



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

16th January 2007

DCCS5	DEPARTMENT OF LANDS GRANT FUNDING
	FILE: 64 GWE

SUMMARY:

Reporting on successful applications for Grant Funding for Weed Control from Department of Lands.



Three grant applications were submitted to the Department of Lands by Council's Weeds Officer for funding that was available from the Department for integrated weed control programs on Crown Land and other land under the control of Council.

The application was to source funding to continue weed control work that has taken place in previous years in the coastal areas of Stuarts Point and Fishermans Reach. The opportunity for this funding would follow up from previous works and continue on further infestations of weeds.

The application was directed at these areas due to heavy infestations of Groundsel Bush as well as infestations of Bitou Bush and Red Lantana which are threatening native vegetation, riversides and wetlands that we are aiming to preserve. The intention is to control, eradicate, stop the spread, and destroy Groundsel Bush, Red Lantana and Bitou Bush in these areas. Groundsel Bush has invaded hundreds of hectares of Crown land. Council has successfully received \$6000 for this project.

A second application was successful for \$3,420 for the control of Water Hyacinth in the Goolawah Lagoon. This work will be done in conjunction with the Department of Lands.

Finally, a third application was successful for the control of environmental weeds in Crescent Head village including Ochna and Asparagus species. This is a new project and received \$5,670.

Groundsel Bush, Water Hyacinth, Bitou Bush and Red Lantana are declared noxious in Kempsey and all are very invasive. One groundsel plant can produce over a million wind blown seeds. Lantana berries are eaten by birds and vectored throughout adjacent areas. Groundsel Bush and Red Lantana are invading native littoral rainforests, which consist of Casuarina spp, Melaleuca, Banksia and many rare natives.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

This funding will allow further efforts to improve our natural areas and decrease weeds

- *Social*

The social impact of this report is the opportunity for the community to embrace their natural areas and to encourage weed works in neighbouring properties

- *Economic (Financial)*

These grants funds totalling \$15,090 fully fund the proposed works. This funding gives the opportunity for further work within the weeds section to main Council's obligations in weed control requirements

- *Policy or Statutory*

This work fulfils Councils Noxious Weeds Policy and complies with the Noxious Weeds Act 1993

- *Director's Review*

The Recommendation is supported.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council's success in attracting additional Grant funds for Noxious Weed Control be noted, and the Department of Lands be thanked for the provision of funding.

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G B Snape
DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES