Local Land Services South East

South East Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 - 2022

Developed in partnership with the South East Regional Weed Committee

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South East Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing in June 2017. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of Local Land Services or the user's independent adviser.

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Acknowledgement of Country

The South East Local Land Services region is situated in the traditional lands of the Wiradjuri, Ngunnawal, Gundungurra, Tharawal, Yuin and Ngarigo nations. The South East Local Land Services Board acknowledges and pays its respects to Elders of this nation, both past and present.

We acknowledge the rich diversity in Aboriginal communities who share a connection to, and carry responsibility to care for Country and culture, both now and into the future.

We also acknowledge that the protection and promotion of Aboriginal culture, heritage, traditional land practices and spiritual beliefs is of fundamental importance to the traditional owners of these lands and waters, and is of benefit to the whole community. Respectful sharing of cultural values will promote a genuinely reconciled and resilient community in the South East.

Acknowledgement of Contributors

This plan was developed by the South East Regional Weed Committee on behalf of the South East Local Land Services Board. The Board wishes to acknowledge the work of the committee and regional support staff in developing this plan. The Board would also like to thank the Regional Expert Panel and Technical Subcommittee of the State Weed Committee for their support in weed risk prioritisation, the Office of Environment and Heritage and the Department of Primary Industries for their guidance in the development of this plan.

We also wish to acknowledge that some text within this plan was drawn from a range of NSW DPI publications, including the draft Invasive Species Plan, NSW Biosecurity Strategy 2013 –2021 and the *Biosecurity Act 2015* Discussion Paper: *Weeds*. Development of this plan was supported through NSW Weeds Action Program funding from the NSW Government.

The South East would like to thank Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, South East Local Land Services staff, Associate Professor Paul Downey, and all the members of the South East Regional Weed Committee for their input.

South East Local Land Services Board Chair's Foreword

The South East Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan (SERSWMP) is a very important step on the road to a collaborative approach by all land managers and stakeholders to make progress towards one of the most pressing issues confronting our rural communities and landscape.

As the Chair of South East Local Land Services and a land manager, I have a very keen personal interest in the fight against the spread of existing weeds and the prevention of emerging weeds within the South East tablelands and coastal region. This plan sets out a pathway to identify and respond to this increasing scourge on our landscape. The plan is a living document and one that must be reviewed regularly by the South East Regional Weed Committee.
As custodians of the land, the impacts of doing nothing in the fight against weeds can no longer be tolerated nor accepted. To do so would be to ignore the social, economic and environmental devastation that weeds impose. I believe that we can only win this fight in partnership with our local communities and local government working side by side through a tenure neutral approach.

I take this opportunity to thank the wonderful efforts by the South East Regional Weed Committee led by the Chair, Mr Angus Coles, with the dedicated support and assistance from South East Local Land Services Board, Aaron Smith and Annelies McGaw of South East Local Land Services for their tireless efforts. I would also like to thank Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council representatives in particular, for leading and co-ordinating the mapping and detailed analysis that underpins this plan. This is the first step, however it is an extremely important one in the fightback against the threat of weeds in the South East region.

It is now up to all of us to work together to ensure its long term success.

David Mitchell

Chair of South East Local Land Services

Regional Weed Committee Chair's Foreword

The South East Regional Weed Committee was established in February 2016 to support the implementation and delivery of the weeds components and underlying principles of the *NSW Biosecurity Strategy 2013-2021, NSW Biosecurity Act 2015* and the draft *NSW Invasive Species Plan 2015-2022*. The Committee oversees the delivery of weed management under a newly developed strategic plan aimed at achieving a tenure neutral approach and better outcomes with land managers and stakeholders at both a local and regional scale.

Through my involvement with local council, the agricultural industry, and as a local Boorowa resident, I have seen the changes and dramatic effects that weeds can have on the landscape. I have also seen the results that committed and coordinated efforts from community groups and individuals can achieve in controlling and restoring weed infested lands. I have also appreciated first-hand the need to eradicate new weed incursions before they become widespread and pervasive weeds. I also appreciate the scale of the weed problem and the need to ensure that weed management is both strategic and targeted to high risk areas in the first instance.

This plan sets out a new strategic direction for weed management across the region, in which weed management and broader biosecurity is everyone's responsibility. The plan is founded on a tenure neutral approach to weed management, with responsibilities placed on both public and private land managers. The plan focusses on prioritising and managing weeds from a biosecurity risk perspective to protect both natural resources and agricultural assets across the region.

I look forward to working with the South East community to implement the plan over the coming years, reducing the weed threat to our region's natural environment, primary industries, and communities.

Mr Angus Coles

Chair, South East Regional Weed Committee

Executive summary

The South East region supports a diverse and distinct mixture of landscape, livelihood, cultural and lifestyle values. Strategic and coordinated regional weed management is critical to building the sustainability of natural environments, primary industries, and local communities in the region.

The South East Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan (RSWMP) outlines strategic actions to guide collaborative weed management, resource allocation and investment in the South East region, providing a consistent basis for regional planning and delivery.

Whilst not a regulatory document, the RSWMP plays an important role in articulating the shared responsibility principle of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act) to regulators, stakeholders, public agencies and the wider community. The plan is one of the first documents to use the new regulatory tools available in the Act when it replaces the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*. It provides necessary information to enable people to effectively discharge their obligations under the Act.

The RSWMP:

- prioritises weeds based on risk, impact and feasibility of control;
- explains the rationale for weed management expectations;
- considers community expectations for, and involvement in, the management of weeds, and
- provides opportunities for public consultation and education regarding weed management.

The NSW Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans are a direct response to legislative reform, prompted by the Commonwealth's *Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity (2012)* and NSW weed reforms. This Plan was prepared by the South East Regional Weed Committee on behalf of the South East Local Land Services Board. It covers weed risks that impact:

- animal and plant industries, including agriculture, aquaculture, recreational and commercial fishing and forestry
- biodiversity and the natural (terrestrial and aquatic) and urban and peri-urban environments
- human health, lifestyle, cultural values, recreation and social amenity
- infrastructure and service industries, including energy, transport and water supplies.

The plan sets the vision for weed management in the South East for five years from 2017, and outlines strategies and actions to achieve goals that focus on shared responsibility for weed management, sustainable landscapes and collaborative leadership and innovation.

The plan provides the basis for a cooperative and coordinated approach to weed management across the South East region and applies equally to public and private land. It provides guidance for coordinated action to identify, minimise, respond to and manage high risk weeds.

Vision:

Government, industry and communities of the South East Region working together to protect the environment, economy and community from the negative impacts of weeds for the benefit of the region.

Goal 1: ***Responsibility for weed biosecurity is shared by the whole South East community***

Actions focus on a whole of community approach to weed management, with an emphasis on:

- building community capacity
- building stronger partnerships
- fostering a shared responsibility
- promoting behavioural change

Goal 2: ***Weed biosecurity supports profitable, productive and sustainable primary industries***

and

Goal 3: ***Weed biosecurity supports healthy, diverse and connected natural environments***

Actions focus on weed biosecurity to protect the environment and foster sustainable economic growth. The emphasis is on:

- preventing new weeds from entering the region
- eradicating or containing the spread of new weeds that do establish in the region
- managing widespread weeds on priority sites.

Goal 4: ***Weed biosecurity is supported by coordinated, collaborative and innovative leadership***

Actions focus on a consistent approach to implementing this plan, with emphasis on:

- providing good governance and leadership to support a collaborative approach
- supporting and delivering the weed biosecurity reforms for NSW
- implementing risk based systems across all tenures in a co-ordinated manner
- using information and mapping systems, current research and adaptive management to improve effectiveness of weed control.

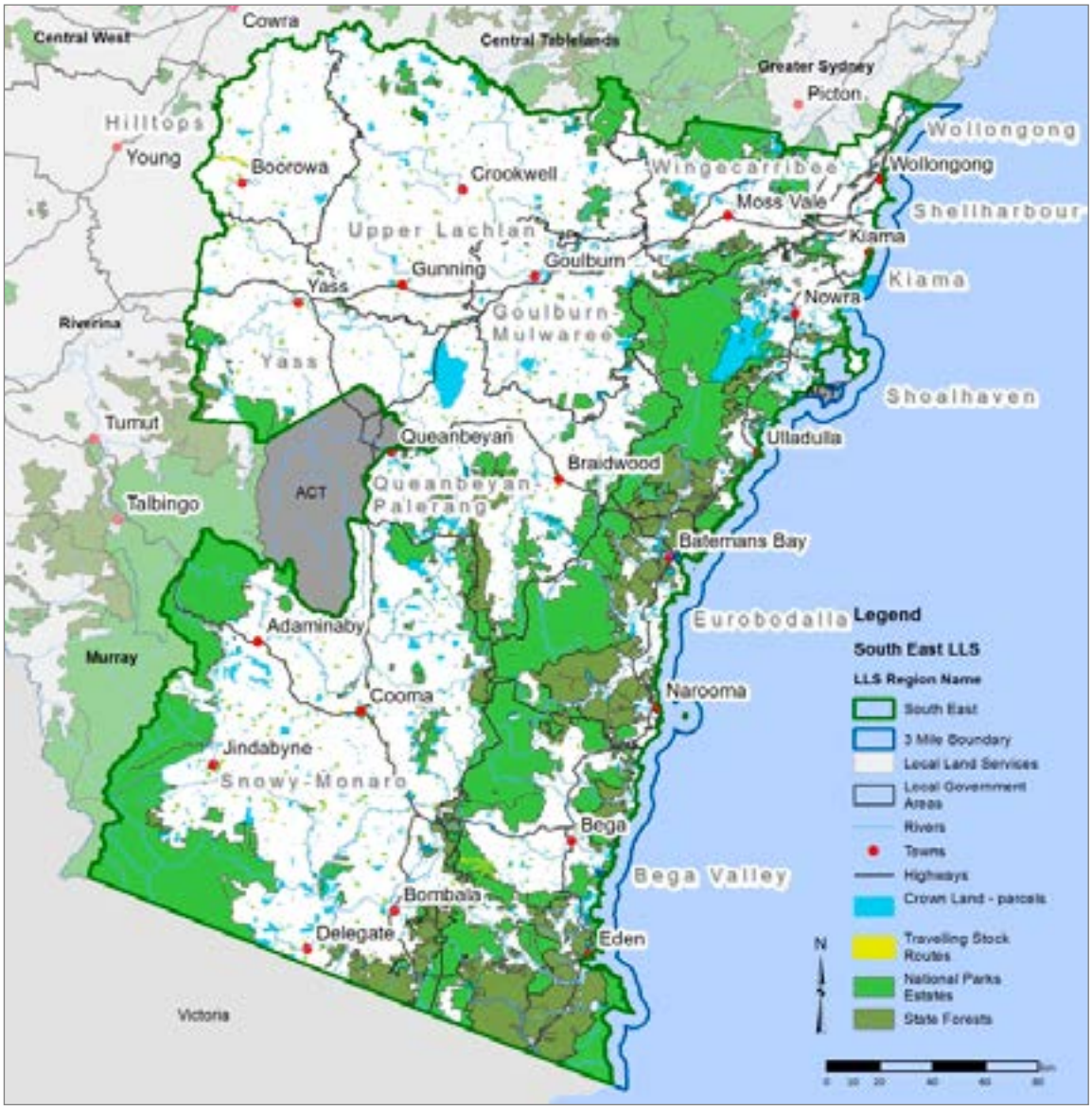
1. Intent of plan

1.1 Introduction

Biosecurity protects the economy, environment and community from the negative impacts of pests, diseases and weeds. As such, it is vital for the health, wellbeing and prosperity of the state. The South East Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan (RSWMP) provides a framework for regional weed management as part of the regional implementation of the *NSW Biosecurity Strategy 2013-2021*, *Invasive Species Plan 2015-2022* (draft) and the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015*. It sets out expectations for effective and coordinated weed management in the region. The plan (and the legislation that underpins it) is based on the premise that biosecurity is everyone's responsibility. The RSWMP supports development of this culture, guiding the community in effective and coordinated management of weeds and meeting relevant statutory obligations.

The plan relates to all lands and waters (excluding marine) in the South East Local Land Services region of NSW (Figure 1.1).

Figure 1.1: South East Local Land Services Region



The plan will guide resource allocation and investment for weed management in the region and provide a consistent basis for regional weed planning and delivery. In line with recent weed reforms in NSW, it has a wide scope, covering weed risks that impact:

- biodiversity of natural environments (terrestrial and aquatic)
- animal and plant industries (agriculture, horticulture, forestry, aquaculture, recreational and commercial fishing)
- human health, livelihood, lifestyle, recreation and landscape amenity
- infrastructure and service industries, including energy, transport and water supply

This plan sets the vision, goals and objectives for weed management in the South East for the next five years, and outlines the strategies and actions to achieve these goals.

1.2 Vision, Goals and Objectives

The Vision for this plan is:

Government, industry and the people of the South East working together to protect the environment, economy and community from the negative impacts of weeds.

The goals, objectives and outcomes for this plan align with those of the NSW *Biosecurity Strategy* 2013-2021 and the South East Local Land Services Local Strategic Plan 2016-2021, which provide the overarching policy framework.

Our Goals are:

1. *Responsibility for regional weed biosecurity is shared by the whole South East community*
2. *Weed biosecurity supports profitable, productive and sustainable primary industries*
3. *Weed biosecurity supports healthy, diverse and connected natural environments*
4. *Weed biosecurity is supported by coordinated, collaborative and innovative leadership.*

Specific objectives and strategies to achieve them are summarised in Table 1.1 below. More detailed actions are outlined in Table 5.1.

Table 1.1: Vision, Goals, Outcomes, Objectives and Strategies of the plan

Vision	***Government, industry and the people of the South East region working together to protect the environment, economy and community from the negative impacts of weeds.***		
Goals	**Shared Responsibility**	**Sustainable Landscapes**	**Collaborative Leadership and Innovation**
	1. Responsibility for weed biosecurity is shared by the South East community	**2. Weed biosecurity supports profitable, productive and sustainable primary industries** **3. Weed biosecurity supports healthy, diverse and connected natural environments**	**4. Weed biosecurity is supported by coordinated, collaborative and innovative leadership**
Outcomes	• Community, industry and government are sharing responsibility for weed management and have a clear understanding of their roles and obligations. • People have the skills, knowledge, capacity and capability to deliver weed management activities. • Strong supportive partnerships have improved weed management for all partners. • Awareness of weed management in the region has improved through communication and engagement, which is proactive and inclusive.	• Weed management is integrated and coordinated across all tenures. • Weeds are monitored at landscape and industry scales and developing problems are proactively managed. • Weed management is supporting landscape health and key assets important to biodiversity. • Primary industries are using leading weed management practices that contribute to increases in productivity, sustainability and market access with minimal impacts on natural resources. • Sensitive aboriginal cultural heritage areas are protected. • Weed biosecurity threats are continually identified, assessed and prioritised across South East region environments and primary industry sectors. • Weed biosecurity emergencies and high risk pathways are well managed. • Impacts on high priority assets have been minimised through risk based weed management programs.	• Engagement, collaboration and involvement of local people in decision making are coordinated. • Relevant and timely information supports decision making by the South East Regional Weed Committee and the State Weed Committee. • Information, monitoring, performance evaluation and reporting systems, provide for benchmarking, continuous improvement, stakeholder feedback and innovation. • A strong evidence and knowledge base is supporting innovation and strengthening research. • Changes in weed behaviour under a changing climate are being understood and monitored.

Objectives	• Communicate a clear strategic vision and build support for a strong and integrated biosecurity system for the region. • Provide the foundation for all customers and stakeholders to work together, and to fully utilise knowledge and expertise across all groups. • Foster accountability for weed management in the region at all levels.	• Improve effectiveness in prevention and response to new weed incursions. • Prevent, eradicate, control and manage the impacts of weeds. • Understand and have regard for the impacts of a changing climate on weed biosecurity.	• Provide a framework for more detailed planning, monitoring and reporting of weed management programs. • Provide guidance for weed management prioritisation, decision making and actions at a regional level. • Support consistent and coordinated regional weed management planning and local delivery. • Support leading practice in weed management through ongoing creation and sharing of knowledge and spatial information.
Strategies	• 1.1 Promote weed management and behavioural change in the community. • 1.2 Build stronger partnerships that support weed management. • 1.3 Enhance community-wide capacity in sharing responsibility for weed management.	• 2-3.1 Improve surveillance, reporting and tracing systems for weeds. • 2-3.2 Improve prevention, preparedness and response to weed emergencies. • 2-3.3 Eradicate or prevent the spread of new weeds. • 2-3.4 Contain and manage impacts of widespread weeds. • 2-3.4 Support and utilise developments in weed science and technology.	• 4.1 Provide governance and leadership that supports collaborative, effective and efficient weed management. • 4.2 Adopt adaptive, contemporary planning and processes. • 4.3 Develop a regional weed knowledge base and information system that supports state standards. • 4.4 Develop consistent systems for monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the effectiveness of weed management. • 4.5 Use results of research outcomes to assess and respond to changing risks under a changing climate

1.3 A more strategic approach to weed management

1.3.1 Drivers

Weeds are a major threat to Australia's environment. The impact of weeds on Australian agriculture alone is estimated to be $2.5 billion in lost production and $1.8 billion in control activities every year (DPI, 2015). Impacts on biodiversity and natural environments are harder to quantify, but devastating, threatening the survival of native plants and animals, and compromising the integrity of entire ecosystems. Invasive species are acknowledged as the second-greatest contributor to biodiversity decline after habitat loss. Weeds are a key threat for over 400 (45%) of NSW's threatened species (Coutts-Smith & Downey, 2006). Catchment Management Authority and OEH data list 22 endangered Ecological Communities (EECs) and 60 threatened flora and fauna species (some protected by international treaties) in the south east region affected by weeds (DPI, OEH, 2011).

The NSW Biosecurity Strategy 2013-2021 outlined the measures needed to align NSW with Commonwealth and other state biosecurity policies. This led to the development of the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015*, which replaces 14 other pieces of legislation and establishes a clear framework for safeguarding primary industries, natural environments and communities from biosecurity threats.

The emphasis in the NSW Invasive Species Plan, Biosecurity Strategy and biosecurity legislation is on preventing invasive species and early intervention in the incursion process. Early and strategic investment to prevent and eradicate invasive species provides more cost-effective and successful weed control outcomes.

In addition to the increasing costs of weed control, a range of issues are increasing the need to manage weeds more strategically and efficiently:

- NSW weed management reform, identified in the *Review of Weeds Management in NSW* (NRC, 2014). This followed reform of Commonwealth biosecurity measures in 2012, alignment of state legislation, and measures for better cross-jurisdictional biosecurity management around the country.
- Globalisation is integrating the world economy with rapid growth in trade, tourism, passenger and cargo movements. This is increasing the risk and rate of pest, disease and weed incursions.
- The global climate is more variable and less predictable, with more extreme weather events, increasing average temperatures and other changes expected. These changes are likely to favour the establishment, spread or shift of some weeds and limit the distribution and impact of others.
- The demand for food is continually increasing, with modelling indicating global food production will have to double between now and 2050 to keep up with that demand. We need to do everything we can to protect our capacity to produce food, with weeds being a major impact on productivity.
- Herbicide resistance is a growing problem, particularly with the development of resistant crops. There is also a trend towards growing organic produce and concern about the impact of pesticides on health.
- Pressure to maintain profitability and increase efficiency are ongoing in government, industry, and business sectors with an ageing population and an increasingly global economy. It is crucial that resources for weed biosecurity are used wisely, with constructive partnerships and clear decision-making processes established.

Technological developments are creating opportunities to improve the effectiveness of weed management and improve capacity to work more strategically at a landscape scale. Planning

for weed management must consider the effectiveness and efficiency of control measures to ensure the cost is commensurate with the benefit.

1.3.2 Roles and responsibilities in regional weed management

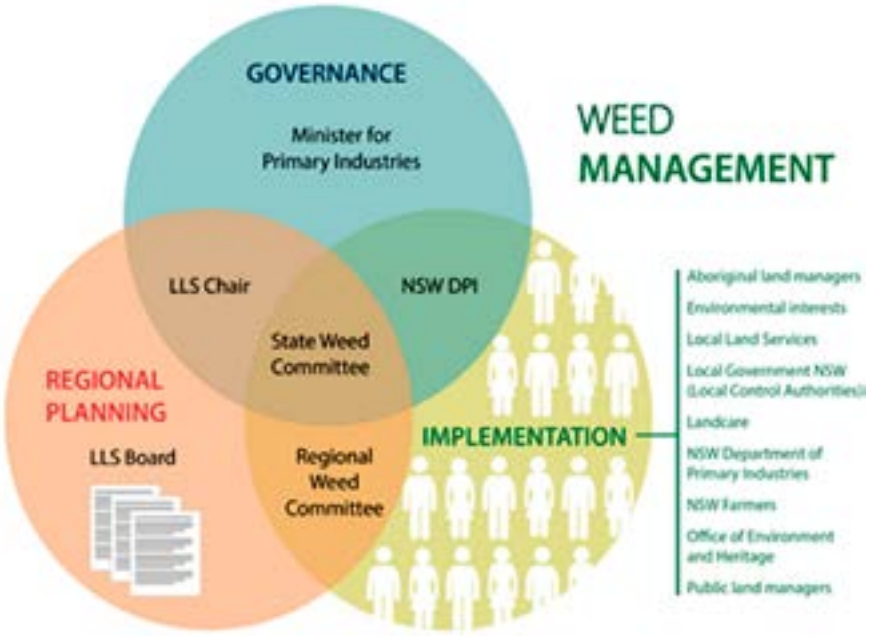
The NRC weed review (NRC 2014) recommended that Local Land Services assume responsibility for forming a weed committee in each region to act as an Advisory Group and provide appropriate support for weed management and planning. The South East Regional Weed Committee (RWC) includes representatives from South East Local Land Services (SE LLS), NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), state government agencies managing state owned lands (Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), Forestry Corporation, Roads and Maritime Services, WaterNSW and Department of Industry – Lands), local government and county councils, John Holland Rail, NSW Farmers, Landcare, and NSW Aboriginal Land Council. Through this representation, the Committee aims to provide tenure neutral strategic planning and coordination of weed management activities at a regional level and also provides a forum for community representatives and stakeholders to raise issues and find solutions. The Committee also includes a representative from ACT Territory and Municipal Services, as the South East region virtually surrounds the ACT, and there is a shared interest in weed management across borders.

The State Weed Committee (SWC) was established to oversee implementation of the weed management reforms: auditing, evaluating weed declarations, and providing state-level perspectives and governance. Their role includes listing weeds for regulatory action, developing service delivery standards for weed compliance, and commissioning audits. The RWC refers weed policy issues to the SWC and supports the SWC in developing service delivery standards.

The relationship between Local Land Services, the Regional Weed Committee, the State Weed Committee and other customers and stakeholders is shown in Figure 1.2. Government, industry, research providers, educational institutions, non-government organisations, individuals and the community as a whole all have a role to play in the management of weed biosecurity risks.

