

Situation report – Christmas Candlesticks at Woy Woy

Sitrep No – 1

Date of issue – 28 May 2018

1. Situation to date

- **26 Feb 2018** – Paul Marynissen, Biosecurity Officer at Central Coast Council, noticed an unfamiliar species growing next to the rail line in Woy Woy – see photos.
- Paul suspected the species to be Christmas Candlestick (*Leonotis nepetifolia*) a species well-known as a weed of more tropical locations across northern Australia, from central Queensland through to northern Western Australia, with fewer records in south-eastern Queensland and south-western Western Australia.
- The infestation was approximately 50m² in size with about 2m² on council land and the rest on rail land. It was healthy and had gone to seed.
- Central Coast Council collected a sample to press.
- Central Coast Council informed the GS Region Invasive Species Officer at DPI, the weed ecologist at DPI, the GS Regional Weed Coordinator, and Samir Patel from Sydney Trains.
- **27 Feb** – Central Coast Council completed a preliminary WRA (with a 33% uncertainty score as there was no precedent for this species in NSW) and sent it to DPI for peer review.
- **28 Feb** – DPI reviewed and updated the WRA and reduced the uncertainty score to 2%. The WRA outcome was 'Destroy Infestations'.
- **5 March** – 3 mature plants, 126 seedlings and 9 dead plants were removed and bagged on Council Land.
- The pressed specimen was sent to the Botanical Identification Service (BIS) - Enquiry 20493.
- **8 March** – Central Coast Council informed the GS Regional Weed Committee of the suspected new incursion.
- **12 March** – Onsite inspection and hand removal of material in rail corridor with Sydney Trains Corridor Manager. 200+ dead plants (died after seeding, plant is an annual) bagged as they still contained some seed as well as 37 live plants hand removed and bagged.
- **15 March** – The BIS confirmed that the species is *Leonotis nepetifolia* and noted that this is a significant record as it is the first official specimen of this species occurring as naturalised in NSW.
- **3 May** – Central Coast Council reinspected the site on Council land and pulled out approximately 200 seedlings up to 150mm high with several thousand just germinating.
- **8 May** – Council Spray operator visited site and hand removed 400+ seedlings.
- **28 May** – Central Coast Council inspected the site and removed 52 seedlings and one plant that had bolted to flower, no seeds yet produced.

2. Actions to date

- A specimen has been submitted to the NSW Botanical Identification Service and positively identified as *Leonotis nepetifolia*.
- DPI, GS LLS and the Regional Weed Committee has been informed about the new incursion.
- The location of the new incursion, all control activities and follow up inspections have been reported to the Biosecurity Information System via Sydney WeedAPP.

3. Actions to be completed

- Monthly site inspections and follow up weed control.
- Communication about this new incursion with weed managers across the region.
- Control of infestation in the rail corridor.

Completed by: Nicola Dixon
Approved by:
Date: 29 May 2018



Map 1: Location of infestation highlighted in orange.



Figure 1: Initial sighting – 26 February

Figure 2: Follow up inspection – 28 May. 25 days of growth.