

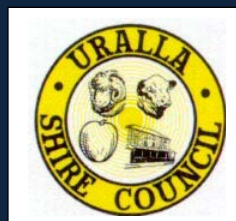
New England Tablelands County Council  
Trading as  
New England Weeds Authority

Annual Report  
2015 – 2016

Adopted 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016



*Our Environment*  
*Our Community*  
*Our Council*  
*Our Responsibility*



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ABBREVIATIONS	
<b>BASP</b>	Business Activity Strategic Plan
<b>CAP</b>	Catchment Action Plan
<b>CLR</b>	Councillor
<b>DPI</b>	Department of Primary Industries
<b>DWO</b>	District Weeds Officer
<b>EEO</b>	Equal Employment Opportunity
<b>GIPA</b>	Government Information (Public Access Act) 2009
<b>GM</b>	General Manager
<b>LLS</b>	Local Land Services
<b>NEWA</b>	New England Weeds Authority
<b>NIWAC</b>	Northern Inland Weeds Advisory Committee
<b>PO</b>	Project Officer
<b>SOE</b>	State of the Environment
<b>SWO</b>	Senior Weeds Officer
<b>UNE</b>	University of New England
<b>WO</b>	Weed Officer
<b>WoNS</b>	Weeds of National Significance



## 1. CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

It has been both a privilege and an honour to have represented the New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council as Chairman during 2015 - 2016 and I am pleased to present Council's Annual Report for that period.



This is the fourth year of the implementation of the Principal Activities under Council's 10 Year Business Activity Strategic Plan 2013 – 2023 and sees the culmination of the excellent management and strategic direction undertaken in the final year of our Four Year Delivery Program 2013 – 2017, the Annual Operational Plan and Resourcing Strategy.

The year under review has seen significant changes to local government in not only the New England region but across the State with the announcement by the Premier of NSW and Minister for Local Government on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016 that 19 new Councils have been created as of that date, one of which being the new Armidale Regional Council that has seen the amalgamation of the previous Armidale Dumaresq and Guyra Shire Councils who were constituent members of our Council.

This has resulted in an Administrator, Dr Ian Tiley being appointed to the new Armidale Regional Council until 9<sup>th</sup> September 2017, with the functions of the elected Council and Mayor of the previous Councils. As a consequence the previously elected representatives, Councillors Margaret O'Connor, Andrew Murat and Dean Heagney to our Council are no longer elected members, being replaced by Dr Tiley. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the very much appreciated valuable contribution of these Councillors to the strategic direction and leadership shown whilst members of our Council. Consequently, our Council as a result of the aforementioned changes now comprise the constituent member Councils of Walcha, Uralla Shire, and Armidale Regional.

Our Council's success is measured on how well we achieve the objectives and operational tasks set out in the Business Activity Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Annual Operational Plan and the importance of community engagement.

This year has not been without its challenges from an operational viewpoint as the region continued to experienced severe drought conditions in the first half of the year. However, in implementing the final year of our 4 Year Delivery Program and Annual Operational Plan I am pleased to report that our Council has preformed very well, being proactive in approaching and meeting the objectives of the programs for weed management and control in the New England region.

Our Council continues to be a leader in regard to weed management and control not only across the region but also recognised State wide for its initiative, innovation and hard work, an example of which is that we have been selected to host the 19th NSW State Weeds Conference in Armidale in October 2017.

In meeting the challenges of the past year I would like to thank Council's General Manager and our staff for their support of Council, and for their dedication and commitment to their work in delivering the outcomes in weed management and control services to Council's area.

This year will also be my last year of involvement in local government and particularly with this Council after some 16 years, for which I have been Chair for 14 of those years, as I will not be seeking re-election at the September 2016 local government elections. It has been a privilege to serve in an area of work which I have a passion for and thoroughly enjoy. There have been some exceptional outcomes and achievements through the cooperation and hard work not only of elected representative but most importantly the professionalism and dedication of people employed in the weed management and control industry and my sincere gratitude is extended to all.

Finally, I extend my sincere appreciation to the Deputy Chairman, Councillor Mark Dusting and my previous fellow Councillors for their support and hard work both within this and their constituent Councils, as well as in the community.

I consider it a privilege to introduce the New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council Annual Report for 2015 – 2016.



Clr Maria Woods  
**Chairperson**



**Typical New England grazing property.**

## 2. GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to present the 2015-2016 Annual Report on behalf of the New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council trading as New England Weeds Authority (NEWA).

NEWA's Annual Operational Plan 2015-2016 identified the actions outlined in the 4 Year Delivery Program of Council's 10 Year Business Activity Strategic Plan 2013 – 2023. This Plan highlights Council's commitment to carrying out effective and efficient weed management programs on behalf of our constituent member Councils of Armidale Regional, Uralla Shire and Walcha, covering an area of some 18,255 km<sup>2</sup>.



The Plan highlights Council's commitment to the main priorities and aspirations of the community, by taking action to address weeds on behalf of our member Councils to improve agricultural sustainability, primary industry productivity and to deliver broad environmental outcomes for the New England region.

The reporting year has not been without its challenges and some uncertainty, particularly in regard to the matter of amalgamation of Councils under the State Government's Fit for the Future program of reform. As mentioned in the Chairman's Message, this reform has resulted in the Local Government (Council Amalgamations) Proclamation 2016 which came into force on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016, impacting on two of our previous constituent member Councils of Armidale Dumaresq and Guyra who were amalgamated to form the new Armidale Regional Council.

Whilst our Council remains in existence pending the outcome of any future decisions by the State Government under the Fit for the Future local government reform program, it does mean that the previous Armidale Dumaresq and Guyra Shire Councillor representatives have been replaced by the appointed Administrator, Dr I Tiley to the new Armidale Regional Council.

Notwithstanding our Council remains strong in its governance, is stable and in a sound financial situation with the ability to meet any future challenges. We will continue to provide the best possible service to our member Councils and the wider community in regard to weed management and control.

From an operational point of view the region has again been impacted by severe drought conditions for the first half of the reporting period that has hampered some aspects of our inspection and control programs. Despite these unfavourable seasonal conditions it has been a very active year and I am pleased to report that the measurable outcomes for property inspections and our roadside control programs have been achieved or exceeded. This result can be attributed to the professionalism and dedication of staff, which is one of the reasons why NEWA is so highly regarded throughout the region.

Concentrated efforts have continued in relation to a number of noxious weeds found in our area with a focus on Tropical Soda Apple, particularly in the Macleay Valley and Serrated Tussock in the northern and southern regions of Council's area, as well as Blackberries and St Johns Wort. These invasive noxious weeds pose a significant threat to the agricultural viability of the region. The extensive control program has been supplemented by planned extension and education programs through field days, attending local agricultural shows and workshops which have been well received by landholders and the wider community.

We have again taken an active approach to carrying out weed management and control programs outside our area for other local control authorities and agencies. This work has compensated for a reduction in core operational areas as a result of the drought conditions earlier in the year

These activities together with a proactive approach to seeking additional funding has seen for example an increase in grant funds for the Tropical Soda Apple control program in the Upper Macleay Valley as well as a new project for Priority Weeds such as Serrated Tussock. This approach together with a business like attitude to managing resources has resulted in a very sound financial outcome for the reporting year, as evidenced in the Financial Statements.

NEWA works closely with other like Authorities including the Local Land Services (LLS) authorities of the North West and Northern Tablelands as well as the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Landcare, covering our region. NEWA with a reputation for achieving targeted outcomes through good management, as well as getting the job done on time and within budget, has been able to secure further funds from these organisations.

We are now entering into the second year of the Agreement with Glen Innes Severn Council to carry out their responsibilities for weed management and control under the provisions of the Noxious Weeds Act 1993. This has seen benefits for both our Authority and Glen Innes Severn Council through economies of scale, better utilisation of resources and the ability to enhance a regional strategic approach to weed management and control across our respective areas.

Our Council through agreement with the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services (NTLLS) continues to be the lead agency under the NSW Department of Primary Industries NSW Weeds Action Program 2015-2020 (WAP 1520). We also continue to act in a similar capacity for the North West Local Land Services (NWLSS).

As an organisation we continue to seek improvement in our administration and operational areas with further efforts in the past twelve months in regard to reviewing, updating and preparing new policies and procedures. In addition a review has been undertaken of our risk management action program that further enhances the co-ordination of activities in taking an enterprise wide approach to risk management.

The Authority's staff structure has remained stable over the reporting period with Weeds officers operating in each of the constituent Council areas. My appreciation is extended to Council's officers for their continued hard work, dedication and professional approach to their many duties.

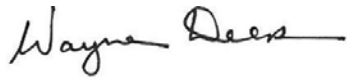
The Authority continues to be recognized as a leader in the management and control of noxious and invasive weeds not only in the region in which it operates but throughout the State, and all looks well for the future viability of the organization.

With the retirement of Council's Chair, Clr Maria Woods at the forthcoming local government elections in September 2016, I would like to acknowledge her long and distinguished record of serving this Council and the community of Walcha, having first being elected to Walcha Council in May 2000. From this time she has been their appointed representative on our Council, being elected as Chair in October 2002, a position which she held until September 2016. Clr Woods throughout her renowned local government career has been at the forefront of many local, regional and state initiatives. Her underlying passion is natural resource management particularly in weed management and control, with a focus on the delivery of quality customer focus services to farmers, landholders and regional rural communities.



On behalf of past and present Councillors, and staff we thank her for her outstanding leadership, commitment and dedication to Council and the wider community over the past 16 years of service.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to Councillors for their strategic direction and leadership as well as the staff for their professionalism, valued efforts and commitment that have made the 2015-2016 year achievements possible.



Wayne Deer  
**General Manager**



**Field Day held in the region.**

### 3. INTRODUCTION – ANNUAL REPORTING ON PROGRESS

Annual reporting to the community is an important part of transparent and accountable local government. Council is required under the legislation to prepare an Annual Report as one of the key points of accountability between Council, its member Councils and the community.

The Annual Report focuses on Council's implementation of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan. The report also includes information that is prescribed by the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, including provisions relating to the content of Council's annual statement of revenue policy.

The Business Activity Strategic Plan must be reviewed every four years. From 2012, each newly elected Council must complete the review by 30 June in the year following the local government elections and roll the planning period forward by at least 4 years so that it is always a 10 year minimum plan.

A report on the progress on implementation of the Business Activity Strategic Plan must be presented at the final meeting of an outgoing Council, relating to the effectiveness of the Plan in achieving its environmental, economic, social and civic leadership/governance objectives over the past four years.



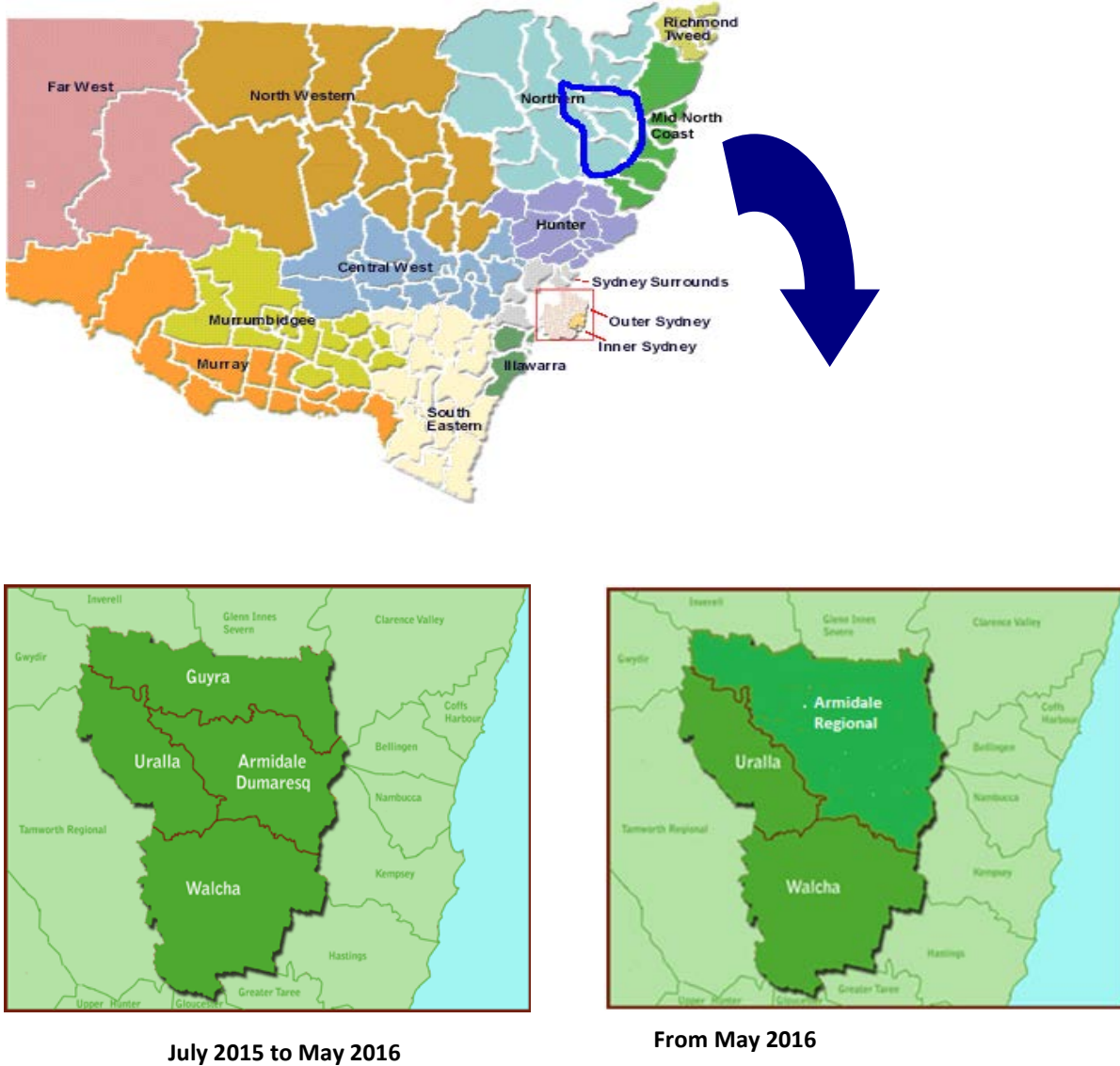
**Walcha township**



## 4. NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY REGION – PROFILE

The New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council trading as the New England Weeds Authority area comprises the constituent member local government areas of Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra Shire, Uralla Shire and Walcha Council which forms part of the Great Dividing Range and New England Plateau.

The following Map 1 indicates the County Council’s member councils and adjoining council areas.



**Map 1: NSW Local Government regions and Member Councils of the New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council**

## a. Area

The New England Tablelands (Noxious Weeds) County Council area covers some 18,255 km<sup>2</sup> (Armidale Regional 8,630km<sup>2</sup>, Uralla 3,215 km<sup>2</sup>, and Walcha 6,410 km<sup>2</sup>) stretching from Ben Lomond in Armidale Regional Council in the north to Nowendoc in the Walcha Council in the south, west to Bundara in Uralla Shire and east to Ebor in the Armidale Regional Council area.

## b. Climate

Climatic conditions in the region range from sub humid temperate to cool temperate climates with snow falling on some occasions. Elevation ranges from just below 1,000m to just over 1,300m above sea level, with pleasant warm summers, extended spring and autumn seasons and a long cold winter period.

Rainfall in the region ranges from 700mm to 1,200mm annually with approximately 60% falling in the summer and 40% falling in the winter.

## c. Population breakdown

The total population for the County Council's area is 39,195<sup>1</sup> which is broken down into member Council areas of Armidale Regional 34,356; Uralla 6,260 and Walcha 3,122.



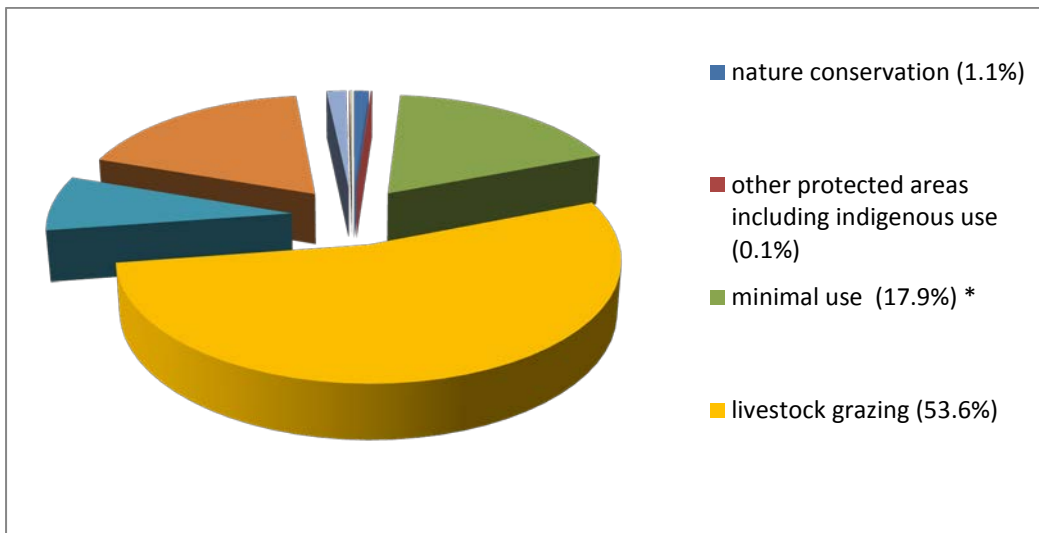
**Armidale city**

<sup>1</sup> 2011 Census



## d. Landuse patterns

The following chart summarises the landuse patterns according to the Australian Natural Resources Atlas for the County Council region. The majority is devoted to livestock grazing (53.6%) and dryland agriculture (18%), reinforcing the significance of the regions economy being based on agricultural pursuits and highlighting the importance to the area of weed management and control. Only a small portion of this land area (0.1%) is devoted to urban and residential use.



