



## CHIEF WEEDS OFFICER'S REPORT

For the Period June 2024 – August 2024

Submitted to the Illawarra District Weeds Authority Meeting

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2024

At Kiama Municipal Council

From 9.30am to 12.30pm

**To Secretary:**

---

### 1. Property Inspections / Spraying Program

Conditions have continued to deteriorate over the last three months with consistent rainfall continuing to create wet and boggy conditions. Strong westerly winds in the later half of July and into August have helped dry things out, however they have also hindered spray operations in the process.

Roadside and Reserve control programs have over the last three months been directed towards Groundsel bush, Bitou bush, Sticky nightshade, Gorse and Giant Devils fig. Private property inspection programs have largely mirrored operational programs.

Groundsel Bush control programs on all council owned lands commenced in late May and were completed in late June with seedling regrowth now being the ongoing cause for concern with respect to this weed. Inspection programs for Groundsel bush on private lands commenced in June and were directed at known areas of infestation to ensure the regional eradication objective for this weed is achieved. Control of Bitou bush commenced in July with good control now beginning to be achieved in several areas across all three LGAs. The Bitou Bush program is expected to continue until at least the end of August. The drone spraying component of this program has yet to be completed due to late notification from Crown Lands with respect to funding.

Giant Devils Fig (GDF), Sticky nightshade and Gorse were targeted for inspection and control across all three LGAs in July and August where the inspection area for all weeds has been expanded. This year's program targeted properties in the Jamberoo, Willow Vale, Dunmore and Helensburgh areas. No GDF plants at this stage have been found on council land, although scattered Sticky nightshade and Gorse have been found along some road verges coinciding with infested private properties. Sticky nightshade is an emerging regional priority weed identified in the recently updated Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2023-2027.

Inspection and control programs for Pampas grass, a local priority weed, were aligned to Gorse inspections in the Wollongong area around Helensburgh.

85 inspections have been undertaken over the last three months of which 19 parcels recorded one or more weeds present. 2 compliance reinspections have been undertaken. 15 public reserves and council managed roads were also controlled for priority weeds. No Section 123 Individual Biosecurity Directions have been issued. No entries have been undertaken. Online monitoring of sales has been undertaken as time permits.

[Attachment 1](#) (Figure1) provides a breakdown of IDWA weed activity data for the period June 2024 to August 2024 as reported under BIS.

Inspection and treatment programs for spring growing weeds Boneseed, Mysore thorn, Coolatai grass ((Kiama only) and Cats Claw Creeper are expected to commence later in September and continue through to November.

State priority listed Prohibited Matter species Parthenium weed and Frogbit continue to require regular inspections and control with occasional plants of both species being found in the last three months.

## **Chief Weeds Officer (CWO) - David Pomery**

### Month of June 2024

Week 1 – Long Service Leave  
Week 2 – Long Service Leave  
Week 3 – Long Service Leave  
Week 4 – Long Service Leave

### Month of July 2024

Week 1 – Long Service Leave  
Week 2 – Long Service Leave  
Week 3 – General Administrative duties.  
    Review NSW Alligator weed strategic plan  
Week 4 – General administrative duties  
    Organise staff work programs  
    Update regional HRS mapping tool.  
Week 5 - Parthenium weed inspection & control.  
    SEWAP 23/24 Final report

### Month of August 2023

Week 1 – General administrative duties  
    IDWA quarterly report  
Week 2 – Assist casual staff with Bitou bush control- Kiama cliff lines  
Week 3 – Assist casual staff with Bitou bush control- Kiama cliff lines  
Week 4 – General administrative duties  
    Monitor online sales.

## **Biosecurity Inspector - Tony Martin**

### Month of June 2024

Week 1 – High risk site/pathway and property inspection office time  
    General administration duties.  
Week 2 – High risk site inspections - Gorse/Groundsel bush- Shellharbour  
Week 3 – High risk site inspections- Groundsel bush - Wollongong  
Week 4 - Property inspections- (Willow Vale)- Kiama  
    High risk site inspections- Gorse - Kiama

### Month of July 2024

Week 1 – Property inspections - (Dunmore)- Shellharbour  
    Frogbit inspections - Wollongong  
Week 2 – Property inspections – Gorse/Pampas grass - (Helensburgh) – Wollongong  
Week 3 - Property inspections – Gorse/Pampas grass - (Helensburgh) – Wollongong  
Week 4 – HRS re-inspections – Gorse – Kiama  
Week 5- Annual leave

### Month of August 2024

Week 1 – HRS inspections - Shellharbour

Week 2 – Property inspections - Bitou Bush (Port Kembla) – Wollongong  
- HRS re-inspections – Groundsel - Wollongong

Week 3 – Property inspections- Bitou Bush (Port Kembla) - Wollongong

Week 4 – Property inspections- Coolatai Grass / Boneseed - Kiama

### **Biosecurity Operator – Matthew De Faveri**

### Month of June 2024

Week 1 – Reserve spraying (HRS/HRP)– Gorse - Wollongong

Week 2 – Reserve spraying (HRS/HRP)– Groundsel bush - Wollongong

Week 3 – Reserve spraying (HRS/HRP)– Groundsel bush - Wollongong

Week 4 – Reserve spraying – Bitou bush- Kiama

### Month of July 2024

Week 1 – Reserve spraying – Bitou bush- Kiama

Week 2 – Reserve spraying – Bitou bush- Shellharbour

Week 3 - Reserve spraying – Bitou bush- Shellharbour

Week 4 – Reserve spraying – Bitou bush- Wollongong

Week 5 - Reserve spraying – Bitou bush- Wollongong

### Month of August 2024

Week 1 – Reserve spraying – Bitou bush- Nth Wollongong

Week 2 – Reserve spraying – Bitou bush- Nth Wollongong

Week 3 – Reserve spraying – Bitou bush- Nth Wollongong

Weed 4 – Reserve spraying – Bitou bush- Nth Wollongong

### **Casual staff**

### Month of June 2024

Week 1 – VCL control- Perkins beach- Wollongong

Week 2 – VCL control- Perkins beach- Wollongong

Week 3 – VCL control- Perkins beach- Wollongong

Week 4 - Unavailable

### Month of July 2024

Week 1 – VCL control- Perkins beach- Wollongong

Week 2 – Bitou bush control- Hill 60

Week 3 – Unavailable

Week 4 - Unavailable

Week 5 - VCL control- Perkins beach- Wollongong

### Month of August 2024

Week 1 – VCL control- Coomaditchie

Week 2 – Bitou bush control- Kiama cliff lines

Week 3 – Bitou bush control- Kiama cliff lines

Week 4 – VCL control- Coomaditchie

Casual staff employed up to 2 days per week.

No Notices to Control issued.

---

## 2. Bitou bush drone spraying program – 2024.

As discussed previously Hunter Precision Agriculture P/L have been contracted to undertake drone control work at two (2) sites in the Shellharbour LGA – Bass Point Reserve and the adjoining Hanson quarry. A possible third site at Scarborough is currently being investigated and is subject to a risk assessment and resident approval.

Due to the late notification for funding through NSW Crown Lands the 2024 winter program has been delayed and is now tentatively scheduled for early September.

Notification procedure will be as per the Pesticides Notification Plan 2021- 2026 and the program will be carried out following recommendations contained in the *Best Practice Guidelines for Aerial Spraying of Bitou Bush in New South Wales* published by the Department of Environment and Conservation.

This matter is open for discussion.

---

## 3. DRAFT report into the review of the NSW Biosecurity Act (2015).

As reported at the March 2023 meeting held at ISJO Offices Kiama, a statutory review of the Biosecurity Act is required within 12 months after a period of 5 years from its commencement. The purpose of the review is to determine whether the policy objectives remain valid and whether the terms of the Act remain appropriate.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries has completed the statutory review of the Act and found that the policy objectives of the Act and its supporting legislation remain valid, and the terms of the Act remain appropriate for securing those objectives. Nine recommendations have been identified to further mature the regulatory framework and to ensure it remains fit for purpose and flexible to address current and emerging biosecurity risks in New South Wales.

The recommendations are grouped into four key themes:

- **Education, communications, and training to bolster our shared biosecurity responsibility:** improved education, training, communications, and tools to assist our stakeholders (the general community, land holders and control authorities) to understand and fulfill their biosecurity responsibilities, such as the General Biosecurity Duty.
- **Biosecurity Management Practices:** providing improved clarity of roles and responsibilities across public and private land, embedding the use of current management tools via Biosecurity Management Plans and further consultation with stakeholders to determine feasible options for biosecurity risk management on the land.
- **Supporting the administration of the Act:** review current policy and procedures under the Act and its subordinate legislation for delivery improvements, such as listing processes.

- **Sustainable biosecurity system:** identify further options for ongoing, sustainable resourcing, such as fees and levies with the application of charges on risk creators and beneficiaries.

A copy of the report is attached for members information along with the IDWA submission in response to the discussion paper. Refer to Attachments 2 and 3 respectively.

---

#### **4. NSW Invasive Species management review.**

In September 2023 the NSW Premier requested the NRC review the risks and impacts of invasive species in NSW and the effectiveness of current management strategies.

The purpose of the review was to advise the Minister for Agriculture and the Minister for Environment of strategic opportunities to improve the management of invasive species in NSW across all land tenures for environmental, economic, social and cultural benefits. The NRC's advice will inform future investment decisions, governance arrangements, strategies and management priorities.

The DRAFT report is due to be released shortly with several recommendations suggested. The IDWA will advise member councils as soon as the report is released.

For members information.

---

## 5. Budget Summary of Expenses Incurred and Accrued to 1 August 2024

	Budget 2024-2025	Actual to 1 August 2024	Draft Budget 2025-26
<b>Income</b>			
<b>WAP Program</b>			
Council contributions	145,000	-	149,500
State government Grant	168,500	-	173,500
<b>Sub- Total</b>	<b>313,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>323,000</b>
<b>Other Programs</b>			
<b><u>VCL Program</u></b>			
Council contributions	5,000	-	5,000
Grant	65,000	-	65,000
<b><u>Widespread Weed control program</u></b>			
Council contributions	10,000	-	10,000
<b><u>IDWA General administration</u></b>			
Council contribution	38,310	-	39,759
<b><u>NSW WAP New Incursion program</u></b>			
Grant	5,000	5,000	-
<b><u>Bald Hill Boneseed program</u></b>			
Grant	5,000	-	5,000
<b><u>LLS Roads and Reserves Program</u></b>			
Grant	37,454	37,454	-
<b><u>Dunmore Wetlands Program</u></b>			
Grant	13,890	13,890	-
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>179,654</b>	<b>56,344</b>	<b>124,759</b>
Sundry income (interest)	5,000	-	5,000
Leaseback	9,000	605	9,000
Private Works	70,000	-	70,000
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>84,000</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>84,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>577,154</b>	<b>56,949</b>	<b>531,759</b>

	Budget 2024-2025	Actual to 1 August 2024	Draft Budget 2025-256
<b>Expenditure</b>			
<b>WAP Program</b>			
High risk site inspections	27,000	764	27,500
High risk pathway inspections	27,000	-	27,500
Property Inspections	126,000	7,800	129,000
High risk pathway control	4,000	-	4,500
High risk site control	10,000	-	10,000
Inspection and control of priority sites	21,000	1,890	21,000
Inspection and control of Priority pathways	21,000	-	21,000
Community awareness and participation (staff publicity).	3,000	-	4,000
Skilled workforce (staff training)	6,500	-	10,000
SEWAP regional coordination	5,000	3,643	5,000
Monitor online sales	2,500	-	2,500
BIS capacity	10,000	2,025	10,000
Reinspection's	19,500	-	19,000
Administration	31,000	-	32,000
<b>Sub- Total</b>	<b>313,500</b>	<b>16,122</b>	<b>323,000</b>
<b>Other Programs</b>			
IDWA General Administration	38,310		39,759
Widespread Weed Control Program	10,000	5,875	10,000
VCL Program	70,000	421	70,000
NSW WAP New Incursion program	5,000	-	-
Bald Hill Boneseed program	5,000	-	5,000
LLS Roads and Reserves Program	37,454	-	-
Dunmore Wetlands Program	13,890	-	-
<b>SUB -Total</b>	<b>179,654</b>	<b>6,296</b>	<b>124,759</b>
Private Works	45,000	-	45,000
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>45,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>538,154</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>492,759</b>
<b>Credit (Debit)</b>	<b>39,000</b>	<b>22,418</b>	<b>39,000</b>



## 5b. Budget Summary of Expenses Incurred and Accrued to 30 June 2024

	Budget 2023-2024	Actual to 30 June 2024	Draft Budget 2024-25
<b>Income</b>			
<b>WAP Program</b>			
Council contributions	102,115	102,115	145,000
State government Grant	162,000	162,000	168,500
<b>Sub- Total</b>	<b>264,115</b>	<b>264,115</b>	<b>313,500</b>
<b>Other Programs</b>			
<b><u>VCL Program</u></b>			
Council contributions	5,100	5,100	5,000
Grant	61,465	61,465	65,000
<b><u>Widespread Weed control program</u></b>			
Council contributions	20,000	20,000	10,000
<b><u>IDWA General administration</u></b>			
Council contributions	63,468	63,468	38,310
<b><u>NSW WAP New Incursion Program</u></b>			
Grant	31,769	31,769	5,000
<b><u>Bald Hill Boneseed Program</u></b>			
Grant	5,000	5,000	5,000
<b><u>LLS Roads &amp; Reserves Program</u></b>			
Grant	46,321	46,321	37,454
<b><u>Dunmore Wetlands Program</u></b>			
Grant	13,890	13,890	13,890
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>247,013</b>	<b>247,013</b>	<b>179,654</b>
Sundry income (interest)	5,000	-	5,000
Leaseback	9,000	8,067	9,000
Private Works	70,000	77,380	70,000
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>84,000</b>	<b>85,447</b>	<b>84,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>595,128</b>	<b>596,575</b>	<b>577,154</b>

	Budget 2023-2024	Actual to 30 June 2024	Draft Budget 2024-25
<b>Expenditure</b>			
<b>WAP Program</b>			
High risk site inspections	25,000	25,636	27,000
High risk pathway inspections	25,000	25,527	27,000
Property Inspections	101,615	125,586	126,000
High risk pathway control	1,500	3,914	4,000
High risk site control	9,000	9,882	10,000
Inspection and control of Priority sites	16,000	20,849	21,000
Inspection and control of priority pathways	20,000	20,226	21,000
Community awareness and participation (staff publicity)	2,000	2,454	3,000
Skilled workforce (staff training)	15,000	14,674	6,500
SEWAP regional coordination	3,500	4,872	5,000
Monitor online sales	2,000	2,375	2,500
BIS capacity	9,000	8,100	10,000
Reinspection's	20,000	16,750	19,500
Administration	14,500	27,835	31,000
<b>Sub- Total</b>	<b>264,115</b>	<b>308,680</b>	<b>313,500</b>
<b>Other Programs</b>			
IDWA General Administration	63,468	48,968	38,310
Widespread Weed Control Program	20,000	10,072	10,000
VCL Program	66,565	66,639	70,000
NSW WAP New Incursion Program	31,769	6,907	5,000
Bald Hill Boneseed program	5,000	5,000	5,000
LLS Roads & Reserves Program	46,321	8,867	37,454
Dunmore Wetlands Program	13,890	-	13,890
<b>SUB -Total</b>	<b>247,013</b>	<b>146,453</b>	<b>179,654</b>
Private Works	40,000	57,018	45,000
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>57,018</b>	<b>45,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>551,128</b>	<b>512,151</b>	<b>538,154</b>
<b>Credit (Debit)</b>	<b>44,000</b>	<b>84,424</b>	<b>39,000</b>

Attachment 1:

Figure 1.

