

NEW SOUTH WALES

WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM

Sydney Region Weeds Action Program (WAP)

Year 3 2012-13 Summary

The Sydney Region Weeds Action Project is a partnership between the NSW Government, local government and the Sydney Weeds Committees to reduce the impact of weeds across Sydney.

The five year project targets the highest risk weeds, including

- preventing new weeds from establishing via inspections and monitoring,
- eliminating or preventing the spread of new weeds via monitoring and control,
- protecting significant natural assets (endangered ecological communities, wetlands and major waterways) through targeted control programs, and
- improving capacity through awareness and education targeting the weeds workforce and community.

2012-13 was the third year of the five year project, and saw more than \$1.6 million (\$908,440 contributed by the State and \$696,794 in contributions from local governments) spent directly on weeds management activities across Sydney where return on investment and public benefits were the highest.

During 2012-13 the project has:

- Inspected 1079km of high risk pathways (eg major roads, rail corridors and waterways) for high risk weeds, including F3 Freeway, Pacific Highway, Great Western Highway, Princes Highway, Mona Vale Rd and the M2, M7, M4 and M5 motorways,
- Inspected 6776 private properties and 1505 high risk sites such as nurseries, car parks, boat ramps and pet shops/aquariums for high risk weeds,
- Managed 401 ha of significant natural assets (endangered ecological communities, high conservation area) to prevent high risk weeds
- Controlled 337 km and 459 ha of high risk terrestrial weeds along high risk pathways (eg major roads, rail corridors and waterways) and perimeter of significant natural assets,
- Controlled high risk aquatic weeds along 574km of waterways such as the Georges River and Hawkesbury-Nepean River and their tributaries,
- Held displays at 107 community events across Sydney to help raise community awareness of high risk weeds,
- Facilitated training for more than 800 volunteers and staff across Sydney to identify and control high risk weeds.

Major achievements in 2012-13 include:

- 98% reduction of *Hederanthe reniformis* infestation in a 3.2km section of creek at North Rocks which flows directly into the Parramatta River (Sydney Harbour). Up to 95% of plants were manually removed and herbicide applied to the remnant plants. The site is being monitored for regrowth and follow up treatment is planned for December 2013.

- Successful management of Boneseed in a number of council areas across Sydney (eg. Sutherland, Campbelltown, Hills, Hawkesbury, Penrith, Hornsby, Lane Cove, Manly, Mosman, Pittwater, Waverley, Wollondilly and Woollahra) with all known infestations treated during the year. New infestations continue to be discovered throughout the region and this weed will remain a priority for future years.
- A partnership between Wollondilly and Campbelltown, targeted a new incursion of *Acer negundo* and isolated *Gleditsia* infestations in the Upper Nepean River. The Nepean River is a natural asset of regional significance. Works commenced at the most upstream known infestation and moved downstream towards Menangle Park. The project compliment a CMA project targeting numerous weeds, and together will have the potential to reduce the upstream extent of *Acer Negundo* and *Gleditsia triacanthos* by approximately 35km.

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