

Armidale

92 Rusden Street
PO Box 114
Armidale NSW 2350

p +61 2 6773 8400
f +61 2 6772 9957
e armidale@forsyths.com.au

Forsyths Business Services Pty Ltd
ABN 66 182 781 401

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT Section 417(2) – Report on the general purpose financial statements

To New England Weeds Authority

SCOPE

The financial statements comprise the income statement, statement of comprehensive income, statement of financial position, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows, accompanying notes to the financial statements, and the Statement by Councillors and Management in the approved form as required by Section 413(2)(C) of the *Local Government Act 1993* for New England Weeds Authority (the Authority), for the year ended 30th June 2013.

Authority's responsibility for the financial statements

The Authority is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the *Local Government Act 1993* and regulations and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal control necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that is free of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements of the Authority based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Audit Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements is free from material misstatement. Our audit responsibility does not extend to the Original Budget figures included in the Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows and the Original Budget disclosures in Notes 2(a) and 16 to the financial statements and accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Authority's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Authority, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

Knowledge with integrity

Liability limited by a scheme approved under the Professional Standards Legislation

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

INDEPENDENCE

In conducting our audit, we followed applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

AUDIT OPINION

In our opinion:

- (a) the accounting records of the Authority have been kept in accordance with the requirements of Division 2 of Part 3 of the *Local Government Act 1993*;
- (b) the general purpose financial statements:
 - (i) have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Division 2 of Part 3 of the *Local Government Act 1993*;
 - (ii) are consistent with the Authority's accounting records; and
 - (iii) present fairly, in all material respects, the Authority's financial position as at 30th June 2013 and the results of its operations for the year then ended;
- (c) we have been able to obtain all information relevant to the conduct of our audit; and
- (d) no material deficiencies in the records or the financial statements were detected in the course of the audit.

Forsyths

Forsyths Business Services Pty Ltd



Paul Cornall
Principal

28th August 2013

92 Rusden Street, Armidale