*\*Minimal use: encompasses reserved crown land (stock routes, defence reserves and mine reserves) and vacant and institutional crown land. Also includes private land with open or closed native forest with unknown use (most likely remnant native cover).*

**Chart 1: Land use patterns in the New England Weeds Authority area.**



**Guyra township**

## 5. COUNCIL'S VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

### a. Council's Vision

To protect the natural environment, agricultural activities, the economy and community from the impacts of noxious and invasive weeds within the New England and Northern Tablelands region of NSW.

### b. Council's Mission

To be recognised as a leader in the weed management and control industry by our member Councils and the community.

### c. Council's Corporate Values

**Our Business & Partnerships** – managing all aspects of our business in a transparent and sustainable manner while providing best value for money to our member Councils, the community and partners.

**Our Community** – providing a weed management and control service in a way that is accountable to the community/stakeholders and supports our constituent Councils' regional community plans in natural resource management.

**Our Employees** – developing staff committed to quality, professional team work and safety, while striving for continuous improvement and accepting personal responsibility.

**Our Customers** – meeting the needs and expectations of our customers.

**Our Relationships** – being open, supportive and constructive in all our relationships.

**Our Environment** – conserving resources, protecting and enhancing our agricultural and natural environment.



**A regional rapid response to Tropical Soda control work in the Macleay, 2015.**



## 6. COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES

As an organisation the County Council is constituted under the Local Government Act 1993 and is specified as a local control authority under the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*. It is a single purpose authority formed to administer and control declared noxious and invasive weeds, and has been operating since 1947. The County Council is fundamentally responsible for weed control of gazetted or declared noxious weeds including:

- Ensuring landholders/occupiers of private land fulfil their obligations under the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*.
- inspection of land within their area in connection with noxious and invasive weeds;
- enforcing the control of noxious weeds as per the control class;
- weed management on land occupied by the council and on roads in their area;
- publicity about weeds declared in the area;
- proposing changes to noxious weed declarations;
- developing, implementing and co-ordinating local strategies and policies;
- providing on-going approved training and professional development for weed staff and
- providing adequate resources to implement noxious and invasive weed programs.



Uralla township

In addition, the County Council is the lead agency on behalf of the Northern Tablelands and North West Local Land Services Regional Weed Committees for the implementation of the NSW Weeds Action Program 2015 – 2020 (WAP1520) funded by the State Government through the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI).

The two Regional Weed Committees cover the 4 member local government areas of Tenterfield, Glen Innes Severn, Inverell and NEWA [Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra Shire, Uralla Shire and Walcha Council] in the Northern Tablelands region and the 7 member local government areas of Gunnedah, Gwydir, Liverpool Plains, Moree Plains, Narrabri, Tamworth Regional and Walgett Shire in the North West Local Land Services region, comprising in total some 100,000 km<sup>2</sup> of the New England and North West region of NSW, as detailed in the respective Northern Tablelands and North West Regional Weed Committees Business Plan and Participant Agreement NSW Weeds Action Program 2015 -2020, these duties have been extended within each region to build capacity to:

- identify and manage high risk weed species and entry pathways;
- develop and implement early weed detection capabilities;
- assist in the timely detection of new weed incursions;
- affect a quick response to eradicate or contain new weeds;
- identify and prioritise weed management programs to where benefits are greatest;
- provide effective and targeted on-ground weed control;
- increase community acceptance of, and involvement in effective weed management;
- integrate weed management into education programs;
- improve the knowledge base for weed management Officers by providing current educational material and opportunities and by setting a public example;
- monitor progress of the NSW Invasive Species Plan's implementation and
- encourage the use of cost-sharing arrangements.

Central to meeting the abovementioned duties and responsibilities is the implementation of a consistent, co-ordinated and co-operative approach to regional weed inspection and control programs.



**Northern New England Grazing Property**

## 7. MEMBERS OF COUNCIL 2015-2016

The New England community is represented by five Councillors from the constituent Councils of Armidale Dumaresq (2 members), Guyra Shire (1 member), Uralla Shire (1 member) and Walcha Council (1 member), under the leadership of an annually elected Chairperson.

On the 12th May 2016 the NSW Premier, The Hon Mike Baird and Minister for Local Government, The Hon Paul Toole announced that Armidale Dumaresq and Guyra Shire Councils have been amalgamated on that date to form the new Armidale Regional Council under the Local Government (Council Amalgamations) Proclamation 2016. An Administrator, Dr Ian Tiley has been appointed during the initial period of the new Council and he holds the functions of the elected Council and Mayor, meaning that the previous elected representatives to our Council, Councillors Andrew Murat, Margaret O'Connor and Dean Heagney are no longer elected members. Elections for Councillors of the new Armidale Regional Council are scheduled for 9th September 2017.

The Councillors have provided strong leadership in the development of the County Council's Business Activity Strategic Plan 2013 - 2023 as part of their commitment towards achieving the strategic objectives contained within the Plan.

### **Councillor Representatives from 1 July 2015 to 12 May 2016**

<b>ARMIDALE DUMARESQ COUNCIL:</b>	Councillor Andrew Murat Councillor Margaret O'Connor
<b>GUYRA SHIRE COUNCIL:</b>	Councillor Dean Heagney
<b>URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL:</b>	Councillor Mark Dusting
<b>WALCHA COUNCIL:</b>	Councillor Maria Woods

**Authority Chair:** Councillor Maria Woods    **Deputy Chair:** Councillor Mark Dusting



**Councillors of the New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council 2015-2016 (May 2016)**  
From left: Clr Dean Heagney, Clr Maria Woods (Chair), Clr Margaret O'Connor.  
Seated: Clr Andrew Murat and Clr Mark Dusting (Deputy Chair).



## **Councillor Representatives from 12 May 2016 to 30 June 2016**



**Chairperson  
Clr Maria Woods  
Walcha Council**



**Deputy Chairperson  
Clr Mark Dusting  
Uralla Shire Council**



**Dr Ian Tiley  
Administrator Delegate  
Armidale Regional Council**

### **Councillors/ Delegates of the New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council from 12 May 2016**

#### **a. Facilities provided to Councillors**

The following fees and expenses with regard to the Chairperson and Councillors were paid during 2015-2016:

<b>Fees and Expenses</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Chairpersons Allowance</b>	<b>\$5,656.00</b>
<b>Councillor Fees</b>	<b>\$11,547.08</b>
<b>Miscellaneous expenses (conferences, accommodation &amp; catering)</b>	<b>\$546.98</b>
<b>Interstate and Overseas Travel</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17,750.06</b>

All costs associated with attendance at conferences and seminars were in accordance with Council's adopted Payment of Expenses Policy.

No vehicle, equipment or communication expenses were incurred by the Chairperson or Councillors during the reporting period.

**b. Councillor attendance at Council Meetings 2015-2016**

Councillor	Ordinary Meetings (5 held)
Clr Maria Woods	5/5
Clr Mark Dusting	3/5
Clr Dean Heagney	3/4
Clr Andrew Murat	3/4
Clr Margaret O'Connor	4/4
Dr Ian Tiley	1/1



**NEWA Staff receiving awards at the 2015 NSW Weeds Conference: James Browning-winner of the Buerkner Award for outstanding contribution to the on-ground control of weeds in New South Wales, and Heather Apps – finalist in Stephenson Award for outstanding contribution to planning and coordinating weed management programs in New South Wales, with General Manager, Wayne Deer.**

## 8. OUR ORGANISATION

New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council trades as the New England Weeds Authority (NEWA). The General Manager, whose position is part-time, is the most senior employee of Council. The General Manager is selected and appointed by Councillors on a renewable fixed-term performance based contract for a maximum of three years.

The following chart shows the organisational structure from 1 July 2015 to 12 May 2016.

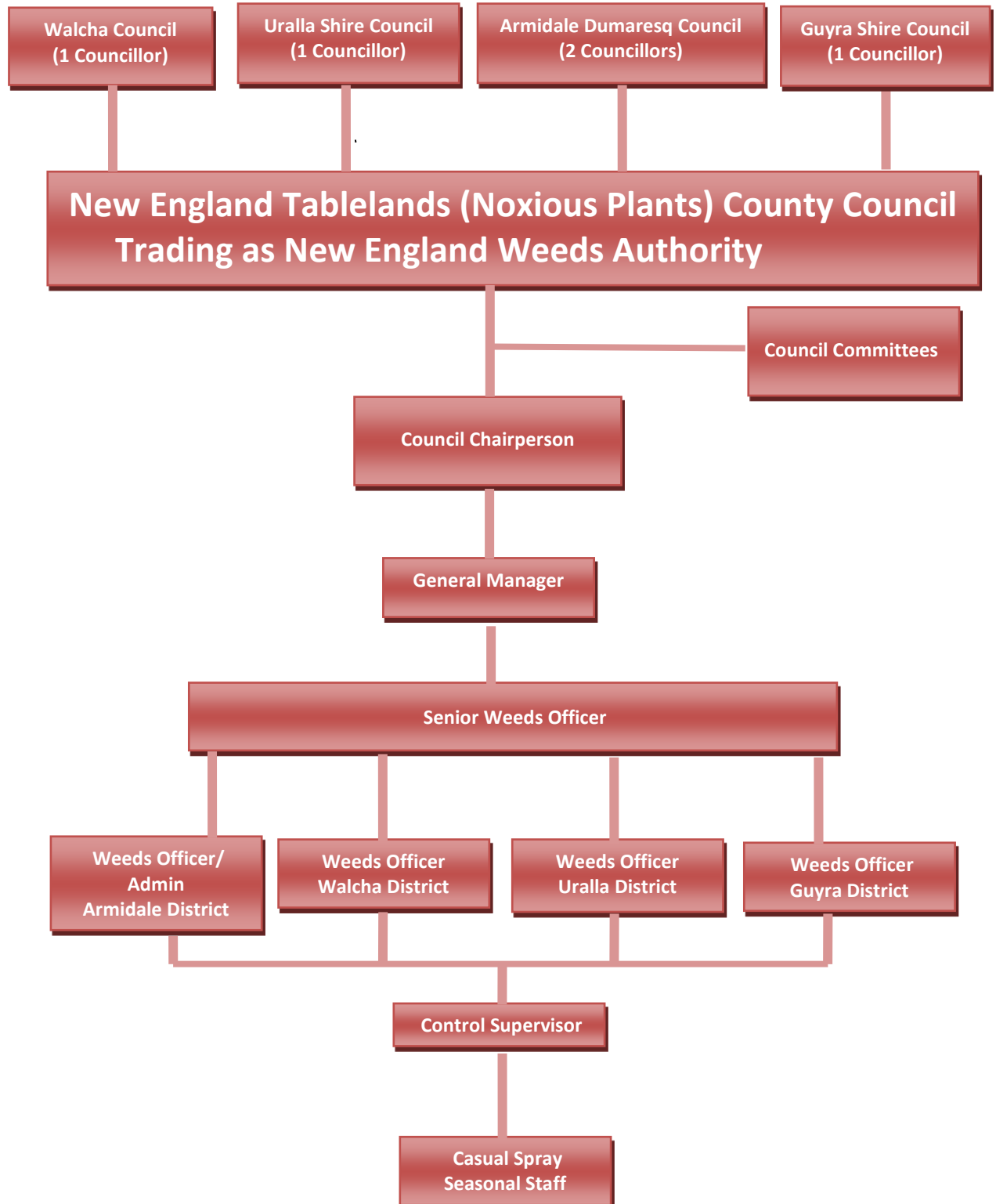


Chart 2: NEWA Organisational Structure



The following chart shows the organisational structure from 12 May 2016.

**NEWA Organisational Structure**

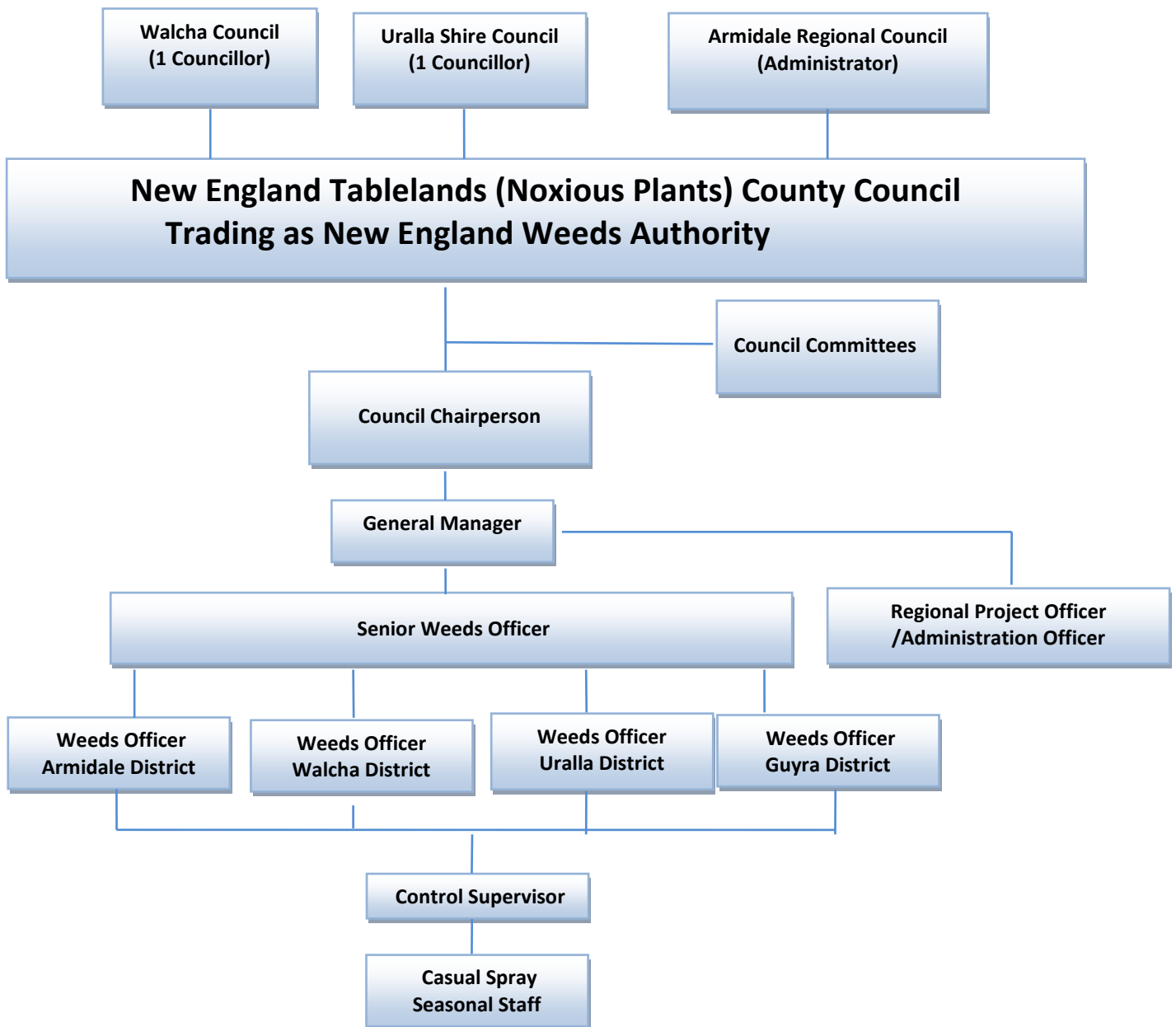


Chart 3: NEWA Organisational Structure from 12 May 2016

## 9. THE BUSINESS ACTIVITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2013 – 2023 OVERVIEW

The Business Activity Strategic Plan (the Plan) identifies Council's and the communities main priorities and aspirations for the future, addressing strategies for achieving the objectives in relation to noxious and invasive weeds management and control across our constituent member Council areas, so as to improve agricultural sustainability, primary industry productivity and to deliver broad environmental outcomes for the New England region for the next ten years.

The Plan is the foundation for the Annual Operational Plan, Four Year Delivery Program and Resourcing Strategy comprising the Ten Year Financial Plan, Workforce Strategy and the Asset Management Plan.

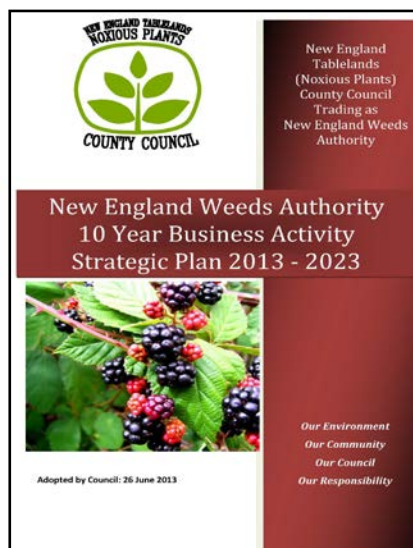
In meeting the outcomes of our Plan, Council has a long term focus that addresses issues about environmental, economic, social and civic leadership objectives as well as reflecting the community engagement processes that have been undertaken by our constituent Councils.

Early on in their processes, formal approaches were made to each Council to be involved in their respective community engagement activities and appropriate input to the environment sections in the development of their Community Strategic Plans. This partnering in the community engagement process has been most helpful in developing Council's Business Activity Strategic Plan.

Council, as a small single purpose organisation has been mindful of its resource capacity and has acted prudently to deliver the outcomes identified in the second year of its plan.

Annual reporting to the community is an important part of transparent and accountable Local Government. Council is required under the legislation to prepare an Annual Report as one of the key points of accountability between Council, its member Councils and the community.

Council undertook a review of its Business Activity Strategic Plan after the Council elections held in September 2012 and the revised Plan was finalised and adopted by Council on 26 June 2013.



### **New England Weeds Authority 10 Year Business Activity Strategic Plan 2013 - 2023**

## 10. THE DELIVERY PLAN REPORT 2015-2016

The dynamic nature of noxious and invasive weed species means that Council's approach to weed management and control is constantly evolving. Through its strategic objectives and principal activities, Council will continue to improve the services it provides to the community in a range of ways including effective governance, strategic planning, environmental management and economic sustainability.

Council's approach to weed management and control also reflects the objectives of the NSW Invasive Species Plan 2015 – 2022 and NSW Weed Action Program 2015 -2020. As a result, the Business Activity Strategic Plan provides the following direction as to how our resources will be employed to achieve the following four strategic objectives:

### **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE S.O.1**

**PREVENTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW WEED SPECIES IN OUR REGION - EXCLUDE**

### **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE S.O.2**

**ELIMINATE OR PREVENT THE SPREAD OF EXISTING AND NEW WEED SPECIES IN OUR REGION – ERADICATE OR CONTAIN**

### **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE S.O.3**

**REDUCE THE IMPACTS OF WIDESPREAD INVASIVE WEED SPECIES – EFFECTIVELY MANAGE**

### **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE S.O.4**

**ENSURE COMMUNITY, INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT STAKEHOLDERS HAVE THE ABILITY AND LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO MANAGE INVASIVE SPECIES – BUILD CAPACITY**

To achieve these strategic objectives our actions are centered on the following strategies:

- identification and management of high-risk weed species and the pathways they utilize within our region;
- formulation of weed detection systems to improve our capacity to find new weeds early;
- ensuring we have the resources and procedures in place to undertake strategic weed control measures and rapid response against new weed incursions;
- continual analysis of our weed management programs to ensure we are directing resources to where benefits will be the greatest and
- increasing the community commitment and involvement in proactive weed management and control approaches.

Our approach to weed management and control has strong linkages with the Australian Weeds Strategy, the NSW Biodiversity Strategy, NSW Invasive Species Strategy and the NSW Weeds Action Program.

At a regional level our Business Activity Strategic Plan is interconnected with the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services Regional Weed Committee Business Plan 2015 – 2020 and regional Management Plans developed for specific weeds.

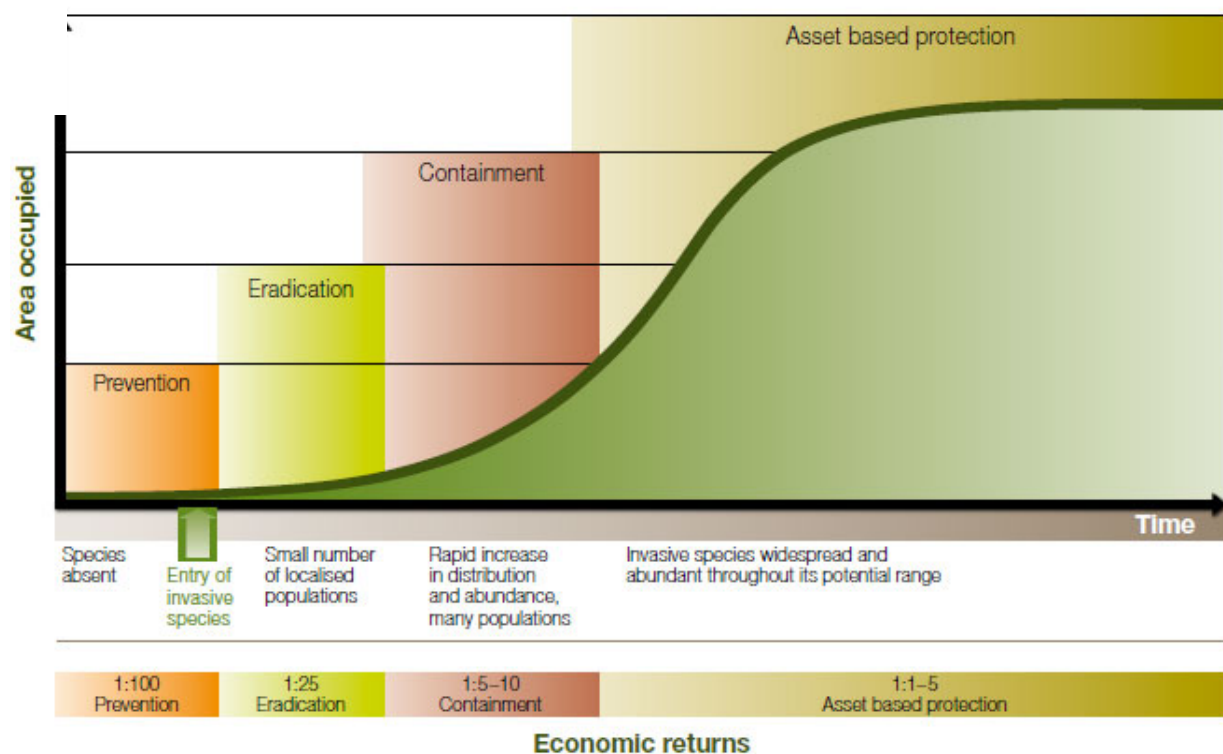
In 2014 the NSW Government conducted a Review of Weed Management in NSW through the NSW Natural Resources Commission. As a result of this review and the State Government's response to the recommendations, the previous 14 Regional Weeds Advisory Committees were reduced to 11, based on Local Land Services (LLS) boundaries from 1 July 2015.

As a consequence, this resulted in the previous 10 member Councils of the Northern Inland Weeds Advisory Committee (NIWAC) being split into the Northern Tablelands and North West LLS regions. This means that the Councils of Gunnedah Shire, Liverpool Plains Shire, Moree Plains Shire, Narrabri Shire and Tamworth Regional will come under the North West Local Land Services region, while the Councils of Glen Innes Severn, Inverell Shire, Tenterfield Shire and the New England Weeds Authority (including Guyra, Armidale Dumaresq, Uralla and Walcha Councils) come under the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services region.

Through negotiations with the respective LLS's, an agreement has been reached whereby NEWA will remain the Lead Agency for both the Northern Tablelands and North West Local Land Services regions for the next round of funding under the NSW DPI NSW Weeds Action Program 2015 – 2020 (WAP 1520).

Our Council acted as the lead agency for both the Northern Tablelands and North West Regional Weed Committees in the implementation of the NSW Weed Action Program.

Successful weed management relies on co-ordinated effort, strong partnerships and pro-active approaches. Our Council is working in unison with other organisations to ensure our limited resources are utilized more efficiently and effectively. Leading this approach are our staff who are committed towards achieving success in a wide range of integrated weed management and control programs.



**Chart 4: Weed Invasion Curve<sup>2</sup>**

The diagram above shows the application of these goals to a stylised weed invasion curve, demonstrating that return for investment is highest in the early stages of weed invasion when management is focussed on prevention and eradication. For example, there is an estimated return on investment of \$100 for every \$1 spent in the prevention stage of management.

<sup>2</sup> NSW DPI





**Serrated Tussock**



**St Johns Wort**



**Nodding Thistle**



**Blackberry**



**Chilean Needle Grass**



**Tropical Soda Apple**



**Salvinia**



**Bridal Creeper**

**Some of the noxious weeds in the NEWA region**

## 11. PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The Business Activity Strategic Plan principal activities provide a framework for the co-ordinated and co-operative management and control of noxious and invasive weeds across our County Council area for the ten year period of the Plan 2013 – 2023.

The Strategic Objectives are translated into actions through the principal activities to be undertaken by the Council to implement the strategies established by the Plan within the resources available under the Resourcing Strategy.

A summary of principle activities undertaken by Council and the objective/s under each are detailed as follows.

### PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY - P.A.1. CIVIC LEADERSHIP/GOVERNANCE / ADMINISTRATION / FINANCE / RISK MANAGEMENT

#### **Civic Leadership/Governance**

To provide effective, relevant civic leadership and local governance through community consultation, availability of information to the public and Council, public access to Councillors and liaison with member Councils and relevant government agencies.

#### **Administration**

To implement financial and administrative policies and procedures to allow the management of all Council activities in a manner that ensures the economic sustainability of the Council and protects Council and community assets.

#### **Finance**

To provide the framework for Council to undertake its activities in a financially responsible and economically sustainable manner that protects Council and community assets.

#### **Risk Management**

To minimise Council's exposure to risk and provide a safe working environment for staff, contractors and for county landholders.

### PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY- P.A.2 ENVIRONMENT - NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

#### **Noxious Weed Management and Control**

To act in a regulatory and advisory role to stakeholders and landholders to improve the agricultural and natural environment through a reduction in noxious and invasive weeds species.



## PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY- P.A 3 ECONOMIC AFFAIRS – PRIVATE WORKS AND OTHER BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS

### **Private Works**

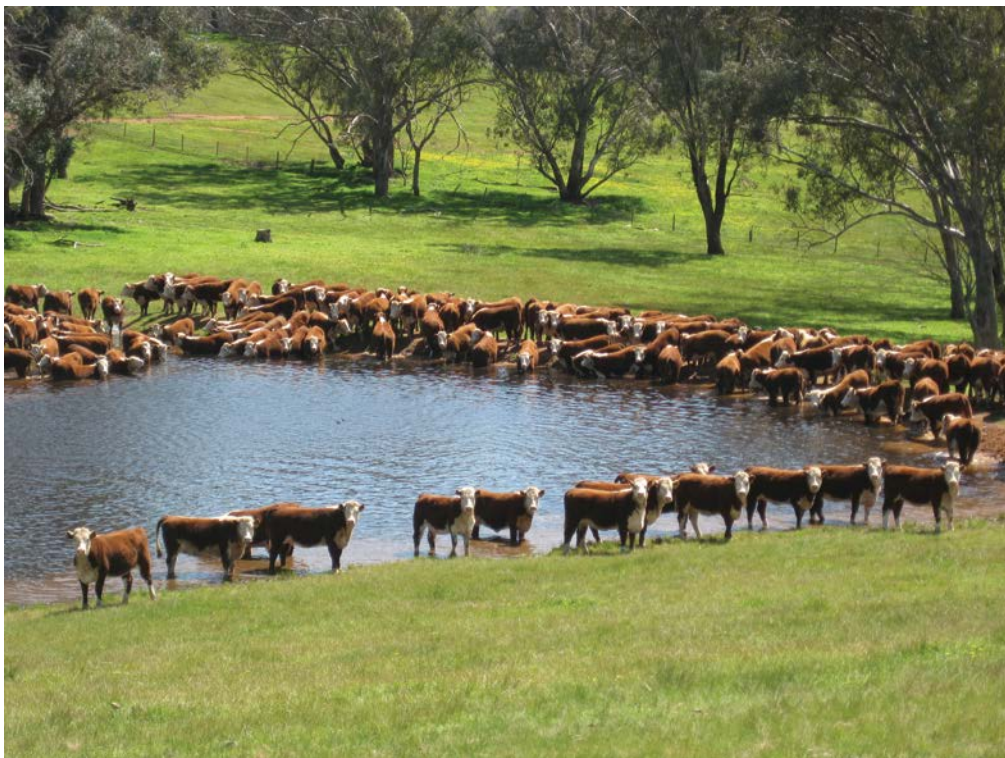
To provide a contract spraying and inspectorial service to generate revenue and to assist landholders and government agencies to control noxious and invasive weeds.

### **Other Business Undertakings**

To promote the interests of County Council stakeholders through active interaction and participation with other authorities (such as the Northern Tablelands Regional Weed Committee, North West Regional Weed Committee, Local Government NSW and Local Land Services) through advocacy and political pursuits.

## PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY- P. A 4 NSW WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM

To act as the lead agency for the implementation of the NSW Weeds Action Program for the member Councils of the Northern Tablelands Regional Weed Committee (including NEWA) and North West Regional Weed Committee



**Hereford Cattle near Walcha**

## DELIVERY PROGRAM 2013 - 2017

### Principal Activity - P.A.1. Civic Leadership/Governance / Administration / Finance / Risk Management

#### Functional Objective: (Civic Leadership/Governance)

To provide Council with the knowledge, skills, information and opportunity to make informed, relevant and timely decisions.

**Strategic Tasks:** To assist and inform the Chair and Councillors so that they can be proactive spokespeople on noxious and invasive weed issues affecting the Council and community.

#### **Summary of Measurable Outcomes achieved 2015 - 2016**

- Reports for Council's consideration prepared in a concise and timely manner with recommendations.
- All statutory financial plans and returns completed and lodged by due date.
- Councillors informed of legislative changes in a timely manner.
- Media releases and invitations to public events circulated to Councillors.

#### Functional Objective: (Administration)

To promote and improve public awareness of Council's activities and operations.

**Strategic Tasks:** To increase the public use of Council's office in Armidale and contact with property owners/ Stakeholders.

#### **Summary of Measurable Outcomes achieved 2015 - 2016**

- Target contact with new property owners achieved.
- Attendance at field days, agricultural shows, Landcare and regional events achieved.
- Council office in Armidale manned during business hours.
- Media release targets exceeded.
- Staff directly involved in implementing regional Local Land Services and Landcare projects with the community.

#### Functional Objective: (Administration)

To work with elected members and staff to ensure the development and effective implementation of Council's Business Activity Strategic Plan, policies and decision making.

**Strategic Tasks:** To provide well informed Councillors, Council staff and community in relation to Council's business activities, policies and strategic directions.

#### **Summary of Measurable Outcomes achieved 2015 - 2016**

- Review of Council's policies undertaken and reaffirmed by Council.
- Annual Operational Plan, Four Year Delivery Program and Long Term Resourcing Strategy reviewed and updated.
- Business Activity Strategic Plan 2013 – 2023, Delivery Program and 10 year Financial Plan updated.
- Public notification of relevant policies.



**Functional Objective: (Administration)**

To maintain a stable, secure administrative structure with supporting internal controls, reporting systems, training plans, record keeping and documentation to ensure that human and physical resources needed to deliver Council's services are available and accountable.

**Strategic Tasks:** To provide ongoing training for Council staff to raise the standard of service provided to the community and to enhance their working experience.

**Summary of Measurable Outcomes achieved 2015 - 2016**

- Corporate Training Plan reviewed, updated and implemented.
- Monthly staff meetings held.
- Work Health and Safety Procedures and systems reviewed and updated.
- Work Health and Safety Management Policy and handbook reviewed and updated.
- Council's Workforce Strategy reviewed and updated.

**Functional Objectives: (Finance)**

To ensure finance, accounting and administration requirements are performed in a professional and timely manner.  
To ensure the provision of finances to the Council are received from relevant sources.

**Strategic Tasks:** Accounting practices carried out to meet statutory requirements and relevant accounting standards.  
Ongoing financial support is provided from member Councils and other appropriate agencies.

**Summary of Measurable Outcomes achieved 2015 - 2016**

- Statutory Financial Plans and returns completed and lodged by due date in accordance with accepted accounting standards.
- Constituent member Councils provided with Annual Report and Financial Statements - audit undertaken by Forsyth's Chartered Accountants.
- Constituent member Councils provided with Annual Operational Plan.
- Annual grant funding secured from NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) under the NSW Weeds Action Program.
- Annual Financial Statement and Acquittal documents provided to DPI within set time frame.

**Functional Objectives: (Risk Management)**

To minimise the risk associated with all functions of Council.

**Strategic Tasks:** Management of Council's risks in order to control, minimise or eliminate all forms of potential loss.

**Summary of Measurable Outcomes achieved 2015 - 2016**

- Enterprise Risk Management Policy and Strategy reaffirmed by Council and Enterprise Risk Management Matrix reviewed and updated for organisation.
- Council's Investment and Long Term Financial Strategies reviewed and updated.
- Risk Management Action Plan reviewed in consultation with Council's insurer's Statewide Mutual.

## DELIVERY PROGRAM 2013 – 2017

### Principal Activity- P.A.2 Environment - Noxious Weed Management and Control

#### Functional Objective: (Noxious Weed Management & Control)

To inspect private properties for noxious and invasive weeds and support property owners and managers to encourage them to work with Council to identify and control noxious weeds.

**Strategic Tasks:** To improve natural resource management within the region relating to noxious and invasive weeds and maintain the viability of agricultural and high conservation value land.

#### **Summary of Measurable Outcomes achieved 2015 - 2016**

- Annual inspection and weed control program hampered by severe drought conditions throughout the region in first half of year, with improved seasonal conditions in second half of the year allowing for inspection and weed control program targets to be achieved.
- As part of the Authority's three year rolling inspection program inspections of high risk sites, high risk pathways and high risk inspections were carried out over one third of the Authority's area. As a result no new weed incursions were found, however, new infestations of high risk species already present within the Authority's area were the subject of ongoing control programs (eg Tropical Soda Apple in the Macleay Valley).
- Chairman's Annual tour of Council region conducted.

#### Functional Objective: (Noxious Weed Management & Control)

To ensure that property owners appreciate the importance of weed control and reinforce Council's resolve to achieve property owner support for weed control.

**Strategic Tasks:** Through compliance with the provisions of the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 be proactive in reducing the threat of noxious weeds to agricultural land and high conservation areas.

#### **Summary of Measurable Outcomes achieved 2015 - 2016**

- Council again adopted a policy of engagement, education and co-operation with landholders and land managers to have work carried out on their land to manage weeds, this has resulted in there being no requirement to issue Notices, on the spot fines or instigate legal proceeding.
- There were 13 Control reports issued during the reporting period and 75 Section 64 Certificates were issued.

#### Functional Objective: (Noxious Weed Management & Control)

To use efficient record keeping and reporting techniques that support Council's weed inspection and control operations and fulfill Council's grant performance-target obligations.

**Strategic Tasks:** To maximise the use of current and new software and IT hardware to record and map weed inspections.

#### **Summary of Measurable Outcomes achieved 2015 - 2016**

- Council continued to take advantage of the existing Weed tracer software to record electronically weed management, inspections and control data.

**Functional Objective: (Noxious Weed Management & Control)**

To raise the skill & knowledge base of land owners so that they understand the importance of weed control and are more competent in the identification and control of noxious weeds.

To find effective ways to manage and control noxious weeds.

To investigate and develop better ways to manage and control noxious weeds.

**Strategic Tasks:** To increase landowner knowledge and awareness of noxious weed issues in the region through extension based activities.

**Summary of Measurable Outcomes achieved 2015 - 2016**

NEWA staff carried out landholder capacity building and extension activities at:

- 4 agricultural shows in the area;
- 4 field days;
- 1 Landcare event;
- Presentations to University of New England and TAFE students;
- Agquip.

There were 270 contacts made with Landholders to give advice and information in relation to weed management and control matters.

**Functional Objective: (Noxious Weed Management & Control)**

To develop plans, policies, procedures and guidelines for noxious weed management and control that are in keeping with industry best practice, meet State Government requirements and provide staff with a standard and consistent process for weed management.

**Strategic Tasks:** To identify areas of Council's operation and processes that need to be reviewed or where documentation needs to be written.

**Summary of Measurable Outcomes achieved 2015 - 2016**

- A review of Council's weed management plans, policies and procedures manual was undertaken, with updating of safety data sheets, engagement of contractors and safe workplace method statements.
- NSW Environment and Protection Authority (EPA) audit of NEWA's compliance with pesticide notification plan obligations under the NSW Pesticides Regulation 2009 were met.

**Functional Objective: (Noxious Weed Management & Control)**

**To treat weeds on Council controlled or managed land in a programmed manner.**

**Strategic Tasks:** To improve the natural environment and agricultural viability of land through a reduction in noxious weeds.

**Summary of Measurable Outcomes achieved 2015 - 2016**

The following activities were carried out within the Authority's area:

- The inspection of 66 High Risk Sites;
- 3,330 High Risk Private Property Inspections completed covering 124,166 hectares;
- 694 Private Property Inspections completed covering 252,163 hectares;
- 1,010 kms of High Risk Roadside inspections completed covering 2,020 hectares;
- 27 High Risk Waterway inspections completed covering 1,330 hectares;
- 2,175 kms of Roadside inspections completed covering 6,500 hectares and
- 47 inspections of National Parks, Railways, Travelling Stock Routes, Recreational areas were carried out covering 361 hectares.

The Authority's regional inspection program fully supported the NSW Weeds Action Program to eradicate or contain high risk species within the Authority's area.

The following highlights the ongoing weed control activities carried out within the Authority's area during the period:

- All known Nodding Thistle sites treated in November;
- All known Chilean Needle Grass roadways treated in November;
- All known St Johns Wort roadways treated in November/ December;
- 4,000 kms of roadways treated for Blackberries;
- The Macleay Valley, Tropical Soda Apple roadways treated every three months;
- Coolatai and African Lovegrass control programs carried out on roadways where these species are not widely established.

The severe drought conditions during the first six months of the reporting period had a significant influence suppressing density and germinations.

## DELIVERY PROGRAM 2013 - 2017

### Principal Activity - P.A 3 Economic Affairs – Private Works and Other Business Undertakings

#### Functional Objectives: (Private Works)

- To generate additional revenue.
- To maximise the use of Council's resources when not required for core business activity.
- To provide owners of small holdings with an affordable option for noxious weed control.

#### **Strategic Tasks:**

To carry out control works that reduces noxious and invasive weeds on private property.

To investigate and develop ways to increase the revenue of Council from sources other than the annual State Government Grants.

#### **Summary of Measurable Outcomes achieved 2015 - 2016**

- During 2015 – 2016 the Authority was successful in funding applications to the Northern Tablelands Local Land Services amounting to a total of \$219,285 (refer Other Projects page 34 for a detailed breakdown).
- Private works were carried out on behalf of Constituent member Councils, National Parks and Wildlife Service and smaller property owners who are not otherwise equipped to carry out the spray control programs. The total of private works for 2015 – 2016 period amounted to \$85,211.

#### Functional Objective: (Other Business Activities)

To facilitate inter-governmental relations to ensure maximum cooperation between the County Council, Federal, State and Local Governments and their agencies.

**Strategic Tasks:** Promote and develop relationships with constituent Councils, Federal, State and other agencies and comply with statutory requirements.

#### **Summary of Measurable Outcomes achieved 2015 - 2016**

- Constituent member Councillors provided with Council Business Papers, Agendas and Minutes.
- General Manager's of each constituent Council provided with minutes of Council meetings.
- Constituent Councils provided with draft Annual Operational Plan for comment.
- Constituent Councils provided with Annual Report.
- Applications to Local Land Services Authorities for natural resource management projects.
- Letters to State and Federal Members on weed management and control issues.
- Active participant in New England Group of Councils (NEGOC), established April 2015, regarding the NSW Government's "Fit for the Future" Local Government Reform proposals.
- Input to Constituent member Councils State of Environment reports.
- Participated in joint staff training activities with Constituent Councils where appropriate.

## DELIVERY PROGRAM 2013 - 2017

### Principal Activity- P. A 4 NSW Weeds Action Program – Northern Tablelands Regional Weed Committee (NTRWC)

#### Functional Objectives: (NSW WAP)

To work with inter and intra regional organisations that are involved in weed management and control to minimise the impact of noxious and invasive weeds within the region.

Note: As a result of the NSW Government's response to the recommendations of the NSW Natural Resources Commission's Review into Weed Management in NSW, the previous 14 Regional Weeds Advisory Committees were reduced to 11 Regional Weed Committees based on Local Land Services boundaries as from 1 July 2015.

**Strategic Tasks:** Implement the NTRWC Business Plan and Participant Agreement, NSW Weeds Action Program 2015 – 2020 as it relates to Council's responsibility.

#### Summary of Measurable Outcomes achieved 2015 - 2016

- Meetings with Northern Tablelands Local Land Services (NTLLS) as Lead Agency for the NSW Weeds Action Program 2015 – 2020 (WAP 1520) to progress the transition to the new regime of Regional Weed Committees based on LLS boundaries.
- All functional activities and objectives of the Weeds Action Program, and responsibilities of the Regional Project Officer were completed in accordance with the outcomes set during the reporting period.
- WAP 1520 application variation submitted to NSW DPI in August 2015 – approved.
- Active participation in the establishment of the NTRWC.

#### Functional Objectives: NSW WAP 1520

To act as Lead Agency in the implementation of the NSW Weeds Action Program 2015 – 2020 for member councils for the NTRWC Region

**Strategic Tasks:** Oversee the operation and implementation of the NSW Weeds Action Program in the NTRWC region.

- As part of the NTRWC Weeds Action Program 2015 – 2020 all high risk weeds species and high risk pathways have been documented and inspected within the New England Weeds Authority area.

#### The following activities were carried out within the NT LLS region:

- 606 High Risk Private Property Inspections completed covering 194,215 hectares;
- 1,534 Private Property Inspections completed covering 487,645 hectares;
- 10,738 kms of High Risk Roadside inspections completed covering 10,738 hectares;
- 87 High Risk Waterway inspections completed covering 8,257 hectares;
- 10,515 kms roadside inspections completed covering 25,949 hectares;
- 243 inspections of high risk sites including nurseries, pet shops, gravel quarries, machinery dealers, wash down bays, roadside truck stops and
- 177 inspections of other priority sites including National Parks, Railways, Travelling Stock Routes and Recreational areas.

## DELIVERY PROGRAM 2013 - 2017

### Principal Activity- P. A 4 NSW Weeds Action Program – North West Regional Weed Committee (NWRWC)

#### Functional Objectives: (NSW WAP)

To work with inter and intra regional organisations that are involved in weed management and control to minimise the impact of noxious and invasive weeds within the region.

Note: As a result of the NSW Government's response to the recommendations of the NSW Natural Resources Commission's Review into Weed Management in NSW, the previous 14 Regional Weeds Advisory Committees were reduced to 11 Regional Weed Committees based on Local Land Services boundaries as from 1 July 2015.

**Strategic Tasks:** Implement the NWRWC Business Plan and Participant Agreement, NSW Weeds Action Program 2015 – 2020 as it relates to Council's responsibility.

#### Summary of Measurable Outcomes achieved 2015 - 2016

- Meetings with North West Local Land Services (NTLLS) as Lead Agency for the NSW Weeds Action Program 2015 – 2020 (WAP 1520) to progress the transition to the new regime of Regional Weed Committees based on LLS boundaries.
- All functional activities and objectives of the Weeds Action Program, and responsibilities of the Regional Project Officer were completed in accordance with the outcomes set during the reporting period.
- WAP 1520 application variation submitted to NSW DPI in August 2015 – approved.
- Active participation in the establishment of the NWRWC.

#### Functional Objectives: NSW WAP 1520

To act as Lead Agency in the implementation of the NSW Weeds Action Program 2015 – 2020 for member councils for the NWRWC Region

**Strategic Tasks:** Oversee the operation and implementation of the NSW Weeds Action Program in the NWRWC region.

The following activities were carried out within the NW LLS region:

- 496 High Risk Private Property Inspections completed covering 247,395 hectares;
- 1,289 Private Property Inspections completed covering 370,379 hectares;
- 12,084 kms of High Risk Roadside inspections completed covering 58,351 hectares;
- 146 High Risk Waterway inspections completed covering 18,102 hectares;
- 9,906 kms roadside inspections completed covering 47,851 hectares;
- 227 inspections of high risk sites including nurseries, pet shops, gravel quarries, machinery dealers, wash down bays, roadside truck stops and
- 285 inspections of other priority sites including National Parks, Railways, Travelling Stock Routes and Recreational areas.

## 12. OTHER PROJECTS

The New England Weeds Authority continues to work closely with the NSW Department of Primary Industries, local Landcare and Local Land Services Authorities in regards to weed control projects within the region.

During 2015 – 2016 the following projects were carried out to the value of \$252,441

- Reducing Priority Weed Species threats to ecosystems and species with Northern Tablelands Local Land Services - \$149,000
- Upper Macleay Vine Weeds Stage 3 in conjunction with Macleay Valley Landcare - \$18,500
- Northern Tablelands LLS widespread weeds project - \$59,350
- Macquarie Valley Weeds Advisory Committee Video Production Project - \$6,423
- Control of Tropical Soda Apple on Crown Lands - \$6,500
- Participation in Moree Plains Shire Council Green Cestrum control project at Gravesend - \$12,668



**Hexacopter UAV used in capturing footage for weed DVDs**



### 13. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (EEO)

Council is committed to the principles of equal opportunity for all of its employees and this is reflected in its Equal Employment Opportunity Policy (EEO Policy).

The EEO Policy recognises the right of employees to be treated fairly and without discrimination in the workplace. This includes situations such as applying for a position, selection for a position, training, promotion, transfers and dismissal. It provides that people should be selected on merit, regardless of race sex, marital status, disability or sexual preference.

### 14. EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

New England Weeds Authority seeks to encourage a co-operative and harmonious working environment for its staff. Interactive staff meetings deal with a wide cross section of issues relating to work and management practices, risk management, education and extension programs, and matters arising from the implementation of the Local Government State Award and the Work Health and Safety Act.

The Corporate Training Program was reviewed in 2015 so as to allow staff to continue to develop to a highly competent and professional standard.

Staff training included risk assessment, advanced quad bike training, recognising grasses, biological weed control, Chemcert refresher course, senior first aid and traffic control programs.



**Serrated Tussock Field Day with local graziers and landholders**

## 15. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

### a. Major Contracts and Tenders awarded by Council 2015 - 2016

There were no contracts of service or contracts awarded by Council during the reporting year.

### b. Legal costs incurred by Council

There were no legal proceedings either taken by or against the Council in 2015 – 2016.

### c. Work carried out on Private Land

Council undertook various private works in relation to weed control on private land in 2015 – 2016, with all costs being borne by the property owner.

Council sets out separate charges for private works that are outlined in Council's fees and charges schedules. These rates are generally similar to contractor rates as Council does not wish to unfairly compete with private enterprise.

### d. External Bodies exercising functions delegated by Council

Council did not delegate the exercise of functions to any external body during the reporting year.

#### **NOTE**

#### **Glen Innes Severn Council - Delegation of Weed Functions to New England Weeds Authority Memorandum of Understanding.**

Following a request from Glen Innes Severn Council in February 2015 to carry out their responsibilities for weed management and control under the provisions of the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*, a Memorandum of Understanding has been entered into whereby NEWA will assume these responsibilities from 1 July 2015 for a 3 year period. This will see benefits for both Glen Innes Severn Council and NEWA through economies of scale, better utilisation of resources and the ability to enhance a regional strategic approach to weed management and control in the region.

### e. Partnerships, Corporations, Trusts or other Joint Ventures

Council did not participate in or hold any controlling interests during the year in any Corporation, Partnerships, Trust or Joint Venture.

### f. Remuneration of General Manager

The General Manager, whose position is part-time, is the only senior staff member and remuneration for the period 2015 – 2016 was \$44,428,69.

The General Manager's responsibilities include:

- Efficient and effective operation of the Council organisation and day to day management. This includes ensuring Council's decisions and policies are implemented;
- Appointing, directing and dismissing staff in accordance with the organisation structure and resources approved by the Council;
- Exercising other functions as delegated by the Council and
- The General Manager may, in turn, delegate functions to other staff.

## **g. Requests made to Council under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009**

Council did not receive any requests for the release of information under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA) during the 2015 – 2016 reporting period.

## **h. Public Interest Disclosures Report**

The six monthly and annual reports were provided to the NSW Ombudsman in accordance with the Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994.

There were no public interest disclosures either made or received during the reporting period 2015 – 2016.

## **i. Code of Conduct**

Council adopted a new Model Code of Conduct and Procedures in early 2013 based on the Division of Local Government's new Model Code of Conduct.

There were no Code of Conduct complaints made about Councillors or the General Manager during the reporting period 2015 – 2016.



**Winter in the New England**



## 16. STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT

State of the Environment (SoE) reporting is a key mechanism for assessing progress towards sustainability and implementing Ecologically Sustainable Development Principles, as Councils play an important role in environmental management.

Our Council in its 10 Year Business Activity Strategic Plan has recognised the importance of ecologically sustainable development principles in its principle activities relating to the management and control of noxious and invasive weed species.

As required by legislation, each of our constituent Councils has prepared a comprehensive SoE report addressing the eight environmental sectors of land, air, water, biodiversity, waste, noise, Aboriginal heritage and non-Aboriginal heritage on a four year basis with supplementary SoE reports in intervening years.

Whilst our Council does not prepare a comprehensive SoE report, it does however, have direct connections with each of our constituent member Council's SoE reports and provides information on an annual basis for their reporting requirements in relation to the management of noxious and invasive weed species.



**Macleay Valley, Armidale Dumaresq Council**



# New England Weeds Authority

GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 2016

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**To be a high performing and respected  
Noxious Weeds Authority**



## New England Weeds Authority

### General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2016

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#### Overview

- (i) These financial statements are General Purpose Financial Statements and cover the operations for New England Weeds Authority.
- (ii) New England Weeds Authority is a body politic of NSW, Australia – being constituted as a local government area by proclamation and is duly empowered by the *Local Government Act 1993* (LGA).

Council's Statutory Charter is detailed in Paragraph 8 of the LGA and includes giving Council;

- the ability to provide goods, services and facilities, and to carry out activities appropriate to the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public,
- the responsibility for administering regulatory requirements under the LGA and
- a role in the management, improvement and development of the resources in the area.

A description of the nature of Council's operations and its principal activities are provided in Note 2(b).

- (iii) All figures presented in these financial statements are presented in Australian currency.
- (iv) These financial statements were authorised for issue by the Council on 30 August 2016. Council has the power to amend and reissue these financial statements.

## New England Weeds Authority

### General Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2016

## Understanding Council's financial statements

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### Introduction

Each year, individual local governments across New South Wales are required to present a set of audited financial statements to their council and community.

### What you will find in the statements

The financial statements set out the financial performance, financial position and cash flows of Council for the financial year ended 30 June 2016.

The format of the financial statements is standard across all NSW Councils and complies with both the accounting and reporting requirements of Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations and requirements as set down by the Office of Local Government.

### About the Councillor/Management Statement

The financial statements must be certified by senior staff as 'presenting fairly' the Council's financial results for the year, and are required to be adopted by Council – ensuring both responsibility for and ownership of the financial statements.

### About the primary financial statements

The financial statements incorporate five 'primary' financial statements:

#### 1. The Income Statement

This statement summarises Council's financial performance for the year, listing all income and expenses.

This statement also displays Council's original adopted budget to provide a comparison between what was projected and what actually occurred.

#### 2. The Statement of Other Comprehensive Income

This statement primarily records changes in the fair values of Council's infrastructure, property, plant and equipment.

#### 3. The Statement of Financial Position

An end of year snapshot of Council's financial position indicating its assets, liabilities and equity ('net wealth').

#### 4. The Statement of Changes in Equity

The overall change for the year (in dollars) of Council's 'net wealth'.

#### 5. The Statement of Cash Flows

This statement indicates where Council's cash came from and where it was spent. This statement also displays Council's original adopted budget to provide a comparison between what was projected and what actually occurred.

### About the Notes to the Financial Statements

The Notes to the Financial Statements provide greater detail and additional information on the five primary financial statements.

### About the Auditor's Reports

Council's financial statements are required to be audited by external accountants (that generally specialise in local government). In NSW, the auditor provides 2 audit reports:

1. An opinion on whether the financial statements present fairly the Council's financial performance and position, and
2. Their observations on the conduct of the audit, including commentary on the Council's financial performance and financial position.

### Who uses the financial statements?

The financial statements are publicly available documents and must be presented at a Council meeting between seven days and five weeks after the date of the Audit Report.

The public can make submissions to Council up to seven days subsequent to the public presentation of the financial statements.

Council is required to forward an audited set of financial statements to the Office of Local Government.

## New England Weeds Authority

### General Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2016

### Statement by Councillors and Management made pursuant to Section 413(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* (as amended)

The attached General Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* (as amended) and the regulations made thereunder,
- the Australian Accounting Standards (which include Australian Accounting Interpretations) and professional pronouncements, and
- the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, these financial statements:

- present fairly the Council's operating result and financial position for the year, and
- accord with Council's accounting and other records.

We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 30 August 2016.



Maria Woods  
Chair



Mark Dusting  
Councillor



Wayne Deer  
General manager



Wayne Deer  
Responsible accounting officer



## New England Weeds Authority

## Income Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2016

Budget <sup>1</sup> 2016	\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2016	Actual 2015
<b>Income from continuing operations</b>				
<b>Revenue:</b>				
120	User charges and fees	3b	298	378
30	Interest and investment revenue	3c	43	43
4	Other revenues	3d	7	5
1,031	Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	3e,f	1,019	1,058
<b>Other income:</b>				
5	Net gains from the disposal of assets	5	–	17
<b>1,190</b>	<b>Total income from continuing operations</b>		<b>1,367</b>	<b>1,501</b>
<b>Expenses from continuing operations</b>				
657	Employee benefits and on-costs	4a	745	613
186	Materials and contracts	4c	300	323
53	Depreciation and amortisation	4d	94	89
292	Other expenses	4c	100	121
<b>1,188</b>	<b>Total expenses from continuing operations</b>		<b>1,239</b>	<b>1,146</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Net operating result for the year</b>		<b>128</b>	<b>355</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Net operating result attributable to Council</b>		<b>128</b>	<b>355</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes</b>		<b>128</b>	<b>355</b>

<sup>1</sup> Original budget as approved by Council – refer Note 16

New England Weeds Authority

Statement of Other Comprehensive Income  
for the year ended 30 June 2016

\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2016	Actual 2015
<b>Net operating result for the year</b> (from Income Statement)		<b>128</b>	<b>355</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income:</b>		—	—
<b>Total other comprehensive income for the year</b>		—	—
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>128</b>	<b>355</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income attributable to Council</b>		<b>128</b>	<b>355</b>

## New England Weeds Authority

Statement of Financial Position  
as at 30 June 2016

\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2016	Actual 2015
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	6a	1,368	1,478
Receivables	7	30	7
Inventories	8	11	9
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>1,409</b>	<b>1,494</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	9	323	327
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>323</b>	<b>327</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>1,732</b>	<b>1,821</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Payables	10	64	314
Provisions	10	133	100
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>197</b>	<b>414</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Provisions	10	-	-
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>197</b>	<b>414</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>1,535</b>	<b>1,407</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained earnings	20	1,535	1,407
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>1,535</b>	<b>1,407</b>

## New England Weeds Authority

Statement of Changes in Equity  
for the year ended 30 June 2016

\$ '000	Notes	Retained earnings	Reserves (Refer 20b)	Non-		Total equity
				Council interest	controlling interest	
<b>2016</b>						
<b>Opening balance</b> (as per last year's audited accounts)		1,407	–	1,407	–	1,407
<b>Revised opening balance</b> (as at 1/7/15)		1,407	–	1,407	–	1,407
<b>Net operating result for the year</b>		128	–	128	–	128
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>		–	–	–	–	–
<b>Total comprehensive income (c&amp;d)</b>		128	–	128	–	128
<b>Equity – balance at end of the reporting period</b>		1,535	–	1,535	–	1,535
<b>2015</b>						
<b>Opening balance</b> (as per last year's audited accounts)		1,052	–	1,052	–	1,052
<b>Revised opening balance</b> (as at 1/7/14)		1,052	–	1,052	–	1,052
<b>Net operating result for the year</b>		355	–	355	–	355
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>		–	–	–	–	–
<b>Total comprehensive income (c&amp;d)</b>		355	–	355	–	355
<b>Equity – balance at end of the reporting period</b>		1,407	–	1,407	–	1,407



## New England Weeds Authority

## Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2016

Budget 2016	\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2016	Actual 2015
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>				
<b>Receipts:</b>				
120	User charges and fees		298	378
30	Investment and interest revenue received		44	42
1,031	Grants and contributions		1,019	1,346
4	Other		–	104
<b>Payments:</b>				
(657)	Employee benefits and on-costs		(707)	(606)
(186)	Materials and contracts		(293)	(356)
(292)	Other		(381)	(114)
<b>50</b>	<b>Net cash provided (or used in) operating activities</b>	11b	<b>(20)</b>	<b>794</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>				
<b>Receipts:</b>				
71	Sale of investment securities		–	–
52	Sale of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		19	55
<b>Payments:</b>				
(50)	Purchase of investment securities		–	–
(121)	Purchase of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		(109)	(156)
<b>(48)</b>	<b>Net cash provided (or used in) investing activities</b>		<b>(90)</b>	<b>(101)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>				
<b>–</b>	<b>Net cash flow provided (used in) financing activities</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>(110)</b>	<b>693</b>
1,260	Plus: cash and cash equivalents – beginning of year	11a	1,478	785
<b>1,262</b>	<b>Cash and cash equivalents – end of the year</b>	11a	<b>1,368</b>	<b>1,478</b>

Please refer to Note 11 for information on the following:

- Non-cash financing and investing activities
- Financing arrangements
- Net cash flow disclosures relating to any discontinued operations

## New England Weeds Authority

### Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2016

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## New England Weeds Authority

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2016

#### Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted by Council in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below in order to assist in its general understanding.

Under Australian Accounting Standards (AASB's), accounting policies are defined as those specific principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices applied by a reporting entity (in this case Council) in preparing and presenting its financial statements.

##### (a) The Local Government Reporting Entity

The New England Tablelands (Noxious Plants) County Council is a single purpose County Council incorporated under the *NSW Local Government Act 1993 (as amended)* and trades as the New England Weeds Authority with its principal place of business at 129 Rusden Street, Armidale. These General purpose financial statements include all operations of the Council. The Council does not control any other entities.

##### (b) The Trust Fund

As at 30 June 2016, the authority held no moneys in trust.

##### (c) Basis of preparation

###### (i) Background

These financial statements are general purpose financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with;

- Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board,
- the *Local Government Act (1993)* & Regulation, and
- the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

For the purpose of preparing these financial statements, Council has been deemed to be a not-for-profit entity.

###### (ii) New and amended standards adopted by Council

During the current year, the following relevant standards became mandatory for Council:

- AASB 10 Consolidated Financial Statements
- AASB 11 Joint Arrangements
- AASB 12 Disclosures of Interests in Other Entities

There was no impact of these standards on the authorities Financial Statements.

###### (iii) Early adoption of Accounting Standards

Council has not elected to apply any pronouncements before their operative date in the annual reporting period beginning 1 July 2015.

Refer further to paragraph (r) relating to a summary of the effects of Standards with future operative dates.

###### (iv) Basis of Accounting

These financial statements have been prepared under the **historical cost convention** except for:

- (i) the write down of any asset on the basis of Impairment (if warranted) and
- (ii) certain classes of property, plant & equipment that are accounted for at fair valuation.

The accrual basis of accounting has also been applied in their preparation.

## New England Weeds Authority

### Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 30 June 2016

#### Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

##### (vi) Changes in Accounting Policies

Council's accounting policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

There have also been no changes in accounting policies when compared with previous financial statements unless otherwise stated [refer Note 20(d)].

##### (v) Critical Accounting Estimates

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates (in conformity with AASB's).

Accordingly, this requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Council's accounting policies.

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that may have a financial impact on the entity and that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

##### **Critical accounting estimates and assumptions**

Council makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future.

The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results.

Management considers there are no estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

##### **Critical judgements in applying the entity's accounting policies**

Management considers there are no critical judgements in applying the entities accounting policies.

##### (d) Revenue recognition

Council recognises revenue when the amount of revenue can be reliably measured, it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the entity and

specific criteria have been met for each of the Council's activities as described below.

Council bases any estimates on historical results, taking into consideration the type of customer, the type of transaction and the specifics of each arrangement.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable.

Revenue is measured on major income categories as follows:

##### **Grants and Contributions**

Grants and contributions are recognised as revenues when the Council obtains control over the assets comprising these receipts.

Control over granted assets is normally obtained upon their receipt (or acquittal) or upon earlier notification that a grant has been secured, and is valued at their fair value at the date of transfer. Where grants received during the year are required to be allocated to third parties, deferred liability is recognised for the portion to be provided to them.

Revenue from Contributions is recognised when the Council either obtains control of the contribution or the right to receive it, (i) it is probable that the economic benefits comprising the contribution will flow to the Council and (ii) the amount of the contribution can be measured reliably.

Where grants or contributions recognised as revenues during the financial year were obtained on condition that they be expended in a particular manner or used over a particular period and those conditions were undischarged at balance date, the unused grant or contribution is disclosed in Note 3(g).

Note 3(g) also discloses the amount of unused grant or contribution from prior years that was expended on Council's operations during the current year.



## New England Weeds Authority

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2016

#### Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

##### User Charges, Fees and Other Income

User charges, fees and other income are recognised as revenue when the service has been provided or the payment is received, whichever first occurs.

A provision for the impairment of these receivables is recognised when collection in full is no longer probable.

A liability is recognised in respect of revenue that is reciprocal in nature to the extent that the requisite service has not been provided as at balance date.

##### Sale of Property, Plant and Equipment

The profit or loss on sale of an asset is determined when control of the asset has irrevocably passed to the buyer.

##### Interest

Interest Income from Cash & Investments is accounted for using the Effective Interest method in accordance with AASB 139.

##### (e) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes;

- cash on hand,
- deposits held at call with financial institutions,
- other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash
- and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value, and
- bank overdrafts.

Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the balance sheet but are incorporated into Cash & Cash Equivalents for presentation of the Cash Flow Statement.

##### (f) Receivables

Receivables are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, less any provision for impairment.

Receivables are generally due for settlement no more than 30 days from the date of recognition.

The collectibility of receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts which are known to be uncollectible are written off in accordance with Council's policy.

A provision for impairment (ie. an allowance account) relating to receivables is established when there is objective evidence that the Council will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of each receivable.

The amount of the provision is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the effective interest rate.

Impairment losses are recognised in the Income Statement within other expenses.

When a receivable for which an impairment allowance had been recognised becomes uncollectible in a subsequent period, it is written off against the allowance account.

Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against other expenses in the income statement.

##### (g) Inventories

Inventories have been valued at cost subject to adjustment for loss of service potential.

## New England Weeds Authority

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2016

#### Note 1, Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

#### (h) Property, Plant and Equipment (PP&E)

##### Acquisition of assets

Council's non current assets have been progressively revalued to fair value in accordance with a staged implementation as advised by the Division of Local Government.

At balance date, the following classes of PP&E were stated at their Fair Value;

- **Plant and Equipment**  
(as approximated by depreciated historical cost)
- **Office Equipment**  
(as approximated by depreciated historical cost)

##### Initial Recognition

On initial recognition, an assets cost is measured at its fair value, plus all expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition.

##### Capitalisation Thresholds

Items of property, plant and equipment are not capitalised unless their cost of acquisition exceeds the following;

<b>Plant &amp; Equipment</b>	
Office Equipment	> \$1,000
Plant & Equipment	> \$1,000

##### Depreciation

Depreciation on Council's property, plant and equipment assets is calculated using the straight line method in order to allocate an assets cost (net of residual values) over its estimated useful life.

Estimated useful lives for Council's PP&E include:

<b>Plant &amp; Equipment</b>	
- Office Equipment	3 years
- Plant and equipment	5 to 6 years

#### (i) Impairment of assets

All Council's PP&E is subject to an annual assessment of impairment.

Assets that are subject to amortisation are reviewed or impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable.

An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount.

The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use.

Other assets are tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable.

#### (j) Payables

These amounts represent liabilities and include goods and services provided to the Council prior to the end of financial year which are unpaid.

The amounts for goods and services are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

#### (k) Payments Received in Advance & Deposits

Amounts received from external parties in advance of service delivery, and security deposits held against possible damage to Council assets, are recognised as liabilities until the service is delivered or damage reinstated, or the amount is refunded as the case may be.

## New England Weeds Authority

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2016

#### Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

##### (I) Employee benefits

###### (i) Short Term Obligations

Short term employee benefit obligations include liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits) and annual leave expected to be settled within the 12 months after the reporting period.

Leave liabilities are recognised in the provision for employee benefits in respect of employees' services up to the reporting date with other short term employee benefit obligations disclosed under payables.

These provisions are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

Liabilities for sick leave are recognised at the time when the leave is taken and measured at the rates paid or payable, and accordingly no liability has been recognised in these reports.

Wages & salaries and annual leave are all classified as Current Liabilities.

###### (ii) Other Long Term Obligations

The liability for all long service and annual leave in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date (which is not expected to be wholly settled within the 12 months after the reporting period) are recognised in the provision for employee benefits.

These liabilities are measured at the present value of the expected future payments to be made using the projected unit credit method.

Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service.

Expected future payments are then discounted using market yields at the reporting date based on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match as closely as possible the estimated future cash outflows.

Due to the nature of when and how Long Service Leave can be taken, all Long Service Leave for employees with 4 or more years of service has been classified as Current, as it has been deemed that Council does not have the unconditional right to defer settlement beyond 12 months – even though it is not anticipated that all employees with more than 4 years service (as at reporting date) will apply for and take their leave entitlements in the next 12 months.

###### (iii) Retirement benefit obligations

All employees of the Council are entitled to benefits on retirement, disability or death.

Council contributes to various defined contribution plans on behalf of its employees.

Contributions to Defined Contribution Plans are recognised as an expense as they become payable. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payments is available.

###### (iv) Employee Benefit On-Costs

Council has recognised at year end the aggregate on-cost liabilities arising from employee benefits, and in particular those on-cost liabilities that will arise when payment of current employee benefits is made in future periods.

These amounts include Superannuation and Workers Compensation expenses which will be payable upon the future payment of certain Leave Liabilities accrued as at 30 June 2016.

## New England Weeds Authority

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2016

#### Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

##### **(m) Allocation between current and non-current assets & liabilities**

In the determination of whether an asset or liability is classified as current or non-current, consideration is given to the time when each asset or liability is expected to be settled.

The asset or liability is classified as current if it is expected to be settled within the next 12 months, being the Council's operational cycle.

##### **Exceptions**

In the case of liabilities where Council does not have the unconditional right to defer settlement beyond 12 months (such as vested long service leave), the liability is classified as current even if not expected to be settled within the next 12 months.

##### **(n) Taxes**

The Council is exempt from both Commonwealth Income Tax and Capital Gains Tax.

Council does however have to comply with both Fringe Benefits Tax and Goods and Services Tax (GST).

##### **Goods & Services Tax (GST)**

Income, expenses and assets are all recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office (ATO).

In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the revenue / expense.

Receivables and payables within the Balance Sheet are stated inclusive of any applicable GST.

The net amount of GST recoverable from or payable to the ATO is included as a current asset or current liability in the Balance Sheet.

Operating cash flows within the Cash Flow Statement are on a gross basis, ie. they are inclusive of GST where applicable.

Investing and Financing cash flows are treated on a net basis (where recoverable from the ATO), ie. they are exclusive of GST. Instead, the GST component of investing and financing activity cash flows which are recoverable from or payable to the ATO are classified as operating cash flows.

Commitments and contingencies are disclosed net of the amount of GST recoverable from (or payable to) the ATO.

## New England Weeds Authority

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2016

#### Note 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

##### (o) New accounting standards and Interpretations issued (not yet effective)

Certain new (or amended) accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for reporting periods ending 30 June 2016.

Council has not adopted any of these standards early.

Apart from the AASB disclosures below, there are no other standards that are 'not yet effective' that are expected to have a material impact on Council in the current or future reporting periods and on foreseeable future transactions.

Council's assessment of the impact of upcoming new standards and interpretations that are likely to have an effect are set out below.

##### **AASB 9 – Financial Instruments**

AASB 9 replaces AASB 139 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement and has an effective date for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018 (and must be applied retrospectively).

The overriding impact of AASB 9 is to change the requirements for the classification, measurement and disclosures associated with financial assets and financial liabilities.

These requirements are designed to improve and simplify the approach for classification and measurement of financial assets compared with the requirements of AASB 139.

Under the new requirements the four current categories of financial assets stipulated in AASB 139 will be replaced with two measurement categories:

- fair value, and
- amortised cost (where financial assets will only be able to be measured at amortised cost when very specific conditions are met).

Council is yet to undertake a detailed assessment of the impact of AASB 9.

##### **AASB 15 – Revenue from Contracts with Customers and associated amending standards**

AASB 15 will replace AASB 118 which covers contracts for goods and services and AASB 111 which covers construction contracts.

AASB 15 will introduce a 5-step process for revenue recognition with the core principle of the new standard being that entities recognise revenue so as to depict the transfer of goods or services to customers in amounts that reflect the consideration (that is, payment) to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services.

The changes in revenue recognition requirements in AASB 15 may cause changes to accounting policies relating to the timing and amount of revenue recorded in the financial statements, as well as additional disclosures.

The effective date of this standard is for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018.

Council is yet to undertake a detailed assessment of the impact of AASB 15.

##### **AASB ED 260 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities**

The AASB previously issued exposure draft AASB ED 260 on Income of Not-for-Profit Entities in April 2015.

The exposure draft proposed specific not-for-profit entity requirements and guidance when applying the principles of AASB 15 to income from certain transactions.

Much of the material in AASB 1004 is expected to be replaced by material included in AASB ED 260.

Specific revenue items that may considerably change are Grants and Contributions.

The most likely financial statement impact is the deferred recognition of Grants and Contributions (i.e. recognition as unearned revenue [liability]) until Council has met the associated performance obligation/s relating to the Grants or Contribution.

At this stage there is no specific date of release for a standard nor a date of applicability.



## New England Weeds Authority

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2016

#### Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

##### **AASB16 – Leases**

AASB 116 Leases replaces AASB 117 Leases and some associated lease-related Interpretations.

AASB 16 introduces a single lease accounting model (for lessees) that will require all leases to be accounted for on the balance sheet (ie. recognition of both a right-of-use asset and a corresponding lease) for all leases with a term of more than 12 months unless the underlying assets are determined to be of 'low value'. There will also be detailed disclosure requirements for all lessees.

The effective date of this standard is for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019.

Council is yet to undertake a detailed assessment of the accounting impacts from AASB 16. However, based on preliminary assessments, impacts from the first time adoption of the standard are likely to include:

- a significant increase in lease assets and financial liabilities recognised on the balance sheet,
- a reduction in reported equity as the carrying amount of lease assets will reduce more quickly than the carrying amount of lease liabilities,
- lower operating cash outflows and higher financing cash flows in the statement of cash flows as principal repayments on all lease liabilities will now be included in financing activities rather than operating activities.

##### **AASB2015-6 – Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Extending Related Party Disclosures to Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities**

From 1 July 2016, AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures will apply to Council.

This means that Council will be required to disclose information about related parties and Council transactions with those related parties.

Related parties will more than likely include the Mayor, Councillors and certain Council staff. In addition, the close family members of those people and any organisations that they control or are associated with will be classified as related parties

(and fall under the related party reporting requirements).

##### **(p) Rounding of amounts**

Unless otherwise indicated, amounts in the financial statements have been rounded off to the nearest thousand dollars.

##### **(q) Comparative Figures**

To ensure comparability with the current reporting period's figures, some comparative period line items and amounts may have been reclassified or individually reported for the first time within these financial statements and/or the notes.

##### **(r) Disclaimer**

Nothing contained within these statements may be taken to be an admission of any liability to any person under any circumstance.

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## New England Weeds Authority

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2016

## Note 2(a). Council functions/activities – financial information

Functions/activities	Income, expenses and assets have been directly attributed to the following functions/activities. Details of these functions/activities are provided in Note 2(b).												
	Income from continuing operations			Expenses from continuing operations			Operating result from continuing operations			Grants included in income from continuing operations		Total assets held (current & non-current)	
	Original budget 2016	Actual 2016	Actual 2015	Original budget 2016	Actual 2016	Actual 2015	Original budget 2016	Actual 2016	Actual 2015	Actual 2016	Actual 2015	Actual 2016	Actual 2015
Governance	–	–	–	21	19	19	(21)	(19)	(19)	–	–	–	7
Environment	1,190	1,324	1,458	1,167	1,220	1,127	23	104	331	575	711	1,732	1,814
<b>Total functions and activities</b>	<b>1,190</b>	<b>1,324</b>	<b>1,458</b>	<b>1,188</b>	<b>1,239</b>	<b>1,146</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>1,732</b>	<b>1,821</b>
Share of gains/(losses) in associates and joint ventures (using the equity method)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
General purpose income <sup>1</sup>	–	43	43	–	–	–	–	43	43	–	–	–	–
<b>Operating result from continuing operations</b>	<b>1,190</b>	<b>1,367</b>	<b>1,501</b>	<b>1,188</b>	<b>1,239</b>	<b>1,146</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>1,732</b>	<b>1,821</b>

1. Includes: rates and annual charges (incl. ex-gratia), unfilled general purpose grants and unrestricted interest and investment income.

## New England Weeds Authority

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2016

#### Note 2(b). Council functions/activities – component descriptions

Details relating to the Council's functions/activities as reported in Note 2(a) are as follows:

##### **GOVERNANCE**

Includes costs relating to Council's role as a component of democratic government, including elections, members' fees and expenses, subscriptions to local authority associations, meetings of Council and policy-making committees, public disclosure (e.g. GIPA), and legislative compliance.

##### **ENVIRONMENT**

Includes noxious plants and insect/vermin control; other environmental protection;

## New England Weeds Authority

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2016

## Note 3. Income from continuing operations

\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2016	Actual 2015
<b>(b) User charges and fees</b>			
<b>Specific user charges</b> (per s.502 – specific 'actual use' charges)			
Nil			
<b>Other user charges and fees</b>			
<b>(i) Fees and charges – statutory and regulatory functions (per s.608)</b>			
Private works		291	375
Regulatory fees		7	3
<b>Total fees and charges – statutory/regulatory</b>		<b>298</b>	<b>378</b>
<b>TOTAL USER CHARGES AND FEES</b>		<b>298</b>	<b>378</b>
<b>(c) Interest and investment revenue (including losses)</b>			
<b>Interest</b>			
– Interest earned on investments (interest and coupon payment income)		43	43
<b>TOTAL INTEREST AND INVESTMENT REVENUE</b>		<b>43</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Interest revenue is attributable to:</b>			
<b>Unrestricted investments/financial assets:</b>			
General Council cash and investments		43	43
<b>(d) Other revenues</b>			
Other		7	5
<b>TOTAL OTHER REVENUE</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>



## New England Weeds Authority

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2016

## Note 3. Income from continuing operations (continued)

\$ '000	2016 Operating	2015 Operating	2016 Capital	2015 Capital
<b>(e) Grants</b>				
<b>Specific purpose</b>				
Noxious weeds	575	711	-	-
<b>Total specific purpose</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total grants</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Grant revenue is attributable to:</b>				
- State funding	487	711	-	-
	<b>575</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Other contributions:</b>				
Other councils – joint works/services	444	347	-	-
<b>Total other contributions</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total contributions</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>1,019</b>	<b>1,058</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**(g) Restrictions relating to grants and contributions****Certain grants and contributions are obtained by Council on condition that they be spent in a specified manner:**

Unexpended at the close of the previous reporting period	442	40
<b>Add:</b> grants and contributions recognised in the current period but not yet spent:	220	442
<b>Less:</b> grants and contributions recognised in a previous reporting period now spent:	(142)	(40)
<b>Net increase (decrease) in restricted assets during the period</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>402</b>
<b>Unexpended and held as restricted assets</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>442</b>

## New England Weeds Authority

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2016

## Note 4. Expenses from continuing operations

\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2016	Actual 2015
<b>(a) Employee benefits and on-costs</b>			
Salaries and wages		620	519
Travel expenses		1	12
Employee leave entitlements (ELE)		34	2
Superannuation		58	48
Workers' compensation insurance		11	13
Training costs (other than salaries and wages)		7	11
Other		14	8
<b>Total employee costs</b>		<b>745</b>	<b>613</b>
Less: capitalised costs		-	-
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYEE COSTS EXPENSED</b>		<b>745</b>	<b>613</b>
Number of 'full-time equivalent' employees (FTE) at year end		9	8
Number of 'full-time equivalent' employees (FTE) at year end (incl. vacancies)		9	8
<b>(c) Materials and contracts</b>			
Raw materials and consumables		282	307
Contractor and consultancy costs		10	10
Auditors remuneration <sup>(1)</sup>		8	6
<b>Total materials and contracts</b>		<b>300</b>	<b>323</b>
Less: capitalised costs		-	-
<b>TOTAL MATERIALS AND CONTRACTS</b>		<b>300</b>	<b>323</b>
<b>1. Auditor remuneration</b>			
During the year, the following fees were incurred for services provided by the Council's Auditor - The Audit Office of NSW (2015: Forsyths)			
<b>(i) Audit and other assurance services</b>			
- Audit and review of financial statements		8	6
<b>Remuneration for audit and other assurance services</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Total Auditor remuneration</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>

## New England Weeds Authority

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2016

## Note 4. Expenses from continuing operations (continued)

\$ '000	Notes	Impairment costs		Depreciation/amortisation	
		Actual 2016	Actual 2015	Actual 2016	Actual 2015
<b>(d) Depreciation, amortisation and impairment</b>					
Plant and equipment		–	–	91	85
Office equipment		–	–	3	4
<b>Total depreciation and impairment costs</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>89</b>
Less: capitalised costs		–	–	–	–
<b>TOTAL DEPRECIATION AND IMPAIRMENT COSTS EXPENSED</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>89</b>

**(e) Other expenses**

Other expenses for the year include the following:

Advertising	7	2
Aircraft Hire	1	30
Bank charges	1	–
Councillor expenses – Chairpersons fee	6	6
Councillor expenses – councillors' fees	12	12
Councillors' expenses (incl. mayor) – other (excluding fees above)	1	1
Electricity and heating	2	3
Insurance	21	17
Office expenses (including computer expenses)	18	19
Postage	1	–
Printing and stationery	4	4
Subscriptions and publications	1	1
Telephone and communications	6	9
Rent	13	12
Other	6	5
<b>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>121</b>

## New England Weeds Authority

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2016

## Note 5. Gains or losses from the disposal of assets

\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2016	Actual 2015
<b>Plant and equipment</b>			
Proceeds from disposal – plant and equipment		19	55
Less: carrying amount of plant and equipment assets sold/written off		(19)	(38)
<b>Net gain/(loss) on disposal</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>17</u>
 <b>NET GAIN/(LOSS) ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS</b>		 <u>-</u>	 <u>17</u>

## New England Weeds Authority

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2016

## Note 6a. – Cash assets

\$ '000	Notes	2016	2016	2015	2015
		Actual Current	Actual Non-current	Actual Current	Actual Non-current
<b>Cash and cash equivalents (Note 6a)</b>					
Cash on hand and at bank		18	–	217	–
Cash-equivalent assets <sup>1</sup>					
– Short-term deposits		1,350	–	1,261	–
<b><u>TOTAL CASH ASSETS AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</u></b>		<b><u>1,368</u></b>	<b><u>–</u></b>	<b><u>1,478</u></b>	<b><u>–</u></b>

<sup>1</sup> Those investments where time to maturity (from date of purchase) is < 3 mths.



## New England Weeds Authority

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2016

## Note 6b. Restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments – details

\$ '000	2016	2016	2015	2015
	Actual Current	Actual Non-current	Actual Current	Actual Non-current
<b>Total cash, cash equivalents and investments</b>	<b>1,368</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>1,478</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>attributable to:</b>				
External restrictions (refer below)	520	–	682	–
Internal restrictions (refer below)	251	–	213	–
Unrestricted	597	–	583	–
	<b>1,368</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>1,478</b>	<b>–</b>

2016 \$ '000	Opening balance	Transfers to restrictions	Transfers from restrictions	Closing balance
-----------------	--------------------	------------------------------	--------------------------------	--------------------

## Details of restrictions

## External restrictions – included in liabilities

DPI Advances	240	–	(240)	–
<b>External restrictions – included in liabilities</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(240)</b>	<b>–</b>

## External restrictions – other

Specific purpose unexpended grants (F)	442	78	–	520
<b>External restrictions – other</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>520</b>
<b>Total external restrictions</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>(240)</b>	<b>520</b>

## Internal restrictions

Plant and vehicle replacement	113	110	(106)	117
Employees leave entitlement	100	34	–	134
<b>Total internal restrictions</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>(106)</b>	<b>251</b>

## TOTAL RESTRICTIONS

	<b>895</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>(346)</b>	<b>771</b>
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F Grants which are not yet expended for the purposes for which the grants were obtained. (refer Note 1 (b))

## New England Weeds Authority

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2016

#### Note 7. Receivables

\$ '000	Notes	2016		2015	
		Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
<b>Purpose</b>					
Accrued revenues					
– Interest on investments		1	–	2	–
Other debtors		29	–	5	–
<b>Total</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Less: provision for impairment</b>					
Nil					
<b><u>TOTAL NET RECEIVABLES</u></b>		<b><u>30</u></b>	<b><u>–</u></b>	<b><u>7</u></b>	<b><u>–</u></b>

There are no restrictions applicable to the above assets.

## New England Weeds Authority

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2016

## Note 8. Inventories and other assets

\$ '000	Notes	2016		2015	
		Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
<b>(a) Inventories</b>					
Stores and materials		11	–	9	–
<b><u>TOTAL INVENTORIES</u></b>		<b><u>11</u></b>	<b><u>–</u></b>	<b><u>9</u></b>	<b><u>–</u></b>

**Externally restricted assets**

There are no restrictions applicable to the above assets.

New England Weeds Authority

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2016

Note 9a. Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

	as at 30/6/2015			Asset movements during the reporting period				as at 30/6/2016	
	At fair value	Accumulated depreciation	Carrying value	Additions renewals	Carrying value of disposals	Depreciation expense	At fair value	Accumulated depreciation	Carrying value
\$ '000									
Plant and equipment	499	178	321	106	(19)	(91)	563	246	317
Office equipment	46	40	6	3		(3)	49	43	6
<b>TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIP.</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>(19)</b>	<b>(94)</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>323</b>

Renewals are defined as the replacement of existing assets (as opposed to the acquisition of new assets).

Refer to Note 27. Fair value measurement for information regarding the fair value of other infrastructure, property, plant and equipment.

## New England Weeds Authority

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2016

#### Note 9b. Externally restricted infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

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\$ '000

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Council has no externally restricted infrastructure, property, plant and equipment.



## New England Weeds Authority

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2016

## Note 10a. Payables, borrowings and provisions

\$ '000	Notes	2016		2015	
		Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
<b>Payables</b>					
Goods and services – operating expenditure		13	–	4	–
Accrued expenses:					
– Salaries and wages		20	–	15	–
– Other expenditure accruals		19	–	7	–
GST payable		12	–	48	–
WAP 1520 North West Local Land Services (I		–	–	120	–
WAP 1520 Northern Tablelands LLS		–	–	120	–
<b>Total payables</b>		<b>64</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Provisions</b>					
Employee benefits:					
Annual leave		46	–	34	–
Long service leave		71	–	54	–
ELE on-costs		16	–	12	–
<b>Total provisions</b>		<b>133</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>TOTAL PAYABLES, BORROWINGS AND PROVISIONS</b>		<b>197</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>–</b>

## (i) Liabilities relating to restricted assets

	2016		2015	
	Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
<b>Externally restricted assets</b>				
Other	–	–	240	–
<b>Liabilities relating to externally restricted assets</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total liabilities relating to restricted assets</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total liabilities relating to unrestricted assets</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>TOTAL PAYABLES, BORROWINGS AND PROVISIONS</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>–</b>

## New England Weeds Authority

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2016

## Note 10a. Payables, borrowings and provisions (continued)

\$ '000	Actual 2016	Actual 2015
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**(ii) Current liabilities not anticipated to be settled within the next twelve months**

The following liabilities, even though classified as current, are not expected to be settled in the next 12 months.

Provisions – employees benefits	59	45
	<b>59</b>	<b>45</b>

## Note 10b. Description of and movements in provisions

Class of provision	2015		2016			Closing balance as at 30/6/16
	Opening balance as at 1/7/15	Additional provisions	Decrease due to payments	Remeasurement effects due to discounting	Unused amounts reversed	
Annual leave	34	44	(32)	–	–	46
Long service leave	54	18	(1)	–	–	71
ELE on-costs	12	4	–	–	–	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>(33)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>133</b>

- a. Employees leave entitlements and on-costs represents those benefits accrued and payable and an estimate of those that will become payable in the future as a result of past service.

## New England Weeds Authority

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2016Note 11. Reconciliation of operating results to net cash movement from  
operating activities

\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2016	Actual 2015
<b>(a) Reconciliation of cash assets</b>			
Total cash and cash equivalent assets	6a	1,368	1,478
Less bank overdraft	10	—	—
<b>Balance as per the Statement of Cash Flows</b>		<b>1,368</b>	<b>1,478</b>
<b>(b) Reconciliation of net operating result to cash provided from operating activities</b>			
Net operating result from Income Statement		128	355
Adjust for non-cash items:			
Depreciation and amortisation		94	89
Net losses/(gains) on disposal of assets		—	(17)
+/- Movement in operating assets and liabilities and other cash items:			
Decrease/(increase) in receivables		(23)	98
Decrease/(increase) in inventories		(2)	5
Increase/(decrease) in payables		9	(38)
Increase/(decrease) in other accrued expenses payable		17	12
Increase/(decrease) in other liabilities		(276)	288
Increase/(decrease) in employee leave entitlements		33	2
<b>Net cash provided from/(used in) operating activities from the Statement of Cash Flows</b>		<b>(20)</b>	<b>794</b>
<b>(i) Unrestricted access was available at balance date to the following lines of credit:</b>			
Credit cards/purchase cards		5	5
<b>Total financing arrangements</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
Amounts utilised as at balance date:			
– Credit cards/purchase cards		—	—
<b>Total financing arrangements utilised</b>		<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

## New England Weeds Authority

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2016

## Note 12. Commitments for expenditure

\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2016	Actual 2015
There were no capital, finance lease and repairs and maintenance (investment property) commitments at 30 June 2016 (2015:Nil)			
<b>(a) Operating lease commitments (non-cancellable)</b>			
<b>a. Commitments under non-cancellable operating leases at the reporting date, but not recognised as liabilities are payable:</b>			
Within the next year		14	-
Later than one year and not later than 5 years		56	-
<b>Total non-cancellable operating lease commitments</b>		<b>70</b>	<b>-</b>

**b. Non-cancellable operating leases include the following assets:**

Rental of office and depot from Armidale Regional Council

## New England Weeds Authority

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2016

## Note 13a(i). Statement of performance measurement – indicators (consolidated)

\$ '000	Amounts		Indicator	Prior periods	
	2016	2016		2015	2014
<b>Local government industry indicators – consolidated</b>					
<b>1. Operating performance ratio</b>					
Total continuing operating revenue <sup>(1)</sup> excluding capital grants and contributions less operating expenses	<b>128</b>				
Total continuing operating revenue <sup>(1)</sup> excluding capital grants and contributions	<b>1,367</b>		<b>9.36%</b>	22.78%	6.86%
<b>2. Own source operating revenue ratio</b>					
Total continuing operating revenue <sup>(1)</sup> excluding all grants and contributions	<b>348</b>				
Total continuing operating revenue <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>1,367</b>		<b>25.46%</b>	28.71%	36.10%
<b>3. Unrestricted current ratio</b>					
Current assets less all external restrictions <sup>(2)</sup>	<b>889</b>				
Current liabilities less specific purpose liabilities <sup>(3, 4)</sup>	<b>138</b>		<b>6.44x</b>	6.29x	9.19x
<b>4. Cash expense cover ratio</b>					
Current year's cash and cash equivalents plus all term deposits	<b>1,368</b>				
Payments from cash flow of operating and financing activities	<b>115</b>	x12	<b>11.89 mths</b>	16.5 mths	10.2 mths

## Notes

<sup>(1)</sup> Excludes fair value adjustments and reversal of revaluation decrements, net gain/(loss) on sale of assets and the net share of interests in joint ventures and associates.

<sup>(2)</sup> Refer Notes 6-8 inclusive.

Also excludes any real estate and land for resale not expected to be sold in the next 12 months.

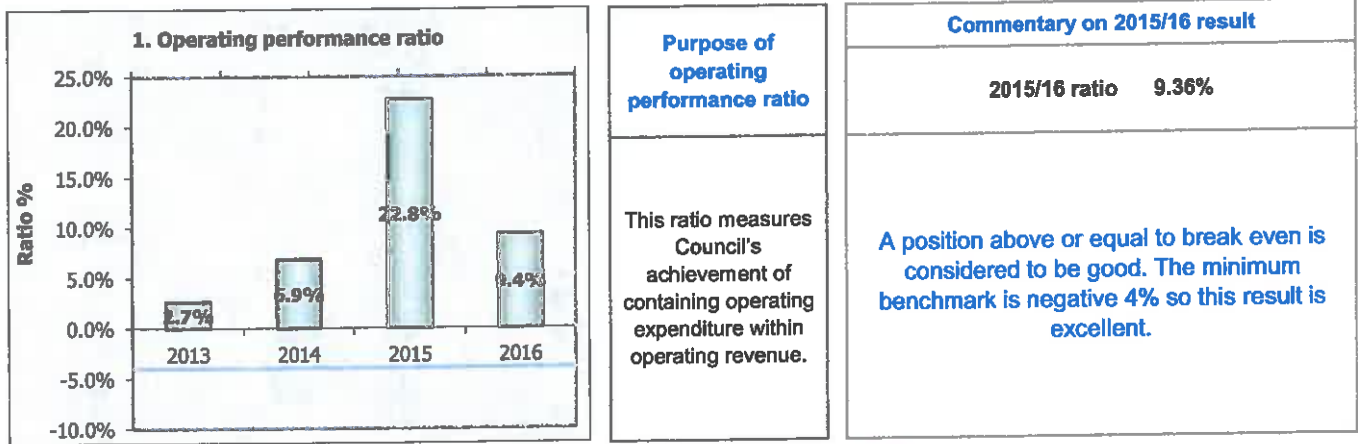
<sup>(3)</sup> Refer to Note 10(a).

<sup>(4)</sup> Refer to Note 10(a)(ii) – excludes all payables and provisions not expected to be paid in the next 12 months (incl. ELE).

# New England Weeds Authority

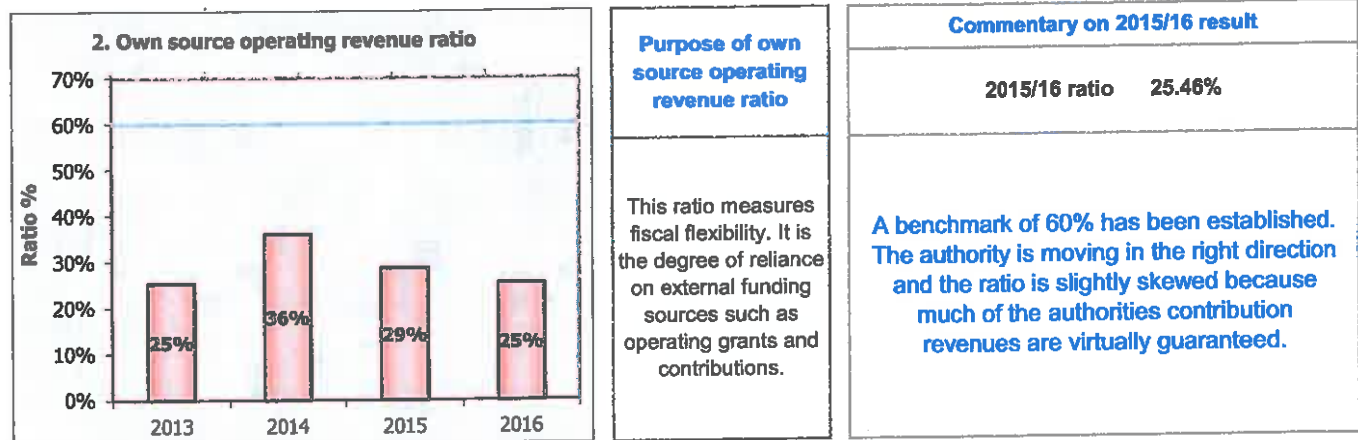
## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2016

### Note 13a(ii). Local government industry indicators – graphs (consolidated)



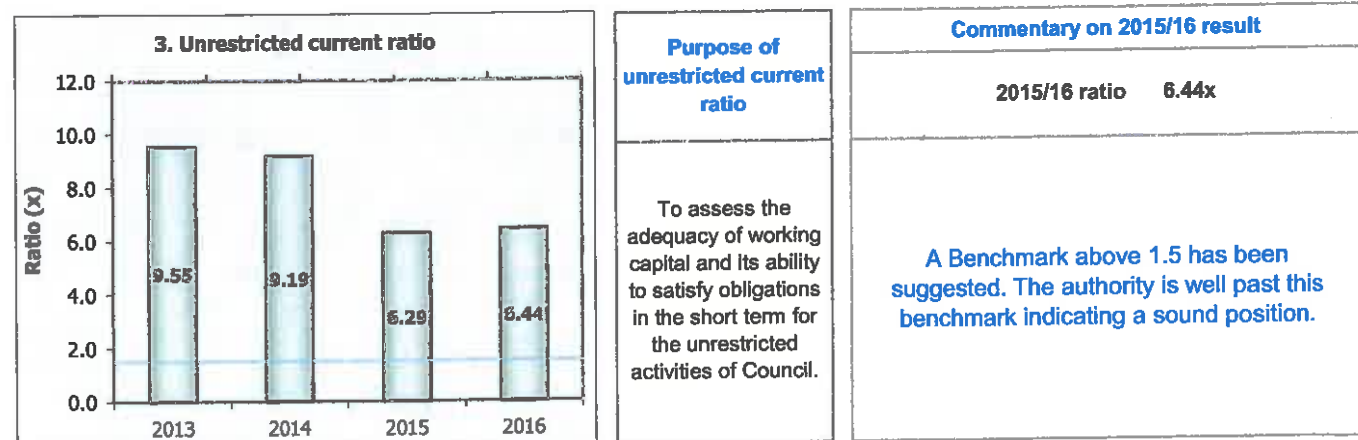
Benchmark: Minimum >=-4.00%  
Source for benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting #24

Ratio achieves benchmark  
 Ratio is outside benchmark



Benchmark: Minimum >=60.00%  
Source for benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting #24

Ratio achieves benchmark  
 Ratio is outside benchmark



Benchmark: Minimum >=1.50  
Source for benchmark: Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting #24

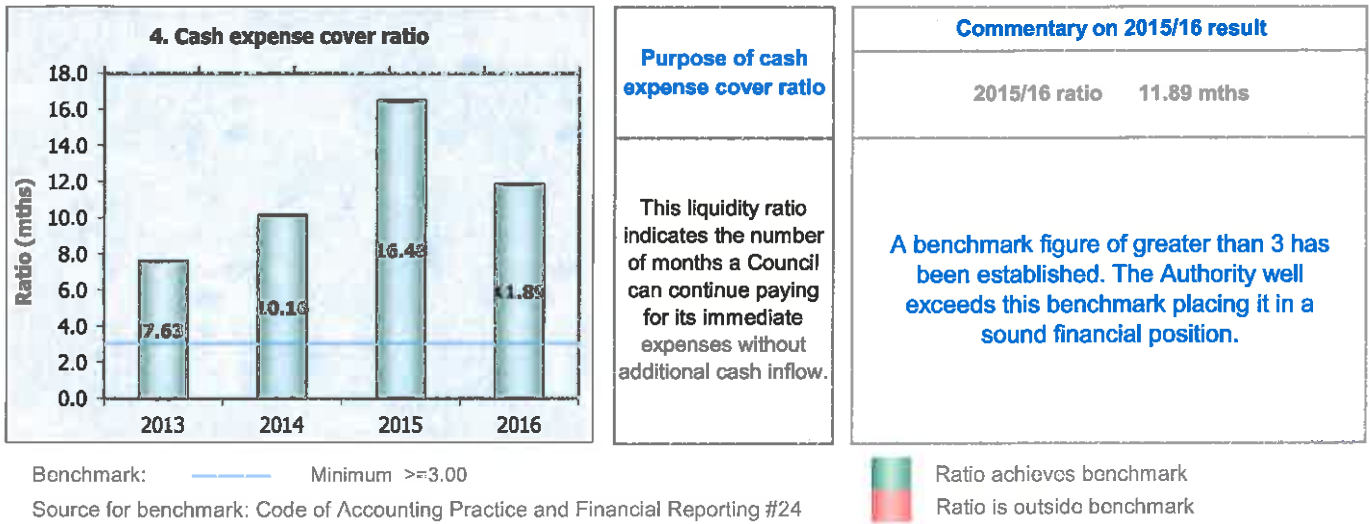
Ratio achieves benchmark  
 Ratio is outside benchmark



# New England Weeds Authority

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2016

### Note 13a(ii). Local government industry indicators – graphs (consolidated)



## New England Weeds Authority

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2016

#### Note 14. Investment properties

\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2016	Actual 2015
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Council has not classified any land or buildings as 'investment properties'.

## New England Weeds Authority

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2016

#### Note 15. Financial risk management

\$ '000

##### Risk management

Council's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks including (1) price risk, (2) credit risk, (3) liquidity risk and (4) interest rate risk.

The Council's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of the Council.

Council does not engage in transactions expressed in foreign currencies and is therefore not subject to foreign currency risk.

Financial risk management is carried out by Council's staff under policies approved by the Council.

	Carrying value		Fair value	
	2016	2015	2016	2015
<b>Financial assets</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	1,368	1,478	1,368	1,478
Receivables	30	7	30	7
Other financial assets	—	—	—	—
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b>1,398</b>	<b>1,485</b>	<b>1,398</b>	<b>1,485</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>				
Payables	52	314	52	314
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>314</b>

Fair value is determined as follows:

– Cash and cash equivalents, receivables, payables – are estimated to be the carrying value that approximates market value.

Refer to Note 27. Fair value measurement for information regarding the fair value of financial assets and liabilities.

## New England Weeds Authority

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2016

#### Note 15. Financial risk management (continued)

\$'000

##### (a) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Council's objective is to maximise its return on cash and investments whilst maintaining an adequate level of liquidity and preserving capital.

Council has an investment policy which complies with the *Local Government Act 1993* and Minister's investment order. This policy is regularly reviewed by Council and its staff and an investment report is tabled before Council on a quarterly basis setting out the portfolio breakup and its performance.

Council's investment portfolio consists of deposits at fixed and variable interest rates, generally for periods of less than 120 days. Whilst these are subject to interest rate risk, this is minimised by the relative short time of the financial assets held.

The following represents a summary of the sensitivity of Council's Income Statement and accumulated surplus (for the reporting period) due to a change in either the price of a financial asset or the interest rates applicable.

It is assumed that the change in interest rates would have been constant throughout the reporting period.

	Increase of values/rates		Decrease of values/rates	
	Profit	Equity	Profit	Equity
<b>2016</b>				
Possible impact of a 1% movement in interest rates	4	4	(4)	(4)
<b>2015</b>				
Possible impact of a 1% movement in interest rates	4	4	(4)	(4)

## New England Weeds Authority

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2016

#### Note 15. Financial risk management (continued)

\$ '000

##### (b) Credit risk

Council's major receivables comprise (i) private works debtors and (ii) contributions from constituent Councils.

The major risk associated with these receivables is credit risk – the risk that debts due and payable to Council may not be repaid in full.

Council manages this risk by monitoring outstanding debt and employing stringent debt recovery procedures. It also encourages ratepayers to pay their rates by the due date through incentives.

The Authority is not materially exposed to any individual debtor and credit risk exposure is concentrated within the State of New South Wales.

Council receives regular summary reports of receivables due and detailed reports where appropriate.

There are no material receivables that have been subjected to a re-negotiation of repayment terms.

A profile of Council's receivables credit risk at balance date follows:

	2016 Rates and annual charges	2016 Other receivables	2015 Rates and annual charges	2015 Other receivables
<b>(i) Ageing of receivables – %</b>				
Current (not yet overdue)	0%	87%	0%	70%
Overdue	0%	13%	0%	30%
	<b>0%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>100%</b>

	2016 Rates and annual charges	2016 Other receivables	2015 Rates and annual charges	2015 Other receivables
<b>(ii) Ageing of receivables – value</b>				
<b>Other receivables</b>				
Current	–	–	–	–
0 – 30 days overdue	–	12	–	3
30 – 60 days overdue	–	14	–	3
60 – 90 days overdue	–	4	–	1
	<b>–</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>7</b>

##### (iii) Movement in provision for impairment of receivables

Balance at the beginning of the year

**Balance at the end of the year**

	2016	2015
Balance at the beginning of the year	–	–
<b>Balance at the end of the year</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>

## New England Weeds Authority

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2016

#### Note 15. Financial risk management (continued)

\$ '000

##### (c) Liquidity risk

Payables and borrowings are both subject to liquidity risk – the risk that insufficient funds may be on hand to meet payment obligations as and when they fall due.

Council manages this risk by monitoring its cash flow requirements and liquidity levels and maintaining an adequate cash buffer.

Payment terms can (in extenuating circumstances) also be extended and overdraft facilities utilised as required.

The contractual undiscounted cash outflows (ie. principal and interest) of Council's payables and borrowings are set out in the maturity table below:

\$ '000	Subject to no maturity	payable in:						Total cash outflows	Actual carrying values
		≤ 1 Year	1-2 Yrs	2-3 Yrs	3-4 Yrs	4-5 Yrs	> 5 Yrs		
<b>2016</b>									
Trade/other payables	-	143	-	-	-	-	-	143	64
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>2015</b>									
Trade/other payables	-	314	-	-	-	-	-	314	314
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>314</b>



## New England Weeds Authority

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2016

#### Note 16. Material budget variations

\$ '000

Council's original financial budget for 15/16 was adopted by the Council on 17 June 2015.

While the Income Statement included in this General Purpose Financial Report must disclose the original budget adopted by Council, the *Local Government Act 1993* requires Council to review its financial budget on a quarterly basis, so that it is able to manage the various variations between actuals versus budget that invariably occur throughout the year.

This note sets out the details of **material variations** between Council's original budget and its actual results for the year as per the Income Statement – even though such variations may have been adjusted for during each quarterly budget review.

Note that for variations\* of budget to actual :

Material variations represent those variances that amount to **10%** or more of the original budgeted figure.

**F** = Favourable budget variation, **U** = Unfavourable budget variation

\$ '000	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	2016 Variance*		
<b>REVENUES</b>					
<b>User charges and fees</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>148%</b>	<b>F</b>
Council originally budgeted for 120k in private works, however increased works have been completed particularly from requests by other authorities within and outside Councils area pushing the actual to over 290k.					
<b>Interest and investment revenue</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>F</b>
Council has increased its investment portfolio which has resulted in improved returns over original budget.					
<b>Other revenues</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>F</b>
Additional certificates were requested during the year resulting in an improvement over budget of 3k.					
<b>Net gains from disposal of assets</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>(100%)</b>	<b>U</b>
Councils trade prices on vehicles were less than was budgeted. The original budget forecasted a profit of 5k and the authority broke even. This indicates the authority's depreciation rates are accurate.					

## New England Weeds Authority

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2016

## Note 16. Material budget variations (continued)

\$ '000	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	2016 Variance*	
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
<b>Employee benefits and on-costs</b>	657	745	(88)	(13%) U
Council took on Glen Innes Council weeds operation during the year. This increased employee numbers and costs.				
<b>Materials and contracts</b>	186	300	(114)	(61%) U
Additional private works costs have been incurred as have additional materials costs for works funded by the Northern Tablelands LLLS, NSW DPI under NIWAC and Glen Innes Council.				
<b>Depreciation and amortisation</b>	53	94	(41)	(77%) U
Councils original depreciation budget was understated by 40k.				
<b>Other expenses</b>	292	100	192	66% F
These costs are budgeted as part of Council's project costs and this reduction is offset by an increase in employee costs and materials and consumables.				
<b>Budget variations relating to Council's Cash Flow Statement include:</b>				
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>	50	(20)	(70)	(140.0%) U
Council budgeted for a continued grant from DPI that did not eventuate. Additional costs for Genn Innes also impacted the result.				
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>	(48)	(90)	(42)	87.5% U
Additional depreciation put more funding into plant reserve necessitating the change.				