Local control authorities continue to play a particularly important role in weed management across the region, including surveillance, inspection and enforcement of the NSW Weed Action Program 2015-2020 and weed provisions of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

Figure 1.2: Roles in NSW weed management

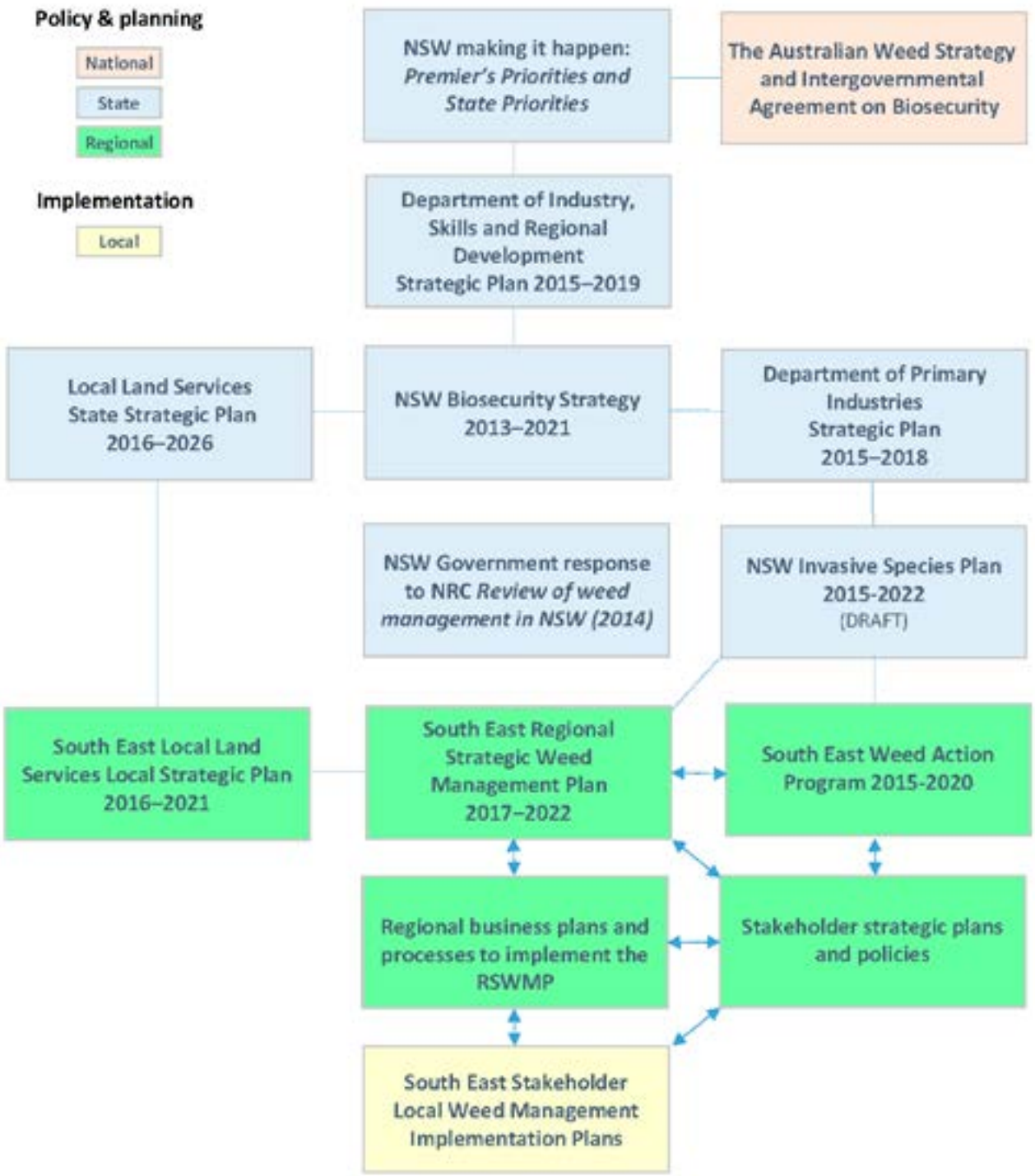


2. Policy framework

2.1 Overview of key plans and strategies

The Regional Weed Committee considered a range of relevant plans and strategies in development of this plan, at national, state and local levels. These are shown in Figure 2.1.

Figure 2.1: Overall policy planning framework for the RSWMP



2.2 Guiding legislation

The NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015* (the Act) is the primary statute directing implementation of this plan. The Act is administered by NSW Department of Primary Industries. A range of other state legislation will also influence how the plan is implemented, including the *Local Government Act 1993*, the *Local Lands Services Act 2013*, *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, and the *Forestry and National Park Estate Act 1998*.

2.3 Biosecurity Act

The *Biosecurity Act 2015* repeals the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*. It streamlines and modernises the way all biosecurity risks (feral animals, plant and animal diseases, and weeds) are managed in NSW. In relation to weeds, the Act:

- embeds the principle of shared responsibility for weed risk across government, community and industry
- applies equally to all land and waterways in the state, regardless of whether ownership is public or private
- is premised on the concept of risk, so that weed management investment and response is commensurate with the risk posed
- supports regional planning and management for weeds.

2.3.1 General Biosecurity Duty

The General Biosecurity Duty (GBD) introduced in the Act reinforces the first of the above principles: that everyone shares the responsibility for weed biosecurity. Its purpose is to reduce the spread of any plant that might pose a biosecurity risk (a threat to native vegetation, flora and fauna, agriculture, other primary industries, human health or essential infrastructure). This means that any person dealing with plant matter must take measures to prevent, minimise or eliminate the biosecurity risk (as far as is reasonably practicable).

"Dealing" has a broad definition in the Act and includes activities such as grazing, cropping, fodder production, horticulture, gardening, weed control, seed and other plant production, as well as carrying, sale and distribution of these products. Plant matter includes plants, parts of plants and seeds. In general, if you deal with or carry plant matter as part of a commercial, professional, volunteer or recreational activity, it would be considered that you would know, or ought to know, the risks.

The general biosecurity duty is a flexible tool that places an onus on all land managers, both public and private, and other people who deal with biosecurity matter to manage biosecurity risk. Rather than being restricted to listed weeds, the GBD applies to any potentially invasive species, and appropriate outcomes specified, rather than prescribed control measures for every weed (although these may be specified for high risk weeds subject to regulatory controls). It is this flexibility that will overcome challenges in current operations under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993.

2.3.2 Regulatory tools of the Act

The *Biosecurity Act 2015* includes a number of mechanisms (regulatory tools) that can be used to manage weed risks. The Act and Regulations provide specific legal requirements for high risk activities and state level priority weeds. The State level priority weeds and associated legal requirements relevant to the region are included in Appendix 1.

Table 2.1: Tools of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

Prohibited Matter: biosecurity matter listed in Schedule 2, Part 1 of the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015* to prevent entry of that matter into NSW or a part of NSW. Prohibited matter (weeds nationally targeted for eradication and presently not in NSW) relevant to the region is listed in Appendix A1.1 of this plan.
Control Order: establishes control zones and related measures to prevent, eliminate, minimise or manage a biosecurity risk or impact. Control orders are issued by DPI to manage weeds under approved eradication programs and last for five years (or can be renewed for longer-term eradication programs). See Appendix 1.
Biosecurity Zone: aims at containment of a species and provides for ongoing strategic management in a defined area of the state to prevent further spread of a weed. A Biosecurity Zone specifies the measures that must be taken in the defined area to manage the weed. Species may also be subject to recommended measures tailored by the region either within the zone or outside it. See Appendix 1.
Mandatory Measures Regulation: requires parties to take specific actions with respect to weeds or carriers of weeds. Mandatory Measures are defined in the regulations and include prohibition on certain dealings - including Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) (Division 8 Clause 33), Parthenium weed carriers - machinery and equipment (Division 8 Clause 35), and duty to notify of importation of plants into the state (Division 8 Clause 34). Mandatory measures relevant to the region are listed in Appendix 1.
General Biosecurity Duty (GBD): the purpose of the GBD is to manage the impact of all weeds that pose a biosecurity risk (2.3.1 above provides more detail). The GBD is in addition to any requirements included in a control order, biosecurity zone or other instrument made under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. Outcomes to demonstrate compliance with the GBD for priority weeds are detailed in Appendix 1 of this plan.
Biosecurity Direction: an Authorised Officer may issue a Biosecurity Direction to a person or class of persons, if an officer reasonably believes it is necessary to prevent, eliminate or minimise a biosecurity risk or biosecurity impact, or to enforce any instrument under the *Biosecurity Act 2015.*
Biosecurity Undertaking: is a written undertaking by a person, accepted by an authorised officer, specifying the agreed measures a person will take to remedy a contravention, likely contravention, or suspected contravention of the Act within an agreed timeframe. It is not an admission of guilt.
Emergency Order: may be issued by the Secretary of the Department of Primary Industry to respond to a current or imminent biosecurity risk that may have a significant impact.

2.3.3 Enforcing the Biosecurity Act

NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) administers the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and determines the priority weed species covered by regulatory tools.

Local Control Authorities are responsible for enforcing weed legislation. This includes such activities as:

- conducting weed inspections on public and private property
- inspecting and controlling weeds in high risk pathways and sites
- providing weed education, training and resources for both the public and staff
- administering and ensuring compliance with any of the above regulatory tools
- responding to breaches of the Act, and
- notifying and reporting on weed activities to the Biosecurity Information System (BIS).

Local Control Authority Weed Officers will be appointed as Authorised Officers under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* by their Local Control Authority, delegated by the Secretary of the DPI.

Education, extension and use of biosecurity undertakings reinforce the concept of the General Biosecurity Duty and establish a cooperative approach to local and regional weed management. The primary focus of this plan is to encourage and work with the community and landholders to achieve weed management objectives of the region (see Appendices).

Weed management in the region will focus primarily on State and Regional Priority weeds listed in Appendix 1. For these high risk weeds, prompt and responsible action is essential to avoid significant impacts on landholders, industry and the environment across NSW. The management objectives for these weeds are to prevent their incursion into NSW, and to eradicate them if found. Regional priority weeds (listed in Appendix 1.2, 2) must be managed to mitigate the risk of their introduction to, or within the region, and to reduce impacts on a regional basis. The tools of the Act and local Weed Management Plans regulate the management objectives for these weeds. Differences in state and regional weed regulation are summarised in Table 2.3.3 below.

Table 2.3.3 State and regional regulation of weeds

Class/ Appendix no.	Biosecurity tool	Summary of compliance actions*	Regional response*
State Priority Weeds/ A1.1	Prohibited Matter	• Do not deal with Prohibited Matter; • Notify LCA • Eradicate	Trigger rapid response protocol
	Biosecurity Zone	• Notify LCA • Eradicate if practicable OR • Destroy and suppress spread • Do not move, import into NSW or sell	Trigger rapid response protocol
	Control Order	• Notify LCA • Eradicate and fully and continuously suppress and destroy • Do not move, import into NSW or sell	Trigger rapid response protocol
	Mandatory measure	Compliance actions in accordance with published weed management plans	Species managed in accordance with published weed management plans
Regional priority weeds (A1.2)	General Biosecurity Duty	As per regional objectives of *Prevention, Eradication, Containment* or *Asset Protection*	Details in Appendix 1.2
Potential regional priority weeds (A2.1)		Local application of General Biosecurity Duty	• Complete surveys/ risk assessments in collaboration with other LCAs ; • Trigger rapid response protocol for any new sightings • Develop local programs • Escalate to A1.2 if appropriate
Weeds with local management programs (A2.2)		Local application of General Biosecurity Duty as detailed in existing local programs.	

3. Weed management in the region

3.1 Overview

3.1.1 Description of the region

The South East LLS Region is a geographically diverse area covering about 55,600 km^2. It ranges from north of Wollongong along the coast to the Victorian border, with the western boundary extending from Boorowa down the eastern side of the Australian Capital Territory to the Snowy Mountains. The region includes the local government areas of Upper Lachlan, Goulburn - Mulwaree, Wingecarribee, Wollongong, Shellharbour, Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla, Kiama, Queanbeyan - Palerang, Snowy Monaro, Yass Valley, Bega Valley and the eastern portion of Hilltops (the former Boorowa Shire). It is Country to 17,000 Aboriginal people from 17 traditional land and cultural groups living within the region.

The South East has a population of 620,000, most of whom live in urban areas, with over 400,000 residents in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven districts. The region has a high turnover of land ownership and an increasing number of small land holdings (2-40 hectares), especially in the Sydney - South Coast and Sydney - Canberra corridors.

There are five landscape types within the South East: the South Coast and Highlands, Far South Coast, Tablelands, Monaro (including alpine) and South West Slopes. Each differs markedly, yet both encompass a diverse range of social, agricultural, economic and natural resource values.

The South Coast and Highlands landscape consists of spectacular escarpment, estuaries, waterways, lakes and rural hinterlands. As a tourist mecca, the coastal population can triple over summer, placing a great deal of pressure on local services and environments. It contains Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama, Shoalhaven and Wingecarribee local government areas and supports a population of over 370,000. The area is bounded by the coastal escarpment and cooler highlands to the west and the coastal strip. This subregion is typified by high rainfall, rolling hills and coastal alluvial plains. The South Coast supports major industrial areas, defence facilities, mining and transport hubs, including Port Kembla, one of the state's three major ports. The region also sustains a substantial agricultural sector. Refer to Figure 3.1 for major land uses within the region. This subregion includes major urban centres (Wollongong, Shellharbour Nowra, Moss Vale) with a high population density, and numerous smaller towns and villages. Densely populated areas in the Sydney-Wollongong-South Coast corridor, highways and port facilities pose a considerable risk of new weed incursions and dispersal.

The Far South Coast boasts spectacular beaches, forests and farmland. The landscape is dominated by forestry, crown lands and National Park estate (70% of land use). It includes Eurobodalla and Bega Valley local government areas, and the towns of Batemans Bay, Moruya, Narooma, Bega, Merimbula and Eden, smaller towns, villages and hamlets. Agriculture (particularly dairying), forestry, fishing and derived industries (including the port at Eden), and tourism are important to local economies.

Coastal, escarpment and hinterland areas support a range of ecological communities in both public and private ownership, encompassing the South East Corner and Sydney Basin Bioregions (IBRA Version 7). These include 12 threatened ecological communities and constituent threatened flora and fauna (NSW OEH), three of which are listed as Critically Endangered under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)* (EPBC Act).

The Tablelands encompasses a broad range of landscapes including the Southern Tablelands, part of the South West Slopes bioregion, the Monaro and alpine ranges. It includes the headwaters of the Murray, Murrumbidgee, Lachlan, Shoalhaven and Snowy Rivers.

Away from the coast, landscapes are predominantly rural, with regional centres in Bowral, Goulburn, Queanbeyan and Cooma. With the exception of Cooma, these centres form part of the Sydney-Canberra corridor. Cooma links Canberra with snowfields and far south coast recreational areas south of the ACT. Major population centres in this region are comparatively small and widely dispersed. However, the ACT acts as a regional hub in terms of employment and trade, and interacts with local governments through the Canberra Region Joint Organisation (CBRJO) and South East Weed Action Program (SEWAP). The dominant agricultural industries across the Tablelands include livestock (mainly sheep and cattle) and horticulture. Land use also includes extensive public lands, especially in the Monaro. These lands include Kosciuszko National Park, large areas of State Forest, Travelling Stock Reserves and water catchment reserves that supply the greater Sydney region. The tablelands landscape is twice the size of the coastal landscape (3.7 million hectares compared to 1.8 million hectares), with almost eight times more grazing land and five times more cropping/horticultural land, but with a smaller and more dispersed population. The Tablelands encompasses three IBRA Bioregions: the South East Highlands, Australian Alps and South West Slopes. These areas also support a diverse range of ecological communities, including 10 regarded as Endangered Ecological Communities, two (natural temperate grassland and box-gum woodland) being listed as critically endangered (*Commonwealth EPBC Act* and NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act (1995)* (TSC Act)). Many remnants are significantly degraded and are at particular risk from further weed invasion.

Landscapes include part of the South West Slopes, the Southern Tablelands and the Monaro. The South West Slopes subregion includes the local government areas of Hilltops, Upper Lachlan and Yass Valley. The landscape is characterised by rolling hills, grassy woodlands, extensively cleared grazing and cropping areas, and fragile, erodible soils. Agriculture is the focus of the local economy. Although predominantly rural and fairly sparsely populated, proximity to the ACT has meant increased subdivision pressure and increasing land values. The Southern Tablelands includes Goulburn - Mulwaree and Queanbeyan - Palerang local government areas. It includes the Sydney - Canberra "capital growth corridor", large regional centres (Goulburn, Queanbeyan), rural towns and villages. Again, proximity to Canberra has meant an increase in peri-urban development and commuter populations, with increasing land prices and speculative development affecting the local agricultural economy. The Monaro includes alpine and subalpine areas, with characteristic sparsely treed plains, as well as forest and woodlands to the west (Snowy Mountains) and east (coastal escarpment). The local government area is the newly amalgamated Snowy Monaro (incorporating the former Cooma-Monaro, Bombala and Snowy River Shires). It includes the rural towns of Cooma, Bombala, Berridale and alpine centres of Jindabyne and Thredbo. Population density is low, with fewer than 22,000 people in the shire. Agriculture (mainly sheep and beef grazing) and tourism are economic mainstays of the area.

3.1.2 Regional influences and challenges

Because the South East is a major agricultural region, there are many movements of stock, feed and other produce along major highways and forestry routes throughout the region. The South Coast has a large transient population attracted to its beaches and forests, and major highways linking coastal towns with Sydney, Canberra and Victoria. Ports at Eden and Port Kembla are also high traffic sites. These represent high risk pathways for weed invasion.

Despite increasingly coordinated, strategic and innovative approaches to weed management by Local Control Authorities, National Parks and Wildlife Service and other proactive public and private land managers, it is clear from the weed risk assessments carried out across the region that the number and extent of priority species in the region continues to grow.

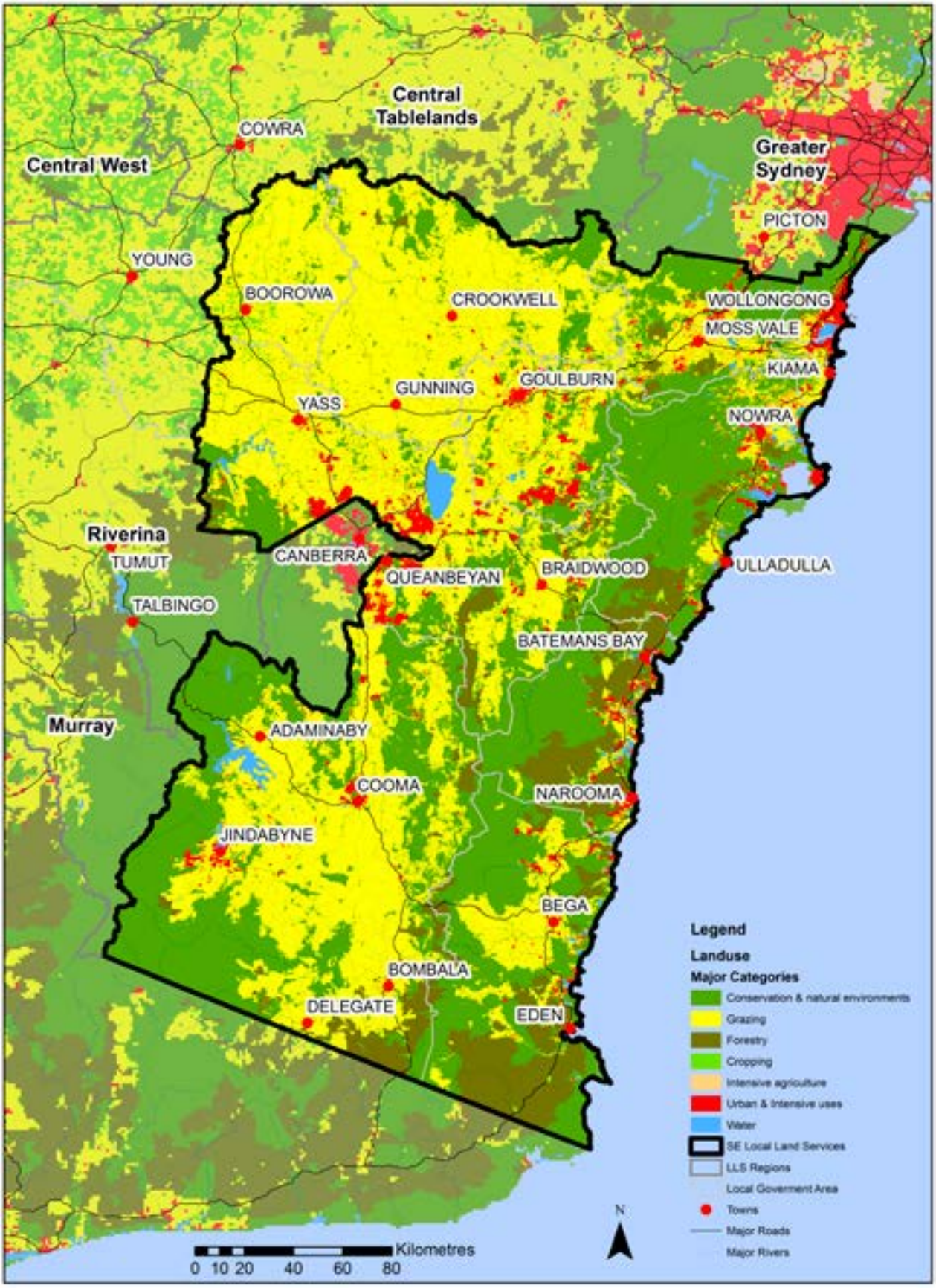
Historically, available resources have not been adequate to eradicate the number of high risk new incursions reported. The protection of the Region's agricultural, biodiversity, cultural and environmental assets, often under threat from more widespread invasive weeds, also requires sufficient resources to maintain their intrinsic value. Many of the Region's weed infestations, natural assets and high risk pathways are on public land where weed management is not always a high priority where there are competing demands for limited resources.

Given the extremely high value of our environmental and economic assets there is a clear need for increased investment in weed management in this region. Environmental challenges include restoring degraded landscapes and maintaining or improving natural assets in the face of human population pressure, as well as managing increasing populations of introduced species (feral animals, livestock and plant diseases and weeds).

On a broader scale, climate change and seasonal variability are already impacting on natural landscapes and agriculture in the region through warmer mean and especially summer temperatures, and an increase in weather extremes. This will affect (among other things) the resilience and adaptation of native, pasture, crop and weed species and their phenology (seasonal timing of plant growth and reproduction). As weeds are by nature highly adaptable, they are likely to respond more quickly to environmental change, and rapidly colonise following fire, flood drought and other disasters exacerbated by climate change. There is likely to be change in the suite of weed species affecting the region as environmental parameters (temperature, rainfall, CO2 levels) change. Currently benign species and 'sleeper weeds' may become more invasive. Highly specialised alpine species are likely to face extreme adaptive pressure.

Management of weed species and their impacts across the region must account for the diversity of the South East, as well as future changes in population, land use and climate. The region's weeds are also diverse, with species capable of invading the entire region, and others being restricted to coastal, tablelands, or alpine ecosystems. The weed flora is not static: it includes new and emerging weeds, as well as long established species. The impacts are also diverse, with different impacts in subregions, localities and sectors affected. Regional weed management therefore requires a strategic approach, prioritising high risk weed species, protecting regional assets, and excluding potential high risk weed species.

Figure 3.1: Land use types within the South East region



3.2 Regional strategic weed management in the region

3.2.1 South East Weed Action Program (SEWAP)

In 2010 the NSW Government initiated the first five-year regional Weeds Action Program under which collaborative regional programs were developed for the Southern Tablelands, South Coast and Monaro regions. The subsequent South East Weeds Action Program 2015-2020 (SEWAP1520) covers the recently-formed South East Local Land Services region, including LCAs formerly represented by the above committees and part of Hilltops Council (the former Boorowa Shire). This new program is supported by a detailed spatial analysis of the resources required to achieve effective weed management across the region (Holloway, Kidd & Plumb 2015). Partners in SEWAP1520 and the new Regional Weed Committee which oversees the program are detailed in Section 1.3.2.

3.2.2 Regional Pest Management Strategies

National Parks and Wildlife Service prepare and implement regional pest management strategies to manage weeds and pest animals in national parks and reserves across NSW. These provide a strategic approach to pest management on lands managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. The strategies aim to minimise the adverse impacts of pests on biodiversity, protected areas and the community. Programs are developed and often carried out in collaboration with neighbours and other stakeholders. NPWS regional strategies relevant to the SE LLS region include the Far South Coast, South Coast and Southern Ranges (OEH, 2012).

3.2.3 Biodiversity Priorities for Widespread Weeds

Many weeds that threaten biodiversity are widespread and usually beyond the scope of prevention and eradication programs developed to deal with new and emerging weed threats. The Biodiversity Priorities for Widespread Weeds Project (NSW DPI & OEH, 2011) was a joint initiative between NSW Department of Primary Industries, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and the former Catchment Management Authorities. This project used an adapted Threat Abatement Plan (site-led) approach to identify and prioritise control of widespread weeds impacting on biological assets and sites for weed control within each former Catchment Management region in New South Wales.

3.2.4 Species specific weed management plans

A number of management plans for priority weeds are also guiding regional action. The South Coast Bitou Bush Management Plan is a prime example. This species is a priority for Local Control Authorities, with coordinated control programs, stakeholder engagement and awareness, a rigorous inspection program, and efforts to secure external funds. Sustained work by LCAs, other agencies and the community has restored thousands of hectares of coastline to native vegetation and significantly reduced the area of infestation from the original containment zone (Cherry et al., 2008). Other examples include the *Serrated Tussock National Best Practice Management Manual* (NSTMG, 2008) and the Fireweed Best Practice Guide (Sindel & Coleman, 2012).

