



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES REPORT

11th September 2007

DSS3

WEEDS CONFERENCE 2007

FILE: 165 GWE

{ Folio No. * }

SUMMARY:

The 14th Biannual New South Wales Weeds Conference is being held this year at the University of Wollongong from 25th to 27th September 2007.

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DESCRIPTION:

The weeds conference is a convention to explore weed and vegetation management issues and directions from a practical perspective. The series of case studies that are presented at the conference show the challenges, and different solutions regarding the control of noxious weeds.

The Conference Program will feature a number of local and national speakers, trade displays and expo. Field trips and practical demonstrations form part of the conference program. The Conference attracts researchers and practitioners from all around the State and Australia and provides an opportunity to meet and extend contacts with colleagues.

There are half day field trips proposed featuring a tour of the rural hinterland, an urban bushland and beach tour, and a visit to the Bluescope Steelworks where attendees will have the opportunity to see first hand the issues faced by each of these sectors in dealing with the noxious and environmental weed problems confronting them as well as the practical solutions being implemented. The tours will show first hand two of the rural communities worst weeds, Giant Parramatta Grass and Lantana, and demonstration trials established at two separate sites will showcase a variety of control options being used on each weed including some new and innovative techniques. The field trip will also show how communities, with support from the local council, private industry and other agencies have turned the tide on controlling a range of invasive weed species and returning the remnant native vegetation to its former glory. This tour will end with a practical demonstration of aerial spraying for Bitou Bush.

Attendees to the Conference are welcome to attend the Grow Me Instead Seminar, a Conference program where the Nursery and Garden Industry Association (NGIA) will be hosting a Free Public Open Session on running one of its popular "Grow Me Instead" seminars. The session offers practical information on avoiding plants that escape from garden

cultivation and become invasive, or discourage native wildlife or require lots of water and chemicals to thrive.

Council's Weeds Officer will be attending the Weeds Conference.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- *Environmental*

Additional knowledge on noxious weeds and its management in native bushland areas and Council managed lands.

- *Social*

Increasing awareness of Noxious Weeds and their impacts, ways to control and manage weeds throughout the Shire

- *Economic (Financial)*

Cost of the Conference is \$660 per person plus accommodation cost which would be approximately \$800.

- *Policy or Statutory*

Nil

- *Director's Review*

It would be of benefit for a Councillor to attend the Weeds Conference to obtain a greater understanding of the control of and impact of weeds.

RECOMMENDATION:

That one Councillor be nominated to attend the NSW Weeds Conference in Wollongong from 25th to 27th September 2007.

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A P Vermeulen
DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES