

Situation report – Frogbit at Fairfield NSW

Sitrep No – 7

Date of issue – 12 December 2018

Time period of Sitrep – 16:00

1. Situation to date

- On Wednesday 4 April 2018 Fairfield City Council (the Council) reported the presence of frogbit (*Limnobium laevigatum*) weeds in De Freitas Wetland at a council reserve in Fairfield NSW (IP1).
- The Council notified NSW DPI and sent photographs to confirm their findings.
- NSW DPI notified Greater Sydney Local Land Services.
- This infestation appears to be separate to a previous incursion found on the NSW Mid North Coast in 2017 (see INT/231150).
- As part of this Fairfield response, another infestation has been detected in Plumpton Lake on 3 May 2018, within Blacktown City Council LGA. A specimen was sent to the herbarium and a positive identification was received on 14 May 2018.
- On Friday 13 July 2018, a Bushcare operator reported to a staff member of Fairfield City Council the presence of frogbit (*Limnobium laevigatum*) on a boom across Prospect Creek near Kiolea Street Smithfield.
- Fairfield City Council notified NSW DPI on 13 July 2018.
- NSW DPI notified Greater Sydney Local Land Service on the 23 July 2018.
- On 17 July 2018 by the Bushcare operator located 2 infestations of frogbit in dams adjacent to Prospect Creek at Smithfield and Greystanes within Cumberland Council LGA. These infestations are near Smithfield Road (IP2) and Gipps Road (IP3).
- This frogbit species had previously been sold (including online) and in response to the previous incursion in Mid North Coast, a number of plants were found for sale in Sydney which were collected and destroyed.
- Frogbit has been identified as a significant biosecurity risk in NSW. It is listed as prohibited matter in Schedule 2 under Part 4 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

2. Actions to date Fairfield

- A sample of frogbit from the wetland in Fairfield was submitted to the NSW Herbarium and official confirmation was received on 17 April 2018.
- Council has placed a boom on one end of the wetland where water flows into a drain, to help prevent spread.
- Site meeting undertaken on 9 April 2018 to discuss surveillance and management of the infestation. Attending were Charlie Mifsud NSW DPI State Aquatic Weed Coordinator, Nicola Dixon Greater Sydney Regional Weed Coordinator, Anthony Wales Georges River Keeper, Helen Pollard and Eddie Ferrie Fairfield City Council.
- Incident Action Plan (IAP) approved 12 April 2018.
- Surveillance undertaken 1km upstream and downstream of IP1 during week of 9–13 April 2018 with no frogbit found. Some areas are inaccessible and may need to be checked with a drone.
- Surveillance of high risk sites within 5km of IP1 was undertaken during week of 23–27 April 2018 with no frogbit found.
- The infestation in De Freitas Wetland IP1 was treated on 13 April 2018 and then twice more with the third treatment on 1 May 2018.
- Germination from seed was observed in November 2018 and retreatment undertaken in the same month.
- Media releases by Council were completed and released on 13 April 2018.
- Educational letters containing multi lingual flyers sent to 120 apartments adjoining the wetland.

- Notice of intention to inspect 11 nearby residential properties sent out. Inspections occurred 2 May 2018 with no frogbit found.
- Rod Ensbey Invasive Species Officer visited the site and met with staff from the affected council and nearby councils on 1 May 2018.
- Charlie Mifsud contacted the resident of the nearby unit block who reported to council staff about possession of frogbit. Discussions suggest that frogbit was grown in the past, but not currently.
- Surveillance of high risk sites in Liverpool City Council LGA and Canterbury-Bankstown Council LGA adjoining the Fairfield infestation was undertaken and no frogbit was found.
- Communications Plan completed.
- New incursion funding application received and approved.
- Charlie Mifsud visited De Freitas Wetland on 25 June 2018 and met with Fairfield City Council staff. No frogbit was seen.

3. Actions to date Blacktown

- Frogbit has been manually removed from Plumpton Lake.
- A boom has been placed at the overflow point of the Lake.
- Surveillance is complete within 5 kilometres of the infestation and no other sources of frogbit were found.
- The water plants poster was delivered to every aquarium and pet store within 5 kilometres of the infestation in Plumpton Lake.
- As of 12 December 2018 no frogbit had been observed in the Lake.

