



# ILLAWARRA DISTRICT WEEDS AUTHORITY

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# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2018 – 2019

# Illawarra District Weeds Authority

## Chairperson's Message

2018/19 marked the fourth year of the five year Weeds Action Program (WAP) - 2015-2020

After receiving a 10% cut to its budget in 2015/16, a 20% cut in 2016/17, and a 1% increase in 2017/18, the Illawarra District Weeds Authority finally received a meaningful increase to its budget this year, bringing its total share of the State allocation to \$95,636.00, a 12% increase on last year's allocation of \$85,258.00. Whilst welcome, the increase was not the result of the Palarang Weed Inspection Priority Mapping model, but rather an increase in the State allocation to the region of \$1.7m up from \$1.6m in 2017/18. The IDWA now sits at 2008/09 funding levels under the current program.

Specifically, over the last 12 months the IDWA inspected and controlled priority weeds along 1,377km of high risk pathways, 650km of priority pathway and managed and protected 21 high priority public reserves from widespread priority weeds. An additional 207ha of priority weeds were controlled in other council reserves. A total of 2,199 parcels of land were inspected of which 1,419 were found to have an infestation of one or more priority weed. 216 high risk sites were inspected as part of this process and 600 compliance reinspections were undertaken. Two new weed incursions were detected and eradicated including one for the State listed **Prohibited Matter** – Frogbit.

Private works to the value of \$59,571 were generated along with \$34,175 in additional grant funds.

The issue of glyphosate or Roundup® use was raised by the community once again, this time in relation to the Authority's end of year aerial spraying program. The Authority agreed to temporarily suspend aerial operations this year and undertake a review into its aerial spraying program with the aim of addressing community concern in this regard. The review is expected to be completed by November 2019. Whilst disappointing to the maintenance of an effective weed management program, the disruption has highlighted the need to engage with the community on practices that have been part of normal operation but have now come under increased scrutiny. This pause may also provide the opportunity to investigate alternate technologies.

The Authority met on four occasions during 2018/19, 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 fifth and final 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 2018/19 Summary of Activities and Outcomes from 01 July 2018 – 30 June 2019**

**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 2018- June 2019

<b>Name of Organisation</b>	Illawarra District Weeds Authority
<b>Address</b>	PO Box 148 Kiama 2533

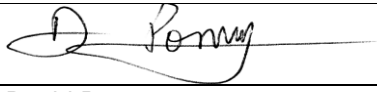
<b>Administrative contact</b> (name, position, fax, phone)	<p>Mr David Pomery          Chief Weeds Officer          Ph 02 4233 1129          email: <a href="mailto:dpomery@isjo.org.au">dpomery@isjo.org.au</a></p>
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<b>Technical contact</b> (name, position, fax, phone)	<p>Mr David Pomery          Chief Weeds Officer          Ph 02 4233 1129          email: <a href="mailto:dpomery@isjo.org.au">dpomery@isjo.org.au</a></p>
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<b>Total Amount of funds received (Income)</b>	Grant - \$95,636.00 Council - \$159,463.00	<b>For financial year/s</b>	2018-2019
	<b>TOTAL- \$255,099.00</b>		

<b>Funds</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Regional Coordination (staff administration)	\$43,422.00
Property Inspections (Including compliance)	\$120,237.00
Priority Weed Control	\$56,568.00
WAP Priorities	\$46,899.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$267,126.00</b>

### 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 2019

## Report on Weed Control Coordination Assistance 2018/2019

### Outcomes and results from July 2018-June 2019

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

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

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
Regional Coordination (staff administration)	\$43,422.00
Property inspections – Including compliance	\$120,237.00
<b>WAP Priorities</b>	
Publicity	\$1,693.00
Training	\$5,522.00
High Risk Sites	\$9,904.00
High Risk Pathways	\$16,887.00
Management Priority sites	\$12,893.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$210,558.00*</b>

\* Includes on costs

Printed name	David Pomery
Position in Organisation	Chief Weeds Officer
Contact Telephone Number	02-42 331129
Date	7th November 2019

## Report on Weed Control Operational Assistance 2018/2019

### Outcomes and results from July 2018-June 2019 A Final Report prepared for the constituent member councils of the IDWA

