

Situation report – Red Ludwigia, Springfield (NSW Central Coast)

Sitrep No. - 1

Date of issue – 6 February 2018

1. Situation to date (what has happened)

- On Saturday 6 October 2018, a photo of a weed that had appeared in Springfield Pond Wetland was sent to the Central Coast Council Biosecurity Officer (Weeds) requesting identification.
- This weed was identified as Red Ludwigia (*Ludwigia repens*).
- This is the site of an ongoing Salvinia issue that is under active management (<http://www.centralcoastnews.net/2019/01/31/springfield-pond-wetland-restoration-underway/>)
- The pond is under both public and private ownership.
- Initial investigations of the pond showed 3 small patches approx. 7 metres from the shore growing in amongst the Salvinia.
- This species had not been observed at this site just two weeks prior.
- Red Ludwigia is not on the priority weeds list and it was expected that this weed would be controlled as part of the Salvinia control works.
- In December 2018, large mats of the Red Ludwigia of approx. 2 metres diameter had appeared in the pond.
- In January 2019, these mats were sprayed as part of the Salvinia control program.
- On Monday 4 February 2019, it was noted that this weed now covers approx. 970m² in an aquatic situation ranging from 100% dominance over the top of the Salvinia to scattered patches of approx. 80% coverage. 194m² is growing in a creek downstream of the pond and the damp grass and vegetation surrounding the creek. Investigation further downstream have been hampered by dense vegetation and unstable ground but a visual assessment from the sides indicated the weed is prevalent.
- Red Ludwigia has been discovered below the surface of most of the Salvinia that has been pulled out or moved when the Salvinia biocontrol agents were being released.
- Biosecurity Officer (Weeds) is concerned about what will happen when the Salvinia is controlled and the submerged Red Ludwigia plants are exposed to more sunlight. This will have to be closely monitored.
- The suspected weed source is aquarium dumping.
- The Australasian Virtual Herbarium has records of Red Ludwigia in Ryde, Hills Shire and Northern Beaches LGAs, with reports dating 2004-2017.

2. Actions to date (what has been done)

- Surveillance of the immediate area.
- Areas on the Council owned portion of the pond have been sprayed with metsulfuron methyl.
- Regional Invasive Species Officer (NSW DPI) has been formally notified.
- It is planned that the terrestrial part of the infestation will be treated with metsulfuron methyl in order to leave the grasses intact to prevent erosion.

3. Actions to be completed (what will be done)

The following actions are based on the Investigation Phase process outlined in the draft New Weed Incursion Plan.

- LCA to speak to the owner of the privately owned portion of the pond.
- Biosecurity Officer to monitor the weed for its response to the Salvinia control.

- Most of the sprayed plants will be physically removed along with the *Salvinia* and stockpiled on site.

4. Issue(s)

- In a sensitive wetland environment.
- Plant exists mainly as a submerged plant making control difficult.
- Floating mats of the weed are flowering and the small seed can be easily spread by waterfowl that are visiting the site daily.
- From weedwise: *Red Ludwigia* has the potential to form dense infestations that can clog waterways and displace native plants.

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

Date: 6 February 2019

Map 1 Current locations of the emerged parts of the plant as of February 2019





Marked patches show current known locations and areas.