

ISJO Matters October 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.

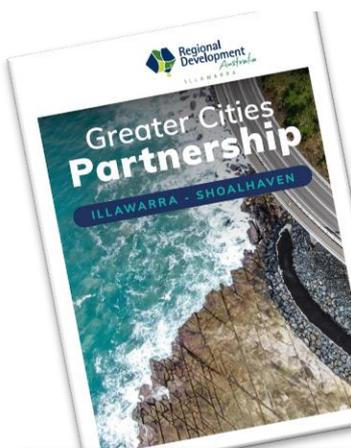
The Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation (ISJO) is an authority operating within the framework of the NSW Local Government Act.

ISJO's role is to:

- (a) Establish strategic regional priorities for the joint organisation area and to establish strategies and plans for delivering those strategic regional priorities
- (b) Provide regional leadership for the joint organisation area and to be an advocate for strategic regional priorities, and
- (c) 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 October 2022 Edition:

- Launch of the Greater Cities Illawarra Shoalhaven Partnership
- Excellence in the Environment Awards 2022
- City Commissioners Announced
- Circular Economy Investigation Workshop
- Agritourism Policy and planning changes
- Program Highlight: Biosecurity – Illawarra District Weeds Authority
- Varroa Mite Emergency Response Update



Acknowledgement of Country

The Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation acknowledges the traditional owners of the lands upon which we work – the Aboriginal people of the Dharawal and Yuin nations. We pay our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples and their Elders past, present and emerging and commit to recognition and reconciliation in our common home of Australia.

Launch of the Greater Cities Illawarra Shoalhaven Partnership



Regional leaders at the Greater Cities Partnership launch (from left to right):

Michael Archer, CEO of Shellharbour City Council, Stephen Dunshea, CEO of Shoalhaven City Council, Cr Kellie Marsh, Deputy Mayor of Shellharbour City, Jane Stroud, CEO of Kiama Municipal Council, Cr Gordon Bradbery AM, Lord Mayor of the City of Wollongong and Chair of the Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation and Eddie De Gabriele, Chair of RDA Illawarra

The Illawarra Shoalhaven *Greater Cities Partnership Prospectus* was launched on Tuesday 11 October at an event at the Shell Cove Marina.

Developed over a two year period in a process of consultation coordinated by Regional Development Australia (RDA) Illawarra, the *Partnership Prospectus* is a robust plan to drive the economic future and liveability of the Illawarra Shoalhaven through the targeting of key transformative projects worth \$1.9 billion.

Spanning the Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama and Shoalhaven LGAs, the partnership unites twelve organisations to drive the narrative: RDA Illawarra, the Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation, the University of Wollongong, Property Council, SMART Infrastructure Facility, RDA Far South Coast, Business Illawarra and the Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA).

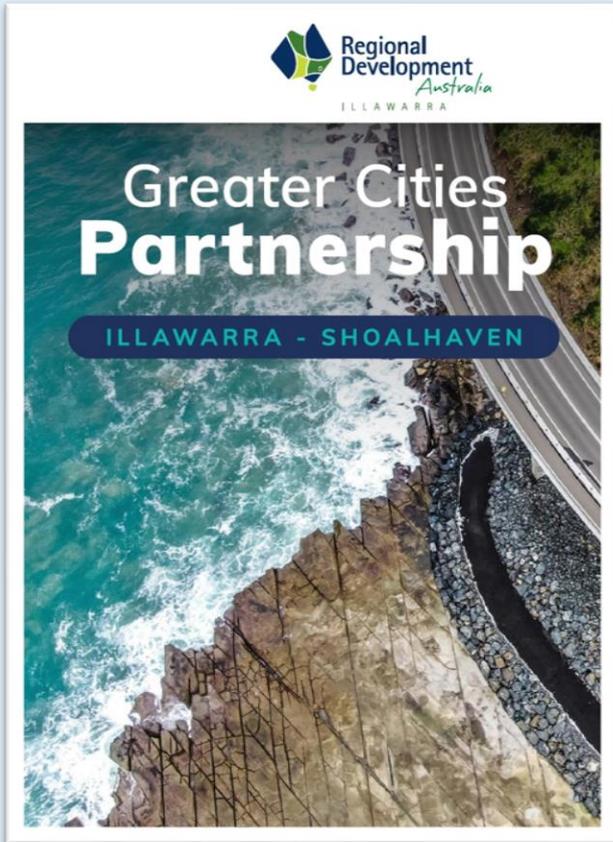
The Greater Cities Partnership establishes precincts that will deliver a connected, diverse and resilient economy over the next decade. It will accelerate recovery of the visitor economy and create a South Coast tourism economy with world-class attractions at the Illawarra Sports and Entertainment Precinct and a new Marine Tourism Precinct.

Development of the Port of Port Kembla will be central to regional growth, with the establishment of new industries based on renewable energy and sustainable steelmaking.

Advanced Manufacturing opportunities will create jobs and training for new generations of tradespeople and technicians, continuing the proud industrial history of the region.

Links between the precincts and to Western Sydney will be the key to their success. The Greater Cities Partnership supports the duplication of Picton Road as well as a new rail line from Port Kembla that will link the Port to markets in Western Sydney and beyond. Planning for a '30-Minute City' by public or active transport is also a key initiative, as is a Marine Tourism Highway that will link Wollongong, Kiama, Shell Cove and Nowra by sea.

Some pages from the Prospectus follow. Click [HERE](#) to access the full document.





EXCELLENCE IN THE
ENVIRONMENT
AWARDS 2022

The Local Government New South Wales (LGNSW) Excellence in the Environment Awards 2022 are to be announced at a ceremony in Sydney on Tuesday 6 December 2022.

It has just been announced local government in the Illawarra Shoalhaven is represented in three of the Award Categories.

Asbestos Management

Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation

Transition to a Circular Economy

Shoalhaven City Council

Water Management

Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation

The LGNSW Excellence in the Environment Awards recognise outstanding achievements by NSW councils in managing and protecting the environment across 15 categories.

The Awards culminate in two prestigious Local Sustainability Awards: one for overall council performance and one to recognise the individual achievements of a council staff member or elected councillor in the field of sustainability.

The ISJO's State Finals Entries

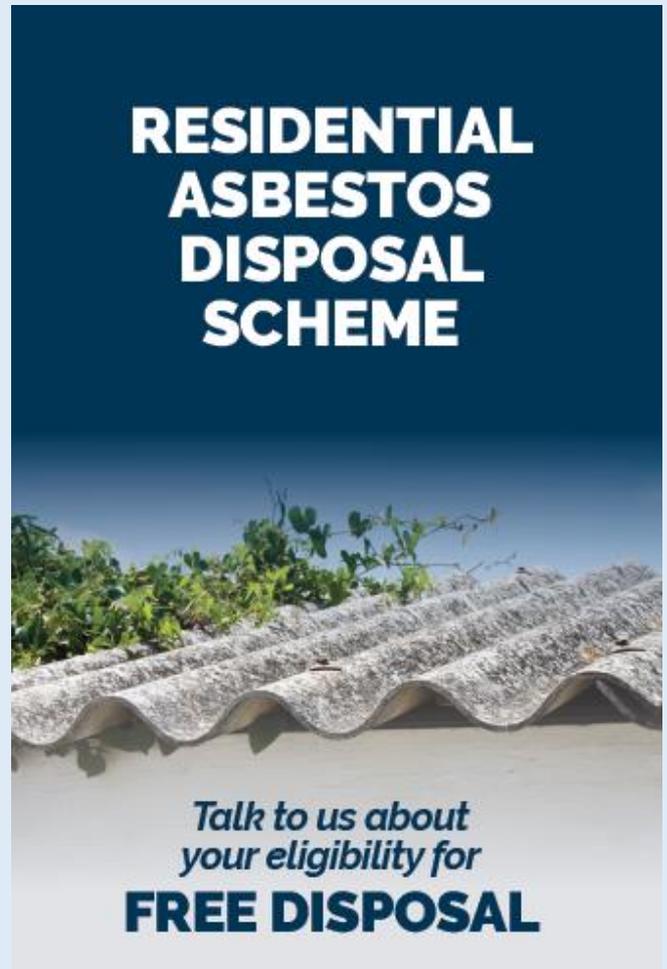
The ISJO's **Residential Asbestos Disposal Scheme** was delivered by the ISJO on behalf of three member council areas: Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama. It involved offering eligible residents free asbestos collection and disposal on small amounts of loose, non-friable asbestos that they had lying dormant on their residential properties.

