



# **Castlereagh Macquarie County Council**

## **Delivery Programme**

**2022/23 – 2024/25**

# Principal Activities of Council

## Statement of Principal Activities to be undertaken to achieve objectives

1. Building Relationships			
Strategy Objectives	Strategy	Activities	Progress as at 31/12/22
Build strong relationships with other natural resource managers having responsible in, or adjacent to, the County Council's area of operations through a program to improve liaison between natural resource managers	Foster a spirit of cooperation with other natural resource managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend seminars, workshops etc conducted by other natural resource managers where appropriate</li> <li>Encourage natural resource managers to participate in Council activities, such as public meetings and workshops. Share information with other natural resource managers.</li> <li>Host an annual meeting between natural resource managers to foster good relations and to provide a convenient forum for the exchange of information and the facilitation of cooperation.</li> <li>Encourage and establish personal contact between Council staff and staff of other natural resource managers. A data base of contacts staff and others in other natural resource managers.</li> <li>Investigate and promote joint works for noxious weed control by natural resource managers.</li> <li>Where appropriate, endeavour to have natural resource managers, particularly private occupiers, enter into joint arrangements for noxious weed control work.</li> <li>Investigate what incentives the Council might offer to private occupiers to enter into joint arrangements for noxious weed control work.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff attend</li> <li>Continuing</li> <li>On-going</li> <li>Complete</li> <li>On-going in particular with LLS</li> <li>Hudson Pear incentive commenced February 2023.</li> </ul>

<b>2. Noxious Weeds Control</b>			
<b>Strategy Objectives</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Progress as at 31/12/22</b>
<p>Ensure the effectiveness of the Council's role in improving the natural environment through a reduction in noxious weeds.</p>	<p>Ensure that the Council is aware of any presence of noxious weeds in its area of Operations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a regular and systematic program of property visits to private landholders and any infestations of noxious weeds found on property visits are mapped and properly recorded.</li> <li>• Ensure that weed infestations on roads are mapped and properly recorded.</li> <li>• In conjunction with public authorities, conduct a regular and systematic program of property visits to land of public authorities and ensure weed infestations on land of public authorities are mapped and properly recorded.</li> <li>• Respond promptly to complaints about the presence of noxious weeds.</li> <li>• Provide assistance and support to private occupiers in controlling noxious weeds on their land and to prepare Property Weed Management Plans for their land and assist in the preparation of the Plans.</li> <li>• Conduct a regular program of property visits to enhance the Council's knowledge of weed control work carried out on private land, and ensure that private landholders are provided with accurate and timely advice on their weed control obligations.</li> <li>• Actively pursue the control of noxious weeds on vacant Crown land and regularly inspect vacant Crown land to ensure weed control obligations are being met.</li> <li>• Facilitate application for necessary funds to finance weed control work by the Council on vacant Crown land.</li>   <li>• Provide information to the responsible Department on the state of noxious weed control on vacant Crown land.</li>   <li>• Actively pursue the control of noxious weeds on land of Forests NSW and inspect areas proposed to be clear felled in coming financial year that are potential weed risks and follow up to ensure control work is carried out on potential weed risks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing</li>   <li>• Continuing</li> <li>• Continuing</li>   <li>• Council is proactive in this regard.</li> <li>• On-going</li>   <li>• Annual program in place</li>   <li>• Council initiative for HP approved by DPI</li> <li>• Information provide regularly</li> <li>• On-going program</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct aerial spraying programs for noxious weeds.</li> <li>• Publicise aerial spraying in local media, and as occasions permits, to ensure maximum landholder participation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No program 22/23</li> <li>• This is done when program is prepared</li> </ul>
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<b>3. Noxious Weeds Control - Roadside</b>			
<b>Strategy Objectives</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Progress as at 31/12/22</b>
<p>Improve the effectiveness of the control of noxious weeds on roads by promoting changes in management techniques and cooperative action.</p>	<p>Ensure that all occupiers are aware of their obligations to control noxious weeds on roads</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include in the Council's advisory and extension material an explanation of the circumstances in which occupiers are required to control noxious weeds on roads.</li> <li>• Where appropriate, bring to the public's notice via press releases and by other appropriate means the obligations on occupiers to control noxious weeds on roads.</li> <li>• Where occupiers are failing to control weeds on roads, as required by the Act, bring the requirements to their attention in writing.</li> <li>• Commence a program of inspections to identify all noxious weed infestations on roads in the Council's area of operations and ensure they are properly recorded.</li> <li>• Prepare a program of work for the control by the Council of noxious weeds on roads where the responsibility for control is the Council's, giving priority in the program of work to isolated infestations and to infestations where the level of infestation on adjoining and adjacent land is low or where occupiers of such land have an approved Property Weed Management Plan for the control of the weed.</li> <li>• Include in the Council's annual estimates adequate provision to fund the program of work for the control of noxious weeds on roads.</li> <li>• Where the adjoining occupier is liable for the control of noxious weeds on a road and the work is not being undertaken, encourage the occupier to comply with the obligations and where this is unsuccessful use the regulatory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete, in place</li> <li>• Press release issued to media outlets/newsletters</li> <li>• Occupiers notified</li> <li>• On-going</li> <li>• Programs in place</li> <li>• Additional funds allocated for 22/23 to 24/25</li> <li>• On-going</li> </ul>

