



NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

ABN 35 514 070 354

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16 June 2022

Dear Councillors,

You are requested to attend an Ordinary Meeting of the New England County Council, to be held in the offices of the New England Weeds Authority, 2/129 Rusden Street, Armidale NSW 2350 on,

Tuesday, 21st June 2022 at 11:00 am

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Weeks".

Tim Weeks
GENERAL MANAGER

AGENDA

Ordinary Meeting of Council commencing at 11am on Tuesday 21st June 2022

Statement in relation to Video Recording of Council Meetings

- 1.0 PRESENT**
- 2.0 APOLOGIES**
- 3.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**
- 4.0 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 29 MARCH 2022**
- 5.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 29th MARCH 2022**
- 6.0 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 4 MAY 2022**
- 7.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 4 MAY 2022**
- 8.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
- 9.0 GENERAL MANAGERS REPORTS**
 - 9.1 NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN 2022-23**
 - 9.2 AUDIT OFFICE OF NSW – AUDIT FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 2022**
 - 9.3 INVESTED FUNDS REPORT**
 - 9.4 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW**
- 10.0 WEED CONTROL MATTERS, WEEDS ACTION PLAN**
- 11.0 MATTERS OF URGENCY**
- 12.0 NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 23rd AUGUST 2022 AT 10:00AM**
- 13.0 ATTACHMENTS:**
 - 13.1 DRAFT NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN 2022-2023**
 - 13.2 ANNUAL AUDIT - CLIENT SERVICES PLAN**

1.0 **PRESENT**

2.0 **APOLOGIES**

3.0 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

4.0 **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD ON 29th MARCH 2022**

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the New England County Council held on 29th March 2022, copies of which have been distributed to all members, are taken as read and confirmed a true record.

Minutes of the Meeting of 29th March 2022

PRESENT: Councillor Tim Bower, Councillor Lara Gresham, Councillor Scott Kermode, Councillor Margaret O'Connor, Councillor Paul Packham and Councillor Dorothy Robinson

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Tim Weeks (General Manager)

1. **STATEMENT IN RELATION TO VIDEO RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The General Manager advised that the Meeting was *not* being Live-Streamed, however, a video recording of the Meeting would be available on the County Council's website.

2. **APOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE BY COUNCILLORS**

Nil

3. **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Nil

4. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

4.1 **Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 19 October 2022**

1/22 **RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 19 October 2021 be taken as read and accepted as a true record of the Meeting.

Moved Cr O'Connor

Seconded Cr Bower

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

5. OATH OF OFFICE FOR COUNCILLORS

2/22 RESOLVED

That all Councillors take an oath of office, as required by Section 233A of the *Local Government ACT 1993*.

That it be noted that the following Councillors took the Oath of Office, before the General Manager, prior to the first Ordinary Meeting of the new Council, on 29 March 2022:

- Councillor Tim Bower
- Councillor Lara Gresham
- Councillor Scott Kermode
- Councillor Margaret O'Connor
- Councillor Paul Packham
- Councillor Dorothy Robinson

Moved Cr Kermode

Seconded Cr O'Connor

6. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR

MOVED

That Council:

- a. Resolve that the ballot be by *open* ballot voting (show of hands).
- b. That the General Manager, as Returning Officer, call for nominations for the election of the Chair for the period of 29 March 2022 to March 2024.
- c. The General Manager, as Returning Officer, call for nominations for the election of Deputy Chair for the period 29 March 2022 to March 2024

Moved Cr Packham

Seconded Cr O'Connor

Amendment

That Council:

- a. Resolve that the ballot be by *written* ballot voting.
- b. That the General Manager, as Returning Officer, call for nominations for the election of the Chair for the period of 29 March 2022 to March 2024.
- c. The General Manager, as Returning Officer, call for nominations for the election of Deputy Chair for the period 29 March 2022 to March 2024

Moved Cr Packham

Seconded Cr Robinson

The amendment on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

The *amended motion* on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

3/22 RESOLVED:

That the General Manager, acting as Returning Officer, call for nominations for the office of **Chair**. There was only a single nomination.

Resolved: The Returning Officer declared Cr Kermode be elected as Chair, for the 2022-2024 term.

That the General Manager, acting as Returning Officer, call for nominations for the office of **Deputy Chair**. There being only a single nomination.

Resolved: The Returning Officer declared Cr Bower be elected as the Deputy Chair, for the 2022-2024 term.

Cr. Kermode undertook the role of Chairman for the remainder of the Meeting.

7. ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING CYCLE for 2021-2022

4/22 RESOLVED

- a. That the Ordinary Council Meeting cycle for the remainder of the 2021-2022 financial year be scheduled for the second Tuesday of the month, as follows:
 - February Meeting - delayed until 29 March 2022, due to GP Council elections
 - May Meeting (Draft Budget) - 10 May 2022
 - June Meeting (Adopt Budget) - 14 June 2022
- b. That the time of the Ordinary Council meetings to commence is **11:00am**.
- c. Ordinary Council meetings may be held, by agreement, at the chambers of member councils.
- d. Such dates may be altered when:
 - For good and sufficient reason an Ordinary Council meeting may be altered by resolution of Council at a preceding ordinary meeting.
 - The provisions of the Local Government Act (1993) require.

Moved Cr Packham

Seconded Cr Gresham

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

8. CLOSED MEETING

5/22 RESOLVED

That the meeting be closed during the discussion of the matter "Staff Performance".

The General Manager was requested to leave the meeting for the duration of the discussion.

Moved Cr Kermode

6/22 RESOLVED

That the closed meeting be terminated in order that the Ordinary Meeting might be resumed.