The program began on Thursday 8 July 2021 and was a pilot for regional NSW with funding provided by the

NSW EPA waste levy as part of the Waste Less, Recycle More initiative.

Our free disposal initiative aimed at reducing the amount of asbestos being illegally dumped in the region while also educating the community about options for safe removal and disposal.

Under the program ISJO arranged for a qualified contractor to collect accessible, non-friable asbestos that has already been removed from a structure and not disposed of.



**RESIDENTIAL
ASBESTOS
DISPOSAL
SCHEME**

*Talk to us about
your eligibility for*
FREE DISPOSAL

Over a three month period, 5.8 tonnes of asbestos were collected at a cost to the program of just over \$33,000 but at no cost to residents and at a huge saving in terms of potential illegal dumping and environmental damage. This benchmark will support the development of a proposal to Councils for ISJO to continue the ongoing delivery of a household asbestos collection program.

The program also provided an opportunity for councils to collect feedback from the community on their knowledge of asbestos collection options, reasons for stockpiling asbestos on their property and disposal intentions.

Water Sensitive Communities

For thousands of years the coastline and waterways of the Illawarra-Shoalhaven have shaped the identity of our region and its people.

Research has found that our region’s water system is under increasing pressure from population growth, residential developments and climate change.

The people of the Illawarra-Shoalhaven can expect a future of higher temperatures, unpredictable rainfall, higher flood risk and more frequent bushfires. These climate change impacts will directly influence the region’s water system.

The consequences could be far reaching and include a decline in water quality, increasing damage to public and

private assets, greater impacts on public health, failure of stormwater systems and loss of biodiversity. In response the ISJO, in partnership with our four member Councils began a two-year project called “Enabling Water Sensitive Communities”.

Water Sensitive Urban Design, or WSUD, is an approach to planning and designing urban areas to make use of stormwater and to reduce the harm it can cause to our rivers and creeks.

In natural environments, most rainwater evaporates, is absorbed by plants or soaks into the ground but, in urban environments, hard surfaces like roads cannot let the water through. Consequently, rainwater runs off hard surfaces, through stormwater drains and into our waterways. This water is often polluted by chemicals and can affect the health our waterways and bays.

By incorporating WSUD principles into new or existing developments, local councils can improve water quality and biodiversity of natural catchments. In planning for extreme climate events – like flash flooding – councils can consider the relocation and renewal of sewer and stormwater infrastructure and build community resilience in a changing climate.

While the grant project has now been completed, the commitment made by Councils through the management committee will see continued coordination to support the effective and efficient use of resources and to build collective capacity across and between the various organisations to enable strong leadership and guidance to industry and benefits to the community.

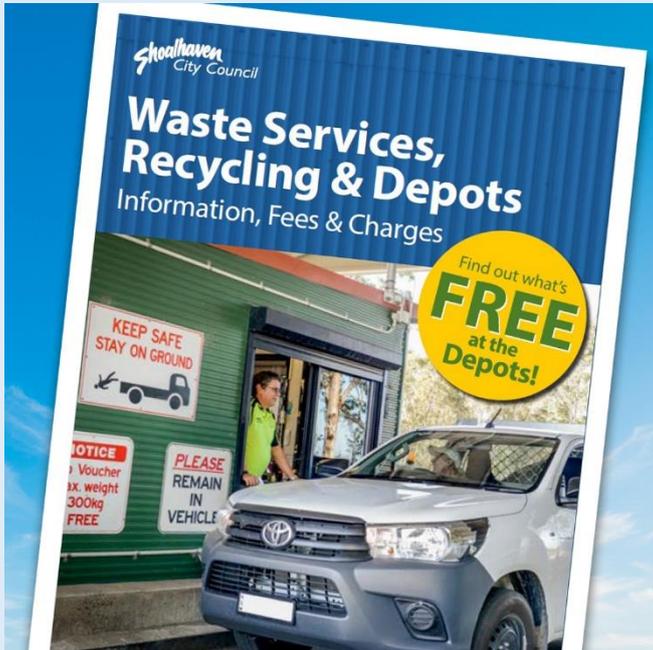
Water Sensitive Urban Design Video

A video was prepared as part of our Water Sensitive Communities Project. Please click on the image below to view it.



Shoalhaven City Council's State Finals Entry

Diversifying Council Recycling Operations Towards a Sustainable Circular Economy



Shoalhaven City Council owns and operates ten Recycling and Waste Facilities across the 4,567km² Shoalhaven LGA, accepting approximately 138,000 tonnes of combined MSW, C&I and C&D waste streams annually.

Council has already established multiple recycling operations and has commenced several other innovative recycling projects, ensuring fully integrated processes in a diverse recycling operation towards a Circular Economy. The approach targets a greater than 90% diversion from landfill of all waste streams by 2024, well exceeding the NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 targets.

This will be achieved through diversifying our waste management and recycling infrastructure at the West Nowra precinct with twenty current and planned projects to maximise diversion from landfill while optimising an integrated system to achieve better environmental outcomes and to send more resources and products to a circular economy.

Council's Rationale

Council ultimately has ownership of any waste materials dropped off at the facilities. We are therefore in an ideal position to implement strategies and take advantage of opportunities to address each material individually, or as a group, and develop techniques for maximising recovery.

Council is aware that tendering for industry contractors to manage small quantities of specific materials in a regional area is a high-cost option, requires material flow

guarantees that Councils cannot provide and is generally inflexible in approach. Instead of being locked into a contract for a specific number of years, with the correct infrastructure and plant, Council has been able to be more proactive and agile in managing new, emerging, or changing waste streams.

Owning the only landfill in the LGA means that Council has become the "sink" for all waste materials in the region. The opportunity to analyse all materials streams heading directly to the landfill cell provided Council Waste Services staff with inspiration to map out, brainstorm and delve deeper into each different material stream to develop effective recovery and recycling strategies.

In general, industry is in business to make a profit for their shareholders. This means that while the low hanging fruit, the large volume materials that can provide a high return with low risk, is managed well by the waste and recycling industry, their interest in other less profitable recycling is low. As a result, the regional areas producing lower volumes of product lack appropriate access private industry led infrastructure.

Smaller regional Councils need to think more strategically, innovatively, and outside of the box when it comes to managing the potentially recyclable waste stream at their facilities. The Shoalhaven has looked at this challenge as an opportunity and identified numerous options to recycle various unique materials in ways that complement each other and provide many opportunities that contribute to a sustainable circular economy to achieve and surpass the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's, Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 (WaSM 2041) targets.



Council's achievements

Council's achievements from January 2021 to June 2022 were many. Some highlights follow:

1. **Organics Recycling** – The operation processed 21,900 tonnes of garden organics and gave away 12,700 tonnes of pasteurised and screened product.
2. **Buy-Back Recycling Shops** – 960 tonnes of material were recovered for sale and reuse
3. **Public Drop-Off, Sorting and Transfer Stations** – We diverted 19,800 tonnes of recyclable materials from landfill into multiple closed-loop recycling processes
4. **Community Recycling Centre Program** - 195 tonnes of problematic and hazardous waste materials were recovered from the community
5. **Glass Recycling Plant** – Commissioned in May 2021, the Plant produced 5,500 tonnes of washed glass sand for use in asphalt projects including the TfNSW Albion Park bypass and the Nowra bridge duplication projects. Western Sydney University collaboration produced a 43MPa concrete product using 90% glass and 10% cement
6. **Polystyrene Recycling** – 53.64 tonnes of expanded polystyrene were processed to export quality – equivalent to 5.4 million litres of EPS being diverted from landfill
7. **Shredding and Recovery Operations** – 518 tonnes of mattresses, 400 tonnes of lounges and 83 tonnes of tyres were shredded, recovering steel for recycling and residual materials mixed into a high-quality Processed Engineered Fuel. Shredded PVC, PP & HDPE plastics were sold back to plastic manufacturers for products such as drainage pipes and concrete reinforcement chairs
8. **Baling Plant** – 2,100 tonnes of high-quality cardboard and paper sold into the downstream recycling industry.
9. **Electrical Cable Recycling Plant** – 5.5 tonnes of electrical cable were separated into copper and plastic granules at very high purity. Copper sold into metals market and plastics was diverted to MICROfactorie for product manufacture. This plant integrates into the broader e-waste recycling program diverting 478 tonnes of scheme and 42 tonnes of non-scheme e-waste from landfill
10. **Landfill Gas** – Wells were drilled and tested by our Landfill gas contractor and designs finalised for a 2MW landfill gas power plant and equivalent battery storage. Future solar generation will complement this supply
11. **Contracts** were awarded for Bioelektra, Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), the MICROfactorie and SAFF leachate and wash water treatment
12. **Grants** were awarded for a Rubber Crumb Processing Plant to be constructed and an advanced Plastics Recovery, Recycling and Remanufacturing facility to be located in the MRF and
13. **Learning Centre** – A Resource Recovery Learning Centre architectural design competition was held for three shortlisted architects following an expression of interest. Concept designs were submitted in June 2022 and evaluated by an expert panel including a people's choice award.





City Commissioner for the Illawarra Shoalhaven, Jacki Johnson, with members of the ISJO Board.

From left to right: Cr Chris Homer, Mayor of Shellharbour City, Cr Liza Butler, Deputy Mayor of Shoalhaven City, Cr Neil Reilly, Mayor of Kiama Municipality and Deputy Chair of the ISJO, Jacki Johnson, City Commissioner for the Illawarra Shoalhaven, Cr Amanda Findley, Mayor of Shoalhaven City and Cr Gordon Bradbery AM, Lord Mayor of the City of Wollongong and Chair of the Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation

City Commissioners Announced

The Greater Cities Commission has been charged with creating Australia's first global city region, delivering global economic scale and local liveability.

The Greater Cities Commission announced in September the appointment of three new City Commissioners to lead the planning for the Six Cities Region for the next four years.

Mr Matt Endacott, the Hon. Robyn Parker and Ms Jacki Johnson have been appointed to serve the Lower Hunter and Greater Newcastle City, the Central Coast City and the Illawarra Shoalhaven City, respectively.

City Commissioners are the connective tissue between state and local government. They facilitate the conversations and empower stakeholders to set common goals for their city. As key holders of the relationships within their cities, City Commissioners ensure connectivity between the Six Cities Region Plan and their City Plans, and that the ground up work done by local government and other entities informs into the City Plans.

Jacki Johnson, City Commissioner for the Illawarra Shoalhaven



Jacki Johnson has lived in the Illawarra since 2008. With deep experience in the finance sector, she has focussed most recently on the role finance can play in ensuring a sustainable and resilient Australia.

Jacki was CEO Insurance Australia Group New Zealand from 2010-16 and in this capacity held roles including President of the Insurance Council of NZ and Chair of the Christchurch Recovery Chief Executive Forums. In 2015 she was recognised as NZ Herald Executive of the Year and in 2022 she received the Australian New Zealand Institute of Insurance and Finance Lifetime Achievement Award.

Jacki was co-chair of the United Nations Environment Financial Initiative from 2017-21 and was the founding co-chair Australia Sustainable Finance Initiative. She has held numerous non executive director roles, and currently is a non executive director of Community First Credit Union. She has recently been appointed to the faculty of the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership.

Jacki has a EMBA (AGSM), B App Sc (OT) and Grad Dip Safety Science (UNSW).



Photograph from the Department of Planning and Environment website

Agritourism Policy and planning changes

Destination Sydney Surrounds South (DSSS) has been working with the ISJO, the four councils in our region and the State Government to advocate for changes to streamline processes and to support farmers in diversifying their income.

Commencing on 1 December 2022 the [Agritourism policy and planning changes](#) being introduced by the NSW Government will be of enormous assistance in enhancing the resilience and recovery of our regional communities and in giving farmers new scope for making their businesses sustainable by having farm stays, tours, and small events. The changes also respond to the huge increase in public interest in where food comes from and how farms work, further supporting Visitor Economy recovery initiatives. The ability to diversify will help farmers stay on the land and stave off the pressure of encroaching development on our important farmland, which is vital for food security.

The Department of Planning and Environment has put together an [Information Sheet](#), [Case Studies](#), [FAQs](#) and a [Toolkit](#) to help share the news on these changes.

DSSS and the ISJO will be providing support to Councils and business in regard to the legislation. For a detailed update on our initiatives please look to our November *ISJO Matters*.

Our Programs: Biosecurity – Illawarra District Weeds Authority

The Illawarra District Weeds Authority (IDWA) was originally established by Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama Councils in 1993 and formally became part of the ISJO in 2018.

