

WEED CONTROL MATTERS – OPERATIONAL UPDATE – Item 6.0

2022-2023 WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM [Year 3] – 3rd Quarter to 29 April 2023

Private Property Inspections – Weeds Action Program 2022/2023

NEWA has been able to meet its WAP targets this month, with two months still in the Financial Year. The focus of inspections is now upon increasing our numbers of hectares inspected.

Like most businesses, NEWA has been impacted by the Easter and ANZAC Day holidays, with the additional days taken by staff either side of these breaks. With winter also approaching rapidly, all effort is upon closing out the year and achieving good results.

The agricultural show season has now been completed with all shows attended. We have 3 planned extension events where we have been invited to present, with a focus on weed and weed control in order to be prepared for the next dry period.

Inspection Figures and Targets 2022-2023 by LGA - to 29 April 2023

MEMBER COUNCIL PROPERTY INSPECTIONS	Actual Jul - Sep	Actual Oct - Dec	Actual Jan - Mar	Actual Apr - Jun	Total Inspections to Date	2022-2023 TARGET	% of TARGET ACHIEVED
Armidale Regional	223	119	100	0	442	369	120%
Glen Innes Severn	45	59	30	0	134	200	67%
Uralla Shire	32	76	113	0	221	188	118%
Walcha Council	31	63	70	0	164	188	87%
NEWA Totals	331	317	313	0	961	945	102%

Weeds Action Program - Regional Measurable Outcomes, Inspections / NEWA

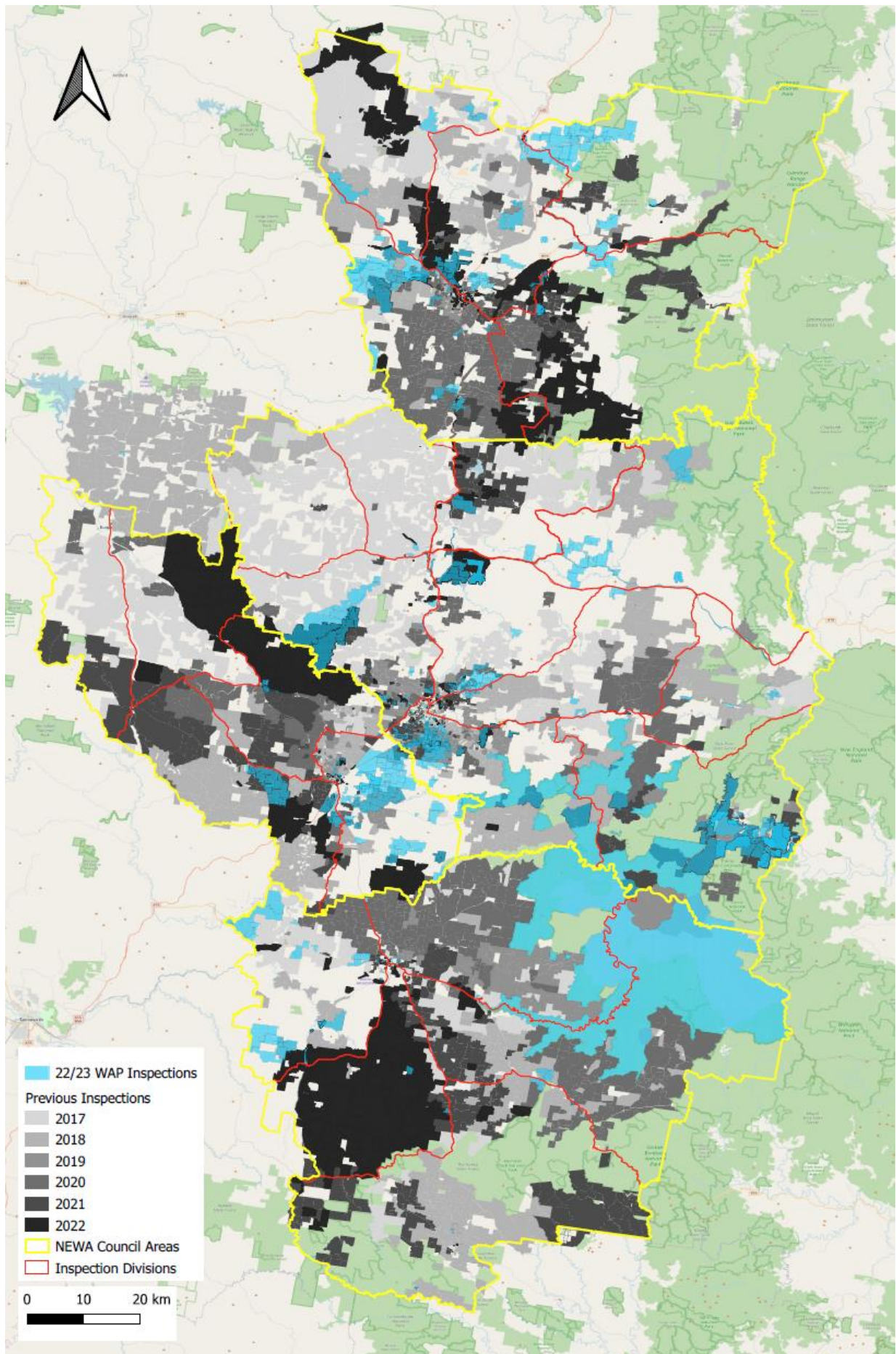
These targets are determined based upon the funding provided by NSW DPI under the adopted Weeds Action Program (WAP) 2020–2025.