Moved Cr Kermode

The General Manager was requested to return for the balance of the Ordinary Meeting.

9. PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF GENERAL MANAGER

7/22 MOVED

- a. That the performance indicators (KPI's) set out in Clause 7 of the General Manager's contract of employment, should form the Terms of Reference for a performance review.
- b. That the General Manager should convene a review committee, to be in force for the term of this Council, which shall comprise:
 - The Chairman
 - The Deputy Chair and
 - A committee member (Councillor), to be nominated by the General Manager.

In addition, a representative of Local Government New South Wales will participate as an independent advisor.

- c. The timing of the performance review, where possible, should align with the timing set out in the General Manager's contract.

Moved Cr O'Connor

Seconded Cr Robinson

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

10 FUNDS MANAGEMENT

8/22 RESOLVED

- a. That the report summarising Council's Funds Management position be received and noted.
- b. That the related Certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer (CFO) be noted, and the report adopted.

Moved Cr Packham

Seconded Cr O'Connor

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

11 QUARTETRLY BUDGET REVIEW – AS AT DECEMBER 2021

9/22 RESOLVED

- a. That the December 2020-2021 Quarterly Budget Review be received and noted.
- b. That the recommended Budget Changes be accepted.

- c. That the related Certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer, be noted and the report adopted.

Moved Cr Packham

Seconded Cr O'Connor

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

12 CASH AND INVESTMENTS BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT

10/22 RESOLVED

That Council's Cash and Investments Budget Review Statement and the KPIs be noted and accepted.

Moved Cr Packham

Seconded Cr Bower

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

13 GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

11/22 RESOLVED

That the General Manager's Report be received and noted.

Moved Cr Packham

Seconded Cr Gresham

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

14 WEED CONTROL MATTERS – WEEDS ACTION PLAN

12/22 RESOLVED

That the Weeds Action Plan summarising outcomes and activities, including the 2021-2022 Weeds Action Program (WAP), be received and noted.

Moved Cr Gresham

Seconded Cr Robinson

The Motion on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously.

13/22 MOVED

That a report be prepared setting out the rationale for the Inspection Program with the division of each LGA into 5 inspection zones as set out in the inspection charts.

Moved Cr Kermode

Seconded _____

15 ISSUE OF DEBIT CARDS TO NEWA FIELD STAFF

14/22 **MOVED**

That the Credit/Debit Card Policy, governing the issue of Debit cards to field staff, should be referred to a NEWA Audit (ARIC) committee for its review and their input.

16 MATTERS OF URGENCY

There are no matters of urgency.

17. NEXT MEETING

Date to be advised, pending availability of Operational Plan and 2022-2023 Draft Annual Budget.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting CLOSED at 1:23pm.

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 29th MARCH 2022

6.0 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 4 MAY 2022

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the New England County Council held on 4th May 2022, copies of which have been distributed to all members, are taken as read and confirmed a true record.

Minutes of the Meeting of 29th March 2022

1. PRESENT: Councillor Scott Kermode – Chairperson, Councillors: Tim Bower (USC), Lara Gresham (GISC), Margaret O'Connor (ARC), Dorothy Robinson (ARC) and Paul Packham (ARC).

In attendance: Liz Hobbs (WSC)

2. APOLOGIES: Nil.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest.

CLOSED MEETING

15/22 RESOLVED

That the meeting be closed during the discussion of the matter "Staff Performance".

Moved Cr Kermode

MOTION:

1. That the Board of NEWA direct the General Manager to appoint a Complaints Co-ordinator pursuant to clause 3.17 to clause 3.20 inclusive of the Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW (The Procedures).
2. That the Chair of NEWA provide all the complaints against the General Manager made to the Chair in written form, to the Complaints Co-ordinator and or alternate Complaints Co-ordinator appointed pursuant to recommendation.
3. That the Board of NEWA authorise and direct the Chair of NEWA to write to the General Manager of Armidale Regional Council requesting that NEWA have access, for the purposes of compliance with the Procedures and the Model Code of Conduct, to Armidale Regional Council's Panel of Conduct Reviewers.
4. With reference to recommendation 1 above, the Board encourage the General Manager to appoint a Complaints Co-ordinator from Armidale Regional Council so that there is alignment as between the complaints co-ordinator appointed pursuant to recommendation 1 and recommendation 3, that Armidale Regional Council provide NEWA with access to its Panel of Conduct Reviewers.

Moved Councillor O'Connor **Seconded** Robinson

AMENDMENT:

That the Board of NEWA direct the Chair to appoint a Complaints Co-ordinator pursuant to clause 3.17 to clause 3.20 inclusive of the Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW (The Procedures) from one of the member councils of NEWA.

1. That the Chair of NEWA provide all the complaints against the General Manager made to the Chair to the Complaints Co-ordinator appointed pursuant to recommendation 1.
2. With reference to recommendation 1 above, the Board directs the Chair to ensure that the appointed Complaints Coordinator is from the same member Council as the Panel of Conduct Reviewers.
3. That the Board of NEWA authorise and direct the Chair of NEWA to write to the General Managers of all member Councils requesting that NEWA have access, for the purposes of compliance with the Procedures and the Model Code of Conduct, to the selected member Council's Panel of Conduct Reviewers.

ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY 21 JUNE 2022 in NEWA OFFICES

16/22 RESOLVED that the Chair write to Mr Damien O'Connor retracting the appointment of Complaints Coordinator due to the fact that he is ineligible as per the Procedures for the Administration of the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW.

Moved Councillor Packham

Seconded Councillor O'Connor

The amended motion on being put to the vote was **CARRIED** unanimously.

17/22 RESOLVED

That the closed meeting be terminated in order that the Ordinary Meeting of Council might be resumed.

Moved Cr Kermode

There being no further business the Chair declared the Meeting **CLOSED** at 11:59am

7.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 4 MAY 2022

8.0 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

To begin, I would like to welcome the four new New England Weeds Authority councillors and welcome back Councillor O'Conner.

The last few months have presented some challenges and without doubt there are more to come. The departure of the three longest serving staff members is very disappointing. The loss of around 40 years of combined experience will leave a hole in the organisation which cannot be filled in the short or medium term. It is sad to realize that they may be lost forever to the "weeds" community. Also, sadly we appear to have seen the last spray season from our longest serving sprayer Peter Doyle. Once again, the experience and knowledge lost will take a long time to replace.

As most of you will no doubt be aware, Inverell has decided against continuing the MOU with NEWA for this past year. This is possibly understandable and whilst it is a blow, it may well be a cloud with a silver lining. In the current circumstances, a return to a simpler, more focussed organisation will probably be a blessing. It is easy for councils to drift away from their core business by taking on too much or projects which distract them from their original defined role.

Going by the weather of late, the spray season should be pretty much done for 2021/2022, so inspections are no doubt in full swing. I feel that this is the best part as it allows for much more interaction with the community we serve.

9.0 **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

As we approach the end of the 2021-2022 financial year, NEWA's performance in delivering our WAP targets and in meeting our member-council obligations have exceed expectations. To date we have completed 106% of our WAP target inspections and we are on target for 110% of on-ground inspections to be completed by the year end. This will be our *second year* of exceeding our inspection targets. Our obligations to our member councils have been substantially met and special projects have been completed on-target (weather permitting).

NEWA has also been successful in securing new projects, including roadside spraying of the New England Highway on behalf of Transport for NSW valued at \$100,000pa and most recently the securing of a \$200,000 project to protect the Murray-Darling Basin and the Dumaresq River from known infestation of Water Lettuce and removal of Cat's Claw Creeper along a 165km riparian zone.

Operationally we have completed the upgrading of our IT infrastructure, in preparation of the move to our new office and depot facility. The upgrading of our (Chartis) mapping software now enables greater flexibility in the field and compliant reporting of weed infestation locations and remedial spraying activity (not previously possible

The rebuilding of NEWA's workforce, in accordance with the Authority's Resourcing Strategy, has seen the appointment of a new Chief Financial Officer and the engagement of Roberts & Morrow, Chartered Accounts to provide temporary financial support. We are currently recruiting for a Project Officer/Biosecurity Officer, Finance and Administration Officer and a Spray Team Leader,

Cultural change can be difficult as every organisation has found; and the period since Christmas has been a difficult one for NEWA. However, the results have greatly benefited the Weeds Authority with new enthusiasm and commitment, which ensures the Authority is now well positioned for a bright future.

9.1 NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY ANNUAL OPERATIONAL PLAN 2022-23

Recommendation:

1. That the Draft New England Weeds Authority Annual Operational Plan 2022 2023 be placed on public exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993.
2. That following the conclusion of the public exhibition period, a further report be presented to Council on submissions received and for the adoption of the Draft New England Weeds Authority Annual Operational Plan 2022-2023.
3. That the constituent member Councils of Armidale Regional, Glen Innes Severn, Walcha and Uralla be provided with a copy of the Draft New England Weeds Authority Annual Operational Plan 2022-2023 for comment.

Purpose

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 to allow Council and the community to consider and comment on the 2021/2022 Operational Plan.

Background

Council at its June 2017 meeting adopted its 10 Year Business Activity Strategic Plan (BASP) 2017-2027 as part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework, and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, and Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

The Business Activity Strategic Plan details the activities Council will undertake over the Four-Year Delivery Plan from 2022-2026, together with the actions to be undertaken through the Annual Operational Plan to implement weed management and control of scheduled priority and invasive weed species, identified in the Northern Tablelands Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2022-2027, for our constituent member Councils.

The Strategic Weed Management Plan should be reviewed over the coming financial year to incorporate the enlarged council area now comprising four (4) LGAs and to consider opportunities to engage with future councils and government organisations for their inclusion within the organisation as either members or on a service agreement arrangement.

Report

In accordance with the provisions of Section 405 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council must have an Annual Operational Plan that is adopted before the beginning of each financial year, that details the activities to be undertaken by Council during the coming year as part of the Delivery Plan covering that year.

In addition, the Annual Operational Plan must include the Statement of Revenue Policy detailing the Budget, Fees and Charges.

In preparing the Draft Annual Operation Plan, Council must give public notice of the draft Plan indicating that submissions may be made to Council at any time during the exhibition period, which must not be less than 28 days.

Council's Draft Annual Operational Plan 2022-2023 and the associated Statement of Revenue Policy has been prepared in accordance with the above requirements and is attached to this report for the consideration of Council.

Council will note that the Annual Operational Plan and associated Budget provides for the additional responsibility of being the Regional Service Coordination for its four Member Councils.

Financial and Resource Implications

Council is required to prepare an Operational Plan annually that establishes its budgets, fees and charges and other financial information that allows the public and the member Councils to understand the resource allocations in that year.

Legal Implications

Under Clause 405 Local Government Act 1993 as amended, Council is required to prepare an Annual Operations Plan and place the draft plan on public display in order to seek comment.

Before adopting the Annual Operational Plan, Council must consider any submissions that have been made concerning the draft Plan. Once adopted, Council must post a copy on its website within 28 days from the date of adoption.

Risk Implications

If Council adopts the Draft Plan for public display and follows the provisions of the Local Government Act and Regulations, there is no risk identified.