3.3 Community involvement

As well as state and local government agencies with weed control obligations, the South East has a range of other stakeholders with a vested interest and commitment to weed management. These include contractors, rural suppliers, Local Aboriginal Land Councils (a number of which do contract work as well as managing their own lands), and community groups such as Landcare, Bushcare and Coastcare. Non-government organisations include Conservation Volunteers Australia, Greening Australia, and the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (AABR). Industry groups such as Monaro Farming Systems, Tablelands Farming Systems and New South Wales Farmers Association have an additional vested interest, undertaking research, extension, advisory services and innovation.

The community provides crucial support for the actions of responsible authorities, land managers and external funding programs. We can all be effective "eyes and ears" to detect and report new incursions and provide support for successful eradication programs through community efforts.

The Region's Landcare network is one of the larger, more organised community partners involved in regional weed-related issues. The regional network includes a Regional Landcare Facilitator, 13 Local Landcare Networks with part-time coordinators, 320 community groups and approximately 3300 individual members.

Several local councils in the region support bush regeneration teams and/ or run an environment levy program that supports weed management and environmental projects. This is in addition to statutory weed control responsibilities.

The diversity of community members, landholders and other interests in the South East creates a complex system that will affect coordination of weed management. Although this is well recognised, weed management will require whole of community engagement and participation. The tenure neutral approach of the Act creates a foundation for a whole of community framework for the South East. Regional success will be built on local community foundations.

4. Weed risk assessment and prioritisation

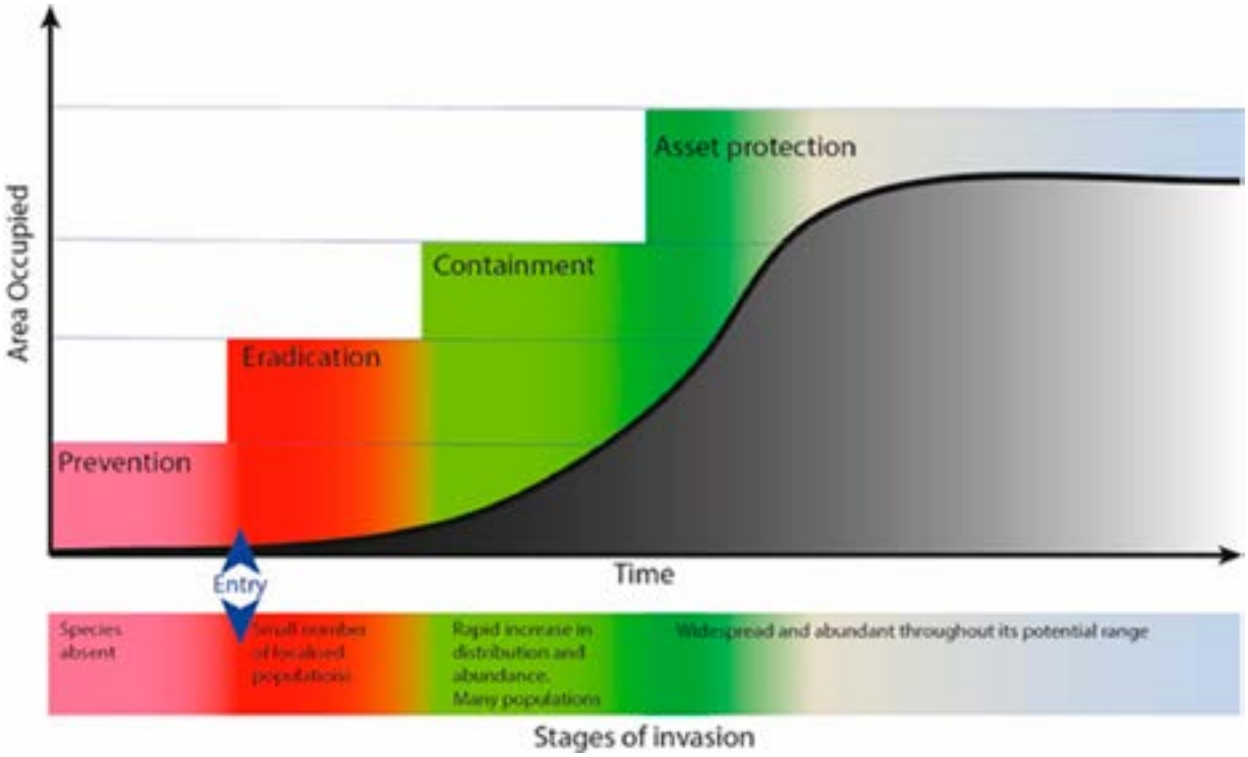
4.1 Weed management prioritisation

To ensure limited resources are used to best effect, and that management of weeds is commensurate with the risk posed by each species, an objective and repeatable weed risk assessment was undertaken across the region. This section outlines the principles and assessment processes used to prioritise weed management.

The generalised Weed Invasion Curve (Figure 4.1) illustrates the invasion process for weeds from arrival to widespread establishment (after Chippendale (1991)). The effort and resources required to control a weed and the area of infestation rise with the time elapsed since establishment.

Managing weeds earlier rather than later is more effective in terms of effort, expense and ultimate eradication. This principle is a foundation of the process used to develop the regional weed priority list in this plan (Appendix 1.1). The asset protection phase shown in Figure 4.1 illustrates an important shift in the focus from controlling a weed species (species-led approach), to limiting the impact it may have on important assets as the weed reaches its potential maximum distribution (asset protection approach).

Figure 4.1: Weed invasion curve illustrating area infested and resources required for control over time, and the basis of management objectives.



4.2 NSW Weed Risk Management system

The NSW Weed Risk Management (WRM) system provides a standard, nationally accepted and transparent process to help make decisions about prioritising weed species and determining appropriate management responses. The Weed Risk Management system considers two components for prioritising weeds for management action:

1. A weed risk assessment.
2. An assessment of the feasibility of coordinated control.

Weed risk is determined through scoring a series of parameters (invasiveness, impacts, potential distribution) and likewise for feasibility of co-ordinated control (control costs, persistence, and current distribution). An assessment of these components provides a management objective that reflects the principles of effective weed management, and links with the objectives of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, as illustrated in Figure 4.1.2 below.

Figure 4.1.2 Weed risk assessment matrix indicating corresponding management objectives.

Weed risk assessment matrix		Feasibility of coordinated control					Not present
		Negligible	Low	Medium	High	Very high	
Weed risk	Negligible						
	Low						
	Medium						
	High						
	Very high						

Biosecurity Act	Minimise			Eliminate	Prevent
Regional objective	General Biosecurity Duty	Asset protection	Contain-ment	Eradication	Prevention
Weed risk management outcomes	Manage sites Monitor Limited action	Protect priority sites Manage weed	Contain spread	Eradicate or Destroy infestations	Alert

4.3 Regional prioritisation process

Regional weed prioritisation was undertaken using the WRM system. Local knowledge of each regional priority weed was provided by LCA weed officers, who have a very detailed knowledge of weeds in their respective areas. This was moderated by an experienced weed officer to provide consistency across the region and subregional workshops to improve consistency across the region. These assessments were reviewed by an expert regional panel on behalf of the South East Regional Weed Committee. The panel brought together practitioners from several agencies with long term on-ground experience with high priority species, including local and state experts previously involved in weed advisory committees.

From this initial data, WRM assessments were undertaken at a regional scale to ensure the outcomes reflected regional conditions. Where there was significant variation in weed risk

or weed distribution in the region, the assessments were conducted at a subregional level to determine appropriate subregional responses. Quality assurance was undertaken by the Regional Expert Panel and the Technical Subcommittee of the State Weed Committee. The Technical Subcommittee reviewed the weed risk management assessments, management categorisation and objectives, and outcomes that demonstrate compliance with the General Biosecurity Duty developed for the region, as well as additional species of concern identified in the public consultation process. This ensured consistency and alignment with the Weed Risk Management system and the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. The Technical Subcommittee also provided guidance to regional weed committees on appropriate outcomes to demonstrate compliance with the General Biosecurity Duty.

The management categories used in the assessment are summarised in Table 4.1 (see also Figure 4.1.2– Weed Risk Assessment Matrix).

Table 4.3: Regional weed management categories

Category	Objective	Characteristics of weeds in this category
Prevention	To prevent the weed species arriving and establishing in the Region.	These species are not known to be present in the region. They have a high to very high weed risk (highly invasive and high threat) and have a high likelihood of arriving in the region due to potential distribution and/ or an existing high risk pathway.
Eradication	To permanently remove the species and its propagules from the Region, OR to destroy infestations to reduce the extent of the weed in the region with the aim of local eradication.	These species are present in the region to a limited extent only and the risk of re-invasion is either minimal or can be easily managed. They have a high to very high weed risk and high feasibility of coordinated control.
Containment	To prevent the ongoing spread of the species in all or part of the Region.	These species are potentially widespread, but currently occurring within a defined core area. Regional containment strategies aim to prevent spread of the weed from an invaded part of the region (core infestation), and/or exclude the weed from an uninvaded part of the region (exclusion zone).
Asset Protection	To prevent the spread of weeds to key sites/assets of high economic, environmental and social value, or to reduce their impact on these sites if spread has already occurred.	These weed species are widespread and unlikely to be eradicated or contained within the wider regional context. Effort is focussed on reducing weed threats to protect priority high value assets.

4.3.1 Priority weed list for the region

As discussed in the Regional Overview (Section 3.1), the South East is a diverse region, with several distinct geographic and climatic gradients. Although this means that weed species are not uniformly distributed throughout the region, it is still possible to identify regional priorities through the regional weed risk assessments conducted for the purposes of this Plan. Local priority weeds may be specified in plans produced by LCAs.

The regional weed prioritisation process culminated in identifying the region's highest risk weeds and developing the regional priority weed list (Appendix 1.2). This identifies outcomes to demonstrate compliance with the General Biosecurity Duty for listed species. Public consultation revealed concern about several weeds not mentioned in the draft Appendices, but considered important at a subregional or local level. These species were discussed by the RWC and referred to the Technical Subcommittee (TSC) of the SWC for their consideration. Since this plan is a strategic document for the entire region, the appendices should reflect this wider regional context. Individual LCAs will document their priorities in subsequent local or subregional weed management plans. Weed risk assessments already undertaken at the suburb/ locality scale, and advice from the Technical Subcommittee of the State Weed Committee will inform these plans.

State level priorities (Appendix 1.1) were determined by the Department of Primary Industry, based on nationwide priorities for Weeds of National Significance (WoNS). Management requirements for weeds, whether that be specific regulatory measures (state level priorities) or outcomes to demonstrate compliance with the General Biosecurity Duty (regional priority weeds), are also detailed in Appendix 1.

The management objectives for a particular weed will depend on factors such as the biology and ecology of the weed, the land use(s) in which it occurs, the size of the infestation, and potential pathways for infestation. These factors have been taken into account in determining the strategic responses and outcomes required to demonstrate compliance with the General Biosecurity Duty. As with all components of this plan, these obligations apply to all private and public landholders in the region.

4.3.2 Additional regional weed lists

Appendix 2 outlines other priority weeds for the region identified by the RWC in consultation with the community. Weeds identified in Appendix 2 are also subject to the General Biosecurity Duty and are a focus for local management plans and coordinated campaigns by the community and other stakeholders in the region. Landholders, community groups and LCAs in the South East have invested heavily in managing other, more widespread weeds because of their impact in subregional locations. Weed management plans developed by LCAs will specify weeds of importance in relevant local or subregional areas.

Both the regional priority weed list (Appendix 1.2) and the additional regional weed lists (Appendix 2) may be amended from time to time to reflect state-level reviews and the regional review process through the RWC. All proposed changes will be checked by the SWC.

5. Actions

5.1 Overview

The actions required to achieve the goals of the Plan are detailed below. Goal 1 addresses the community capacity to discharge the General Biosecurity Duty; Goals 2 and 3 are focussed on weed management outcomes, and Goal 4 focuses on coordinating successful regional weed management.

Table 5.1: Goals, strategies and actions of the plan: Goal 1

Goal 1: Responsibility for weed biosecurity is shared by all people of the South East	
Strategies	Actions
1.1 Promote weed management and behavioural changes in the community.	1.1.1 Develop and implement a communication strategy that promotes delivery of weed management in the South East.
1.2. Build stronger partnerships that support weed management.	1.2.1 Develop partnerships that support a tenure neutral weed management approach that protects and supports biodiversity. 1.2.2 Foster engagement that supports communities and stakeholders in weed management activities.
1.3 Enhance community-wide capacity in sharing responsibility for holistic land management, including weed prevention.	1.3.1 Develop and enhance communication to effectively disseminate information, outlining shared responsibility and building community capacity to manage land.
Goal 2: Weed biosecurity supports profitable, productive and sustainable primary industries and **Goal 3: Weed biosecurity supports healthy, diverse and connected natural environments**	
Strategies	Actions
2-3.1 Improve surveillance, reporting and tracing systems for weeds.	2-3.1.1 Develop and/ or implement early detection tools, systems and services to improve weed reporting 2-3.1.2 Develop feedback mechanisms in reporting systems such as BIS to enable adaptive weed management
2-3.2 Improve prevention, preparedness and response to weed emergencies.	2-3.2.1 Improve effectiveness of regional and cross-jurisdictional approaches to preventing and eradicating priority weed species by developing relevant management plans
2-3.3 Eradicate or prevent the spread of new weeds.	2-3.3.1 Develop standardised and consistent planning for new weed incursions, including rapid response protocols and incursion plans, and associated cost sharing arrangements

2-3.4 Contain and manage impacts of widespread weeds.	2-3.4.1 Develop and promote best practice integrated land & weed management processes aimed to minimise the impacts of established weeds. 2-3.4.3 Actively manage widespread and other weeds that threaten priority sites and assets in alignment with State, Regional and Subregional objectives (e.g. site-managed species under the State's Save our Species program).
2-3.5. Support weed research and implement developments in weed science and technology.	2-3.5.1 Identify priorities, advocate for, and actively participate in weed research in collaboration with government, industry, research providers, the aboriginal community, and the wider community and report these to the State Weed Committee.
Goal 4: Weed biosecurity is supported by coordinated, collaborative and innovative leadership	
Strategies	Actions
4.1 Provide governance and leadership that supports collaborative, effective and efficient weed management.	4.1.1 Work in a collaborative partnership with the South East Regional Weed Committee and stakeholders to implement this plan. 4.1.2 Support a coordinated regional approach to strategic weed management.
4.2 Develop a regional invasive weed knowledge base and information system that supports state standards.	4.2.1 Support the continuing development of the Biosecurity Information System to collect standardised regional data (including weed mapping) capture, storage, record keeping and retrieval processes. 4.2.2 Encourage wider use of the Biosecurity Information System to improve weed distribution and impacts data and management information.
4.3 Develop consistent systems for monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the effectiveness of weed management.	4.3.1 Ensure MERI principles (monitoring, evaluation, implementation and reporting) and updated NSW BIS data are considered in all reviews of the Plan. 4.3.2 Undertake weed risk assessments as required and ensure data is incorporated in any subsequent review of the Plan.
4.4 Develop consistent systems for monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the effectiveness of weed management.	4.4.1 Develop and implement MERI indicators to assess the progress towards achieving strategic outcomes. 4.4.2 Access data from BIS to include in performance reporting.

6. Implementation

This chapter covers how the plan will be implemented, including governance. It includes guiding principles for weed management, and roles and responsibilities for stakeholders and customers in implementing this plan.

6.1 Regional Weed Committee

The South East Regional Weed Committee will facilitate implementation of this Plan, with executive support from South East Local Land Services. The RWC plays a pivotal role in working collaboratively and engaging with all sectors – public, private, non-profit, individuals and community groups – through its membership. The Committee will drive the collaboration and capacity of land managers to successfully implement the plan, providing effective solutions that go beyond what any sector can achieve on its own.

6.2 Guiding principles for implementation

The following principles will be used to guide weed management planning and implementation and are consistent with the weed reforms and leading practice:

- Effective stakeholder collaboration and shared responsibility are essential for effective regional weed management.
- Increasing community capacity and fostering responsibility for weed management (behavioural change) is important to achieve effective weed outcomes.
- Prevention and early intervention are the most effective weed management actions.
- Causes of weed invasion and spread are managed wherever possible, not just the symptoms.
- The biology and ecology of weeds, including dispersal mechanisms, vectors and pathways for spread are considered in weed management.
- Innovation which results in more effective and efficient weed management is encouraged.
- Regular monitoring, evaluation and improvement are incorporated in weed management programs.
- Weed management is an integral part of land management. Land management practices and their timing are critical to the prevention and reduction in the spread and impact of weeds.
- Weeds are managed in a strategic and coordinated manner across the landscape. Assessing and managing weed risk at a landscape and multi species scale (where appropriate) can lead to significant efficiencies in use of resources and achievement of strategic outcomes.
- The best available science, expertise and tools are utilised in weed management decision making and practice.

6.3 Processes supporting implementation

A range of plans and processes will also support implementation of this Plan. South East Local Land Services will work with the RWC and LCAs to develop and /or support these processes in the region. These are summarised below.

Table 6.3: Plans and processes to support RSWMP implementation

Purpose	Plan/ process	Responsibility
Coordination, governance	RSWMP	RWC
Determining roles and responsibilities for implementation	Biosecurity legislation, RSWMP, agency plans	RWC
Compliance: integrated and consistent approach to meeting regional regulatory obligations	Biosecurity legislation and Regulations, statutory requirements of agencies, agency plans, WAP Compliance Plan	All
Best practice codes to support consistency and inform state-wide reporting	WeedWise, Biosecurity Information System (BIS), Biodiversity priorities for Widespread Weeds; NPWS Regional Pest Management Strategies; State & Commonwealth Best Practice Guides (e.g. Bitou Bush)	DPI, OEH, Department of Environment, LLS, research establishments
Weed listing and review	Weed risk assessment, BIS data and research results reported to Technical Subcommittee of the State Weed Committee	RWC, Technical Subcommittee of the SWC
Surveillance for new high risk weeds	Regional Inspection Program, BIS reporting and alerts	LCAs, all
Rapid response to new incursions	Rapid Response Protocol, Incursion Plans	DPI, LCAs, all
Ensuring RSWMP outcomes and standards of weed management are met	Key Performance Indicators (SEWAP, agencies and SWC), MERI plans	RWC, SWC, DPI, LLS, all agencies
Communicating key messages to stakeholders & the community	Communication Strategy, agency communication plans	RWC, DPI
Consistent and prioritised investment in weed management	Investment policy and plans	RWC, LLS, LCAs and all agencies
MERI	MERI plan	RWC

Many of these plans and processes are already underway, but require RWC endorsement or further collaboration between partners to complete.

6.4 Delivery partners

Delivery partners have an interest in implementing strategic weed management outcomes in the region. Broad roles and responsibilities of relevant governments, agencies, industry groups, NGOs, public and private land managers, and community for weed management are summarised below. New partners may also become involved as implementation progresses.

Partners differ in their capacity to deliver weed management outcomes, and resourcing of weed management is unpredictable and will fluctuate. Commitments from partners to be involved in this regional strategy will improve community confidence and involvement in implementation. It is recognised that commitments and capacity may be contingent upon availability of resources at any given point in time.

6.4.1 Roles and responsibilities

A wide range of stakeholders and customers are involved in weed management in the region. This plan aims to consolidate their efforts through better coordination and communication between organisations and individuals in the region.

Commonwealth government

The Commonwealth government has a role in preventing new weed incursions at national borders (quarantine); in education, research and development; in funding, and national legislation. National agreements outline the roles and responsibilities of government and industry in responding to emergency plant, pest and disease incidents, and detail how those responses will be funded. These agreements include the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity, Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed and the National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement.

State government

State government develops policies, strategies and legislation that promote a comprehensive and responsive weed biosecurity system across NSW. The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is the lead agency for weed management within the NSW Government, with support from the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) in relation to the environmental impact of weeds.

NSW Department of Primary Industries

- administers the *Biosecurity Act 2015*
- leads and coordinates the prevention, preparedness, response and recovery for weed emergencies.
- develops and maintains regulatory mechanisms that support weed programs
- coordinates diagnostic, surveillance, tracing and monitoring systems for priority species (BIS)
- provides advice regarding categorisation and management of weeds
- engages in, collaborates on, and disseminates results of weed research
- funds the WAP and other programs and incentives to manage weeds throughout the state.

Office of Environment and Heritage / National Parks and Wildlife Service

- administers the *Biodiversity Act 2016*
- leads state-wide initiatives to reduce the impacts of invasive species on biodiversity
- administers the *Saving our Species* program for the conservation of threatened taxa
- manages threatened species and ecological communities, many of which have weeds as a key threatening process
- develop Regional Pest Management Strategies for all lands administered by NPWS
- major public land manager (over 7 million hectares)

Department of Industry - Lands

The Department of Industry - Lands manages Crown land, which makes up approximately half the state. It administers funds and undertakes invasive species management on land under its direct control, and supports such activities undertaken by reserve trusts, Councils, lessees and others that manage land on its behalf.

Local government

Local government plays a significant role in biosecurity, particularly in weed management. Weed control functions of local government are undertaken by Local Control Authorities, including local government and county councils. Local control authorities have a major role and responsibility for the implementation of this plan and for priority weed control including:

- enforcing legislated weed management obligations on private and public land
- delivering components of the NSW Weeds Action Program
- conducting weed inspections on private and public land
- controlling weeds on lands managed by local government
- reporting and mapping weed incidence across the state
- input into weed strategy and policy
- providing education, training and resources for both the public and for staff.

Other managers of state owned land and linear reserves

A number of organisations and government agencies manage state owned land allocated for specific purposes. These include travelling stock reserves (TSRs, managed by Local Land Services), state forest (Forestry Corporation of NSW, a state owned corporation), state infrastructure such as road and rail corridors (Roads and Maritime Services and John Holland Rail Pty Ltd), corridors for energy infrastructure, and drinking water catchments (WaterNSW). All land managers have an important role in the management of weeds in the region, including the development and implementation of management strategies and the education of the community and other stakeholders.

Aboriginal land managers (Local Aboriginal Land Councils)

Local Aboriginal Land Councils have a similar role to other community organisations in managing weeds on their land, but have additional cultural factors which influence land management. Aboriginal traditional owners have obligations under traditional law and custom to care for Country. This may result in Aboriginal people having priorities for weed management to address threats to cultural sites, indigenous plants and animals or other important cultural resources. Throughout the region there are a number of different types of land ownership and management by Aboriginal people. Indigenous Land Use Agreements help clarify obligations of public land managers where Native Title is recognised over the land they manage (OEH, 2016).

Industry

Key players in the regional weed management industry include farm managers and contractors, weed control contractors, environmental consultants and bush regenerators - even services providing goat herds for weed control. There are also several industry sectors in the region which indirectly affect weed management. These include nurseries, turf farms, stockfeed and mulch suppliers. Industry roles in weed management include:

- implementing and developing industry standards, guidelines and codes of practice
- contributing to research programs in priority areas

- participation in biosecurity response agreements and cost-sharing arrangements
- managing weeds on land and water used for production
- managing risks when trading in potential or known weed species used for, or held by, nurseries, pet shops and aquaria (water weeds), collectors, agriculture, horticulture, aquaculture and biofuels preventing the establishment of weeds through movement of goods, produce and equipment.

Community groups, volunteers and individuals

Community groups and volunteers play a vital role in the management of weeds in the region by enlisting support and providing on-ground weed control. This includes non-government organisations such as Landcare, Conservation Volunteers Australia, Greening Australia and Bushcare. Activities undertaken by these groups include weed removal and monitoring activities, bush regeneration, biodiversity conservation projects and rehabilitation of aquatic habitats on private and public lands. Building on this foundation is essential in sharing responsibility for weed management.

Individual community members also have an important role to play in helping to minimise the impacts of weeds in the region. The community provides much needed "eyes and ears" to detect and report new incursions and support eradication. Community participation also provides crucial support to the actions of responsible authorities, land managers and external funding programs. Private land owners and occupiers play an important role in the ongoing management of established weeds on their own land and in collaboration with their neighbours and the surrounding community.

6.5 Investment

Investment in weed management across south east New South Wales comes in various forms, both public and private, and applies across all land tenures. This investment is targeted principally at protecting assets from weed infestation, whether it is a local government bushland reserve, roadside, National Park or a grazier's pasture. Based on analysis conducted by the CRC for Australian Weed Management it is estimated that the cost to agricultural industries across the region is between $10 and $20 million annually both in terms of cost of control and production losses. Grazing industries are the most significantly impacted industry, with associated costs and losses due to weeds ranging from $6 to $11 million annually.