## New England Weeds Authority

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2016

### Note 17. Statement of developer contributions

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\$ '000

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Council currently has no S94 developer contribution plans or S94 funds on hand from prior years.

## New England Weeds Authority

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2016

#### Note 18. Contingencies

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\$ '000

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The Authority does not have any known contingencies as at 30th June 2016 (2015:Nil)

## New England Weeds Authority

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2016

### Note 19. Interests in other entities

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\$'000

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Council has no interest in any controlled entities, joint arrangements or associates.

## New England Weeds Authority

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2016

## Note 20. Retained earnings, revaluation reserves, changes in accounting policies, changes in accounting estimates and errors

\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2016	Actual 2015
<b>(a) Retained earnings</b>			
<b>Movements in retained earnings were as follows:</b>			
Balance at beginning of year (from previous years audited accounts)		1,407	1,052
a. Net operating result for the year		128	355
<b>Balance at end of the reporting period</b>		<b>1,535</b>	<b>1,407</b>



## New England Weeds Authority

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2016

#### Note 21. Financial result and financial position by fund

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\$ '000

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Council utilises only a general fund for its operations.

## New England Weeds Authority

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2016

#### Note 22. 'Held for sale' non-current assets and disposal groups

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\$'000

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Council did not classify any non-current assets or disposal groups as 'held for sale'.

## New England Weeds Authority

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2016

#### Note 23. Events occurring after the reporting date

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\$ '000

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The Authority is not aware of any events occurring after the reporting date which impact these financial statements.

## New England Weeds Authority

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2016

#### Note 24. Discontinued operations

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\$ '000

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Council has not classified any of its operations as 'discontinued'.

## New England Weeds Authority

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2016

#### Note 25. Intangible assets

\$ '000	Actual 2016	Actual 2015
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Intangible assets represent identifiable non-monetary assets without physical substance.

Council is unaware of any control over intangible assets that warrant recognition in the financial statements, including either internally generated and developed assets or purchased assets.

## New England Weeds Authority

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2016

#### Note 26. Reinstatement, rehabilitation and restoration liabilities

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\$ '000

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Council has no outstanding obligations to make, restore, rehabilitate or reinstate any of its assets/operations.



## New England Weeds Authority

Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2016

### Note 27. Fair value measurement

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\$ '000

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The Authority has no assets or liabilities at fair value.  
Cash, Office Equipment and Plant are all held at cost.

## New England Weeds Authority

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2016

#### Note 28. Financial review (continued)

\$ '000

#### Key financial figures of Council over the past 5 years

<b>Financial performance figures</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Inflows:</b>					
Rates and annual charges revenue	–	–	–	–	–
User charges revenue	298	378	363	273	176
Interest and investment revenue (losses)	43	43	37	44	40
Grants income – operating and capital	575	711	376	422	340
Total income from continuing operations	1,367	1,501	1,158	1,076	888
Sale proceeds from I,PP&E	19	55	55	–	37
New loan borrowings and advances	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Outflows:</b>					
Employee benefits and on-cost expenses	745	613	608	628	535
Borrowing costs	–	–	–	–	–
Materials and contracts expenses	300	323	254	223	147
Total expenses from continuing operations	1,239	1,146	1,045	1,048	862
Total cash purchases of I,PP&E	109	156	130	69	98
Total loan repayments (incl. finance leases)	–	–	–	–	–
Operating surplus/(deficit) (excl. capital income)	128	355	113	28	26
<b>Financial position figures</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
Current assets	1,409	1,494	904	790	765
Current liabilities	197	414	150	126	146
Net current assets	1,212	1,080	754	664	619
Available working capital (Unrestricted net current assets)	574	525	601	558	350
Cash and investments – unrestricted	597	583	534	426	339
Cash and investments – internal restrictions	251	213	211	167	178
Cash and investments – total	1,368	1,478	785	611	730
Total borrowings outstanding (Loans, advances and finance leases)	–	–	–	–	–
Total value of I,PP&E (excl. land and earthworks)	612	545	540	521	453
Total accumulated depreciation	289	218	242	246	161
Indicative remaining useful life (as a % of GBV)	53%	60%	55%	53%	64%

Source: published audited financial statements of Council (current year and prior year)

## New England Weeds Authority

### Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2016

#### Note 29. Council information and contact details

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**Principal place of business:**

129 Rusden Street  
ARMIDALE NSW 2350

**Contact details**

**Mailing address:**

129 Rusden Street  
ARMIDALE NSW 2350

**Opening hours:**

7.30am to 4.30pm  
Monday to Friday  
Except Public Holidays

**Telephone:** 02 6770 3602

**Facsimile:** 02 6771 1893

**Internet:** [www.newa.com.au](http://www.newa.com.au)

**Email:** [newa@newa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:newa@newa.nsw.gov.au)

**Officers**

**GENERAL MANAGER**

Wayne Deer

**RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER**

Wayne Deer

**PUBLIC OFFICER**

Wayne Deer

**AUDITORS**

Audit Office of New South Wales

Level 15, 1 Margaret Street

SYDNEY NSW 2000

**Elected members**

**CHAIR**

Maria Woods

**COUNCILLORS**

Mark Dusting (Deputy Chair)

Ian Tiley

**Other information**

**ABN:** 35 514 070 354



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**  
**Report on the general purpose financial statements**  
**New England Weeds Authority**

To Councillors of the New England Weeds Authority

## Opinion

I have audited the accompanying general purpose financial statements of the New England Weeds Authority (the Authority), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2016, the income statement, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the Statement by Councillors and Management.

In my opinion,

- the Authority's accounting records have been kept in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Chapter 13, Part 3, Division 2 (the Division)
- the financial statements:
  - have been presented, in all material respects, in accordance with the requirements of the Division
  - are consistent with the Authority's accounting records
  - present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Authority as at 30 June 2016, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards
- all information relevant to the conduct of the audit has been obtained
- no material deficiencies in the accounting records or financial statements have come to light during the course of the audit.

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report.

I am independent of the Authority in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of:

- Australian Auditing Standards
- ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants' (the Code).

I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

The *Public Finance & Audit Act 1983* further promotes independence by ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South Wales are not compromised in their roles by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of public sector agencies, but precluding the provision of non-audit services.

I believe the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

### **The Councillors' Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

The Councillors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Local Government Act 1993*, and for such internal control as the Councillors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Councillors must assess the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern unless the Authority will be dissolved or amalgamated by an Act of Parliament or otherwise cease operations. The assessment must include, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

### **Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

My objectives are to:

- obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and
- issue an Independent Auditor's Report including my opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not guarantee an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect material misstatements. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions users take based on the financial statements.

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, which require me to exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I must also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures to respond to those risks, and obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Councillors
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Councillors' use of the going concern basis of accounting by obtaining audit evidence to identify whether material uncertainty exists. Events or conditions may cast significant doubt on the Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude material uncertainty exists, I must draw attention to the relevant financial statement disclosures in my Independent Auditor's Report. If the disclosures are inadequate, I must modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on audit evidence obtained up to the date of my Independent Auditor's Report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Authority to cease to continue as a going concern
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the transactions and events are fairly presented in the financial statements.

I communicate with the Councillors about:

- the planned scope and timing of the audit
- significant audit findings including significant internal control deficiencies identified during my audit.

My opinion does *not* provide assurance:

- that the Authority carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- about the Original Budget figures disclosed in the financial statements
- on the attached Special Schedules
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited financial statements on any website where they may be presented.



Margaret Crawford  
Auditor-General of NSW

5 September 2016  
SYDNEY



Mr Wayne Deer  
General Manager  
New England Weeds Authority  
PO Box 881  
ARMIDALE NSW 2350

Contact: James Sugumar  
Phone no: 02 9275 7288  
Our ref: D1622411/1675

5 September 2016

Dear Mr Deer

## REPORT ON THE CONDUCT OF THE AUDIT

Audit for the year ended 30 June 2016

### New England Weeds Authority

I have audited the general purpose financial statements of the New England Weeds Authority (the Authority) for the year ended 30 June 2016 as required by Section 415 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act).

Management of the Authority are responsible for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Authority, are in accordance with the LG Act and comply with Accounting Standards in Australia. This includes responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial statements.

In accordance with Section 417(3) of the LG Act, I provide my report on the conduct of the audit that includes the following comments on the results of the audit and financial performance.

### Conduct of the Audit

The audit I conducted provides reasonable assurance to the Councillors that the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit does not guarantee that every amount and disclosure in the financial statements is error free. The terms 'reasonable assurance' and 'material' recognise that an audit does not examine all evidence and transactions. My audit was in accordance with Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards and statutory requirements.

### Audit Procedures

Audit procedures were primarily aimed at achieving audit objectives and did not seek to confirm, for management purposes, the effectiveness of all internal controls. The planning of the audit procedures was based on an assessment of the risk of the existence of errors and/or irregularities, which could materially affect the financial statements.

### Audit Result

I expressed an unmodified opinion on the Authority's financial statements and I have not identified any significant matters. The Authority complied with the requirements of the LG Act, Chapter 13, Part 3, Division 2.



## Operating Result

The Authority reported an operating surplus after depreciation of \$128,000 for the year ended 30 June 2016 (2015: surplus of \$355,000). Income decreased by \$134,000 from the previous year mainly due to lower user charges and fees. The level of weed spraying was lower during 2016 than 2015.

Expenditure increased by \$93,000 over the previous year. This was largely due to payroll costs increasing by \$132,000 due to award pay rate increases, staff promotions and one additional employee. This higher payroll costs were partially offset by a reduction in materials, contracts and other expenses.

## Budget Result

My audit responsibility does not extend to the Budget included in the Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows and the disclosures in Notes 2(a) and 16 to the financial statements.

The actual operating surplus for the year of \$128,000 exceeded the original budgeted surplus of \$2,000. This was due to higher than budgeted user charges and fees together with favourable variances in most expenses. The Authority budgets for a break-even result each year as the main objective of the Authority is to make no profit or loss and utilise revenue for weed spraying services.

## Unrestricted Net Current Assets

The unrestricted net current assets position measures the Authority's ability to pay existing liabilities in the 12 months after balance date. The table below shows the net current asset position of the Authority.

Net Current Assets			
For the year ended	30 June 2016	30 June 2015	30 June 2014
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Net Current Assets	1,212	1,080	754
Less: Restricted Cash and Investments	(520)	(442)	(40)
<b>Unrestricted Net Current Assets</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>714</b>

The Authority's unrestricted net current assets position indicates it will be able to settle its current payables as and when they fall due.

## Key Performance Indicators

Financial and performance indicator reporting is an important aspect of good governance. The key performance indicators for the Authority were:

Key Performance Indicators			
For the year ended	30 June 2016	30 June 2015	30 June 2014
Unrestricted current ratio	6.44	6.29	9.19
Operating performance percentage (%)	9.36	22.8	6.86
Cash expense cover (months)	12.0	16.5	10.2

\* See Appendix A for definitions to the key performance indicators

The Authority's unrestricted current ratios over the past three years have been greater than one. This is considered an appropriate level of liquidity to support continuing business operations.

A positive operating performance percentage means the Authority's operating revenue was greater than its operating expenses.

At 30 June 2016, the Authority had the capacity to cover twelve months of cash expenditure without additional cash inflows.

The performance indicators largely reflect the sound financial position of the Authority at 30 June 2016.

### **Acknowledgment**

I thank the Authority's staff for their courtesy and assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Margaret Crawford', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Margaret Crawford  
Auditor-General of NSW

Cc. Councillor Maria Woods, Authority Chair

## APPENDIX A

### Definitions of Key Performance Indicators

Key Performance Indicators Definitions		
Indicator	Formula	Description
Unrestricted current ratio	Current assets less all external restrictions / Current liabilities less specific purpose liabilities	This measures the ability to pay existing liabilities in the next 12 months. A ratio of one or more means there are more cash and liquid assets than short-term liabilities.
Operating performance percentage (%)	Total continuing operating revenue* excluding capital grants and contributions less operating expenses / Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions	A positive result indicates a surplus, and the larger the percentage, the stronger the result. A negative result indicates a deficit. Operating deficits cannot be sustained in the long term.
Cash expense cover ratio (months)	Cash, cash equivalents and term deposits / Payments from cash flows of operating and financing activities	Indicates the ability to cover operating payments through cash reserves. A ratio of less than twelve months may indicate liquidity issues.

\* Excludes fair value adjustments, reversal of revaluation decrements, net gain/loss on sale of assets, and net share/loss of interests in joint ventures.

# New England Weeds Authority

SPECIAL SCHEDULES

for the year ended 30 June 2016

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**To be a high performing and respected  
Noxious Weeds Authority**



# New England Weeds Authority

## Special Schedules

for the year ended 30 June 2016

### Contents

Page

#### Special Schedules<sup>1</sup>

<b>Special Schedule 1</b>	<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>2</b>
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<sup>1</sup> Special Schedules are not audited (with the exception of Special Schedule 8).

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#### Background

(i) These Special Schedules have been designed to meet the requirements of special purpose users such as;

- the NSW Grants Commission
- the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS),
- the NSW Office of Water (NOW), and
- the Office of Local Government (OLG).

(ii) The financial data is collected for various uses including;

- the allocation of Financial Assistance Grants,
- the incorporation of Local Government financial figures in national statistics,
- the monitoring of loan approvals,
- the allocation of borrowing rights, and
- the monitoring of the financial activities of specific services.

New England Weeds Authority

Special Schedule 1 – Net Cost of Services  
for the year ended 30 June 2016

\$'000

Function or activity	Expenses from continuing operations	Income from continuing operations		Net cost of services
		Non-capital	Capital	
<b>Governance</b>	<b>19</b>	-	-	<b>(19)</b>
<b>Administration</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Public order and safety</b>				
Fire service levy, fire protection, emergency services	-	-	-	-
Beach control	-	-	-	-
Enforcement of local government regulations	-	-	-	-
Animal control	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-
<b>Total public order and safety</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Health</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Environment</b>				
Noxious plants and insect/vermin control	1,220	1,324	-	<b>104</b>
Other environmental protection	-	-	-	-
Solid waste management	-	-	-	-
Street cleaning	-	-	-	-
Drainage	-	-	-	-
Stormwater management	-	-	-	-
<b>Total environment</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>1,324</b>	-	<b>104</b>
<b>Community services and education</b>				
Administration and education	-	-	-	-
Social protection (welfare)	-	-	-	-
Aged persons and disabled	-	-	-	-
Children's services	-	-	-	-
<b>Total community services and education</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Housing and community amenities</b>				
Public cemeteries	-	-	-	-
Public conveniences	-	-	-	-
Street lighting	-	-	-	-
Town planning	-	-	-	-
Other community amenities	-	-	-	-
<b>Total housing and community amenities</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Water supplies</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Sewerage services</b>	-	-	-	-



## New England Weeds Authority

### Special Schedule 1 – Net Cost of Services (continued) for the year ended 30 June 2016

\$'000

Function or activity	Expenses from continuing operations	Income from continuing operations		Net cost of services
		Non-capital	Capital	
<b>Recreation and culture</b>				
Public libraries	–	–	–	–
Museums	–	–	–	–
Art galleries	–	–	–	–
Community centres and halls	–	–	–	–
Performing arts venues	–	–	–	–
Other performing arts	–	–	–	–
Other cultural services	–	–	–	–
Sporting grounds and venues	–	–	–	–
Swimming pools	–	–	–	–
Parks and gardens (lakes)	–	–	–	–
Other sport and recreation	–	–	–	–
<b>Total recreation and culture</b>	–	–	–	–
<b>Fuel and energy</b>	–	–	–	–
<b>Agriculture</b>	–	–	–	–
<b>Mining, manufacturing and construction</b>				
Building control	–	–	–	–
Other mining, manufacturing and construction	–	–	–	–
<b>Total mining, manufacturing and const.</b>	–	–	–	–
<b>Transport and communication</b>				
Urban roads (UR) – local	–	–	–	–
Urban roads – regional	–	–	–	–
Sealed rural roads (SRR) – local	–	–	–	–
Sealed rural roads (SRR) – regional	–	–	–	–
Unsealed rural roads (URR) – local	–	–	–	–
Unsealed rural roads (URR) – regional	–	–	–	–
Bridges on UR – local	–	–	–	–
Bridges on SRR – local	–	–	–	–
Bridges on URR – local	–	–	–	–
Bridges on regional roads	–	–	–	–
Parking areas	–	–	–	–
Footpaths	–	–	–	–
Aerodromes	–	–	–	–
Other transport and communication	–	–	–	–
<b>Total transport and communication</b>	–	–	–	–
<b>Economic affairs</b>				
Camping areas and caravan parks	–	–	–	–
Other economic affairs	–	–	–	–
<b>Total economic affairs</b>	–	–	–	–
<b>Totals – functions</b>	<b>1,239</b>	<b>1,324</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>General purpose revenues <sup>(1)</sup></b>		<b>43</b>		<b>43</b>
<b>Share of interests – joint ventures and associates using the equity method</b>	–	–	–	–
<b>NET OPERATING RESULT <sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>1,239</b>	<b>1,367</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>128</b>

(1) Includes: rates and annual charges (including ex gratia, excluding water and sewer), non-capital general purpose grants, interest on investments (excluding externally restricted assets) and interest on overdue rates and annual charges (2) As reported in the Income Statement