<b>Name Of Organisation</b>	Illawarra District Weeds Authority
<b>Address</b>	PO Box 148 Kiama NSW 2533

<b>Administrative contact</b> (name, position, fax, phone)	David Pomery Chief Weeds Officer Ph: 42 331129 E mail: <a href="mailto:dpomery@isjo.org.au">dpomery@isjo.org.au</a>
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<b>Technical contact</b> (name, position, fax, phone)	David Pomery Chief Weeds Officer Ph: 42 331129 E mail: <a href="mailto:dpomery@isjo.org.au">dpomery@isjo.org.au</a>
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#### FINANCIAL REPORT

Actual Expenditure*			
	Total \$	Total \$	Total \$
Priority Weeds	State Priority Weeds	Regional Priority Weeds	Local Priority Weeds
Asparagus Spp		\$61.00	
African Lovegrass	-	-	-
African Boxthorn	-	-	-
Alligator Weed	\$1,873.00	-	-
Bitou Bush	\$7,993.00	-	-
Boneseed	\$635.00	-	-
Blackberry	-	-	\$13,222.00
Cats Claw Creeper		\$362.00	
Chilean Needle Grass		-	\$2,002.00
Coolatai Grass	-	\$8,087.00	-
Gorse	-	\$1,029.00	-
Groundsel Bush	-	\$3,584.00	-
Pink Lantana	-	\$1,341.00	-
Ludwigia	-	\$701.00	-
Mysore Thorn		\$3,369.00	-
Pampas Grass	-	-	-
Prickly Pear	-	\$507.00	-
Giant Parramatta Grass	-	\$8,237.00	-
Rhus Tree	-	-	-
Salvinia		\$61.00	
Sea Spurge	-	-	-
Serrated Tussock		\$506.00	-
St Johns Wort			\$231.00
Water hyacinth	\$2,767.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,268.00</b>	<b>\$27,845.00</b>	<b>\$15,455.00</b>

<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$56,568.00*</b>
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**Administration Expenses Report Form**

**Administration Staff:**

Salaries and Allowances: \$26,783.00  
Contribution to ISJO Secretariat: \$ 11,673.00  
Contribution to Kiama Municipal Council: \$ 10,324.00  
Extra Clerical Assistance:

**Sub-Total** **\$48,780.00**

**Computer Expenses:**

(e.g. maintenance, agreements) \$ 2,305.00

**Sub-Total** **\$ 2,305 .00**

**TOTAL:** **\$51,085.00**

85% for Apportionment to Grant Program: \$43,422.00

**TOTAL** **\$43,422.00**

## Other Programs Report

### Vacant Crown Land Program

#### Income:

Vacant Crown Lands Grant -	\$34,175.00
Council contribution -	\$5,000.00

**TOTAL** **\$39,175.00**

#### Expenditure:

Contractors	\$23,417.00
<u>IDWA staff</u>	
Control	\$9,841.00
Admin	\$ 3,760.00
Chemical/materials	\$1,079.00
VRC	\$2,930.00

**TOTAL** **\$41,027.00**

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 2018/19.:

1. Coomaditchie lagoon -Northern end of Perkins beach, Port Kembla, (\$7,091.00)
2. Perkins beach Port Kembla ( \$11,727.00)
3. Bevans Island Lake Illawarra ( \$5,000.00)
4. Bass Point Reserve, Shellharbour (\$10,357.00)

Under this funding the IDNWA has been able to undertake additional priority weed control programs throughout the district. These programs, primarily aimed at Bitou Bush, have been essential in ensuring a co-ordinated and strategic approach to Bitou Bush within the local area is achieved. They have helped achieve the stated aims of National, State, Regional and local action 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.



## **Private works**

<b>Income:</b>	\$59,571.00
<b>Expenditure:</b>	
Labour:	\$ 23,953.00
Administration:	\$ 7,663.00
Chemicals:	\$ 530.00
VRC:	\$ 7,325.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$39,471.00</u></b>
<b>PROFIT:</b>	<b>\$20,100.00</b>

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 2018/19 of \$59,571.00. Operating profit net of all expenses was \$20,100.00.

## **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.

2018/19 marked the final 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**

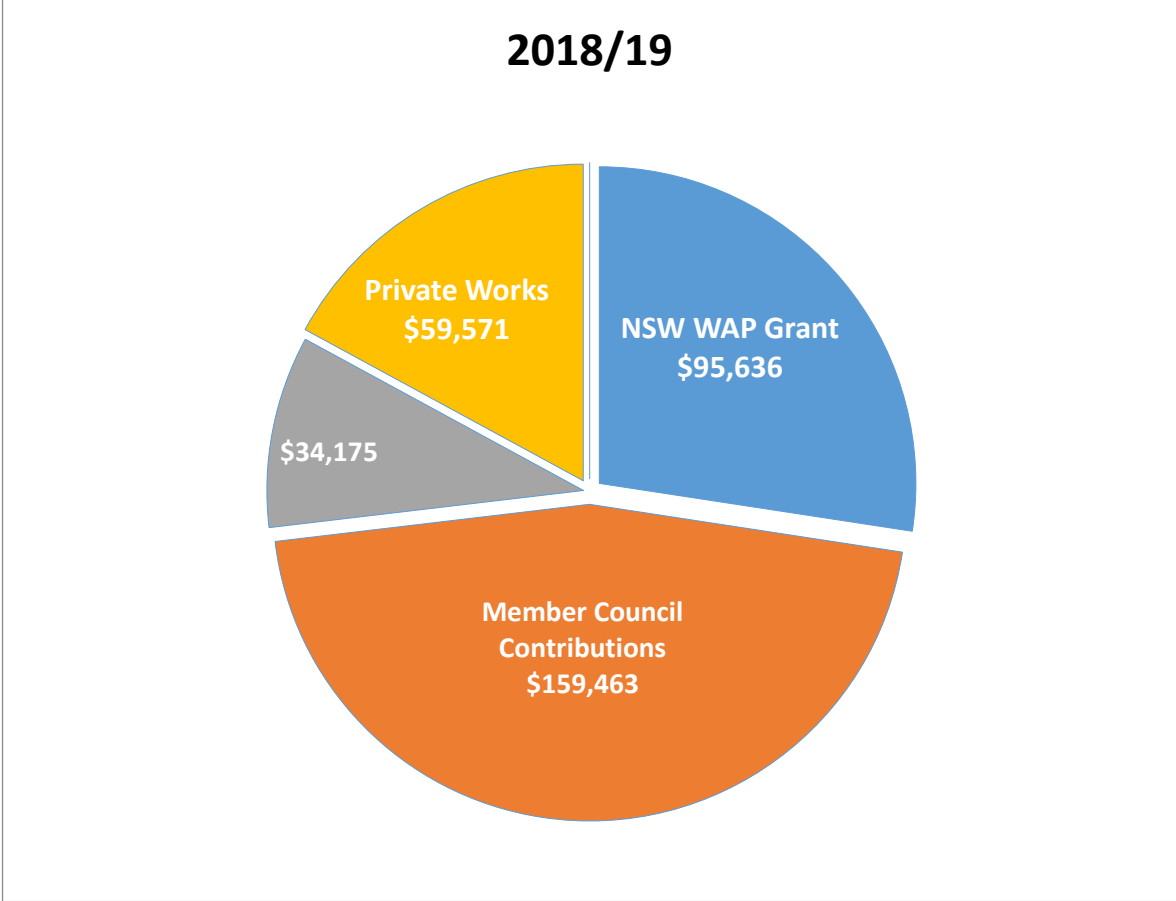
## Expenditure to date:

<b>UNRESTRICTED RESERVES FUNDS (URF) \$411,000</b>	<b>Budget 2018/19</b>	<b>Actual to 30 June 2019</b>	<b>Draft Budget 2019/20</b>
Carryover Funds	76,322	76,322	-
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Capital Expenditure	10,673	-	-
Operational expenditure	65,649	36,388	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENITURE</b>	<b>76,322</b>	<b>36,388</b>	<b>-</b>
Credit (Debit)	Nil	<b>39,934</b>	<b>Nil</b>

## 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.
- 2,199 inspections undertaken on both public and private land.  
600 follow-up inspections.  
37 extension activities with private landholders.
- 216 High Risk sites inspected.  
1,377km of high risk pathways inspected and treated for priority weeds.  
650 km of priority pathways inspected and treated for priority weeds.  
207 ha of priority weeds treated in council controlled reserves.  
21 high priority sites managed and protected from widespread priority weeds  
Two (2) new weed incursions found for high risk priority weeds (never previously recorded in the region). One new weed infestation found (weed previously recorded in the region but not linked to previous records).
- Three (3) displays and one radio interview were held over the last 12 months, and two (2) media releases were issued.
- Implemented annual Crown Lands weed control program.
- Constituent council contributions of \$159,463.00 received and supported with NSW Weeds Action Program Grant funding of \$95,636.00 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 \$34,175.00 for the region through other grant sources.
- Annual gross income of \$59,571.00 generated from private works / commercial spraying operations.

# IDNWA Income 2018/19



# **Illawarra District Weeds Authority**

**Weed Control Co-ordination and Extension Program Report 2018/19  
01 July 2018 – 30 June 2019**

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 the State listed Biosecurity zone weed Bitou Bush.
- Regional and local weed control programs for private landholders and government agencies have continued to be given high priority with 1,047 parcels of private and state land inspected of which 767 were found to have an infestation of one or more priority weed. 580 follow-up inspections were undertaken over the past 12 months on private and state lands.
- 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](#)). Three (3) displays and one radio interview were held over the last 12 months, and two (2) media releases were issued. 37 extension visits were made to provide biosecurity information to landholders and residents.
- 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. 1,118 parcels of council controlled lands were inspected of which 652 were found to have an infestation of one or more priority weed. 2,027 km of roadsides and high risk pathways were inspected and treated for one or more priority weeds. 207 ha of reserve lands were controlled. Twenty-one (21) 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 2018/19:

### **Summary of Achievements**

Inspections conducted:

Total number inspections:	1,047
Total number primary inspections:	467
Compliance reinspections:	580

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### **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.)	216
High Risk Pathways inspected (km)	1,377 km

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## Use of Enforcement Procedures for Priority Weed Control

For the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019, 2,199 inspections were conducted across all land tenures, requiring 600 compliance re-inspections. Of the 600 compliance re-inspections five (5) 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.

One (1) Section 133 Entry was 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:	-
Section 133 Entry	1

**Bitou bush**

Number of Individual Biosecurity Direction notices:	3
Section 133 Entry	-

**Mysore thorn**

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

**Blackberry**

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

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## 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 2018 to 30 June 2019 covering all land tenures.

[Attachment 2b](#) details reported BIS data for the IDWA for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 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](#)). Three (3) displays and one radio interview were held over the last 12 months and two (2) media releases were issued.

Weed displays were held as part of the Agriculture Show circuit at Albion Park and Kiama as well as attending the Oak Flats garden club annual fete.

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](http://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.

A total of 34 private properties were also inspected/visited as part of broader extension activities aimed at enhancing awareness of (priority) weeds and encouraging proactive behaviour in relation to weed management.

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## 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 2018/2019:

Implement Traffic control Plans training

#### Weed Inspector/Operator

##### Training completed 2018/2019:

Implement Traffic control Plans training.

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## **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 Sydney Trains. Whilst Sydney Trains have taken a more proactive approach of late, further action may still be necessary to ensure momentum is continued. The IDWA is continuing to work with Sydney Trains 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 2018-19 year period.

**Summary of Achievements**

1. 1118 parcels of council land inspected
2. 467 parcels controlled for one or more priority weed
3. 21 high priority sites managed and protected from widespread priority weeds
4. 650km of priority pathways inspected and treated for priority weeds.
5. Two (2) new weed incursions found for high risk priority weeds (never previously recorded in the region) and one (1) new weed infestation found (weed previously recorded in the region but not linked to previous records).

## Attachment 1

# ILLAWARRA DISTRICT WEEDS AUTHORITY (IDWA) MEDIA RELEASE

## BIOSECURITY ALERT – PROHIBITED WEED AMAZON FROGBIT LOCATED IN THE ILLAWARRA

The Illawarra District Weeds Authority (IDWA) is asking for the public's help to report sightings of a new weed which poses a major risk to the regions freshwater river systems and storage ponds.

A Biosecurity Alert has been issued for the aquatic weed Amazon Frogbit since it was recently discovered being sold on an internet auction site and inadvertently purchased by at least 5 individuals in NSW including one in the Illawarra. All the prohibited matter has been seized by Weeds Biosecurity staff located in the affected areas.

Amazon Frogbit is listed as **Prohibited Matter** in the Biosecurity Act 2015 meaning it is prohibited entry to NSW and it is therefore illegal to buy or sell this plant in NSW.

The weed can be identified by its smooth, rounded, fleshy green leaves up to 4cm across with sponge like sections on their underside. The plants float on the water surface. It originates from the freshwater habitat of tropical and subtropical Central and South America and has the potential to seriously degrade our freshwater ecosystems if allowed to spread.



It is currently a popular ornamental plant used in fishponds, aquarium and water features. It is spread by illegal dumping of aquarium material and travels quickly and easily along water bodies once released.

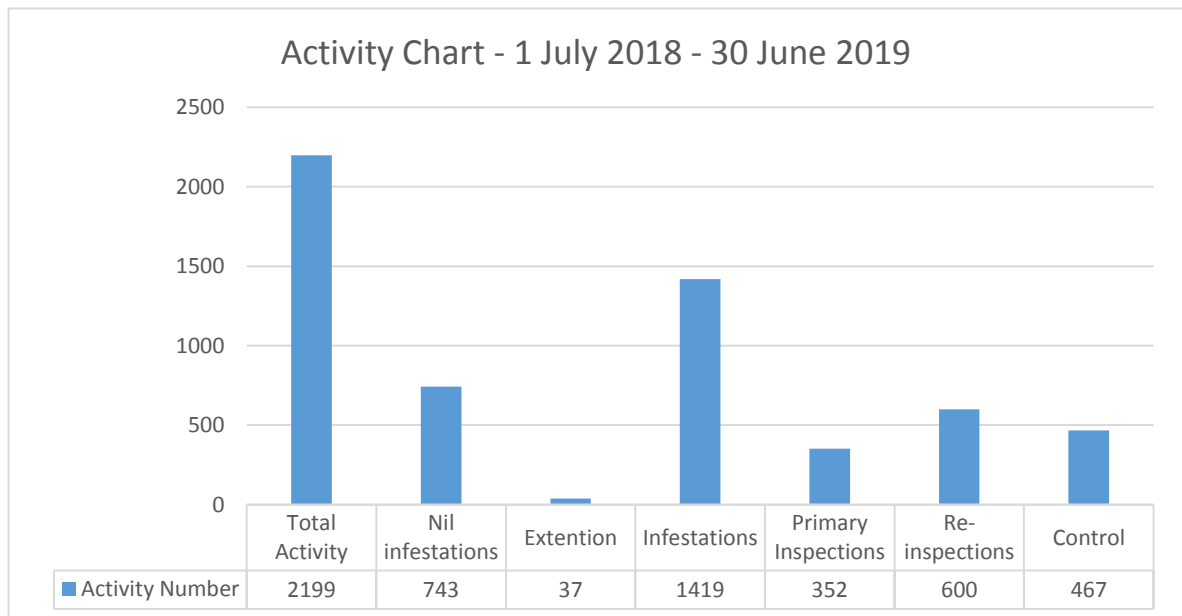
Chief Weeds Officer for the IDWA, David Pomery said that members of the public can help stop the spread of the pest plant by reporting any sightings in waterways and ensuring they don't buy or sell this plant in NSW.

“Under the new Biosecurity Act, everyone in NSW now has a General Biosecurity Duty to minimise biosecurity risks, said Mr Pomery, and there are specified mandatory measures that must be taken in relation to Amazon Frogbit”.

“The mandatory measure for this plant is that you are not allowed to deal with the plant – this means you cannot buy, grow, sell or trade it and if you find this plant or become aware of people selling it, or in possession of it, you have a duty to notify the local control authority, in this instance the IDWA” Mr Pomery said.

## Attachment 2

### All land tenures activity chart



## Attachment 2b

### Local government activity chart