		<p>powers, in accordance with this Strategy, to enforce compliance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursue alternatives for the control of noxious weeds on roads.</li> <li>• Investigate means to achieve the revegetation of roadsides with indigenous species.</li> <li>• Encourage road authorities to revegetate roadsides with indigenous species and to institute work practices which minimise disturbance of roadsides by road construction and maintenance work.</li> <li>• Investigate the use of constituent council Weeds Officers for the control of noxious weeds on roads where they are undertaking weed control on the road for other purposes (road maintenance or environmental weed control).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bio-Control program in place</li> <li>• No program to date</li> <li>• No program to date</li> <li>• CMCC responsible for noxious weed control on roadsides</li> </ul>
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<b>4. Noxious Weeds Control Funding</b>			
<b>Strategy Objectives</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Progress as at 31/12/22</b>
Secure funding, where possible to assist occupiers in their management of noxious weeds by encouraging policy change by NSW State Government and other funding authorities.	Provide assistance and support to occupiers in securing funding for noxious weed control.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Endeavour to ensure that the Council is aware of all sources of funding for noxious weed control.</li> <li>• Encourage occupiers to apply for grants to assist with noxious weed control wherever possible and appropriate and provide assistance to occupiers in applying for grant funds for weed control work.</li> <li>• Write to State and Federal politicians regularly drawing attention to the necessity for increased funding for noxious weed control and for a broadening of the eligibility criteria.</li> <li>• Encourage Constituent Councils to increase support for the Council because of the public goods that flow from noxious weed control.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding programs reported to Council</li> <li>• CMCC has collaborated with landowners on grant applications</li> <li>• Letters written to Minister for Agriculture and DPI</li> <li>• On-going</li> </ul>

5. Communication Policies			
Strategy Objectives	Strategy	Activities	Progress as at 31/12/22
<p>Improve communications between the Council and its community through increase use of electronic and other media.</p>	<p>Provide Improve the Council's profile in the community..</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep under review the appropriateness of the council's corporate logo and ensure that the corporate logo appears on all Council publications, advertisements, uniforms, letterhead, Council office, etc.</li> <li>• Hold Council's Ordinary meetings at least once each year in the area of each of the constituent councils.</li> <li>• Investigate the feasibility and benefit of holding Council's Ordinary meetings at least once each year in the area of each of the constituent councils.</li>   <li>• Any Ordinary Council meeting should be held on a day, at a time, and at a venue that will encourage attendance and participation.</li> <li>• Inform members of the Council's community of the Council's activities and seek input into the Council's operations.</li>   <li>• Ensure that each of the public meetings is advertised widely and that members of the Council community are invited, and encouraged, to attend.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-going</li>   <li>• Council has agreed for meetings to be held in Coonamble with bus tours in other LGA's</li>   <li>• Meeting held in central LGA Coonamble</li>   <li>• Community consultation regularly</li>   <li>• Advertising is comprehensive</li> </ul>

<b>6. Community Consultation</b>			
<b>Strategy Objectives</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Progress as at 31/12/22</b>
<p>Improve the accountability of the Council to its community by providing more open access to information and public participation.</p>	<p>Encourage members of the Council's community to take an interest in the Council's affairs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that, through improved communications between the Council and its community, members of the Council's community are aware of the Council and its role.</li> <li>• Inform members of the Council's community of their rights to be kept informed of the Council's activities via newspaper advertisements and other Council publications.</li>   <li>• Ensure that members of the Council's community receive meaningful information on the Council's operations.</li> <li>• Early in each financial year, prepare a leaflet containing succinct and meaningful information, in plain English, on the Council's operations for the past year and its planned operations and budget for the current year.</li> <li>• Publicise the availability of the leaflet and have staff hand a copy to any member of the Council's community with whom they come in contact, or send out, with the rate notices of constituent councils or otherwise.</li> <li>• Establish a proper complaints handling procedure.</li>   <li>• Ensure that all complaints are recorded in the database.</li> <li>• The General Manager to investigate all complaints and to make a determination on an appropriate response.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing</li>   <li>• Advertising in local newspapers, radio &amp; newsletters</li>   <li>• Continuing</li>   <li>• No publication produced 22/23</li>   <li>• No publication produced 22/23</li> <li>• Complete &amp; in operation</li>   <li>• On-going</li> <li>• On-going</li> </ul>

<b>7. Administration</b>			
<b>Strategy Objectives</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Progress as at 31/12/22</b>
Develop an efficient and effective Council administration of the management of noxious weeds through improved training, procedures and use of technology	Engage and retain sufficient skilled staff to provide administrative services to the Council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constantly monitor the workload of all staff and as necessary, engage additional staff, or provide other support, to meet the fluctuating workload of the Council.</li> <li>• Ensure that all staff receive continuing training as required.</li> <li>• Investigate the employment of a Community Liaison Officer to assist Weeds Officers in their education and advisory function.</li> <li>• Provide up to date computer and other technological facilities including drones for inspections.</li> <li>• Continue and enhance the present practice of entering into arrangements with constituent councils, or others, for obtaining GIS data.</li> <li>• Provide an efficient records management system and appropriate storage for both soft and hard copies.</li> <li>• Continually update and enhance the Council's website (<a href="http://www.noxiousweeds.org.au">www.noxiousweeds.org.au</a>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional contractors engaged 22/23</li> <li>• In accordance with grant requirements</li> <li>• No investigation</li> <li>• IT software &amp; hardware updated regularly Drone in use</li> <li>• Continuing &amp; up to date</li> <li>• In place &amp; in operation</li> <li>• Updated regularly</li> </ul>



<b>8. Funding Arrangements</b>			
<b>Strategy Objectives</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Progress as at 31/12/22</b>
Secure the Council's financial position by promoting stronger funding agreements with funding bodies and seeking alternative sources of funds.	Secure alternative sources of funding for the Council's ordinary operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby politicians to have the noxious weed control grant programs increased.</li> <li>• Investigate the availability of grant funds from other sources to assist the Council in its ordinary operations.</li> <li>• Lobby public authorities for funding of weed control work on roads.</li> <li>• Investigate alternative sources of grant funds for identifiable council weed control projects, such as serrated tussock control.</li> <li>• Maximise income from fees, charges and income producing operations.</li> <li>• Investigate opportunities for the Council to enhance income from its operations.</li> <li>• Ensure that all operations carried out on a contract or agreed basis on behalf of others, including the control of weeds on private property by arrangement with the landholder, are properly costed and the cost fully recovered.</li> <li>• Ensure that the Council does not undertake weed control work for which the Council does not have a statutory obligation unless the work is properly costed and charged at its true cost.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobbied successfully in 22/23 for Hudson Pear funding</li> <li>• Annually</li> <li>• Lobbied LLS 22/23</li> <li>• Annually</li> <li>• Additional private works undertaken</li> <li>• Full cost &amp; recovery is basis of changing policy</li> <li>• No subsidy for works</li> </ul>

9. Lobbying			
Strategy Objectives	Strategy	Activities	Progress as at 31/12/22
Increase public awareness of the impact of noxious weeds on the community and the cost to the community of noxious weeds through contract with the community leaders and public awareness campaigns.	Increase politicians awareness of weeds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write to politicians at every opportunity drawing attention to the importance of weeds and their impact on the community.</li> <li>• Encourage interested groups in the community to lobby politicians about weeds issues and provide background material for their use in doing so.</li> <li>• Invite politicians to Council meetings and to any other Council activities such as field days, community meetings, etc.</li> <li>• Foster an interest in weeds in the local and rural press and news media and generate an interest in weeds by means of press releases in relation to any relevant noxious weed matter, such as scientific advances, research, new control initiatives, council activities, and such like.</li> <li>• Publicise weed matters within the Council's community and ensure that the importance of weeds is</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Politicians lobbied successfully in 22/23</li> <li>• Interested groups and CMCC collaboration</li> <li>• Minister invited regularly however CMCC meeting clashed with Ministers obligations</li> <li>• Minister visited Bio Control Centre to inspect and announce funding program</li> <li>• Regularly publicized</li> </ul>