Stakeholder Consultation

The Draft Operational Plan 2022/2023 is required to be displayed and copies should be provided to our member Councils and those organisations or Councils that may have an interest in the NEWA operations. Printed copies should be freely available to landholders and other stakeholders if requested.

Options

No option exists to the requirements under the Act and Regulations.

Conclusions

Council is required under Clause 405 Local Government Act 1993 as amended and Regulations thereto, to prepare an Annual Operations Plan.

Link to Policy and/or the Business Activity Strategic Plan

Council is to be informed of changes to legislation that impact on the business of Council.

Supporting Information and/or Attachments

Draft New England Weeds Authority Annual - Operational Plan 2022-2023.

9.2 AUDIT OFFICE OF NSW – AUDIT FOR YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2022

Recommendation:

That the Report on the Audit Process of Council's financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2022 be received and noted.

Purpose

This report has been prepared to provide advice to Councillors and the public as to the commencement of the 2021-2022 Audit Process being undertaken through the NSW Audit Office.

Background

Council is required to have an independent external audit undertaken annually. The NSW Government through the NSW Audit Office is contracted to prepare the Audit and report its findings to the NSW Parliament.

Report

Council was provided with a Client Services Plan and Agreement of Terms on 2 March 2022, setting out the terms for NEWA's financial and governance audit. Council has entered into the Agreement with the Audit Office of NSW for the audit of Council's financial statements ending the 30 June 2022. A copy of the Plan is attached for the information of Councillors.

It is noted that the Auditor General has engaged Council's previous Auditors, Forsyths Chartered Accountants of Armidale, to provide the financial services for this engagement.

The Client Services Plan details the key issues and risks that may impact the audit, the audit approach, the audit timetable, financial reporting issues and developments, as well as general matters and audit fees.

The auditing process for this year is underway with the preliminary audit undertaken by Forsyths Chartered Accountants in May 2022.

Financial and Resource Implications

Council is required to undertake the External Audit process utilising the Auditor General. The cost of the audit will be \$13,575 (excluding GST). The cost of the audit covers the Audit Office of NSW fee, Related Party Transactions checks and Forsyths Contracted Audit fee.

Provisions have been made in the budget for these annual audit fees.

Legal Implications

Section 422 of the Local Government Act states:

- (1) *The Auditor-General is to be the auditor for a council.*
- (2) *The Auditor-General may appoint, in writing, a person (whether or not that person is employed in the Public Service) or a firm to be an auditor for the purposes of this Act.*
- (3) *The costs confirmed in writing by the Auditor-General as having been incurred by the Auditor-General in auditing a council's financial reports (including any audit of a council entity) or in any other inspection or audit carried out by the Auditor-General under this Division (or at a council's request) must be paid by the council.*

The Auditor General will be responsible for the Independent Auditors Report in accordance with Section 417 of the Local Government Act 1993 of Council's general purpose financial statements for the financial year ending 30 June 2022. The Auditor General will also be responsible for ensuring the audit is performed in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards.

This report details the audit process to be undertaken for the financial year 2021-2022.

Risk Implications

The Audit process is undertaken to establish Councils financial status, to identify any financial risks and to review governance process across a number of council areas. The Audit will look at Councils IT Policies, Project Design and costings.

Stakeholder Consultation

No Stakeholders have been identified at this time. The Audit team will be required to talk with the Chairmen as part of the Audit process. The Final Audit Report will be presented to Council and to the NSW Parliament as part of the Audit rules around Local Government.

OPTIONS

No alternative option exists.

CONCLUSION

Council is required to undertake an external audit process annually. This report has been prepared to advise Council and the community that the process has commenced.

Link to Policy and/or Business Activity Strategic Plan

Timely and accurate financial reporting is essential for efficient management and accountability

SUPPORTING INFORMATION / ATTACHMENTS

Draft Client Services Plan for 2021/22 Audit.

9.3 INVESTED FUNDS REPORT

To be provided

9.4 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW

To be provided

10.0 WEED CONTROL MATTERS – WEEDS ACTION PLAN

2021- 2022 WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM (to 31 May 2022)

Recommendation:

That the Report on the 2021-2022 Weeds Action Program and spray works to 31 May 2022, be received and noted.

Private Property Inspections – Weeds Action Program 2021/2022

Full onsite inspections have been resumed and are conducted using the inspection methods set out below (Methods of Inspection). The type of Inspection is dependent upon the terrain being inspected and the level of safety. Non-vehicular inspections (drones and helicopters) are used where accessibility and safety may be an issue. This contrasts with the ‘complaint only basis’ that were generally being carried out in the rural areas for the same quarter last year - due to staffing constraints and the roadside spraying program.

Following a detailed review of inspections over the past several years, it was noted that a number of properties had not been visited or inspected during this time. The move to a more structured, smaller sized divisional approach will ensure that all areas within an LGA will be inspected regularly and within the requirements of the WAP program.

The Macleay Valley continues to be very wet with accessibility challenging. NEWA has engaged contractors who are experienced in working in these areas in order to move this project forward.

With the control program virtually complete, Biosecurity Officers are now focussed on the completion of this year’s Inspection Program; which already exceed the WAP targets with a month to go.

Inspection Targets 2021-2022 to 31 May 2022

MEMBER COUNCIL PROPERTY INSPECTIONS	Actual Jul - Sep	Actual Oct - Dec	Actual Jan - Mar	Actual Apr - Jun	Total Inspections to Date	TARGET	% of TARGET ACHIEVED	Inspections to Reach Target
Armidale Regional	86	298	137	31	552	451	122%	0
Glen Innes Severn	90	7	188	109	394	500	79%	106
Uralla Shire	10	42	42	105	199	187	106%	0
Walcha Council	149	106	25	158	438	362	121%	0
NEWA Totals	335	453	392	403	1583	1500	106%	0

Inspections completed to the end of May 2022 are **106%** of WAP Goals with one (1) month still to be completed.

