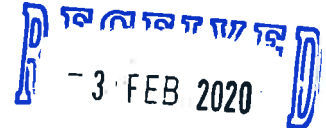


6 January 2020

Greater Sydney Regional Weed Committee
The Chairman
Chairman Greater Sydney Regional Weed Committee
PO Box 4515
Westfield Penrith NSW 2795



Dear Sir/Madam

BY:

**Special Biosecurity Zone for management of invasive aquatic weed in the Water
NSW Sydney Drinking Water Catchment**

I am writing to you to seek your support in urging the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales to establish a special biosecurity zone that specifically protects the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment.

At the Council Meeting, held on 5 November 2019, it was resolved that Shoalhaven City Council would "Write to the Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales, urging the Department to introduce a Special Biosecurity Zone for management of aquatic weeds in the WaterNSW Sydney Drinking Water Catchment and Shoalhaven River Catchment".

It was also resolved that Council would seek support from the Councils and Regional Weeds Committees in our area.

As you would be aware, your local government area forms part of the catchment that provides drinking water to Sydney and surrounds. Supply of drinking water to Sydney is identified as critical infrastructure and at a time when more stress is being placed on this system by drought and potentially bush fire, it is critical that steps be taken to protect the entire catchment.

The potential for infestation for the storages that make up the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment by invasive aquatic weeds cannot be understated. There have been two incidents where the Water NSW storages have been impacted.

In one instance, the response to a Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) infestation from a farm dam required control activity on excess of 30 km of foreshore of Tallowa Dam/Lake Yarrunga and when completed the labour component of the project exceeded 60 days of labour. Council staff continue to monitor dams, ponds, creeks and rivers in this area on a seasonal basis.

A more recent event was discovery on Long leafed willow primrose (*Ludwigia longifolia*). This infestation is being eradicated by Water NSW and will be subject to ongoing monitoring by Water NSW and Shoalhaven City Council.

Council will be recommending to the Minister that the Department of Agriculture draft legislation to establish the Special biosecurity zone for management of aquatic weeds in the WaterNSW Sydney drinking water catchment in the following terms:

Establishment of special biosecurity zone for management of aquatic weeds in the WaterNSW Sydney drinking water catchment

1. A biosecurity zone, to be known as the **Sydney Drinking Water Catchment biosecurity zone**, is established for all land within Sydney Drinking Water Catchment as depicted in the map below.
 - a.
2. The Sydney Drinking Water Catchment biosecurity zone is established to manage the biosecurity risk of aquatic weeds

Regulatory measures

An owner or occupier of land in the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment biosecurity zone on which there are the weeds listed in Table 1:

Table 1: Prohibited matter

Common name	Botanic name	Mandatory measure
Anchored water hyacinth	<i>Eichhornia azurea</i>	Prohibited matter
Frogbit	<i>Limnobium laevigatum</i> – Inc. all species of <i>Limnobium</i>	Prohibited matter
Lagarosiphon	<i>Lagarosiphon major</i>	Prohibited matter
Pond apple	<i>Annona glabra</i>	Prohibited matter
Spongeplant	<i>Limnobium spongia</i>	Prohibited matter
Water caltrop	<i>Trapa</i> spp	Prohibited matter
Water soldier	<i>Stratiotes aloides</i>	Prohibited matter

- a. A person who deals with prohibited matter or a carrier of prohibited matter is guilty of an offence.
- b. A person who becomes aware of or suspects the presence of prohibited matter must notify the Department of Primary Industries.
- c. Assistance will be provided to help remove and destroy the plant,

Regulatory measures

An owner or occupier of land in the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment biosecurity zone on which there are the weeds listed in Table 2:

Table 2: Mandatory measures

Common name	Botanic name	Mandatory measure
Alligator weed	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>	Prohibition of dealings Recommended Regional Measure
Water hyacinth	<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i>	Prohibition of dealings Recommended Regional Measure
Hygrophila	<i>Hygrophila costata</i>	Recommended Regional Measure
Kidney-leaf mud plantain	<i>Heteranthera reniformis</i>	Recommended Regional Measure
Long-leafed willow primrose	<i>Ludwigia longifolia</i>	Recommended Regional Measure
Ludwigia	<i>Ludwigia peruviana</i>	Recommended Regional Measure
Salvinia	<i>Salvinia molesta</i>	Prohibition of dealings Recommended Regional Measure
Senegal tea	<i>Gymnocoronis spilanthoides</i>	Recommended Regional Measure
Water lettuce	<i>Pista stratiotes</i>	Recommended Regional Measure

Prohibition on dealings

Must not be imported into the State or sold

Recommended Regional Measure

- a. Land managers should mitigate the risk of new weeds being introduced to their land.
- b. The plant should be eradicated from the land and the land kept free of the plant.
- c. Within the Biosecurity Zone this weed must be eradicated where practicable, or as much of the weed destroyed as practicable, and any remaining weed suppressed.
- d. The local control authority must be notified of any new infestations of this weed within the Biosecurity Zone

I thank you for your support in relation to this matter.