2021-2022 WAP INSPECTION GOALS	metric	Actual Inspections Undertaken					Annual Target
		Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Total	
Gravel Quarrie	no.	5	1	-	7	13	43
National Parks	no.	10	1	-	8	19	4
Nurseries	no.	1	-	1	6	8	8
Recreational Area	no.	5	1	-	4	10	10
Aquaria/Pet Shops	no.	-	-	-	2	2	2
Weekend Markets	no.	2	2	2	-	6	3
Machinery Dealer	no.	1	-	-	2	3	4
Showground	no.	-	-	4	1	5	5
Dam	no.	-	1	-	-	1	2
Saleyard	no.	1	1	-	1	3	3
Machinery Washdown Bays	no.	-	-	2	-	2	2
Mines	no.	-	-	-	-	-	1
Rural Outlet	no.	-	1	2	4	7	9
Landfill Sites	no.	1	1	1	1	4	4
High Risk Pathways	km	-	4,295	93	1,793	6,181	1,313
	ha	-	8,591	185	3,586	12,362	5,819
Roadside Inspections	no.	19	48	19	288	374	No WAP Target
	ha	12,968	14,324	1,823	65,968	95,082	
High Risk Private Property	no.	74	220	12	4	310	300
	ha	12,843	24,237	2,048	535	39,662	73,179
High Risk Property Re-Inspections	no.	2	82	8	4	96	100
	ha	625	22,930	-	104	23,659	24,393
Private Property	no.	258	29	340	508	1,135	1,000
	ha	227,164	69,226	23,774	174,373	494,537	243,931
Private Property Re-inspections	no.	-	37	38	12	87	300
	ha	-	6,869	14	2,491	9,374	80,497
Total Number of Inspections to date		360	377	410	564	1,711	1,800
Total Area of Inspections to date		253,600	146,176	27,844	247,057	674,676	427,819

Inspection Charts (2022 to 2023)

The chart shown on the following pages highlights the properties that have been inspected to date (29 April 2023). The chart shows all four LCAs in the NEWA County Council area, and inspections that have been undertaken from 2017 to date. The chart shows the extent of inspections undertaken which cover the majority of landholdings. This format, is requested by Council and is also available in PDF format which enables much greater detail able to be viewed.

A copy of the PDF file is available for download.



Tropical Soda Apple Project – Jan - April 2023

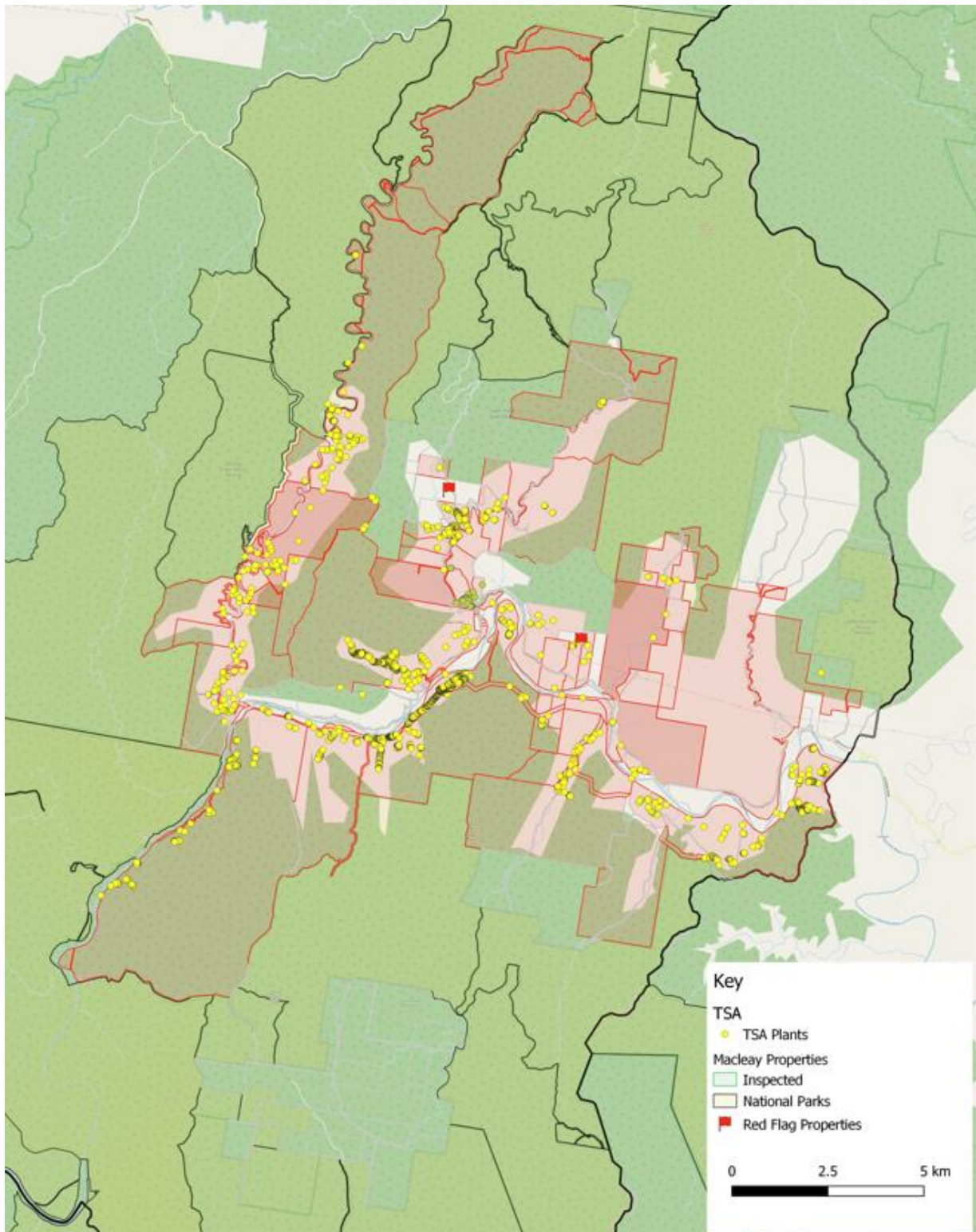
Initial inspections have been carried out across the majority of the Macleay Valley with the entirety of the far side of the river having been inspected and inspection reports distributed to landholders. The remaining inspections are focused on the lower end of the valley where road closures continue to hinder access. The attached maps gives further details.

Generally, landholders have been achieving high levels of suppression with one property seeming to have achieved eradication. However, Thungutti Land Council and Comara Station continue to have unacceptable levels of infestation with little to no evidence of any control work being undertaken.

Secondary inspections will need to be undertaken within the next 4 months across all properties to determine the level of compliance by each landholder. It is recommended that any property not meeting the requirement of the Control Order, be issued with an IBD to allow NEWA to undertake the work required and recover costs should the property not be compliant by the third inspection.

The major issue is that the requirements of the Control Order may not be achievable or could be defined as not "reasonably practicable." Discussions with DPI regarding a Control Zone may be of benefit, as an aim of high-level suppression, instead of eradication, may be achievable by the majority of landholders in the Macleay.

Macleay Valley Inspections – January to March 2023



Communication, Education, Extension and Publicity Activities

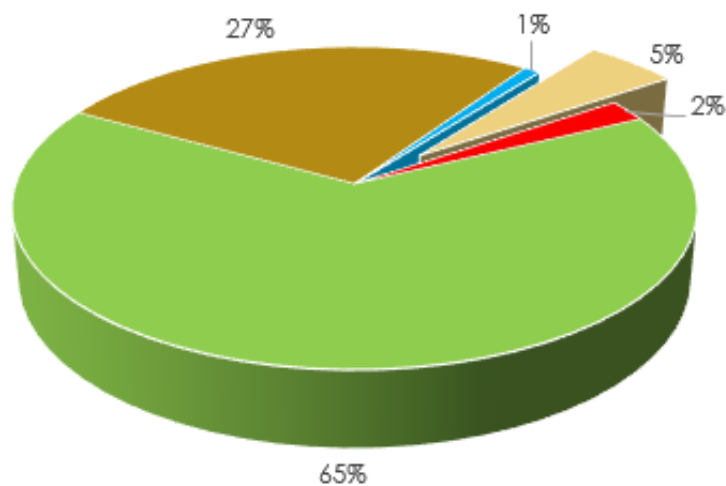
Opportunities available through our associations with schools, NSW Farmers, LandCare organisations and with GLENRAC, will continue to be optimised. Stands at saleyards, and other static displays and educational will continue to be undertaken.

Weeds Action Program (WAP) - Regional Measurable Outcomes, Extension

Extension Activity	Jul - Sep	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar	Apr - Jun	Total
School Visits	0	1	0	0	1
Field Days	3	3	0	0	6
Media/Social Media Releases	4 + 20	2 + 24	0 + 18	0	6 + 62
Agricultural Shows	0	0	4	0	4
Landcare Events	0	2	1	0	3

20 + 62

Methods of Inspection 2022-2023



■ Vehicle ■ UTV ■ Argo ■ Drone ■ Helicopter

Training Undertaken – 2022 - 2023

Date	Activity	Details
Oct-22	Authorised Officer Training	4 Staff members
	Effective Leadership Skills	1 Staff member
Nov-22	ChemCert III	2 Staff members
	Traffic Controller Certificate	3 Staff members
Dec-22	Traffic Controller Certificate	2 Staff members
	ChemCert III	2 Staff members
Jan-23	Design & Modify TCP	2 Staff members

PROJECTS:

Northern Tablelands LLS

- Gondwana shield -\$118,320
Glen Innes Shire Council area - Invasive grasses Gwydir Highway
Armidale Regional Council area - Tropical Soda Apple & Lantana – Macleay area.
- Tropical Soda Apple – \$90,000 Macleay area
- Aquatic weeds- \$25,000 Regional
- Gorse Boorolong creek - \$15,317 Armidale

Australian Governments Murray-Darling Healthy Rivers program.

- Lower Dumaresq River NSW & Qld. Cats Claw Creeper control 125km & weed surveillance for Water Lettuce 70km. \$207,000

GLENRAC

- Invasive grasses.
'Communities Combating Pest and Weed Impacts During Drought Program'. \$270,000
Weed control along roadsides and emerging weeds on private property partnership with GLENRAC
- Project management \$8,500 Prickly pear control project, Gulf Road Emmaville.

LLS/Kempsey Shire Council

- Tropical soda apple inspections \$37,000