4. Actions to date Smithfield and Greystanes

- A sample from the sites was submitted to the NSW Herbarium.
- Council has placed booms on the drains leading from the dams into Prospect Creek, to help prevent spread.
- Incident Action Plan (IAP) drafted 2 August 2018.
- Communications Plan completed.
- Surveillance undertaken upstream of IP2 during week of 16–20 July 2018 and 1–3 August 2018 to a point where Prospect Creek meets with a concrete drain with no frogbit found.
- The infestations in P2 and IP3 were treated on 3 and 8 August 2018 and retreated in October 2018 and December 2018.
- A site visit and meeting was undertaken on 31 July 2018. Present at the meeting were Charlie Mifsud NSW DPI State Aquatic Weed Coordinator, Raffaella Catanzarti Cumberland Council and Daniel Flood Hills Bushcare. An inspection of the sites (IP2) and (IP3) was undertaken with treatment and surveillance discussed.
- Surveillance plan for 5 kilometres around IP2 and IP3 developed. Includes surveillance of high risk sites within Fairfield City Council LGA, Cumberland Council LGA, Hawkesbury River County Council and Prospect Reservoir by OEH and Water NSW.
- Surveillance of the waters of Prospect Reservoir was undertaken on 3 August 2018 and no frogbit was found.
- Surveillance of Kemps Creek Nature Reserve was undertaken by OEH on 2 August 2018 with no frogbit found.
- Surveillance of high risk sites in Fairfield City Council LGA, Hawkesbury River County Council, OEH areas that adjoin to the Smithfield and Greystanes infestations completed and no frogbit found.
- Media release from Cumberland Council released on Council's facebook page.

5. Actions to be completed

- Inspections and treatment details to be recorded by LCAs and forwarded to NSW DPI for upload into the Biosecurity Information System.

- Surveillance of high risk sites in Cumberland Council LGA that adjoin to the Smithfield and Greystanes infestations to be undertaken.
- New incursion funding application from Cumberland Council.

6. Issue(s)

Nil to date.

7. Note(s)

- 9 April 2018 - an online seller of frogbit based in Hurstville was reported to Charlie Mifsud. The online seller in Hurstville was contacted, the advert was removed but the seller did not supply an address or contact number. Gumtree to be contacted to ascertain contact details of online seller from Hurstville.
- 11 April 2018 - Blue Mountains City Council reported the discovery of frogbit in a backyard pond at Glenbrook. Plants at the Glenbrook infestation were removed and a sample sent to the Herbarium. Council staff is following up trace back and trace forward. Council has issued a press release and a video distributed on Council's facebook page.
- 12 June 2018 - an online seller of frogbit based in Cabramatta was reported to Charlie Mifsud. The online seller was contacted, the advert was removed but the seller did not supply an address or contact number so no plants could be collected.
- 10 July 2018 - an online seller of Frogbit and other aquatic weeds based in Greystanes was reported to Charlie Mifsud. This was referred to Cumberland Council and the plants were seized and several traces were supplied and being followed up by Fairfield City Council.
- 26 July 2018 - an online seller of frogbit based in Armidale was reported to Charlie Mifsud. This was referred to New England Weeds Authority and the plants were seized. Plants had been sold to 5 people in NSW and all these plants were seized.
- 23 October 2018 - an online seller of frogbit based in St Ives was reported to Charlie Mifsud. This was referred to Ku-ring-gai Council and the plants were seized. Plants had been sold to one person in NSW and all these plants were seized. The seller also provided the details of where they originally purchased the plants and these plants were also seized.
- 6 November 2018 - an online seller of frogbit based in Bomaderry was reported to Charlie Mifsud. This was referred to Shoalhaven City Council and the plants were seized. Plants had been sold to 5 people in NSW and all these plants were seized. The seller in Bomaderry indicated they had collected the original plants from a dam near Bomaderry. This site was inspected by Council staff but is currently dry.
- 6 November 2018 - an online seller of frogbit based in Bomaderry was reported to Eurobodalla Shire Council. Eurobodalla Shire Council seized the plants. Plants had been sold to 5 people in NSW and all these plants were seized.
- 20 November 2018 - an online seller of frogbit based in Moorebank was found by Charlie Mifsud. This was referred to Liverpool City Council and the plants were seized on 24 November 2018. The seller said they had not sold any plants.
- 5 December 2018 - an online seller of frogbit based in Longbeach in Eurobodalla Shire Council was found by Staff from Eurobodalla Shire Council. Eurobodalla Shire Council seized the plants on 11 December 2018.

Completed by: Charlie Mifsud, Situation Support Officer (State Aquatic Weed Coordinator)

Approved by: Andrew Sanger, Incident Controller (Director Invasive Plants & Animals)

Date: 12 December 2018

Abbreviations:

IAP - Incident Action Plan

IP - Infested premises

LGA – Local government area

NSW DPI - NSW Department of Primary Industries

OEH – Office of Environment and Heritage

