting of an additional spray vehicle, for use by IDWA casual staff, to undertake the current private works activity and some additional operational work. The full time Inspector/Operator's time currently spent on private works has now been freed up to undertake additional operational and inspectorial activities.

The second component of the unrestricted reserves funds is the utilisation of a suitable mapping program that will contribute to better data analysis and management outcomes. The Weed Map Pro Summit Biosecurity System has now been purchased which is compatible with the *NSW Biosecurity Information System (BIS)*. Data collection and reporting commenced 1 July 2017.

2017/18 marks the fourth year of this program.

Budget Income

Total unrestricted cash assets as at 30 June 2013:	\$556,854
Restricted for legal and other expenses:	\$300,000-
Annual interest on remaining \$300K @ 3% = \$ 9,000 x 4:	\$ 36,000
Annual Private Works Income x 4:	\$120,000

Total Available Income **\$ 412,854**

Expenditure

Vehicle - Toyota 4.5lt diesel manual dual cab:	\$ 60,000
Quik spray remote spray unit:	\$ 15,000
Installation:	\$ 5,000

Total **\$ 80,000**

Plant Running costs x 4

Vehicle Replacement Reserve:	\$ 32,000
VRC Costs:	\$ 40,000
Labour:	\$ 60,000
Chemicals, PPE & materials:	\$ 20,000

Total **\$152,000**

Four year additional operational and inspectorial program

Labour:	\$100,000
Chemicals, PPE & materials:	\$ 40,000

Total **\$140,000**

Mapping Program – Weed Map Pro

Software:	\$ 3,000
Tablets:	\$ 4,000

Total **\$ 7,000**

Training:	\$ 1,200
Yearly maintenance:	\$ 1,500
Monthly access @ \$125 x12:	\$ 1,300

Annual Total **\$ 4,000**

x 4 years **\$ 16,000**

• Contingencies \$4000 pa x 4 **Total** **\$ 16,000**

Total Capital Expenditure **\$ 87,000**

Total 4-year operational expenditure **\$324,000**

Total 4-Year expenditure **\$411,000**

Expenditure to date:

UNRESTRICTED RESERVES FUNDS (URF) \$411,000	Budget 2017/18	Actual to 30 June 2018	Draft Budget 2018/19
Carryover Funds	126,727	126,727	76,322
Expenditure			
Capital Expenditure	10,673	-	10,673
Operational expenditure	116,054	50,405	65,649
TOTAL EXPENITURE	126,727	50,405	76,322
Credit (Debit)	Nil	76,322	Nil

IDWA SUMMARY

- South East Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022 implemented with funding from the NSW Department of Primary Industries, constituent councils, South East Local Land Services and Department of Lands.
- Purchase of WeedMap Pro Summit Biosecurity mapping program to enable IDWA staff to become biosecurity information compliant and report monthly to the NSW Department of Primary Industries on inspections and control activities.
- 2,065 inspections undertaken on both public and private land.
547 follow-up inspections.
- 155 High Risk sites inspected.
1,673km of high risk pathways inspected and treated for priority weeds.
386km of priority pathways inspected and treated for priority weeds.
227ha of priority weeds treated in council controlled reserves.
24 high priority sites managed and protected from widespread priority weeds
Four (4) new weed incursions found for high risk priority weeds (never previously recorded in the region before or new to a particular catchment/location).
- One (1) display and one (1) Field day were held over the last 12 months, four (4) media releases were issued and three (3) articles written for newsletters.
- Implemented Illawarra component of the Local Land Services (LLS) Coastal Connections Program at Dunmore wetlands and Korrungulla swamp. Implemented annual Crown Lands weed control program.
- Constituent council contributions of \$155,879.00 received and supported with NSW Weeds Action program Grant funding of \$85,258.00 to implement inspectorial and operational programs.

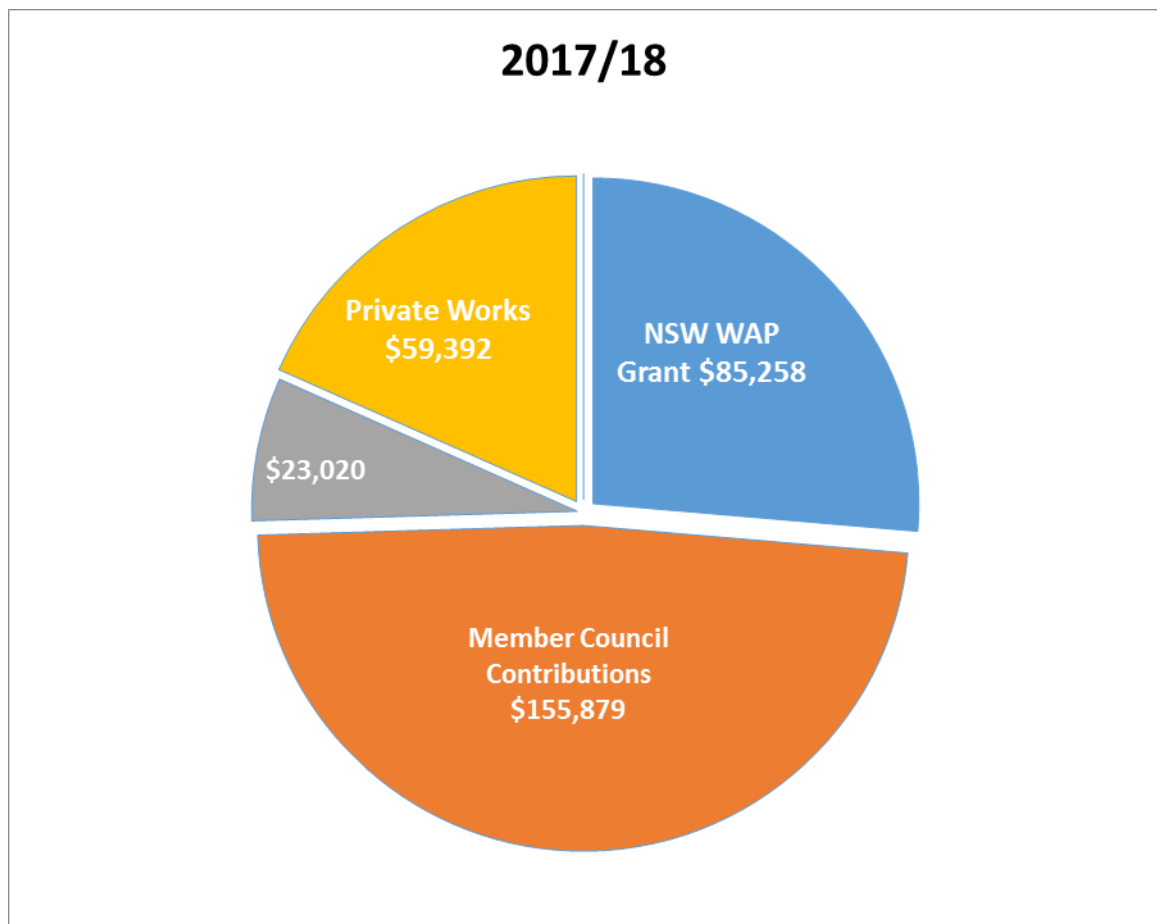
- A four (4) year program of increased operational works has been implemented during the year to utilise the Authority's unrestricted reserve funds. The Inspector/Operator's time currently spent on private works has now been freed up to undertake additional operational and inspectorial activities.

- Secured funding of an additional \$23,020.00 for the region through other grant sources.

VCL grant - \$5,909.00
Coastal Connections Program - \$17,111.00

- Annual gross income of \$59,392.00 generated from private works / commercial spraying operations.

IDNWA Income 2017/18



Illawarra District Weeds Authority

**Weed Control Co-ordination and Extension Program Report 2017/18
01 July 2017 – 30 June 2018**

A Final Report prepared for the constituent member councils of the IDWA

Executive Summary

The Illawarra District Weeds Authority (IDWA) representing the local government areas of Wollongong City, Shellharbour City and Kiama Municipal Councils, has over the past 12 months continued to develop and implement an active priority weed control program throughout each of the member council areas.

In maintaining a co-operative regional based approach to priority weed control where funding is linked to outcomes, the IDWA has consolidated the work of previous years and addressed a number of key issues to ensure the Authority's Aims and Objectives are achieved. These issues may be summarised as follows:

- Implemented the Illawarra component of the South East Local Land Services Regional Weeds Management Strategy.
- Identified a priority list of high risk weeds; developed a regional inspection and control program; targeted high risk pathways and sites.
- Secured Crown Lands funding through weed control projects on Bitou Bush and State (Local Land Services) funding for priority weeds on identified priority sites.
- Regional and local weed control programs for private landholders and government agencies have continued to be given high priority with 2,065 primary inspections and 547 follow-up inspections being undertaken over the past 12 months.
- Improved co-operation between stakeholders is being addressed through representation on State, regional and local weeds committees.
- Education and publicity activities have continued to be given priority through ongoing utilisation of the media and participation in community events (Refer [Attachment 1](#)). One (1) display was held and one (1) field day was organised; four (4) media releases and three (3) articles were written for newsletters over the last 12 months.
- Operational programs have continued to be maintained, expanding as time and resources permit, thereby complementing the inspectorial program and allowing the Authority to continue to lead by example. 2,059 km of roadsides and high risk pathways were inspected and treated for one or more priority weeds. 227 ha of reserve lands were controlled. Twenty-four (24) priority sites have been managed and protected.
- A four (4) year program of increased operational works has continued to be implemented to utilise the Authority's unrestricted reserve funds. The purchase and outfitting of an additional spray vehicle for use by IDWA contracted staff, to undertake the current private works activity and some additional operational work has been completed. The Inspector/Operator's time currently spent on private works has now been freed up to undertake additional inspectorial activities. The Weed Map Pro Summit Biosecurity mapping system has also been purchased and reporting into the NSW Biosecurity Information System (BIS) commenced 1 July 2017.

Control Authority Aims

Aim:

- To provide a framework for dealing with weeds biosecurity risk in the community and ensure compliance with legislation.

Objectives:

- To develop a Biosecurity Weed Control Policy and Management Plan. This plan will provide guidance as to how each priority weed needs to be managed and the expected outcomes needed to ensure landholders meet their obligations and responsibilities under the Biosecurity Act 2015.

Goals:

- To reduce the biosecurity impact of priority weeds on the community, economy and environment of the Illawarra region by establishing mechanisms to:
 - (i) prevent the establishment of new weeds
 - (ii) eradicate or otherwise contain the spread of emerging weeds
 - (iii) manage the impact of existing widespread weeds
 - (iv) ensure public awareness of the impacts of invasive weeds is enhanced and community wide capacity in sharing responsibility for managing weed biosecurity risk within the local control authority area is improved.
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Private Property Inspection Program

The IDWA private property inspection program is primarily aimed at voluntary compliance with all landholders. The IDWA is, however, legally obliged to ensure compliance with the provisions of Sections 22 - 26 of the Biosecurity Act 2015, which state that any person who deals with Biosecurity matter and who knows, or ought to reasonably know, the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by the biosecurity matter, has a General Biosecurity Duty (GBD) to ensure that so far as practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised. The General Biosecurity Duty supports the principle of shared responsibility, and means everyone is doing what is reasonable for them to do to prevent, eliminate or minimise biosecurity risks.

Consistent with the risk based approach of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* the IDWA private property inspection program involves undertaking strategic property inspections that prioritise high risk sites over properties that do not require as regular an inspection regime. Inspection regimes are risk-based and reduce the need for arbitrary inspections of properties in low risk areas. Inspection programs as such focus surveillance and inspection activities at high-risk areas using tools such as pathway analysis to determine appropriate inspection intervals.

The core **aim** of the IDWA private property inspection program is to:

1. To prevent the establishment of all Prohibited Matter as listed in Schedule 2 of the Biosecurity Act 2015.

2. Eradicate all State regulated Control Order weeds as detailed in Biosecurity (Boneseed) Control Order 2017; Biosecurity (Tropical Soda Apple) Control Order 2017 and Biosecurity (Pakinsonia) Control Order 2017.
3. Eradicate or otherwise contain the spread of Biosecurity Zone weeds Alligator weed, Water hyacinth and Bitou bush.
4. Prevent, eradicate, contain or otherwise minimise the biosecurity risk of all regional priority weeds on private lands throughout the local control authority area.
5. Undertake local weed control programs to protect local assets.
6. Locate and identify high risk New Incursions and implement appropriate management strategies based on a rigorous weed risk assessment and prioritisation process.

In undertaking its private property inspection program over the past 12 months the IDWA has endeavoured to meet its stated aims and objectives through implementing a coordinated and strategic program of risk based inspections.

Specifically, the IDWA undertook the following actions in relation to its private property inspectorial program in 2017/18:

Summary of Achievements

Inspections conducted:

Total number primary inspections:	936
Compliance reinspections:	527

Specific Inspections for high risk weeds

To assist in the early detection of high risk weeds the IDWA prioritises its inspection program on High Risk Pathways and High Risk Sites.

High Risk Pathways can be any linear feature in the landscape where weeds are spreading within/towards a significant asset or further along the linear feature. They are generally heavily trafficked, being main road, rail and river corridors that have a high risk of new weed incursions being introduced from external sources.

High Risk Sites are where weeds *will always have the potential to show up and the potential to spread*. High risk sites are comprised of nurseries, showgrounds, pony clubs, weekend markets, boat ramps, aquaria / pet shops, stock and produce outlets, waste disposal and recycle centres, all found throughout the Illawarra region.

The frequency of inspections on specific high risk sites or high risk pathways is determined by a risk analysis type approach that considers a range of factors including history of prior weed incursions having been found, level of activity/use and proximity to nearby high risk weed locations. In this respect high risk pathways and sites may be inspected annually or 2- 3 times within a twelve-month period depending on the risk /threat they pose.

With this in mind and noting that the majority of high risk weed spread is a direct result of human activities the IDWA inspection program is prioritised on high risk pathways and sites involving human activity because it being the most prolific form of weed spread it is also the one that is the most preventable and cost effective.

Summary of Achievements

Specific Inspections Conducted:	
High Risk sites inspected :(No.)	155
High Risk Pathways inspected (km)	1,673 km

Use of Enforcement Procedures for Priority Weed Control

For the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018, 698 properties were inspected, requiring 222 compliance re-inspections. Of the 222 compliance re-inspections only three (3) Individual Biosecurity Direction notices were issued. These notices were issued only after it was apparent the relevant owner/occupier/s were making no attempt/or an insufficient effort to control the designated priority weed/s as required.

Two Section 133 Entries were undertaken following non-compliance with an Individual Biosecurity Direction notice.

To date, the Constituent Councils have preferred to exercise their power under Section 133 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and enter problem properties and undertake all necessary control works at that time, rather than implementing costly and time consuming court procedures against the landholder.

To ensure that owners and occupiers of land carry out their obligations to control priority weeds the Constituent Councils through the IDWA prefer to achieve this objective in the first instance through a voluntary compliance approach. Failure to reach reasonable consensus however, will (and has) resulted in council exercising its legal powers to ensure compliance. Prosecution will be undertaken at this time if deemed appropriate by the full committee of the IDWA. Alternatively, a Section 133 Entry will be undertaken (as has been the case to date). Further, the IDWA will also be implementing on-the-spot fines (SEINS) for offences under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. This action will again be undertaken only if consensus cannot be reached with the landholder to undertake control works on the identified priority weed(s).

Summary of Enforcement Actions

Giant Parramatta grass

Number of Individual Biosecurity Direction notices:	2
Section 133 Entry	1

Giant Devils fig

Number of Individual Biosecurity Direction notices:	1
Section 133 Entry	1

Weed Recording, Mapping and Reporting Activities

Aim:

To compile accurate and concise information on the distribution of priority weeds in the region over time, providing a benchmark for which performance can be measured and appropriate action undertaken.

Outcomes:

As part of the NSW Weeds Action Program (WAP), the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has developed a standardised mapping program for the state, known as the Biosecurity Information System (BIS). This program is designed to improve identification, diagnostics, surveillance coordination, and reporting capacity for strategic weed management. The BIS program includes the BIS Metadata Procedure which provides standards for data collection to ensure reports are consistent throughout.

Data submitted using this procedure will be used to prepare consistent reports that measure real gains in weed management for all stakeholders. These reports will ensure each stakeholder has access to coordinated data and mapping information for weed management undertaken in their region and across the state.

The BIS was rolled out state-wide in August 2016. To support this process, the IDWA purchased the Weed Map Pro Summit Biosecurity mapping system. Weed Map Pro is fully compliant with the NSW Biosecurity Act Weeds Metadata standard, WAP and BIS reporting requirements. Monthly reporting to the BIS commenced on 1 July 2017.

[Attachment 2](#) details reported BIS data for the IDWA for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 covering all land tenures.

[Attachment 2b](#) details reported BIS data for the IDWA for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 covering local government activities.

Communication, Education, Extension and Publicity Activities

Aim:

To promote public awareness about priority weeds and their control and encourage a sense of shared responsibility.

Outcomes:

Education and publicity activities have continued to be given priority through ongoing utilisation of the media and participation in community events (Refer [Attachment 1](#)). One (1) display was held and one (1) Field day was organised. Four (4) media releases were issued and three (3) articles written for newsletters over the last 12 months.

A weed display was held as part of the Agriculture Show circuit at Albion Park. A Giant Parramatta grass field day was held on private property in Shellharbour.

The local print and electronic media were also utilised to publicise various control programs and disseminate information on all aspects of the Authority's weed control activities ([Attachment 1](#)).

The Illawarra District Weeds Authority website (www.idnwa.com.au) was also updated to reflect changes in the legislation (*Biosecurity Act 2015*), new priority regional and state species lists, and stakeholder obligations and responsibilities as per the General Biosecurity Duty.

To enhance staff skills and performance levels, the Chief Weeds Officer and Weeds Inspector/Operator also attended various field days and seminars organised by other groups. These days proved beneficial in covering most aspects of the Authority's weed control functions.

Staff Training

Aim:

To retain well motivated staff who are trained to effectively implement the service which the Authority aims to provide.

Outcomes:

Chief Weeds Officer

Training completed 2017/2018:

Biosecurity Act legal training
NSW Weeds Conference

Weed Inspector/Operator

Training completed 2017/2018:

Biosecurity Act legal training
NSW Weeds Conference

Co-operation

Aim:

To effectively and without prejudice, work with all stakeholders within the guidelines of the Biosecurity (weeds) legislation.

Outcomes:

The IDWA is responsible for priority weed control within the constituent local government areas of Wollongong City, Shellharbour City and Kiama Municipal Council. To oversee the supervision of the Authority's priority weed control program and ensure constituent councils' obligations and responsibilities are being met; the IDWA has its own Weeds Committee. The committee meets quarterly and provides guidance and support for the IDWA.

The IDWA is also actively involved with the recently formed South East Local Land Services Regional Weeds Committee, being represented on both the Regional Weeds committee and associated WAP subcommittee.

IDWA staff also hold casual positions on various working groups at State, regional and local levels providing valuable input and feedback on a range of weed related issues.

The IDWA has a close working relationship with most government agencies and private landholders within the area. A prime objective of the IDWA Policy of Control is to ensure, so far as practical, that residents meet their General Biosecurity Duty obligations and responsibilities with respect to priority weeds. To this effect the IDWA is in constant liaison and consultation with a number of government agencies and private landholders with regard to priority weed management programs. This level of consultation has further been built on through the implementation of the NSW Weeds Action Program and in particular the focus on high risk pathways and high risk sites.

Good compliance has been achieved by most government agencies and private landholders with regard to the Authority's weed control programs over the last 12 months. Most control works are implemented on a request only basis, although some government authorities and private individuals are undertaking annual programs on lands under their care and control. The IDWA has regular contracts with several private and government entities.

One area of ongoing concern however is land under the management of NSW Rail Corporation. Whilst Rail Corp have taken a more proactive approach of late following Ministerial intervention, further action may still be necessary to ensure momentum is continued. The IDWA is continuing to work with NSW Rail Corporation staff to iron out any issues that arise from time to time.

Operational Program

The IDWA Operational Weed Control Program is primarily designed to complement the Inspectorial Program whilst ensuring the IDWA continues to lead the way by setting the example.

Aim:

To prevent, eliminate or otherwise minimise the biosecurity risk posed by priority weeds on all council controlled lands.

Outcomes:

The main focus over the past 12 months on Council controlled lands has been to –

1. Prevent the establishment of all Prohibited matter as listed in Schedule 2 of the Biosecurity Act 2015
2. Eradicate all State regulated Control Order weeds as detailed in Biosecurity (Boneseed) Control Order 2017; Biosecurity (Tropical Soda Apple) Control Order 2017 and Biosecurity (Pakinsonia) Control Order 2017.
3. Eradicate or otherwise contain the spread of Biosecurity Zone weeds Alligator weed, Water hyacinth and Bitou bush.
4. Prevent, eradicate, contain or otherwise minimise the biosecurity risk of all regionally listed priority weeds on council controlled lands throughout the local control authority area.
5. Undertake local weed control programs to protect local assets.

The Authority's current Operational Weed Control Program is co-ordinated in such a way as to target areas within the inspection program. Some roadside and reserve spraying is undertaken outside programmed areas following special requests by Constituent Councils / resident complaints.

With reference to specific actions and milestones in achieving the stated Aims and Objectives of the IDWA Operational Program the following actions were achieved for the 2017-18 year period.

Summary of Achievements

1. 1,129 parcels of council land inspected
2. 572 parcels inspected and controlled for one or more priority weed
3. 24 high priority sites managed and protected from widespread priority weeds
4. 386km of priority pathways inspected and treated for priority weeds.
5. Four (4) new weed incursions found for high risk priority weeds (never previously recorded in the region before or new to a particular catchment/location).

Attachment 1

Biosecurity Act 2015 now in action

The Illawarra District Weeds Authority is reminding residents the Biosecurity Act 2015 commenced on 1 July 2017 and is set to provide a more effective framework for managing biosecurity risks.

The new legislation was adopted following extensive public consultation and was passed in September 2015 to replace all or part of 14 Acts addressing biosecurity issues.

Local residents are encouraged to get themselves up to date with the new legislation, which is expected to enable better management of biosecurity risks that impact on our economy, environment and the community.

Illawarra District Weeds Authority Chief Weeds Officer David Pomery said the new legislation covers a broad range of areas and is urging Illawarra residents to familiarise themselves with the changes.

