

Regional Coordination Report – November 2020

WAP1520

The WAP annual report for 2019-20 has been submitted to NSW DPI via the online “JourneyApps” portal. The report is a collation of WAP annual reports submitted by project partners (ie funding recipients). The following has been reported in relation to project funds:

- A. \$1,203,578 received from NSW DPI in 2019-20 (year 5)
- B. \$640,941 cumulative variance between DPI WAP allocations and reported actual expenditure at 30 June 2019 (end of year 4) See table 1.
- C. \$1,844,519 total grant funds to account for in 2019-20 (A +B)
- D. \$1,625,803 reported spent by project partners in 2019-20
- E. \$218,716 retained by project partners and retained for use in 2020-21 or returned to GS LLS for redistribution.

Table 1 – Summary of WAP1520 Allocations and Expenditure

	DPI WAP ALLOCATION	ACTUAL WAP EXPENDITURE	VARIANCE	CUMULATIVE VARIANCE
Yr 1	\$1,049,915	\$894,274	-\$155,641	-\$155,641
Yr 2	\$955,182	\$925,083	-\$30,099	-\$185,740
Yr 3	\$1,111,506	\$856,516	-\$254,990	-\$440,730
Yr 4	\$1,176,715	\$976,504	-\$200,211	-\$640,941
Yr 5	\$1,203,578	\$1,625,803	\$422,225	-\$218,716
	\$5,496,896	\$5,278,180	-\$218,716	

For a number of reasons, including bushfires and COVID19, a number of project partners were unable to deliver the agreed activities and/or have reported unspent funds. Each project partner has been contacted and has confirmed whether they intend to retain or return any unspent grant funds.

Of the total amount of unspent grant funds **\$145,747** has been made available for redistribution to other projects/activities in 2020-21. A further \$28,250 currently retained by 2 councils is subject to approval by the WAP Steering Committee and may become available at a later time.

WAP2025

Greater Sydney Regional WAP2025 application was submitted to NSW DPI on 14 May. Originally, the region sought \$1,639,564 for 2020-21. Following a request from NSW DPI to remove ineligible activities, the total amount sought for 2020-21 was **\$1,622,395**.

On 8 October 2020 NSW DPI advised that the region’s grant allocation for 2020-21 is **\$1,097,763**. An additional **\$145,747** in unspent WAP1520 funds is available for 2020-21 only.

The WAP Steering Committee met three times between 21 September and 15 October. Given that the region applied for more funds than was received, it was necessary to prioritise funds towards locations, projects and activities that provide the largest impacts.

To date, the WAP Steering Committee has approved allocations to the value of **\$1,139,489**, leaving **\$104,021** available for additional projects to be completed in 2020-21.

New incursions

A new incursion report has been prepared and is included in items for distribution.

Engagement with State agencies / corridor managers

Weed management by State agency corridor managers has been raised at the State Weed Committee. The contact details for the RMS member have been passed on to Jake Tanner, LLS representative on the State Weed Committee.

Amendment/Review of Greater Sydney RSWMP

Section 7.3 of the RSWMP states that a mid-term review will be undertaken in 2020. However, the Greater Sydney was revised in September 2019. The need for a mid-term review has been discussed amongst all regional coordinators and it was agreed that a comprehensive should occur towards the end of the plan's life in 2022, and that each region's mid-term review should focus on:

- Using the NSW Weed Risk Management (WRM) framework to review and prioritise species for appendix 1 and 2
- Updates to any state priority weeds
- Consider whether the "other weeds" list in appendix 2 is useful

In addition, the following sections of the RSWMP were flagged for review/update at GS RWC meeting 17.

- Acknowledgements and Chair's foreword
- Weed management in the region (chapter 3)
- Implementation (chapter 6)

Online sale of weeds

Between July 2020 and November 2020, 28 reports of online sales of priority weed species were reported to GS LLS. The weeds for sale included *Salvinia*, Frogbit, Water Hyacinth, Foxtail Asparagus Fern and *Opuntia* species.

Crimestoppers – Prohibited plants campaign

The social media campaign by Crimestoppers (NSW Police) aims to reduce online sales of prohibited plants and was launched in September.

The project is a partnership between Crimestoppers, South East LLS, Greater Sydney LLS and NSW DPI, and designed to educate the public on the impacts of the plants and encourage the community to report any illegal sales.

The campaign focuses on sale of aquatic weeds Frogbit, Salvinia and Water Hyacinth and includes messages around protecting our native plants and animals, waterways and industries.

Early reports from Crimestoppers are better than expected with over 200,000 people reached a small number of reports received by the Police. September statistics are attached to this report.

The second phase of the project will occur over summer to coincide with the peak growing/selling period. At the suggestion of Crimestoppers, this next phase will feature some simplified images and messaging whilst continuing to focus on Frogbit, Salvinia and Water Hyacinth.

Local Priority Weeds Weed Risk Assessment (WRA) Project

GS LLS is funding the Sydney Weeds Network to undertake a project that will see Weed Risk Assessments for up to 130 local priority weed species, including around 22 species for which a WRA does not exist. The project will help achieve greater consistency across the region in terms of weed risk assessments, compliance with the general biosecurity duty.

Matt Sheehan of Wild Matters has been engaged to undertake the WRA's and has completed some preliminary work. The project is expected to be completed in late 2021

Garden Escapes Booklet Reprint

GS LLS has funded the Sydney Weeds Network to update and reprint up to 10,000 copies of the Garden Escapes & Other Weeds in Bushland and Reserves booklet. The booklet is a popular resource at community events and the current version is 10 years old.

Review and update of the booklet is progressing well with around half of the species profiles now complete. It is expected the booklet will be ready from printing early 2021.

Weeds Publications/Resources

Limited copies of the following publications/resources are available from GS LLS upon request.

- Parthenium weed "Seen this plant" A4 flyer
- Parthenium weed "Seen this plant" A2 poster
- Parthenium weed "Seen this plant" A2 corflute poster
- Weeds Action Program 2020-2025 Guidelines
- Weeds and the Biosecurity Act – A handbook for local councils and councillors in NSW
- Water plants – not for sale A2 folded poster
- Bringing feed and fodder into NSW – High risk weeds booklet
- Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan Revised September 2019

LCA staffing

Georges River and Lane Cove Councils have advised that the 2 biosecurity (weeds) officer positions that were funded under the previous WAP1520 project have been discontinued as a result of delays in securing funds under the WAP2025 project. Following advice regarding grant funds for 2020-25, George River Council intends to recruit to fill the position again.

Canterbury Bankstown Council also intends to recruit for a new Biosecurity (weeds) officer as part of their WAP2025 project.



Social Media Meeting 26/10/2020

POST STATS

Date	Category	Post Title	Additional Info	Campaign?	People Reached	Likes	Loves	Ha Ha	Wow	Sad	Angry	Total React	Shares	Comments	Total Post Clicks
8/9/20	Detection	Weed Campaign	Selling frogbit, water hyacinth & salvinia	Weeds Campaign	82748	669	26	7	66	14	4	786	206	95	NA
11/9/20	Detection	Weed Campaign	Selling frogbit, water hyacinth & salvinia	Weeds Campaign	27855	159	1	2	20	1	0	183	98	46	1959
15/9/20	Detection	Weed Campaign	Selling frogbit, water hyacinth & salvinia	Weeds Campaign	19877	155	0	0	26	1	0	182	93	9	744
7/9/20	Detection	Weed Campaign	Selling frogbit, water hyacinth & salvinia	Weeds Campaign	15826	96	0	0	14	0	2	112	39	7	NA
22/9/20	Detection	Weed Campaign	Selling frogbit, water hyacinth & salvinia	Weeds Campaign	14930	398	1	2	57	43	12	513	102	20	653
9/9/20	Detection	Weed Campaign	Statewide campaign	Weeds Campaign	14824	101	0	0	1	0	0	102	34	11	351
7/9/20	Detection	Weed Campaign	Statewide campaign	Weeds Campaign	13239	70	1	0	0	2	0	73	8	1	NA
18/9/20	Detection	Weed Campaign	Selling frogbit, water hyacinth & salvinia	Weeds Campaign	11298	59	1	0	2	0	0	62	23	1	255
30/9/20	Detection	Weed Campaign	Selling frogbit, water hyacinth & salvinia	Weeds Campaign	10090	56	0	0	0	2	1	59	12	0	97

Statistics from October 2019 - September 2020

