



DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES REPORT

18th July 2006

DSS5 NOXIOUS WEEDS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN
FILE: 119 GWE {Folio No. * }

SUMMARY:

Reporting on the program by Council's Weeds Officer to conduct Noxious Weed Awareness Campaigns throughout the Shire.



DESCRIPTION:

At Council's meeting on 13th June 2006, Council resolved as follows:

- 1. That Council conducts a Noxious Weeds Awareness Campaign in the urban areas of the Shire with particular emphasis on Giant Parramatta Grass.*
- 2. That the Weeds Officer be requested to attend at least two Saturday cattle sales per year to raise awareness of the ongoing threat of noxious weeds.*

Council's Weeds Officer is currently preparing a Noxious Weed Awareness Campaign for the residents/landholders within the Kempsey Shire.

Displays and information sessions will concentrate on the main noxious weeds present in Kempsey and any potential threats. This will also include information and awareness on environmental weeds.

Giant Parramatta Grass is of high concern and has always been a focus of such weed presentations.

Weed Campaigns will be held throughout the year at various locations such as the Kempsey Mall, South West Rocks CBD, Weed Field Days at selected locations, Kempsey Show and Kempsey Saleyards on market days.

Council's Weeds Officer will be attending at least two Saturday Cattle Sales per year as well as normal Thursday Market days throughout the year to raise the profile and awareness of the ongoing threat of Noxious and Environmental Weeds.

Saturday Markets days will be attended in the times of year when certain weeds can be a focus for the farming community. Saturday sales will be attended in winter to focus on Giant Parramatta Grass and in later Summer to focus on early to mid year weeds such as Red Lantana and Mother of Millions.

It is also proposed that displays will be arranged at the appropriate times of year at Council's Customer First Centre or the Library.

Free information handouts and posters will be on display and available on these days.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

Increased control of noxious weeds will maintain high farming productivity within the Shire. Protecting natural areas from noxious weeds will maintain our native vegetation that is unique to our Shire.

- ***Social***

Increasing awareness of noxious weeds to farmers and the wider community.

- ***Economic (Financial)***

There are no financial implications.

- ***Policy or Statutory***

Advising the requirements of the Noxious Weeds Act 1993.

- ***Director's Review***

An effective public information and awareness campaign will assist in the control of noxious weeds and environmental weeds in the Shire.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be noted.

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A P Vermeulen
DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES