

ISJO

Matters

August 2022

The Illawarra Shoalhaven Region comprises the local government areas of Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama and the Shoalhaven.

Our region is renowned for its scenic beauty, diversity and its innovative industrial, service, creative and knowledge economy. The Illawarra Shoalhaven has a population in excess of 400,000 and a gross regional product (GRP) of \$25.091 billion.

It is one of Australia's most significant regional contributors to national prosperity.

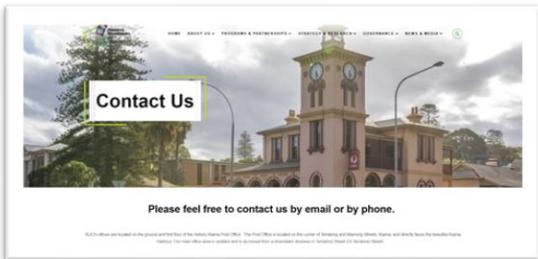
The Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation (ISJO) is an authority operating within the framework of the NSW Local Government Act.

ISJO's role is to:

- Establish strategic regional priorities for the joint organisation area and to establish strategies and plans for delivering those strategic regional priorities
- Provide regional leadership for the joint organisation area and to be an advocate for strategic regional priorities, and
- Identify and take up opportunities for inter-governmental co-operation on matters relating to the joint organisation area.

ISJO works in partnership with our Member Councils, State Agencies and peak organisations in helping achieve the best possible outcomes for our region's communities.

ISJO Matters is our Joint Organisation Newsletter and provides information on recent programs and projects undertaken under the ISJO Banner.



Inside this August 2022 Edition:

- New ISJO Website
- Environment, Waste, Resilience and Sustainability
- Weeds Management
- Biosecurity Programs



Our Logo

ISJO's logo was adopted in 2019 and is a graphic representation of the geographic placement of our four Member Council areas (Wollongong to the north, then Shellharbour, Kiama and the Shoalhaven to the south) and the strategic linkages and shared (overlapping) operational, economic, community and infrastructure interests that drive our collective endeavours.

Environment, Waste, Resilience and Sustainability

“Scrap Together” Education Campaign



“FOGO” – the Food and Garden Organics recycling program – aims to promote the recovery of all available food waste by diverting it to the green lidded bins used in many council areas.

The NSW EPA established the FOGO Deep Dive Education strategy to help councils using FOGO to make the most of the service and to expand awareness of why the program was developed, what it hopes to achieve and what residents should do to help maximise its environmental benefits.

The result was *Scrap Together* – an initiative that in its trial period increased the amount of food waste in the green lid bin by an average of 10 per cent and reduced contamination and food waste generation.



Kiama and Shellharbour Councils were recently successful in securing funding from the EPA to talk with their communities about each Council’s FOGO service and the *Scrap Together* program.

ISJO staff were at the Kiama Markets on 10 August 2022 assisting Josephine St John, Kiama Municipal Council’s Waste Management Officer, in spreading the good word on compost and to answer any questions on the “Scrap Together” initiative.

A particular focus was on assisting residents in understanding how FOGO works, how to keep

contaminants out and hints for keeping caddies and bins fresh.

Kiama Council has been providing a FOGO collection service to its residents for close to ten years and it has proven to be a very popular program. The organic material collected is processed into high grade compost and three 25 litre bags of the compost are then made available free of charge to residents from urban waste zones each year through the *OK Organics Compost Giveaway*.

For more information on FOGO and the *Scrap Together* education campaign go to the EPA website by clicking on this [LINK](#).

An entertaining and informative video has also been created by the EPA. Click on the screen grab below to view it.



RID Officer training

The Southern Region Illegal Dumping (RID) program recently ran a three-day training course for Council RID Officers at the [Kum Ba Yah Campsite](#) at Mt Keira.

The course comprised two days of electronic surveillance device training and a one day workshop on the “Protection of the Environment Operations Act” (PoEO). Activities included a course on legislation applying to the use of surveillance devices as well as awareness raising on the storage requirements for images and the use of those images in legal proceedings. Other topics included but were not limited to the “Drafting of Notices”, “Sampling material for Asbestos identification” and “When and why to issue a caution”.



An extensive practical session was held on the camouflage and concealment of surveillance devices. The participants were broken into groups. One group was responsible for concealing devices in a well-known dumping location and the other group then had to role play trying to find them. It was an important activity given the critical role effectively concealed surveillance equipment plays in detecting and deterring illegal dumping of materials.



Resilience NSW Illawarra and South-East Disaster Recovery Workshop



The ISJO took part on 4 August 2022 in a Disaster Recovery Workshop conducted by Resilience NSW.

The Workshop – held in Goulburn – was a busy and productive day of connecting and sharing information and knowledge. Over 100 people from all walks of life took part in the activities.



Key focus areas that emerged during the day included the need for recovery initiatives to be:

- Community-led
- Cognisant of funding cycles, arduous grant processes and short timeframes for delivery

- Aware of mental health impacts
- Focused on housing and integrated planning
- Informed by planning and rehearsal of recovery processes
- Mindful of the Privacy Act – affected people should only have to tell their story once.



LGP Procurement Capability Grants Program - Sustainable Procurement Grant

The ISJO has been successful in receiving a grant for the development of a regional framework for Councils to benchmark sustainable procurement. The project will work with member Councils to ascertain current procurement framework alignments across our member Councils and to broaden these frameworks to ensure that all aspects of sustainable and local procurement are considered and included as a leading practice model for local government.

The following key initiatives will be undertaken:

- Development of a framework for measuring current practice and monitoring improvement against extrinsic values such as resource efficiency, climate change, social responsibility and economic resilience
- Development of individual and regional action plans that will enable Councils to take measurable steps towards implementing leading practice sustainable procurement
- Development and agreement of a standardised regional approach to enable identification of opportunities for regional collaboration where these opportunities encourage:
 - social procurement
 - procurement of locally sourced goods, and
 - services or achieve a higher sustainable end goal.
- Mapping actions to current policy and strategic planning instruments and providing guidance on future policy and process development

ISJO will be seeking expressions of interest in membership of a steering committee to oversee the project's delivery.

Community Recycling Centres information videos

The ISJO has recently developed a series of videos to locally promote Community Recycling Centres.

Known as CRCs, the facilities are located at Council waste and recycling depots across the region and provide permanent drop-off for common household problem wastes that can't be collected through kerbside waste and recycling bins.

Householders can drop off problem waste at CRCs year-round, the items will be recycled and it's all FREE!

Problem wastes accepted include:

- Paint
- Gas bottles
- Fire extinguishers
- Household batteries
- Motor oils
- Car batteries
- Smoke detectors
- Fluoro globes and tubes

The ISJO supports member Councils in developing and delivering regional communication and education campaigns to encourage residents and visitors use and access to CRCs. Over \$325,000 in grant funding has been secured over the past 5 years to enable ISJO to deliver innovative campaigns from advertisements on radio, bus backs, cinema, newsprint, drink coasters and social media – to community events, hardware and retailer displays and even bike billboards.

Our latest ads work well with the look and feel of wider campaigns currently being promoted through the NSW EPA. Featuring some well-known local identities and ending with imagery from CRCs throughout our region, the ads are consciously low tech, low cost and aimed at delivering high value messages in an engaging and non-confrontational way.

The CRCs are an amazing success story. By guiding communities to safely recycle problem wastes, a truly extraordinary 1,914 tonnes of materials have been dropped off across the region's 14 facilities since 2017.



Paint Renovations V1



Car battery and oil



Smoke alarms



Combination



Gas bottles V1

Find your local Community Recycling Centre today

Gas bottles

Fire extinguishers

Paint

Fluoro globes and tubes

Household and car batteries

Motor oils

Other oils

Smoke detectors

cleanout.com.au

iepa

Shoalhaven

Woolongahilly

Woolongahilly

Woolongahilly

Shoalhaven City Council

Community Recycling Centres

Brought to you by the NSW Environmental Protection Authority

Weeds Management

Giant Devil's Fig

Solanum chrysotrichum



Giant Devil's Fig can be found anywhere! It is most commonly found along creek banks, roadsides and under shade trees and tolerates and survives environmental extremes. It grows in a variety of soil types and conditions.

Giant Devil's Fig is established in the NSW Far North Coast but there are increasing infestations in other coastal districts including the Illawarra and Shoalhaven. If you see Giant Devil's fig, give us a call before it spreads further.

Why is it a problem?

Giant Devil's Fig can form dense, impenetrable thickets. If left uncontrolled it:

- restricts stock access to shade and water
- reduces the number of native plants by competing for space, nutrients and sunlight
- destroys natural habitat for wildlife
- invades forests and riparian areas
- can take over valuable grazing land
- can make working on a farm or bushwalking difficult.

What does it look like?

- It's a shrub or small tree up to six metres in height
- Its stems and leaves are covered with soft hairs that are reddish-brown on new growth. Its bark is green with many sharp thorns and its stems, leaf stalks and leaf veins have long prickles that are two to six millimetres long
- It has large leaves that have up to thirteen lobes

- Its flowers are star shaped and hairy on the outer surface
- Its fruit are green to yellowish orange (when mature).



Seen it? Call us:

NSW DPI Biosecurity Helpline: 1800 680 244

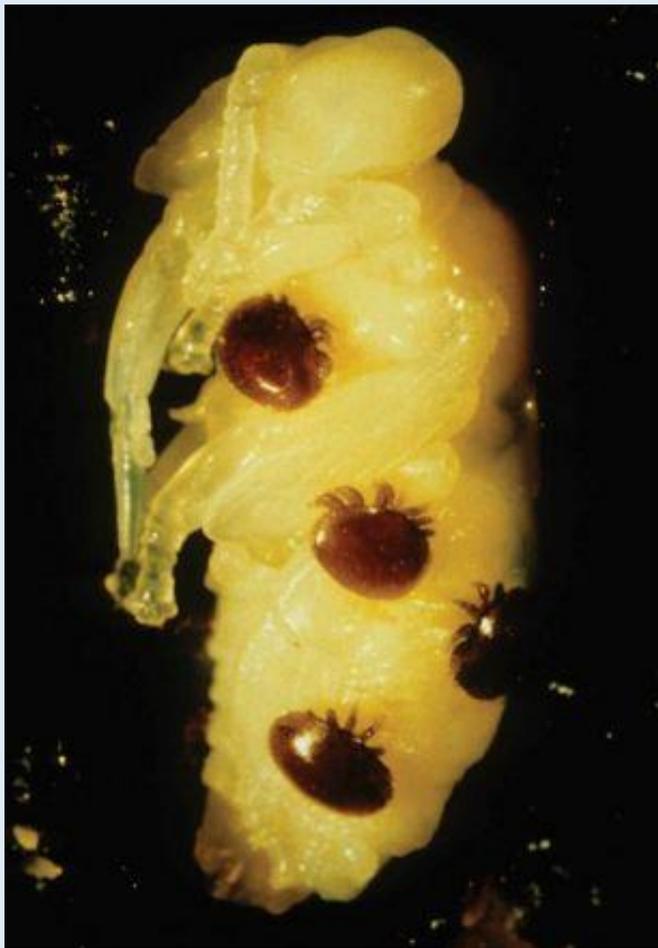
Illawarra District Weeds Authority: 4233 1129



Photographer: Paul Marynissen Central Coast Council
[NSW WeedWise](#)

SOUTH EAST
**No Space for
Weeds**

Biosecurity Programs



Varroa Mite Response

The ISJO, through our Illawarra District Weeds Authority division, has lodged an expression of interest with the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in the provision of assistance in reducing the risk of any further spread of the Varroa mite. The timeframe for this requested assistance has now been extended until 24 October 2022.

The Varroa mite (*Varroa Destructor*) was first detected at the Port of Newcastle on 22 June. Varroa mite is the number one biosecurity threat to the bee industry. As a result the Biosecurity (Varroa Mite) Emergency Order 2022 has been enacted and includes working of hives to prevent swarming and removal of honey supers prior to bee euthanasia.

The IDWA staff have offered to assist in its implementation.

Varroa mites are tiny reddish brown external parasites of honey bees. On their own they are easily identifiable to the naked eye. Left untreated they will kill any bee hive they infect.

Further information on the response to the situation may be found [HERE](#).

Image courtesy of the NSW Department of Primary Industries

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/seasonal-pests-and-diseases/spring/varroa-mite

Want to learn more?

Previous editions of **ISJO Matters** can be found on our website under the “Newsletters” drop down menu or by clicking on the following images:



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