



## **DELEGATE'S REPORT**

13 October 2009

<b>DR2</b>	<b>LAUNCH OF WEEDS AWARENESS BOOKLET</b>
<b>FILE: 373</b>	<b>MRB (NRN) {Folio No. *}</b>

### **SUMMARY:**

Reporting on my attendance as the Deputy Mayor and delegate on the Mid North Coast Weeds Advisory Committee at the official launch of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Weeds Awareness Booklet held in the Greater Taree City Council Chambers on Wednesday, 26 August 2009.

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### **DESCRIPTION:**

The booklet titled "Garden Escapees & Other Weeds of Bushland & Reserves" aims to educate residents across the Mid North Coast region on the devastating environmental consequences of invasive weeds.

The booklet has been produced by the Great Lakes Council in conjunction with the Mid North Coast Weeds Advisory Committee.

10,000 copies have been printed for distribution throughout the Advisory Committee member councils including Kempsey, Port-Macquarie Hastings, Greater Taree, Great Lakes and Gloucester.

The booklet was launched by Mayor Paul Hogan of Greater Taree City Council, with Great Lakes Council's Deputy Mayor, John Weate, giving a vote of thanks to all who contributed in the production of the booklet.

The booklet, which has been revised and updated, is a major tool in educating the wider community by highlighting the need for responsible gardening. By targeting a cross section of both urban and rural landholders the booklet is one example of the strategies employed by the Advisory Committee in assisting with the control of environmental and noxious weeds.

Recent research indicates that some 65% of weeds invading reserves and bushland have originated from garden situations. Of the nearly 300 plants known to have established themselves as weeds between 1971 and 1995, some two-thirds were introduced as ornamentals.

Obvious examples of invasive plants include Madeira Vine, Lantana, Salvinia and Privet – all of whom have a significant impact on the natural environment, yet often go unrecognised. Some introductions of foreign

plants have been accidental, but many have been imported for pasture, horticulture and for ornamental reasons.

Funding for the booklet came from the following sources: Hunter Central Rivers CMA, Mid North Coast Weeds Advisory Committee, Department of Lands and the respective member councils of the Mid North Coast.

### **RECOMMENDATION IMPLICATIONS:**

- ***Environmental***

*Assist with control of invasive weeds.*

- ***Social***

*Nil*

- ***Economic (Financial)***

*Publicising availability of booklet in Council's local media column. Negligible cost.*

- ***Policy or Statutory***

*Nil*

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the information be noted and that Council further assist the control of invasive weeds by publicising the availability of the booklet to the general public by way of the Council notices column in the local media.**

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**COUNCILLOR D F SAUL**