The IDWA has delegated authority from Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama Councils to carry out local control authority functions under the [Biosecurity Act 2015](#). It also represents those councils on the South East Regional Weeds Committee.

As the Local Control Authority for weeds the IDWA has the following functions over the land in which it operates:

- the prevention, elimination, minimisation and management of the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by weeds
- to develop, implement, coordinate and review weed control programs
- to inspect land in conjunction with its weed control functions
- to keep records about the exercise of the local control authority's functions under this Act
- to report to the Secretary about the exercise of the local control authority's functions under this Act.

The primary role of the IDWA is provide a framework for dealing with weed biosecurity risk in the community and ensure compliance with legislation. This involves the enforcement of the general Biosecurity Duty of landholders and occupiers in the Authority's area of operation and the control of priority and high risk new and invasive weeds on Council lands.

The IDWA's Weed of the Month



Cats Claw Creeper (*Dolichandra unguis-cati*) is an invasive perennial woody vine that:

- Forms dense mats that smother native ground covers and seedlings

- Climbs over shrubs and trees restricting growth or killing them
- Can cause branches and whole trees to fall from the weight of vines as well as create gaps in the canopy
- Reduces food and shelter for native animals
- Can damage infrastructure such as fences and sheds

Where are you likely to find it?

Cats Claw Creeper can grow in rainforest, eucalypt forest and woodlands and along waterways in coastal and hinterland areas. It can also be found in disturbed areas such as roadsides and occasionally gardens.

Cats Claw Creeper is an introduced weed originally Central and South America and the West Indies and can now be found in coastal areas especially north and south of Sydney.

What does it look like?

- It's a woody vine with many stems that can climb up to 30 metres high on trees as well as creep along the ground
- It has a three-pronged tendril with stiff tips that form hooks (Like cat's claws)
- Its lowers are large, yellow trumpet shaped
- Seed pods are long and narrow
- Its roots are extensive and deep, branched with multiple tubers

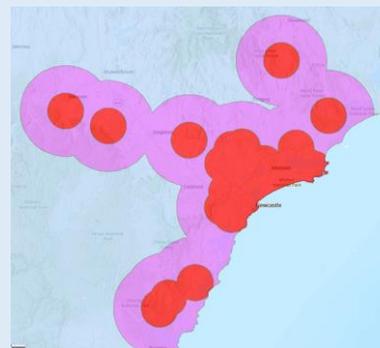
Varroa Mite Emergency Response Update

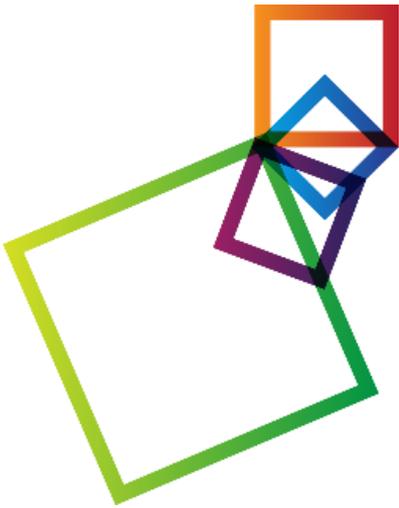
In our September 2022 edition of *ISJO Matters* we provided an update on the Varroa Mite Emergency Response being managed by the NSW Department of Industries (DPI) and the on ground assistance being provided by the ISJO.

We have been asked to again assist in the emergency response and Tony Martin, our Biosecurity Weeds Officer will be working in the Hunter region later this month. Our Chief Weeds Inspector, David Pomery, will be in the Hunter in November.

The scale of the issue and DPI's intensive response to it can be seen from the following statistics published by DPI in their *State Situation Report No. 79 – NSW Varroa Mite Response 2022*:

Cases with hives euthanised (11 October 2022 Update)		
<i>Case Status</i>	<i>Number of cases</i>	<i>Sites (hives) euthanised</i>
Infected premises	100	100 (3,921)
Dangerous contact premises	189	92 (1,725)
At risk premises	2,697	1,100 (8,499)
Total	2,986	1,292 (14,145)





How to get more information:

Previous editions of **ISJO Matters** can be sourced by clicking on one of the following images. Please also go to our website at www.isjo.nsw.gov.au or contact us on (02) 4232 3200.

