



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

INFORMATION ONLY

DELEGATES REPORT

11th October 2005

DR1	NOXIOUS WEEDS
FILE: 19	CLR DFS

SUMMARY:

Reporting on the 13th Biennial Noxious Weeds Conference.



I attended the 13th Biennial Noxious Weeds Conference in Orange, 19-22 September. Also in attendance was Council's Weeds Officer, Greg Egan.

The conference was held by Orange City Council, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Macquarie Weeds Advisory Committee.

This conference had an excellent program and gave the opportunity for delegates to network with new colleagues and renew connections that are relevant to weeds and their control in the Kempsey Shire.

The program explored weed and vegetation management issues and directions for a practical perspective. A series of case studies showed challenges, ethics, different pathways and solutions regarding control of noxious weeds. Speakers were motivational, emphasising how to respond to challenges and opportunities.

A brief explanation was given in regards to the amended Noxious Weeds Act. A meeting is to be held in Coffs Harbour on 18 October 2005 to inform Councillors, Managers, Directors and Weeds Officers about the amendments that have been made to the Noxious Weeds Act 1993.

A half day expo gave visitors the opportunity to explore a variety of products and equipment available for the use in weed control including chemicals, weed recording and mapping software and spraying equipment.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- *Environmental*

Noxious Weeds need control to ensure native species are not overwhelmed and to ensure toxic species and those that create negative medical reactions are eliminated.

- *Social*

The broader community appreciate control of noxious and environmental weeds.

- *Economic (Financial)*

The actual cost of control of weeds in Australia is quite high. The conference highlighted the economic, social and environmental impact of weeds. Delegates discovered ways in which legislative bodies are dealing with the problem and ways to find solutions that are accessible to all.

Council supports the control of noxious weeds by providing \$136,000 towards the total expenditure of \$171,000.

- *Policy or Statutory*

Council complies with all statutory requirements.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be noted.

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COUNCILLOR DEAN SAUL