



## **DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT**

9 May 2006

<b>DSS11 SUPP.</b>	<b>NOXIOUS WEED DECLARATIONS IN KEMPSEY SHIRE FILE: 150 GWE</b>	<b>{ Folio No. 320794 }</b>
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### **SUMMARY:**

Reporting on proposed changes to the Noxious Weeds Declaration for Kempsey.

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### **DESCRIPTION:**

As a part of the changes to the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 Local Control Authorities have the opportunity to add and remove plants from the Noxious Weeds Declarations list without public consultation.

The occurrence of Mistflower in Kempsey Shire is low and it is not toxic to stock when compared to other weeds such as Mother of Millions and Crofton weed. Mistflower has no economic impact in the Kempsey Shire or in other areas in the region. Kempsey Shire Council and the other councils in the Mid North Coast Weeds Advisory Committee do not control any Mistflower therefore it does not need to be included on the Noxious Weed Declarations with the Department of Primary Industries. Kempsey Shire receives no funding for Mistflower and it is currently classified as a Class 4 weed.

Mother of Millions has a serious impact on farmers due to its high toxicity to stock and the high loss it can cause to grazing livestock operations. Kempsey Rural Lands Board has recorded a number of livestock deaths in this area from the effects of Mother of Millions. The Mid North Coast Weeds Advisory Committee has a Regional Weed Management Control Plan for Mother of Millions. The addition of Mother of Millions to the Noxious Weeds list for

Kempsey Shire Council will maintain a coordinated and cooperative approach with the regional weed control plans that Kempsey Shire Council works under for weed control. It is requested that Mother of Millions be included in the Noxious Weed Declarations for Kempsey Shire Council as a Class 4 Weed.

For a class 4 noxious weed, the growth and spread of the plant must be controlled according to the measures specified in a Management Plan published by the local control authority. The Management Plans for the Class 4 weeds are being developed in conjunction with the Mid North Coast Weeds Advisory Committee. If Mother of Millions is added to the Noxious Weeds Declarations in Kempsey Shire, funding may be available to control infestations of this serious weed on Council managed land.

### **REPORT IMPLICATIONS:**

- ***Environmental***

***Mother of Millions is highly toxic, has resulted in cattle deaths and it is also poisonous to humans.***

- ***Social***

***There are no social impacts arising from this report.***

- ***Economic (Financial)***

***There are high economic impacts for farmers if they lose their stock from poisoning from Mother of Millions.***

***There are no economic impacts with Mistflower.***

***Funding may be available from Department of Primary Industries to control infestations of Mother of Millions on Council managed land.***

- ***Policy or Statutory***

***If Mistflower is removed from the Noxious Weed Declaration list there is no statutory requirement to control infestations however Council can still offer advice to landholders regarding control measures.***

***If Mother of Millions is added to the Noxious Weed Declaration list as a Class 4 weed then Council can require landholders to control the infestations and Council has an obligation to control Mother of Millions on Council managed lands. Applications for grant funding can be supported by inclusion in the Declaration.***

- *Acting Director's Review*

*Council is urged to support the recommendation.*

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council write to the Department of Primary Industries and request an amendment to the Noxious Weed Declarations to include Mother of Millions on the Class 4 list and to remove Mistflower from the Noxious Weed Declarations for Kempsey Shire.**

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**A P Vermeulen**  
**ACTING DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES**