



Upper Hunter County Council Targeted Invasive Plant Eradication Policy

01/2017

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1. POLICY BACKGROUND

The County Council's 2017/2021 Delivery Plan includes a strategic objective in relation to the eradication of specific invasive plant species from defined areas within the County Council's area of operation. In regards to achieving this objective, the County Council acknowledges that:

- within area of operation of the County Council there are areas where there is a reasonable expectation that the eradication of some invasive plant species can be achieved;
- that as the majority of these infestations are on private lands, private and public land managers will be central to achieving these eradication targets;
- these programs need to involve all land managers with the designated control area to achieve the eradication objective;
- that these types of control programs may be beyond the current resources of both the County Council and private landholders;
- that the County Council will need to source external funding in addition to its annual Constituent Councils' contributions to facilitate these control programs; and
- that the success of these programs will require that these projects have long-term community support.

2. POLICY OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Policy is to outline the process in developing targeted invasive plant species eradication control programs by:

- 2.1 defining how target species and their associated control areas are selected;
- 2.2 encouraging community and public land managers involvement in projects;
- 2.3 outline the protocols for the disbursement of any funds received; and
- 2.4 outlining the review process of control programs undertaken.

3. POLICY

3.1 Species and Area Selection

- 3.1a Within six months after each ordinary election of Council, Staff will conduct review the County Council's inspection and treatment records to identify plant species and associated areas that indicated that there is a reasonable expectation of achieving eradication of targeted plants from these areas within four years.
- 3.1b This review will include consultation with Constituent Councils and any other relevant organisations. Staff will then prepare a report for Council to consider prior to Council adoption of the Delivery Plan for the current term of Council.
- 3.1c After adoption of the report, target species and associated areas will be included in the County Council's Delivery Plan and associated Operational Plans for term of Council's Delivery Plan.

3.2 Community Involvement

- 3.2a. As part of the project planning process, the County Council will consult with existing community groups located in the proposed control area.
- 3.2b. If no group is present, the County Council will consult with Constituent Councils and other regional organisations to assist in the formation of local groups.
- 3.2c. Public land managers will also be included in the consultation process in developing projects conducted under this Policy.

3.3 Project Funding

- 3.3a. As part of the annual consideration of Constituent Councils' contributions to the County Council, an additional contribution will be sought from Constituent Councils for purpose of matching any external funding targeted invasive plant eradication projects.
- 3.3b. These additional contributions will be divided between the Constituent Councils as per their current percentage of existing annual contributions.
- 3.3c. These additional funds will only be expended approved projects.
- 3.3d. Community groups may make application to the County Council for funding to assist in control programs.
- 3.3e. To receive funding through this program, applicants will need to demonstrate that their proposed program will contribute to the objectives of the County Council's Delivery Plan.
- 3.3f. Applications which satisfy the above criteria will be then presented to Council for approval of payment

3.4 Project Review

- 3.4a. Progress of projects will be reviewed quarterly as part of the County Council's Operational Plan review.
- 3.4b. An annual progress report will be included in the County Council's Annual Report presented annually at the County Council's Ordinary November meeting. A copy of this report will be also forwarded to Constituent Councils.
- 3.4c. A final report on the projects conducted under this Policy will be presented to the last meeting of current term of Council. A copy of this report will also be forwarded to Constituent Councils.

LEGISLATION

- NSW Biosecurity Act 2015
- NSW Local Government Act 1993

ASSOCIATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTATION

- 2017/2021 Delivery Plan
- 2017/18 to 2020/21 (inclusive) Authority's County Council Operational Plans