Given weeds affect all land tenures and all areas of the region, the cost of managing weeds across the region must be borne by all stakeholders. Management of some weed species and/or infested sites however, requires additional investment from external sources (typically government) to achieve control outcomes. The State Government and South East Region prioritise these weed species and sites, based around four key goals of the NSW Invasive Species Plan:

1. Exclude new weeds
2. Eradicate or contain new incursions
3. Effectively manage widespread weeds at priority sites
4. Capacity building

The State Government provides funding to the South East Region to help manage priority weed species and sites. The South East Weeds Action Program 2015-2020 (SEWAP1520), administered by DPI, provides funding for weed management priorities across the region to support program partners. Its objectives and performance measures are informed by the NSW Invasive Species Plan. Individual LCAs more than double State funds through direct contributions supplemented with weed and environmental levies, cost recovery charges for

weed compliance, inspection and control, contract weed management services and external grant funding.

6.6 Community engagement

The community is involved in a range of weed management activities across the South East region that target control of weeds for both agricultural production and natural resource outcomes. Key stakeholders include groups such as Landcare, Bushcare, Coastcare, farming and other industry groups, Conservation Volunteers Australia and Greening Australia. Some of these activities are run in conjunction with or administered by local councils whilst others are supported by agencies such as NSW DPI and Local Land Services. As a result a range of strategies have been developed to engage and build capacity of the community and land managers managing weeds. Although not specifically weed focused, there are also a range of community based natural resource management activities funded through local, state and federal government investment (e.g. restoration) that include the control and management of weed species.

The current approach to engage with, and build capacity of the community in weed management across the South East region is the focus of the communication strategy referred to in Section 6.3. Given the diversity of community groups currently involved in natural resource management across the Region, and the fact that some councils have already developed and extensively tested a range of strategies to engage and build capacity of the community in natural resource management, and the expertise of some of these groups, it is not advisable to 'reinvent the wheel' in attempts to recruit community engagement in weed management. The approach proposed is to identify successful and enduring community groups involved in weed management and build additional capacity around these groups to deliver more widespread weed management through existing programs. In addition, a range of communication activities (as outlined in the communication strategy) will be directed to these groups. Once implemented, this approach will be evaluated to determine its effectiveness and the strategy refined as appropriate.

7. Monitoring and review

South East Local Land Services has a responsibility to demonstrate to its customers, investors and stakeholders that the strategies and actions in the RSWMP are sound, effective and financially responsible. LLS will work with the RWC to establish a monitoring, evaluation reporting and improvement (MERI) process consistent with NRC standards in relation to the RSWMP's objectives and outcomes. This will inform an adaptive management approach to weed management in the region.

A mid term review of the plan will occur in 2020 (Year Three), and a full review at the end of the five year term for the plan (2022).

8. Abbreviations

BIS	Biosecurity Information System
DPI	NSW Department of Primary Industries
GBD	General Biosecurity Duty
LCA	Local Control Authority – either a Local Government Authority or a County Council established by several smaller LGAs to fulfil weed management obligations
LLS	Local Land Services
MERI	Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement
OEH	NSW Office of Environment and Heritage
NPWS	NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
NRC	Natural Resources Commission
RSWMP	Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan
RWC	Regional Weed Committee
SE LLS	South East Local Land Services
SEWAP	South East Weeds Action Program
SWC	State Weed Committee
TSR	Travelling stock reserve
WAP	NSW Weed Action Program

9. Glossary

Aboriginal cultural heritage: Aboriginal cultural heritage consists of places and items that are of significance to Aboriginal people because of their traditions, observances, lore, customs, beliefs and history. It provides evidence of the lives and existence of Aboriginal people before European settlement through to the present. Aboriginal cultural heritage is dynamic and may comprise physical (tangible) or non-physical (intangible) elements.

Adaptive management: A management approach based on the science of learning by doing. It involves testing the response of a system then applying this understanding to future decisions.

Asset protection: Preventing the spread of weed species to high value assets of economic, environmental and/or social value or reducing the impact on the high value asset for weeds already present.

Best practice: A technique or methodology that, through experience and research, has proven to reliably lead to a desired result. Also see leading practice.

Biodiversity: The variety of all life forms: the different species of plants, animals, fungi, bacteria and other micro- organisms, the genes they contain and the ecosystems (the variety of habitats, biotic communities and ecological processes) of which they form a part.

Biosecurity: Protecting the economy, environment and community from the negative impacts of pests, diseases and weeds.

Collaboration: Working together to develop an understanding of all issues and interests to work out alternatives and identify preferred solutions for joint decision making.

Containment: Preventing the spread of weed species beyond a predefined area and reducing the impact where it occurs.

Country: A term used by Aboriginal people to refer to the land to which they have a traditional attachment to.

Customer: Any land manager within the state or region, irrespective of whether they are private or public land managers, ratepayers or non-ratepayers.

Emergency Management: Management related to preparedness, response and recovery for actual or imminent animal pest and disease and plant pest and disease emergencies, natural disasters and other emergencies impacting on primary production or animal health and safety.

Eradication: To permanently remove a weed species and its propagules from an area such that there is little or no likelihood of re-invasion occurring.

Governance: The framework of rules, structures, interactions and practices by which the North Coast Local Land Services Board exercises power, responsibility and decision making to ensure accountability, fairness, and transparency in relationship to the North Coast region's customers, stakeholders and investors.

General Biosecurity Duty: Under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* a General Biosecurity Duty (GBD) applies to all weed species that present a biosecurity risk. For weeds, the General Biosecurity Duty means that any person dealing with plant matter who knows or ought reasonably to know the biosecurity risk posed by that dealing, must take measures to prevent, minimise or eliminate the biosecurity risk (as far as is reasonably practicable). 'Dealing' has a broad definition in the act. Plant matter includes plants, parts of plants and seeds.

Habitat: A place suitable for survival and/or reproduction of a particular plant or animal.

Investor: Organisations and individuals who invest in Local Land Services and leverage outcomes from this investment.

Landscape: Any section of land or coast and its natural features, including rivers and other water bodies. Represents the overlay of the variety and arrangement of physical landforms (e.g. rivers, escarpment, rocky reefs), communities of people (e.g. Aboriginal, rural) and land uses (e.g. urban, conservation, agricultural).

Leading practice: Currently accepted best practice.

Prevention: To prevent a weed species arriving and establishing in an area.

Stakeholder: Organisations that collaborate and partner with Local Land Services directly to support customer service delivery.

Travelling stock reserve:

- route or camping place reserved for travelling stock route or camping place under the *Crown Lands Act 1989*
- reserve for travelling stock, water reserve, reserve for access or crossing (where the reserve is for the purpose of providing travelling stock with access to or a crossing of water, whether expressly notified for that purpose or not), or
- stock watering place.

Weed: Plants (foreign to the Region) that are unwanted in a given situation and which usually have detectable negative economic, environmental or social impacts.

Weed Action Program (WAP): NSW Government funding program supporting delivery of priority weed investment to local government, Local Land Services and local control authorities.

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Appendix 1: Priority weeds for South East Local Land Services Region

This appendix covers State level determined priority weed species (A1.1) as set by NSW DPI and regionally determined priorities (A1.2) as determined by the rigorous weed prioritisation and expert review process outlined in Section 4.3.

Appendix 1.1 details the specific legal requirements for state level priority weeds and high risk activities. For each state level priority weed, the management objective, and specific requirements for its management (as stated in the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and regulations) is included. These specific requirements include Prohibited Matter, Biosecurity Zones, Control Orders and Mandatory Measures.

Appendix 1.2 identifies regionally prioritised weeds and outcomes to demonstrate compliance with the General Biosecurity Duty. Recommended measures to achieve these outcomes are provided in the NSW DPI web and mobile based application, WeedWise.

A1.1 State priority weeds

State Priority Weed Objective – PREVENTION (Whole of State): *The following weeds are currently not found in some parts of the state, pose significant biosecurity risk and prevention of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is a reasonably practical objective.*	
Species	**Biosecurity Act requirements & Strategic Response in the region**
Gamba grass *Andropogon gayanus*	Prohibited Matter (Part 4, Division 1, Clause 28, Biosecurity Act 2015): A person who deals with any biosecurity matter that is Prohibited Matter throughout the State is guilty of an offence. Regional Strategic Response: Trigger rapid response protocol
Pond apple *Annona glabra*	
Bridal veil creeper *Asparagus declinatus*	
Kochia *Bassia scoparia (excluding subsp. trichophylla*)	
Spotted knapweed *Centaurea stoebe* subsp. *micranthos*	
Black knapweed *Centaurea x moncktonii*	
Siam weed *Chromolaena odorata*	
Koster's curse *Clidemia hirta*	
Rubber vine *Cryptostegia grandiflora*	
Anchored water hyacinth *Eichhornia azurea*	
Hawkweed *Hieracium* spp (all species)	
Hydrocotyl/Water pennywort *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*	
Lagarosiphon *Lagarosiphon major*	
Frogbit/Spongeplant *Limnobium* spp. (all species)	
Yellow burrhead *Limnocharis flava*	
Miconia *Miconia* spp. (all species)	
Mikania vine *Mikania micrantha*	
Mimosa *Mimosa pigra*	
Eurasian water milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum*	
Mexican feather grass *Nassella tenuissima* (syn. *Stipa tenuissima*)	
Broomrape *Orobanche* spp. (all species except the native *O. cernua* var. *australiana* and *O. minor*)	
Water soldier *Stratiotes aloides*	
Witchweed *Striga* spp. (except the native *S. parviflora*)	
Water caltrop *Trapa* spp. (all species)	
Karoo acacia *Vachellia karroo* (syn. *Acacia karroo*)	
Prickly acacia *Vachellia nilotica* (syn. *Acacia nilotica*)	

State Priority Weed Objective – PREVENTION (Whole of State): *The following weeds are currently not found in some parts of the state, pose significant biosecurity risk and prevention of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is a reasonably practical objective.*	
Species	**Biosecurity Act requirements & Strategic Response in the region**
All species of vascular plant (Tracheophyta)	***Mandatory Measure (Part 2, Division 8, Clause 34, draft Biosecurity Regulation 2016)*** *Duty to notify on importation of plants into the State:* (1) A person must not import into the state a species of vascular plant (Tracheophyta) if the species is not currently present in the State unless the person has, at least 20 working days before the plant is imported into the State, notified the species of plant and its proposed location within the State. (2) The notification is to be given to the secretary and is to be given in accordance with Part 6. (3) A species of plant is taken not to be present in the State if the National Herbarium of New South Wales does not show it as being present in the State. See http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/. **Regional Strategic Response:** Trigger rapid response protocol
Parthenium weed *Parthenium hysterophorus*	***Prohibited Matter (Part 4, Biosecurity Act 2015):*** A person who deals with any biosecurity matter that is Prohibited Matter throughout the State is guilty of an offence. ***Mandatory Measure (Part 2, Division 8, Clause 35, draft Biosecurity Regulation 2016) - Parthenium weed carriers, machinery and equipment*** (1) This clause applies to the following equipment: (a) grain harvesters (including the comb or front) (b) comb trailers (including the comb or front) (c) bins used for holding grain during harvest operations (d) augers or similar equipment used for moving grain (e) vehicles used for transporting grain harvesters (f) vehicles used as support vehicles with grain harvesters and that have been driven in paddocks during harvest operations (g) mineral exploration drilling rigs and vehicles used for transporting those rigs (2) A person must not import into the State from Queensland any equipment to which this clause applies. **Regional Strategic Response:** Trigger rapid response protocol