If you need further information about this matter, please contact Phil Hansen, Team Coordinator Weed Biosecurity on (02) 4429 3833. Please quote Council's reference 13821E (D19/393318).

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Phil Costello".

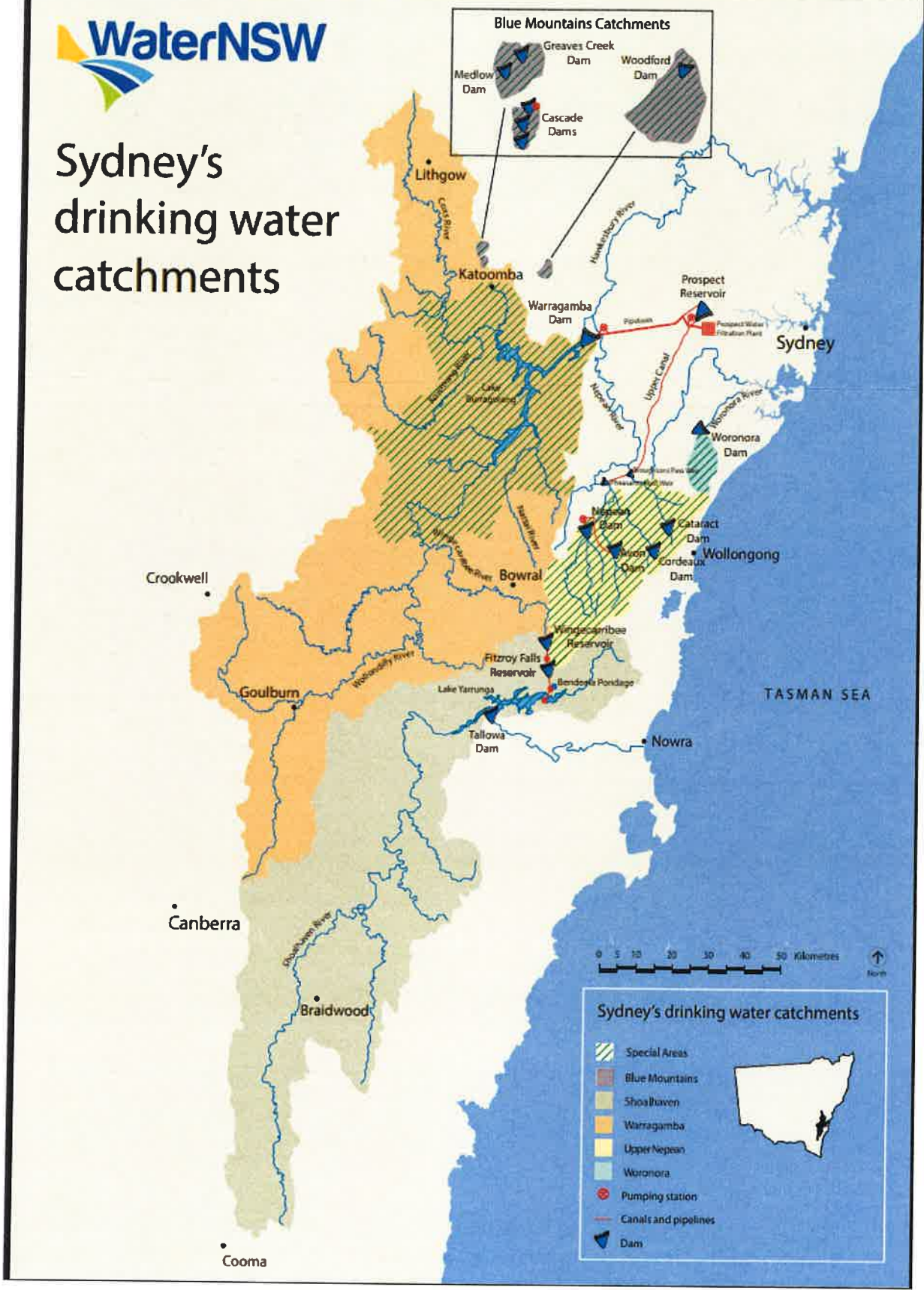
Phil Costello
Director - Planning Environment & Development
13821E
D19/393318



Sydney's drinking water catchments

Blue Mountains Catchments

- Greaves Creek Dam
- Woodford Dam
- Medlow Dam
- Cascade Dams



Sydney's drinking water catchments

- Special Areas
- Blue Mountains
- Shoalhaven
- Warragamba
- Upper Nepean
- Woronora
- Pumping station
- Canals and pipelines
- Dam