

Situation report - Giant devil's fig (Central Coast and Northern Beaches)

Sitrep No. - 3

Date of issue – 5 February 2019

1. Situation to date

- On 26 July, Central Coast Council Biosecurity Officer (Weeds) detected an infestation of what was suspected to be giant devil's fig (*Solanum chrysotrichum*) growing in an unformed road corridor managed by Central Coast Council at Wamberal.
- 150-200 plants were observed with plant heights ranging from 30mm to 6 metres in height.
- A sample was sent to the Botanic Identification Service (herbarium).
- On 19 September, the herbarium returned verification that the species is giant devil's fig (*Solanum chrysotrichum*).
- Giant devil's fig is identified as a regional priority weed species in Greater Sydney LLS region with the management objective of "**prevention**".
- The total area of the infestation is 29,667m².
- In response to promotion of a site tour to the Central Coast, Northern Beaches Council advised that an infestation at Dee Why Lagoon, discovered in 2014, is under ongoing management with some additional plants discovered recently growing below the original infestation.
- In October 2018, Northern Beaches Council discovered two additional infestations at Oxford Falls (Aroona Road– 40 plants over 0.3 ha with a weed density of less than 1%; Wakehurst Parkway – 1 plant), and one additional infestation at Beacon Hill (Oxford Falls Road – 20 plants over 0.2ha with a weed density of less than 1%).

2. Actions to date at Wamberal

- Regional Invasive Species Officer (NSW DPI) and GS Regional Weed Coordinator formally notified.
- Surveillance of the immediate area and all adjacent properties.
- Residents provided with educational material during property inspections, and their general biosecurity duty was explained to them.
- Site tour events delivered in August and September, which provided LCA staff, state government agency staff and volunteers with an opportunity to learn how to identify and control this species (attendees also visited the Chinese violet site).
- All weed control authorities, land management agencies and relevant stakeholders in the Greater Sydney region notified.
- Hunter and South-East regions notified.
- Primary work on public and private land has been completed.
- Monitoring and maintenance is ongoing, with seedlings in the unformed road reserve sprayed fortnightly.

3. Actions to date at Oxford Falls and Beacon Hill

- Aroona Road, Oxford Falls - Control works undertaken on 29/10/18 and 07/11/18. Site inspected 30/1/19. Infestation reduced to about 12 mature plants but signs of new plants germinating. Inspection 30/1/19 found new area adjacent to original infestation. New area covers additional 0.06ha with between 50 and 100 plants from seedlings to mature plants.
- Oxford Falls Road, Beacon Hill - Control works completed on 14/11/18. Reinspected 03/01/19, two plants observed, follow up works to be scheduled.
- Council working with adjacent landowners to control Giant devil's fig where identified on private property

4. Actions to be completed

- Ongoing monitoring and maintenance.
- Single plant at Wakehurst Parkway Oxford Falls to be controlled as part of regular bush regeneration program.
- Northern Beaches Council to seek WAP funding to assist management of expanding infestation at Oxford Falls.
- Further inspections of properties adjacent to Oxford Falls and Beacon Hill infestations to be completed.
- Land managers neighbouring Northern Beach LGA to be informed about Oxford Falls and Beacon Hill infestations.

4. Issue(s)

- N/A

Completed by: Nicola Dixon, GS Regional Weed Coordinator.

Approved by: Graham Wilson, Chair of the GS Regional Weed Committee

Date: 6 February 2019



Figures 1-2: Photos of the giant devil's fig infestation at Wamberal, taken 26 July 2018 by Paul Marynissen.

GIANT DEVIL'S FIG & CHINESE VIOLET STUDY TOUR

Giant devil's fig is an invasive plant that out-competes native vegetation, it impacts wildlife through the destruction of natural habitat and by reducing availability of natural food sources. Plant parts are toxic to humans, stock and wildlife.

Chinese Violet is a rapidly growing perennial creeper. It is a potentially serious environmental and agricultural weed in Australia as it can completely smother other vegetation which removes habitat and reduces biodiversity and productivity.

Prevention is the management objective for these two highly invasive species in Greater Sydney, but both have been found growing on the Central Coast.

Join us on this study tour to learn how to identify and control each species, before they are eradicated.

Friday 17th August 2018

SCHEDULE

1015am – Meet at Wamberal surf club.

1020am – Morning tea and introduction

1045am – Tour giant devil's fig site

1130am – Depart Wamberal

12pm – Tour Chinese violet site

1245pm – End of tour

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

By Monday 13 August to
 Nicola Dixon on
 02 4574 9601 or at
ncpdixon@froc.nsw.gov.au

NEW SOUTH WALES
 WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM

Figure 3: Flyer for the giant devil's fig and Chinese violet study tour

Map 1 – Location of giant devil's fig infestation.



Map 2 - Extent of infestation at Wamberal



Map 3: Extent of infestation at Aroona Road, Oxford Falls.