		<p>emphasised in all Council publications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue and enhance the practice of having constituent councils include with rate notices a suitable information brochure about noxious weeds and the work of the Council.</li> <li>• Continue and enhance the practice of having constituent councils include with Section 149 and 603 certificates a suitable information brochure about noxious weeds and the work of the Council and advising of the desirability of having a pre-purchase inspection about the noxious weed status of land.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No brochure 22/23</li> <li>• on-going</li> </ul>
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<b>10. Technology</b>			
<b>Strategy Objectives</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Progress as at 31/12/22</b>
<p>Enhance the educational and advisory role of the Council through the provision of a range of written and electronic materials and staff promotion of this role.</p>	<p>Ensure Council fulfills its educational and advisory role.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that Weeds Officers are aware of the importance of the educational and advisory role.</li> <li>• Keep the training of Weeds Officer up to date so that they are better able to fulfil the educational and advisory role.</li> <li>• Provide assistance to occupiers in completing Property Weed Management Plans and applying for the Council's approval to such plans.</li> <li>• Council staff to attend at local agricultural shows and provide facilities for distributing educational and advisory material and provide advice on noxious weed matters (perhaps jointly with Department of Primary Industries).</li> <li>• Target solicitors and conveyancers and educate them on noxious weed problems and how they might best protect their clients.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-going</li> <li>• Annual training program in place</li> <li>• Continuing</li> <li>• Annual events attended by CMCC Staff</li> <li>• On-going</li> </ul>

11. Regulatory Powers			
Strategy Objectives	Strategy	Activities	Progress as at 31/12/22
<p>Improve the effectiveness of the Council's regulatory roles by the strategic use of the regulatory power and appropriate publicity.</p>	<p>To use the Council's regulatory powers, where necessary, to enforce the requirements of the Act with regards to noxious weed control.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institute a program of inspections to ensure compliance by private occupiers with programs of work set out in approved Property Weed Management Plans.</li> <li>• The General Manager will, in accordance with this Plan and other Council policies, authorise the issue of a penalty notice, or the prosecution of an occupier or owner, at the General Manager's discretion and after consultation with the Senior Biosecurity Officer, where it appears that an offence against the Act or the regulations has been committed.</li> <li>• The General Manager will authorise the issue of a penalty notice, or the prosecution of an occupier or owner, only where the General Manager is satisfied that such action – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) is necessary to enforce compliance by the offender with the Act and all other methods to encourage compliance have been unsuccessful, or,</li> <li>(b) will serve as an example to others and will encourage the control of noxious weeds and further the implementation of this Strategy.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The General Manager will authorise the issue of a penalty notice in preference to prosecution action.</li> <li>• Publicise the Council's intention to use its regulatory powers to enforce the requirements of the Act with regard to noxious weed control.</li> <li>• Include in the Council's advisory and extension material an explanation of Councils regulatory powers and the circumstances in which the Council will use its regulatory powers to enforce the requirements of the Act.</li> <li>• Weeds Officers to explain, both orally and in writing, to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programs in place</li> <li>• Compliance policy being developed</li> <li>• Policy being developed</li> <li>• Policy being developed</li> <li>• Notification is publicized</li> <li>• Completed annually</li> <li>• Continuing</li> </ul>

		<p>occupiers, and where appropriate, owners, who are failing to meet the requirements of the Act, the regulatory consequences that may follow their continued failure to comply with the requirements of the Act.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emphasise in press releases and on all appropriate public occasions that the Council will use its regulatory powers to enforce the requirements of the Act where there is continued failure by occupiers and owners to comply with the Act.</li> <li>• Ensure that the powers of inspection are used strictly in accordance with the Act and the Council's priorities.</li> <li>• Before entering premises the Council will make every reasonable endeavour to contact the occupier to discuss its intention to enter and will endeavour to secure the occupier's consent to the entry, and a permanent record of the circumstances and details of all oral consents by occupiers to enter premises will be kept.</li> <li>• Endeavour to secure the cooperation of public authorities in controlling noxious weeds on land that they occupy.</li> <li>• Where a public authority has failed to comply with Section 13, and the Council has been unsuccessful in securing its cooperation in controlling noxious weeds on land that it occupies, recommend to the Minister that a weed control notice be given by the Minister to the public authority.</li> <li>• Ensure that the regulatory powers are used fairly and impartially and in accordance with this strategy.</li> <li>• All staff are to be made aware of the provisions of this plan relating to the use of regulatory powers.</li> <li>• The General Manager to thoroughly investigate all complaints concerning the use of the regulatory powers.</li> <li>• Institute a program of random reviews of instances where a failure of occupiers or owners to comply with the Act has not resulted in regulatory action to ensure that the matters were managed in accordance with this strategy.</li> <li>• Report to the Council the result of any reviews conducted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing</li> <li>• Policy under development</li> <li>• This is done with all inspections</li> <li>• Continuing</li> <li>• No issues recorded 22/23</li> <li>• No non-compliance in 22/23</li> <li>• Inspectors fully aware of Bio Security Act</li> <li>• No complaints 22/23</li> <li>• Policy for compliance under development</li> <li>• No reviews conducted</li> </ul>
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