

Weeds Action Program Report – 8 May 2019 to 6 August 2019

Governance

- Nicola Dixon has formally accepted a role at NSW DPI, and resigned from HRCC.
- It is not tenable for HRCC to recruit a new WAP project officer for the 2019/20 financial year given the correspondence from David Hogan, dated 8 April 2019, which indicated that Greater Sydney Local Land Services (GS LLS) will function as lead agency from 1 July 2020.
- GS LLS will take on management of the GS WAP from 1 September once Contract for Services Agreement No. GS01149 with HRCC expires on 31 August.
- At that time HRCC will provide GS LLS with a financial report that will indicate the unspent funds that remain with HRCC and invite GS LLS to invoice HRCC for this amount.

Year 4 Annual Report

- Nicola Dixon will stay employed with HRCC for reduced hours in August 2019 to ensure all reporting requirements for Year 4 of the WAP (2018/19) are fulfilled.
- Program partner reports were due on Friday 2 August, with 16 out of 22 program partners meeting this deadline.
- The collated regional Year 4 report is due to DPI on Friday 30 August.
- A summary and highlights report will be produced.

Emergency Funding

- Campbelltown City Council has been granted \$34,020 in emergency funding to contain and control frogbit in the Georges River and to survey all waterways within a 5km radius. See attached Sitrep No.1.

Abridged Grant Round 2018-2020

- Funding applications from Campbelltown City, Central Coast and Willoughby City Councils were approved by the steering committee to the value of \$108,289 in 2019/20.
- Campbelltown Council will target Ming Asparagus, Climbing Asparagus (see attached New Weed Incursion Reports) and Tiger Pear.
- Central Coast Council will engage a second Biosecurity Officer (weeds) with the funding.
- Willoughby Council will employ a part-time Biosecurity Officer with the funds.

Variation requests

- A project variation request from HRCC to the value of \$44,163 was supported by the steering committee.
- HRCC reallocated \$30,871 originally allocated to private property activities to additional high-risk site inspections, kei apple control and the toxic plants behaviour change project.
- HRCC reallocated \$8,649 originally allocated to training of 48 staff from member councils toward training of public land managers, community group members and the toxic plants behaviour change project.
- HRCC reallocated \$4,643 originally allocated to the nursery trade project toward the turf industry and toxic plant behaviour change projects.

Financial position

At the end of 2018/19, the total available income for the GS WAP was \$1,501,169. \$1,311,716 was spent against this income, predominantly in the form of project partner allocations.

INCOME Year 4		2018/19	
Annual Grant from NSW DPI		\$1,176,715	
Unspent Year 3 funds carried over by HRCC		\$324,453	
Total Income		\$1,501,169	
EXPENDITURE Year 4		Budget	YTD \$
Regional Weed Coordination		\$100,000	\$100,000
Project partner allocations		\$1,338,096	\$1,180,075
New incursion (Emergency) funding		\$30,000	\$22,800
Regional weed professional capacity building		\$20,000	\$11,868
Regional capacity building – Weeds Conference		\$3,073	\$3,073
Regional weed awareness event		\$10,000	\$0
Total		\$1,491,169	\$1,311,716
NET			\$189,453
			87%
			13%

Notes:

- The regional weed professional capacity building program budget was underspent by 41% due to the Regional Weed Coordinator sourcing free venues for all 4 training courses that were delivered. The activity target was exceeded.
- The regional weed awareness event was underspent by 100% due to the Regional Weed Coordinator spending time sourcing new WAP projects and partners and directly supporting councils to understand the requirements of the Biosecurity Act.
- All unspent funding has been carried forward to 2019/20 (Year 5).
- \$41,416 of the Year 5 (2019/20) WAP budget remains unallocated (current at the time of reporting on 6 August).
- Cumberland, Georges River and City of Parramatta councils recorded zero expenditure against their Year 4 grants and it is anticipated that they will return this funding (a total of \$75,770) to the budget in the coming month via project variation requests.