Local Land Services Greater Sydney

NEW SOUTH WALES
WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM

WAP1520 - Greater Sydney subprogram summary for 2018-19

The NSW Weeds Action Program 2015-2020 (WAP1520) is a NSW Government initiative to reduce the adverse impact of weeds on the environment, economy and community. The WAP1520 focuses on delivering key outcomes of the NSW Invasive Species Plan 2018-2021 by assisting agencies to:

1. prevent new invasive weed species from establishing
2. eliminate or contain small populations of new invasive weed species before they can spread and establish
3. reduce the impact of widespread invasive species on priority assets
4. develop the skills and knowledge of people in NSW so that they are able and empowered to better manage invasive species.

Here's a snapshot of the WAP1520 - Greater Sydney subprogram in 2018/19!

23 program partners:
20 local councils
3 state government agencies

8,350 private property inspections

Partners spent $2.539 m
$976K in grant funding
$1.563M in agency funding

3,500 km of high-risk pathways surveyed

130 weeds managers supported to attend training

628 private land managers mentored in weeds management

472 kilometres priority weeds controlled

1,218 hectares priority weeds controlled

2,704 high-risk sites inspected

Project partners fostered relationships with more than 40 key land managers to ensure the necessary tenure-neutral, collaborative effort required to effectively address weeds, including:

- Golf clubs
- ANSTO
- Sydney Water
- Sydney Trains
- RMS
- Crown Lands
- Housing NSW
- Caltex
- NGINA
- Downer Michell
- NSW Dept of Education
- Landcare

Highlights of 2018/19:

Regional coordination activities

- 8 additional Local Control Authorities (LCAs) completed the process to formally appoint authorised officers under the Biosecurity Act
- 10 additional LCAs commenced reporting to the Biosecurity Information System
- 10 new agencies became partners to the WAP1520 - Greater Sydney regional subprogram
- 5 LCAs that have not previously had dedicated biosecurity (weed officers) commenced or completed recruitment into those roles
- Regional Kei Apple detection and eradication program coordinated by 4 agencies covering a total area of 1,569 hectares across western Sydney.

Prevention and early detection activities

- 20 new incursions of state or regional priority species with a prevention or eradication management objective detected
- The online sale of 200 frogbit plants (prohibited matter) from a single property detected and all plants seized
- Postal of frogbit plants into 4 LGAs (Sutherland, detected and all plants seized within 48 hours of arrival

Eradication and containment activities

- Successful control of Chinese Violet, Sicilian Sea Lavender, Giant Devil's Fig, Kudzu and Hygrophila by Central Coast Council

Chinese Violet – before treatment

Chinese Violet – after treatment

Giant Devil's Fig – before treatment

Giant Devil's Fig – after treatment

Kudzu – before treatment

Kudzu – after treatment

Sicilian Sea Lavender – before treatment

Sicilian Sea Lavender – after treatment

Hygrophila – before treatment

Hygrophila – after treatment

Asset protection activities

- Multiple sightings of platypus in the Upper Nepean River, due in part to sustained control of alligator weed and other aquatic weeds by Campbelltown, Camden and Wollondilly councils
- Effective control of Singapore Daisy by Central Coast Council.

Singapore Daisy – before treatment

Singapore Daisy – after treatment

Education & capacity building

- Hawkesbury River County, Camden and Central Coast Councils worked closely with land managers to educate them about the toxicity of green cestrum and other plants, to reduce fatalities associated with lack of pasture during drought conditions.
- 44 staff representing 22 agencies participated in Opuntioid Cacti- Identification and Management training to improve their knowledge about these Weeds of National Significance, which are commonly traded online out of the Greater Sydney region.
- 48 staff representing 16 agencies were trained in water weed identification by examining live plant specimens.

- 23 staff presenting 5 local councils learned how to use Sydney WeedAPP. The app is supported by Greater Sydney Local Land Services and enables councils to report weed management data to the Biosecurity Information System which is a function of LCAs under the Biosecurity Act.