

## Weeds Action Program Report – 1 February to 7 May 2019

### Weed professional capacity building program

- Recognising Water Weeds training was held on 2 April 2019. 28 people representing 13 agencies attended the course, which was delivered by Charles Mifsud, State Aquatic Weeds Coordinator with DPI (including 7 RMS staff).
- Sydney WeedAPP training was held on 9 April 2019. 21 people representing 4 LCAs attended the course, which was delivered by Rajendra Shilpakar, Senior GIS Officer with GS LLS. A User Guide is currently being developed which will assist LCAs to more accurately categorise activities.
- Opuntoid Cacti – Identification and Management training was held on 2 May and again on 3 May. 42 people representing 22 organisations attended, including Sydney Water, NPWS and Barragal Landcare. The training was delivered by Matt Sheehan, co-author of the Opuntoid Best Practice Manual. AABR has requested a 600-word article summarising the workshop content for distribution in their e-newsletter.

### Abridged Grant Round 2018-2020

- Funding applications from City of Ryde, Lane Cove Council, Central Coast Council, Liverpool City Council and NPWS were approved by the steering committee to the value of \$160,600 in 2018/19 and \$24,000 in 2019/20.
  - Liverpool City Council and NPWS projects will target Kei Apple, which is one of three regional eradication target species nominated by the GS RWC to be delimited (refer to Minutes from meeting 10). Kei Apple was also identified by the GS RWC at meeting 11, as the most suitable species out of a total of 6 species for a priority weed control program to begin implementing the GS RSWMP (refer to Business Paper/Agenda item 8, meeting 11). All properties within a 500-metre radius of previously identified infestations/plants will be surveyed including Western Sydney Parklands (600ha), Wianamatta Regional Park (394 ha) and Kemps Creek Nature Reserve (197 ha).
  - Central Coast Council has been funded to conduct research into the survivability of Boneseed/Bitou Bush hybrids after fire, as this is not yet known.
  - City of Ryde will employ a full-time Biosecurity Officer with the funds.
  - Lane Cove Council will employ a part-time Biosecurity Officer with the funds.
- The steering committee also approved a project variation request by Wollondilly Shire Council to reduce the number of private property inspections and redirect the associated funding toward Tiger Pear control. Wollondilly Shire Council also sought a small amount of additional funding for this purpose.

## Financial position

- As of 7 May 2019, \$76,019 remains unallocated at the 30 June 2020 project completion date, assuming there are no changes to the anticipated regional WAP allocation from DPI in 2019/20.
- There is also an additional \$7,200 available in 2018/19 and \$30,000 available in 2019/20 under the emergency budget allocation.
- Additional funding applications are anticipated from Central Coast, Campbelltown City and Willoughby Councils.

The program for 2018/19 is now as follows:

### *Early Detection Activities*

Regulatory Inspections - High Risk Sites	1710
Regulatory inspections - Private Properties	10478
Non-regulatory inspections	2206
High Risk Pathways Inspected - km	5286
Aerial Surveillance (ha)	3
Map submerged aquatic weeds (km)	500

### *Eradication and Containment Activities*

No. km State/Regional priority terrestrial weeds controlled	65
No. hectares State/Regional priority terrestrial weeds controlled	1369
No km State/Regional priority aquatic weeds controlled	376
No. hectares State/Regional priority aquatic weeds controlled	61

### *Capacity Building*

No. private land managers mentored to manage weeds effectively	433
No. public land manager staff mentored to manage weeds effectively	61
No. staff attending weeds training	176
No. volunteers / other people attending training	61
No. industry group members mentored to manage weeds effectively	220
No. community group members mentored to manage weeds effectively	72
No. weed officers attending NSW Weeds Conference	21