ORDINARY MEETING OF NEW ENGLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY 21 JUNE 2022 in NEWA OFFICES

SPECIFIC INSPECTIONS

Weeds Action Plan - Regional Measurable Outcomes, Inspections / NEWA

These targets are determined based upon the funding provided by NSW DPI under the adopted Weeds Action Program (WAP) 2020–2025.

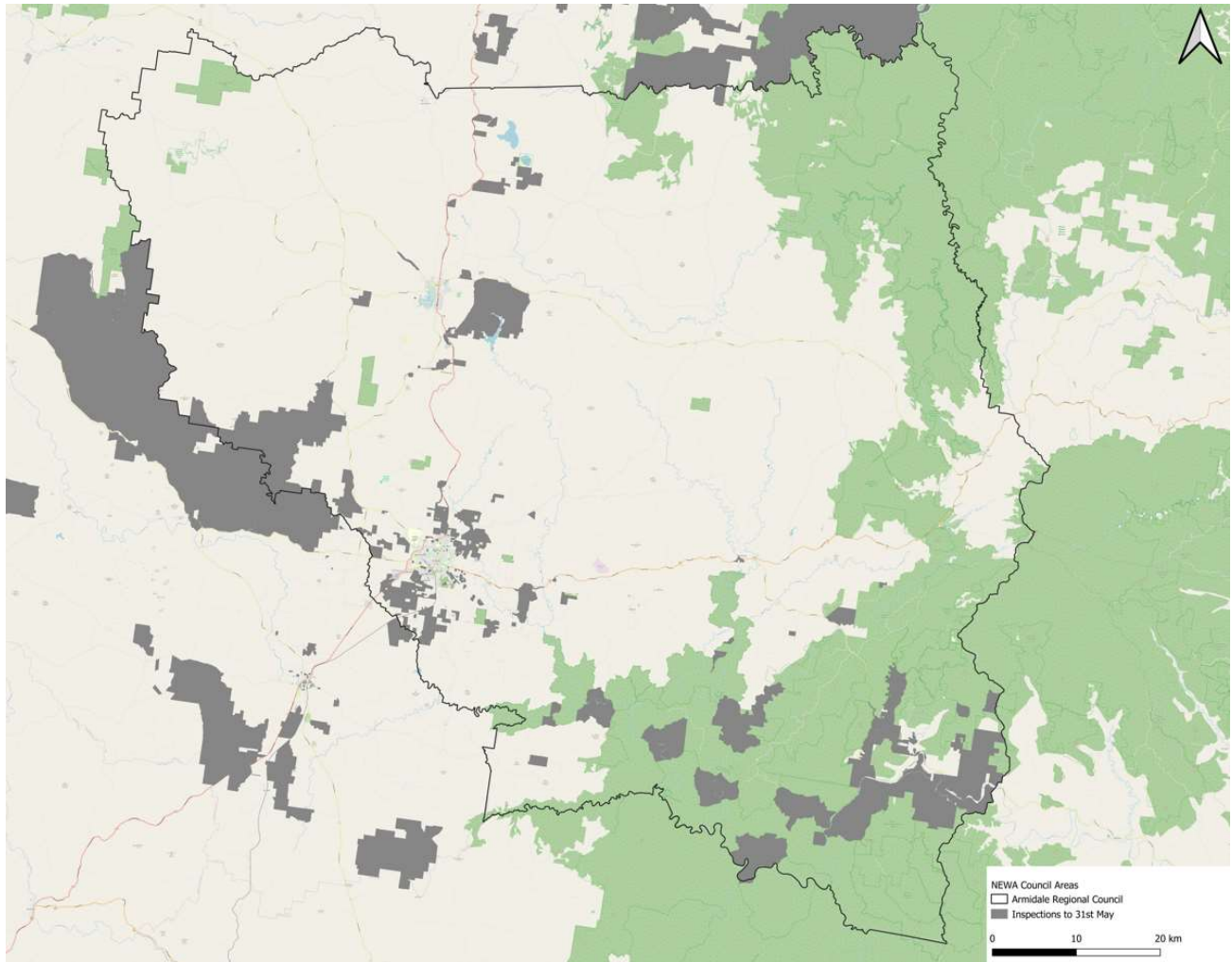
WAP INSPECTION GOALS	metric	Actual Inspections Undertaken					Annual Target	% of Annual Target Achieved	To Reach Annual Target
		Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Total			
Gravel Quarrie	no.	5	1	-	7	13	43	30%	30
National Parks	no.	10	1	-	-	11	4	275%	-
Nurseries	no.	1	-	1	4	6	8	75%	2
Recreational Area	no.	5	1	-	4	10	10	100%	-
Aquaria/Pet Shops	no.	-	-	-	2	2	2	100%	-
Weekend Markets	no.	2	2	2	-	6	3	200%	-
Machinery Dealer	no.	1	-	-	2	3	4	75%	1
Showground	no.	-	-	4	1	5	5	100%	-
Dam	no.	-	1	-	-	1	2	50%	1
Saleyard	no.	1	1	-	1	3	3	100%	-
Machinery Washdown Bays	no.	-	-	2	-	2	2	100%	-
Mines	no.	-	-	-	-	-	1	0%	1
Rural Outlet	no.	-	1	2	4	7	9	78%	2
Landfill Sites	no.	1	1	1	1	4	4	100%	-
High Risk Pathways	km	-	4,295	2	1,789	6,087	1,313	464%	-
	ha	-	8,591	5	3,578	12,173	5,819	209%	-
Roadside Inspections	no.	19	48	19	91	177	No WAP Target		
	ha	12,968	14,324	1,823	24,616	53,730			
High Risk Private Property	no.	74	220	12	4	310	300	103%	-
	ha	12,843	24,237	2,048	535	39,662	73,179	54%	33,517
High Risk Property Re-inspections	no.	2	82	8	4	96	100	96%	4
	ha	625	22,930	22	104	23,682	24,393	97%	711
Private Property	no.	258	29	340	342	969	1,000	97%	31
	ha	227,164	69,226	23,774	145,775	465,939	243,931	191%	-
Private Property Re-inspections	no.	-	37	38	12	87	300	29%	213
	ha	-	6,869	231	2,491	9,591	80,497	12%	70,906
Total Number of Inspections to date		360	377	410	388	1,535	1,500	102%	
Total Inspected Area to date		253,600	146,176	27,903	177,099	604,777	427,819	141%	

Inspection Charts (2021 to 2022)

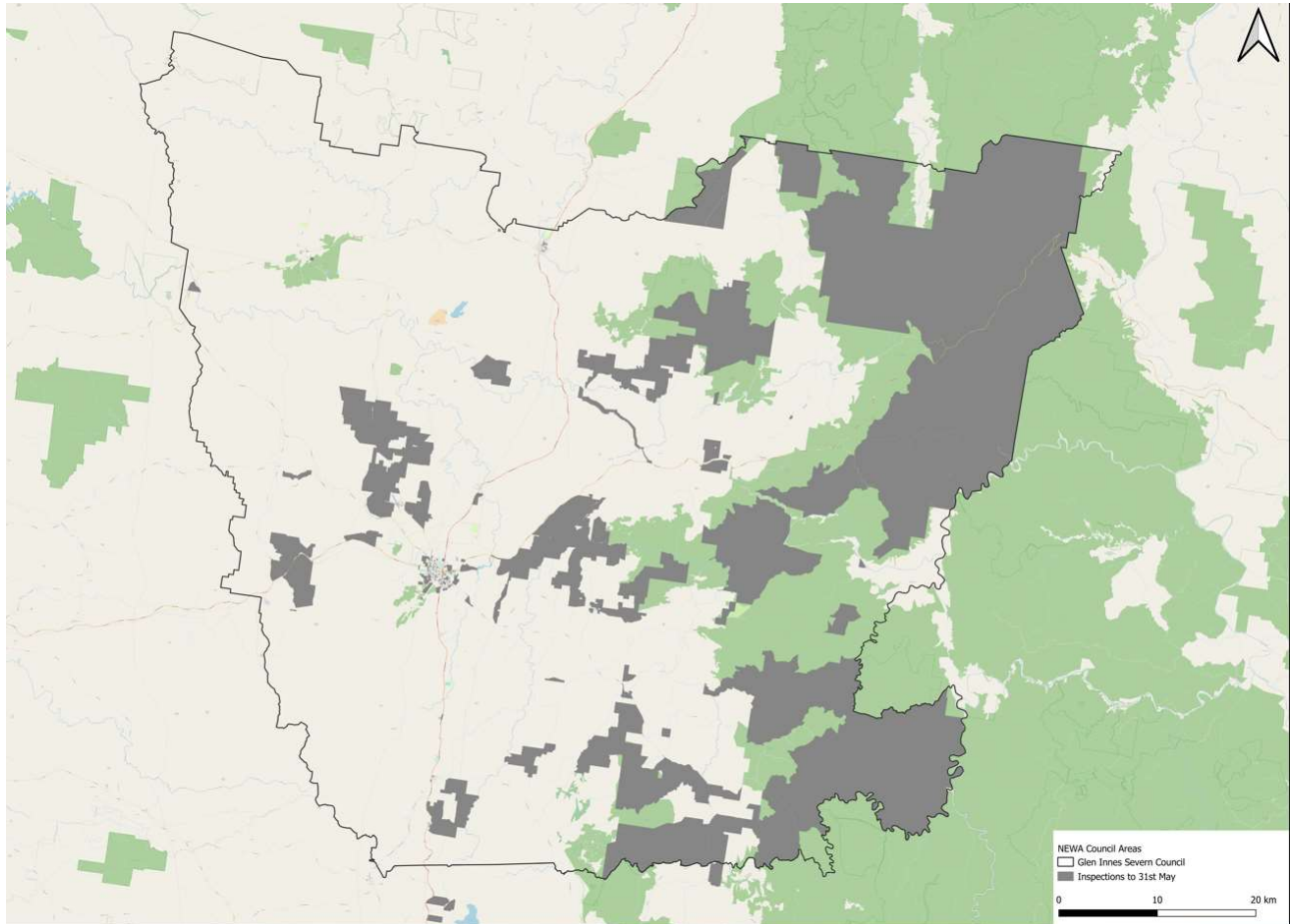
(See following 4 pages.)

The charts show the properties that have been expected to date (May 2022), during the current 2021-2022 financial year.

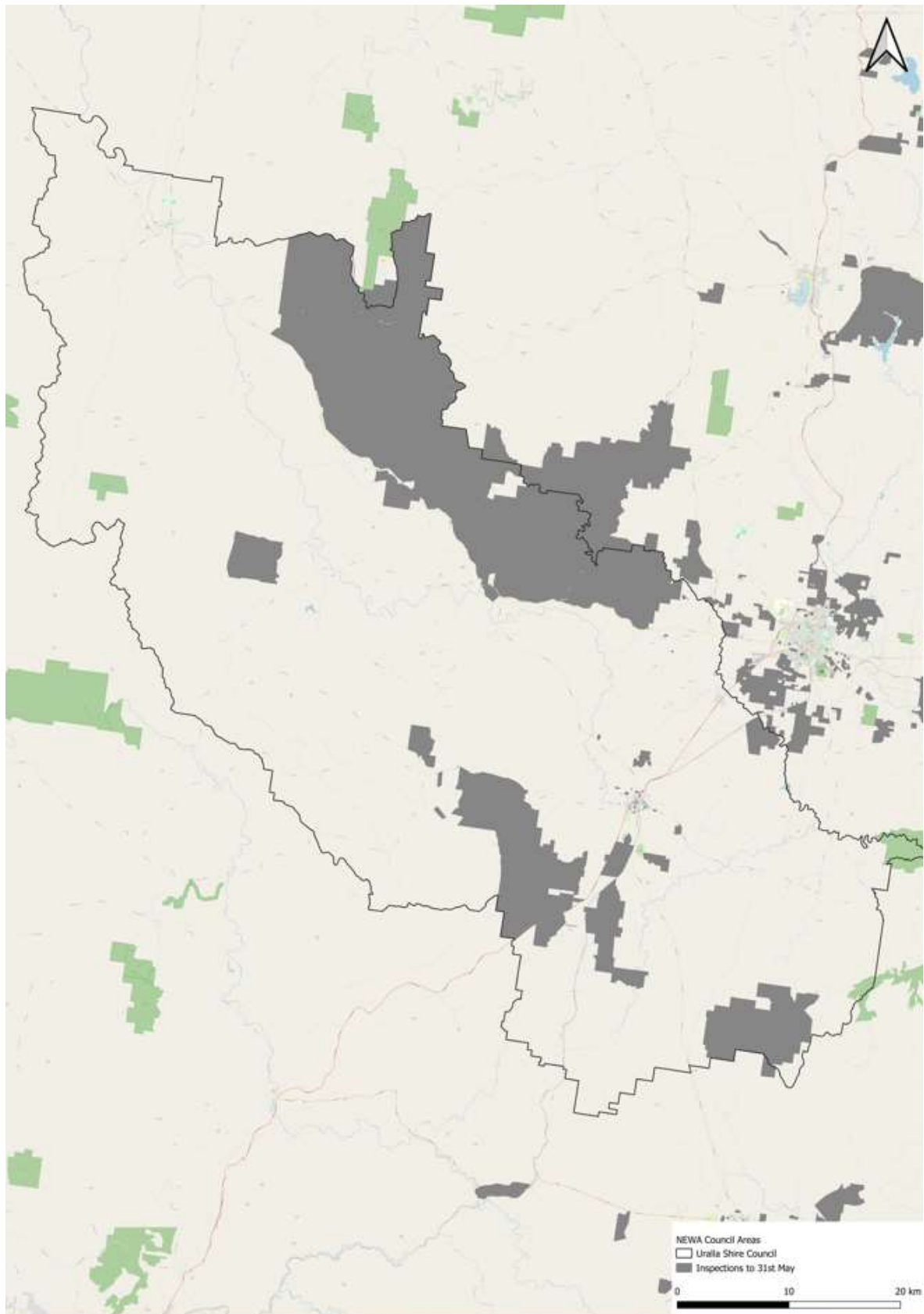
Armidale Regional Council – 2021–2022 Inspections



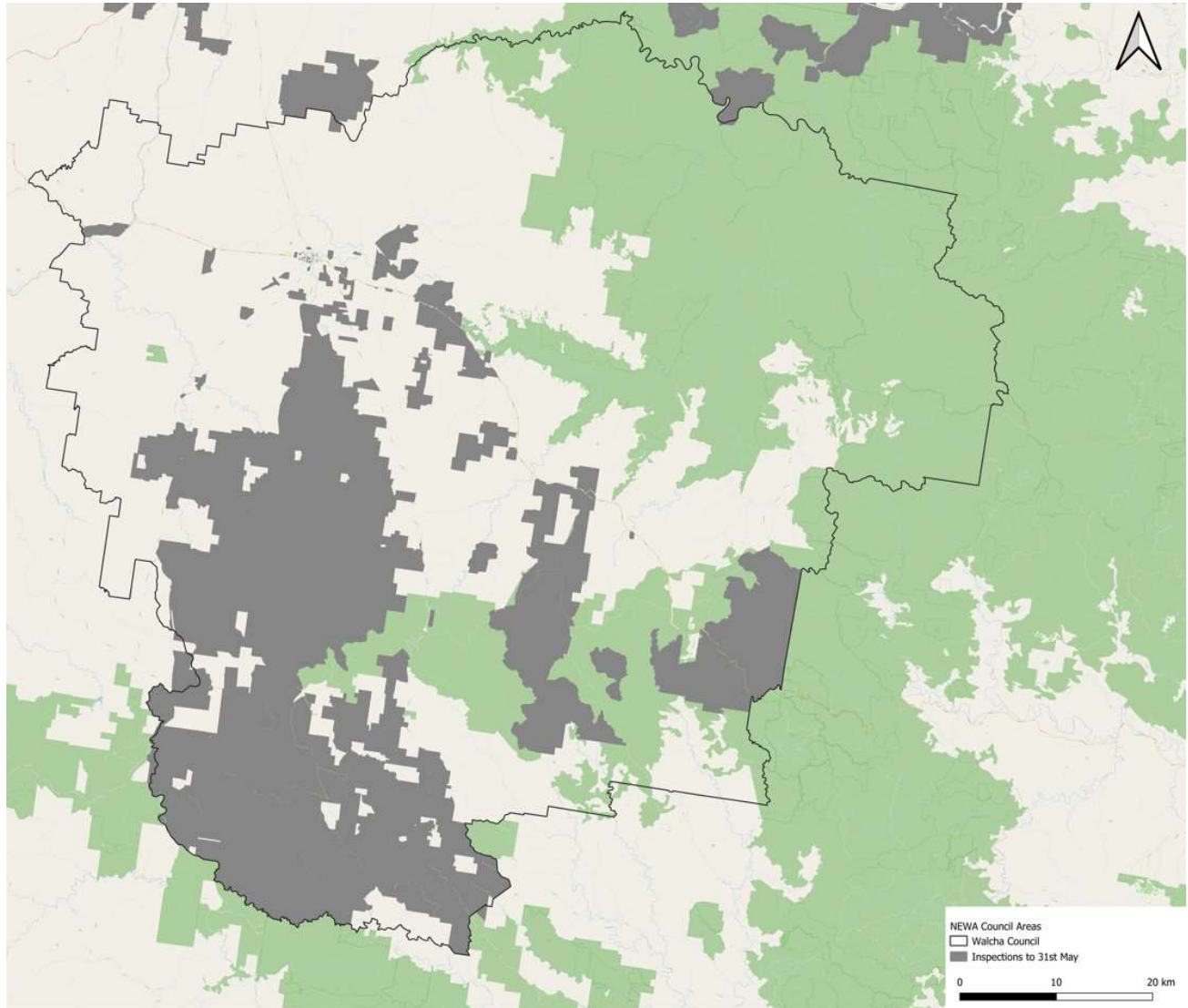
Glen Innes Severn Shire Council – 2021–2022 Inspections



Uralla Shire Council – 2021–2022 Inspections



Walcha Shire Council – 2021–2022 Inspections



Communication, Education, Extension and Publicity Activities

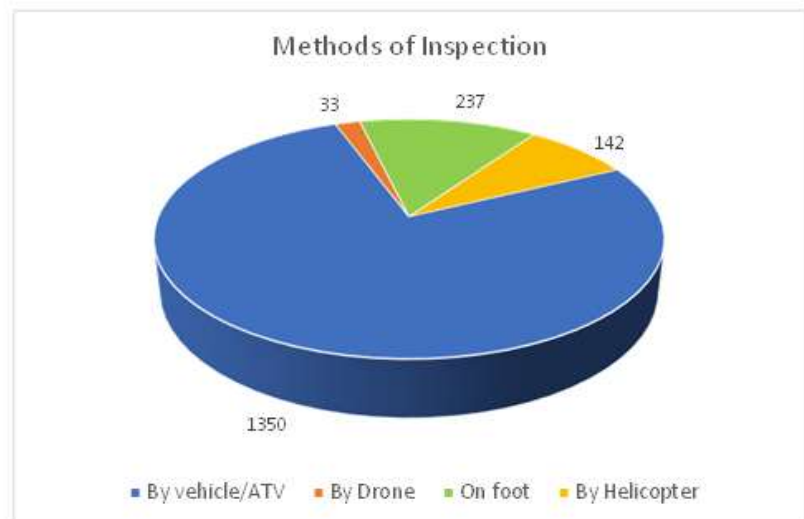
Opportunities available through our associations with LandCare and GLENRAC will continue to be optimised. Stands at saleyards, and other static displays and educational materials will also be undertaken.

Weeds Action Program (WAP) - Regional Measurable Outcomes, Extensions/NEWA

Extension Activity	Jul - Sep	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar	Apr - Jun	Total
School Visits	1	1	1		3
Field Days		2		2	4
Media Releases	4	2	3		9
Agricultural Shows			4		4
Landcare Events	3	4	2	3	12

Methods of Inspection (to May 2022)

Inspection Method	Number of Inspections
By vehicle/ATV	1350
By Drone	33
On foot	237
By Helicopter	142



Training Undertaken

Date	Activity	Details
Dec-21	Traffic Control Training, Tamworth	Spray operators - NF, DC
Mar-22	Grasses Identification, Tamworth	4 Biosecurity officers - RB, MBertalli, JR & TM
Mar-22	Communications Intelligence, Coffs Harbour	5 Biosecurity officers - JR, RB, MBertalli, GR & TM
Mar-22	NSW/VIC Combined Weeds Conference	4 Biosecurity Officers JR, RB, GR, TM & Project Officer JB
Mar-22	WH&S Incident and Injury Management	JR
Apr-22	Prohibited Matter Identification and Control	4 Biosecurity Officers - TM, GR, RB & NF

Operational Program

All roads within the NEWA council areas have been treated for Blackberry and a second treatment for St John's Wort and Nodding Thistle where applicable. The treatment of Tropical Soda Apple in the Macleay Valley has been impacted by the wet conditions making it impossible to get across the river.

NEWA has also been successful securing two new projects, including roadside spraying of the New England Highway from Willow Tree to the Queensland border on behalf of Transport for NSW valued at \$100,000 annually. In addition, NEWA has most recently secured \$200,000 in funding to help protect the Murray-Darling Basin; funded under the Murray-Darling Healthy Rivers Program, protecting the Dumaresq River from a known infestation of Water Lettuce and removal of Cat's Claw Creeper along a 165km riparian zone.

11.0 MATTERS OF URGENCY

12.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 23 August 2022 at 11:00am** at Uralla Council.

13.0 ATTACHMENTS:

13.1 DRAFT NEW ENGLAND WEEDS AUTHORITY – OPERATIONAL PLAN 2022-2023

13.2 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REVIEW – 31 March 2022