



Media Release

9 October 2023

FROGBIT INCURSION IN THE ILLAWARRA

Residents in the Illawarra are being asked to keep an eye out for an invasive weed known as Frogbit. Frogbit (*Limnobium laevigatum*), is a highly invasive freshwater plant native to central and South America and has been detected in the Corrimal area. Known for its rapid growth and ability to form dense mats and choke waterways, Frogbit poses a significant biosecurity risk to NSW.

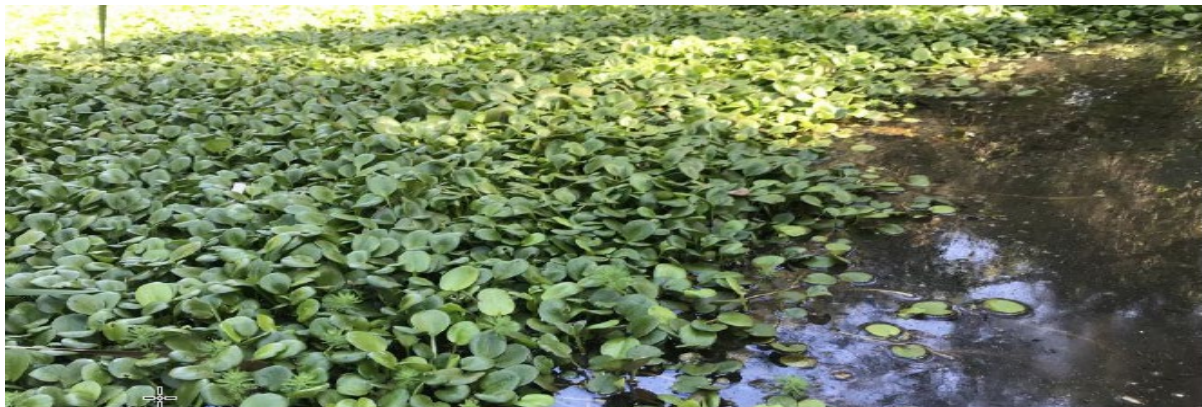
Chief Weeds Officer for the Illawarra District Weeds Authority David Pomery said finding frogbit in the Corrimal area highlights the risk the weed poses to the Illawarra's aquatic ecosystems. "Its aggressive growth can have a devastating impact on aquatic biodiversity as it outcompetes native water plants and reduces light, food and habitat for aquatic animals," Mr Pomery said.

"Frogbit is a popular aquarium plant and unfortunately is being unlawfully traded online. It is most likely the result of someone illegally dumping frogbit out of their aquarium or pond into the waterway." If you have frogbit at home, do not just throw it away – instead contact your local council's Biosecurity (Weeds) Officer to ensure its proper and safe disposal.

The local community has a vital role to play in protecting our waterways by helping stop the trade and spread of these plants. If you see frogbit for sale please report it and never dump unwanted water plants in or near waterways. If you suspect you have encountered frogbit in dams, creeks, or waterways, or for sale at markets, shops, or online platforms please contact your local council's Biosecurity (Weeds) Officer on 42331129 or contact the NSW DPI Biosecurity Helpline at 1800 680 244 for assistance.

Frogbit is regulated as Prohibited Matter in NSW due to the extreme risk it poses to the environment and economy. The public is reminded that possession, movement, or sale of frogbit in NSW is illegal under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

Residents and concerned individuals are urged to visit the [NSW Department of Primary Industries' WeedWise](#) website for detailed information on frogbit and its identification.



ENDS

For further information please contact Tony Martin, Weed Inspector, on 0242 331129 or 0491 051 730