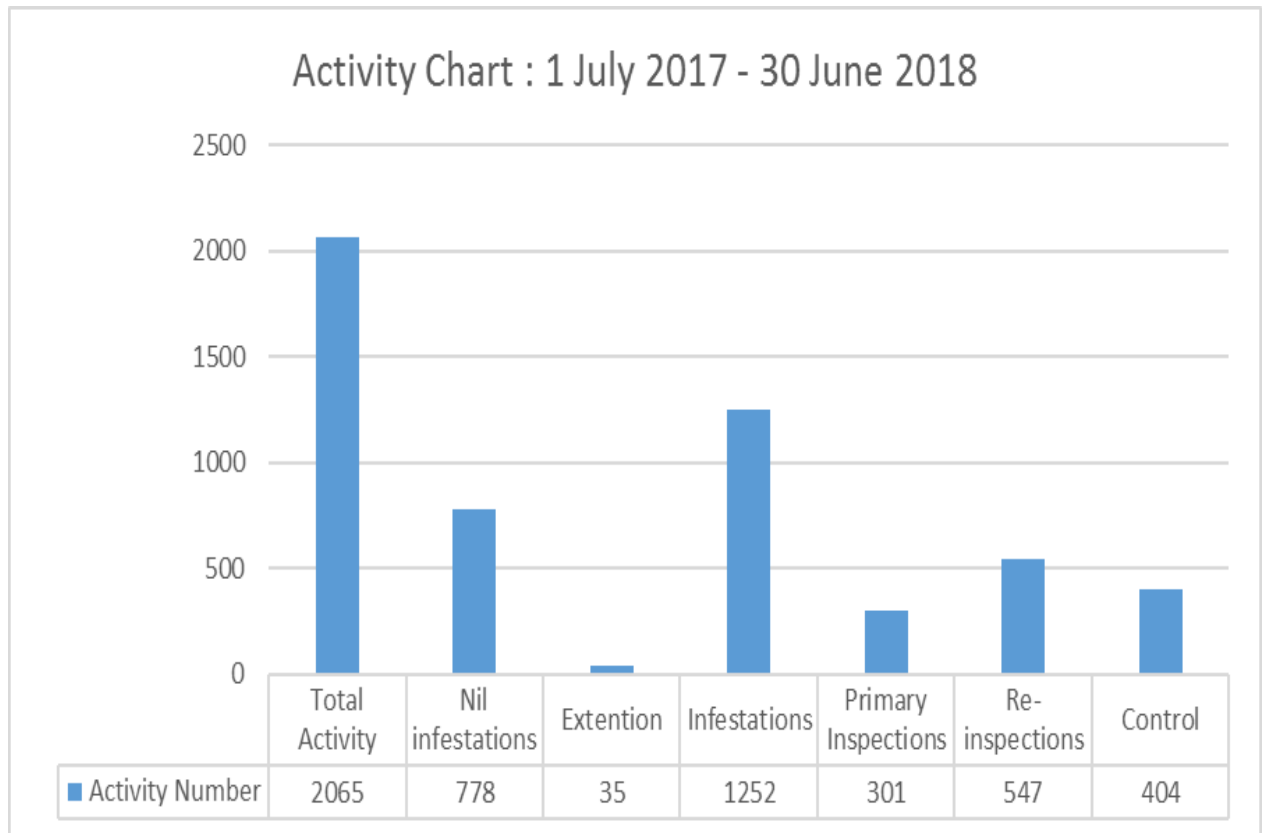
“Unlike the repealed Noxious Weed Act 1993, the new legislation does not discriminate between public or private lands. All residents in this respect have a shared responsibility to manage biosecurity risks and the impacts of invasive weed species.”

“If our community educates itself on these risks we are better able to minimise the impacts of them on our environment.”

For more information simple facts sheets can be found online at <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/biosecurity-legislation/factsheets> or visit <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/biosecurity-legislation>.

Attachment 2

All land tenures activity chart



Attachment 2b

Local government activity chart