State Priority Weed Objective – ERADICATION (Whole of State): *The following weeds are present in limited distribution and abundance in some parts of the state. Elimination of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is a reasonably practical objective.*	
Species	**Biosecurity Act requirements & Strategic Response in the region**
Tropical soda apple *Solanum viarum*	***Biosecurity (Tropical Soda Apple) Control Order 2017.*** **6. Control measures for owners and occupiers of land** Pursuant to section 62(1)(b) of the Act, an owner or occupier of land in the Tropical Soda Apple Control Zone on which there is Tropical Soda Apple must: (a) notify the local control authority for the area if the Tropical Soda Apple is part of a new infestation of Tropical Soda Apple on the land: i) as soon as practicable after becoming aware of the new infestation; ii) verbally or in writing; iii) giving the following: (1) the person's full name and contact number; (2)the location of the Tropical Soda Apple, including the property identification code for the land (if this is known); and (3)any other information reasonably requested by the local control authority; and (b) destroy all Tropical Soda Apple on the land, including fruit; and (c) ensure that subsequent generations of Tropical Soda Apple are destroyed; and (d) that the land is kept free of Tropical Soda Apple. (e) The owner or occupier does not need to comply with (a) above if they know that notification of the infestation on the land has already been given to the local control authority for the area. **7. Control measures for persons dealing with carriers** Pursuant to section 62(1)(b) of the Act, a person who deals with a carrier of Tropical Soda Apple in the Tropical Soda Apple Control Zone, in circumstances where the person knows or ought reasonably to know of the presence of Tropical Soda Apple on the land or in or on the carrier, must: (a) ensure that Tropical Soda Apple (including any seed and propagules) is not moved from the land; and (b) immediately notify the local control authority for the area: i) as soon as practicable after becoming aware of the presence of Tropical Soda Apple; ii) verbally or in writing; iii) giving the following: (1) the person's full name and contact number; (2) the location of the Tropical Soda Apple, including the property identification code for the land (if this is known); and iv) any other information reasonably requested by the local control authority. (c) The person who deals with a carrier of Tropical Soda Apple does not need to comply with (b) above if they know that notification of the infestation on the land has already been given to the local control authority for the area. **Regional Strategic Response:** Trigger rapid response protocol

State Priority Weed Objective – ERADICATION (Whole of State): *The following weeds are present in limited distribution and abundance in some parts of the state. Elimination of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is a reasonably practical objective.*	
Species	**Biosecurity Act requirements & Strategic Response in the region**
Boneseed *Chrysanthemoides monilifera* subspecies *monilifera*	***Biosecurity (Boneseed) Control Order 2017.*** **1. Control measures for owners and occupiers of land** Pursuant to section 62(1)(b) of the Act, an owner or occupier of land in the Boneseed Control Zone on which there is Boneseed must: (a) notify the local control authority for the area if the Boneseed is part of a new infestation on the land: i) as soon as practicable after becoming aware of the new infestation; ii) verbally or in writing; iii) giving the following: (1) the person's full name and contact number; (2) the location of the Boneseed, including the property identification code for the land (if this is known); and (3) any other information reasonably requested by the local control authority; and (b) immediately destroy all Boneseed on the land; (c) ensure that subsequent generations of Boneseed are destroyed; and (d) the land is kept free of Boneseed. (e) The owner or occupier does not need to comply with (a) above if they know that notification of the infestation on the land has already been given to the local control authority for the area. **2. Control measures for persons dealing with carriers** Pursuant to section 62(1)(b) of the Act, a person who deals with a carrier of Boneseed in the Boneseed Control Zone, in circumstances where the person knows or ought reasonably to know of the presence of Boneseed on the land or in or on the carrier, must: (a) ensure that Boneseed (including any seed and propagules) is not moved from the land; and (b) immediately notify the local control authority for the area: i) as soon as practicable after becoming aware of the presence of Boneseed; ii) verbally or in writing; iii) giving the following: (1) the person's full name and contact number; (2) the location of the Boneseed, including the property identification code for the land (if this is known); and iv) any other information reasonably requested by the local control authority. (c) The person who deals with a carrier of Boneseed does not need to comply with (b) above if they know that notification of the infestation on the land has already been given to the local control authority for the area. ***Mandatory Measure (Part 2, Division 8, Clause 33, draft Biosecurity Regulation 2016):*** A person must not import into the State or sell. **Regional Strategic Response:** Trigger rapid response protocol

State Priority Weed Objective – ERADICATION (Whole of State): *The following weeds are present in limited distribution and abundance in some parts of the state. Elimination of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is a reasonably practical objective.*	
Species	**Biosecurity Act requirements & Strategic Response in the region**
Parkinsonia *Parkinsonia aculeata*	***Biosecurity (Parkinsonia) Control Order 2017.*** **3. Control measures for owners and occupiers of land** Pursuant to section 62(1)(b) of the Act, an owner or occupier of land in the Parkinsonia Control Zone on which there is Parkinsonia must: (f) notify the local control authority for the area if the Parkinsonia is part of a new infestation of Parkinsonia on the land: i) as soon as practicable after becoming aware of the new infestation; ii) verbally or in writing; iii) giving the following: (1) the person's full name and contact number; (2) the location of the Parkinsonia, including the property identification code for the land (if this is known); and (3) any other information reasonably requested by the local control authority; and (g) immediately destroy all Parkinsonia on the land; and (h) ensure that subsequent generations of Parkinsonia are destroyed; and (i) the land is kept free of Parkinsonia. (j) The owner or occupier does not need to comply with (a) above if they know that notification of the infestation on the land has already been given to the local control authority for the area. **4. Control measures for persons dealing with carriers** Pursuant to section 62(1)(b) of the Act, a person who deals with a carrier of Parkinsonia in the Parkinsonia Control Zone, in circumstances where the person knows or ought reasonably to know of the presence of Parkinsonia on the land or in or on the carrier, must: (d) ensure that Parkinsonia (including any seed and propagules) is not moved from the land; and (e) immediately notify the local control authority: i) as soon as practicable after becoming aware of the presence of Parkinsonia; ii) verbally or in writing; iii) giving the following: (1) the person's full name and contact number; (2) the location of the Parkinsonia, including the property identification code for the land (if this is known); and iv) any other information reasonably requested by the local control authority. (f) The person who deals with a carrier of Parkinsonia does not need to comply with (b) above if they know that notification of the infestation on the land has already been given to the local control authority for the area. ***Mandatory Measure (Part 2, Division 8, Clause 33, draft Biosecurity Regulation 2016):*** A person must not import into the State or sell. **Regional Strategic Response:** Trigger rapid response protocol

State Priority Weed Objective – CONTAINMENT: *These weeds are widely distributed in some parts of the state. While broad scale elimination is not practicable, minimisation of the biosecurity risk posed these weeds is reasonably practicable.*		
Species	**Land area where requirements apply**	**Biosecurity Act requirements & Strategic Response in the region**
Alligator weed *Alternanthera philoxeroides*	A Biosecurity Zone, to be known as the **alligator weed biosecurity zone**, is established for all land within the state except land in the following regions: (a) Greater Sydney, (b) Hunter (but only in respect of land in the local government area of City of Lake Macquarie, City of Maitland, City of Newcastle or Port Stephens).	**Biosecurity Regulation 2017 - Part 5, Division 2 (Alligator weed biosecurity zone)** An owner or occupier of land in the alligator weed biosecurity zone on which there is the weed *Alternanthera philoxeroides* (Alligator weed) must: (a) if the weed is part of a new infestation of the weed on the land, notify the local control authority for the land as soon as practicable in accordance with Part 6, and (b) eradicate the weed or, if that is not practicable, destroy as much of the weed as is practicable and suppress the spread of any remaining weed. ***Mandatory Measure (Part 2, Division 8, Clause 33, draft Biosecurity Regulation 2017):*** A person must not import into the State or sell. **Regional Strategic Response:** Trigger rapid response protocol
Bitou bush *Chrysanthemoides monilifera* subsp. *rotundata*	A Biosecurity Zone, to be known as the **bitou bush biosecurity zone**, is established for all land within the State except land within 10 kilometres of the mean high water mark of the Pacific Ocean between Cape Byron in the north and Point Perpendicular in the South.	**Biosecurity Regulation 2017 - Part 5, Division 3 (Bitou bush biosecurity zone)** An owner or occupier of land in the bitou bush biosecurity zone on which there is the weed *Chrysanthemoides monilifera* subsp. *rotundata* (Bitou bush) must: (a) if the weed is part of a new infestation of the weed on the land, notify the local control authority for the land as soon as practicable in accordance with Part 6, and (b) eradicate the weed or if that is not practicable destroy as much of the weed as is practicable and suppress the spread of any remaining weed. ***Mandatory Measure (Part 2, Division 8, Clause 33, draft Biosecurity Regulation 2017):*** A person must not import into the State or sell. **Regional Strategic Response within the Biosecurity Zone:** Trigger rapid response protocol **Regional Strategic Response outside the Biosecurity Zone:** Species managed in accordance with published weed management plans

State Priority Weed Objective – CONTAINMENT: *These weeds are widely distributed in some parts of the state. While broad scale elimination is not practicable, minimisation of the biosecurity risk posed these weeds is reasonably practicable.*		
Species	**Land area where requirements apply**	**Biosecurity Act requirements & Strategic Response in the region**
Water hyacinth *Eichhornia crassipes*	A Biosecurity Zone, to be known as the Water Hyacinth Biosecurity Zone, is established for all land within the State except land in the following regions: (a) Greater Sydney or North Coast, (b) North West (but only land in those regions that is in the local government area of Moree Plains), (c) Hunter (but only land in that region that is in the local government area of City of Cessnock, City of Lake Macquarie, Mid-CoastCity of Maitland or Port Stephens), (d) South East (but only land in that region that is in the local government area of Eurobodalla, Kiama, City of Shellharbour, City of Shoalhaven or City of Wollongong).	***Biosecurity Regulation 2017 - Part 5, Division 4 (Water hyacinth biosecurity zone)*** An owner or occupier of land in the water hyacinth biosecurity zone on which thereis the weed *Eichhornia crassipes* (Water Hyacinth) must: (a) if the weed is part of a new infestation of the weed on the land, notify the local control authority for the land as soon as practicable in accordance with Part 6, and (b) eradicate the weed or if that is not practicable destroy as much of the weed as is practicable and suppress the spread of any remaining weed. ***Mandatory Measure (Part 2, Division 8, Clause 33, draft Biosecurity Regulation 2017):*** A person must not import into the State or sell. **Regional Strategic Response within the Biosecurity Zone:** Trigger rapid response protocol **Regional Strategic Response outside the Biosecurity Zone:** Species managed in accordance with published weed management plans

State Priority Weed Objective – ASSET PROTECTION (Whole of State): *These weeds are widely distributed in some areas of the State. As Weeds of National Significance, their spread should be minimised to protect priority assets.*	
Species	**Biosecurity Act requirements & Strategic Response in the region**
Madeira vine *Anredera cordifolia*	***Mandatory Measure (Part 2, Division 8, Clause 33, draft Biosecurity Regulation 2017):*** A person must not import into the State or sell. **Regional Strategic Response:** Species managed in accordance with published weed management plans. # These species have additional outcomes and regional strategic responses in Appendix 1.2
Asparagus weeds *Asparagus aethiopicus#*, *A. africanus#*, *A. asparagoides#* including the Western Cape form, *A. plumosus#*, *A. scandens#*	
Cabomba *Cabomba caroliniana#*	
Scotch/English broom *Cytisus scoparius* subsp. *scoparius#*	
Cat's claw creeper *Dolichandra unguis-cati#*	
Cape/Montpellier broom *Genista monspessulana#*	
Olive Hymenachne *Hymenachne amplexicaulis*	
Bellyache bush *Jatropha gossypiifolia*	
Lantana *Lantana camara#*	
African boxthorn *Lycium ferocissimum*	
Chilean needlegrass *Nassella neesiana*	
Serrated tussock *Nassella trichotoma#*	
Opuntioid cacti: *Opuntia* spp., *Cylindropuntia* spp., *Austrocylindropuntia* spp. (Excludes *O. ficus- indica*)	
Mesquite *Prosopis* spp.	
Blackberry *Rubus fruticosus* agg. (Blackberry except the varietals Chester Thornless, Dirksen Thornless, Loch Ness, Silvan, Black Satin, Murrindindi, Smooth Stem, Thornfree and Chehalem)	
Sagittaria *Sagittaria platyphylla*	
Willows *Salix* spp.(excludes *S.babylonica*, *S.x calodendron* & *S. x reichardtii*)	
Salvinia *Salvinia molesta#*	
Fireweed *Senecio madagascariensis#*	
Silver-leaf nightshade *Solanum elaeagnifolium*	
Athel pine *Tamarix aphylla*	
Gorse *Ulex europaeus#*	

A1.2 Regional priority weeds

Regional Priority Weed Objective – PREVENTION (Whole of Region): *The following weeds are currently not found in the region, pose significant biosecurity risk and prevention of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is a reasonably practical objective.*		
Species	**Outcomes to demonstrate compliance with the GBD**	**Strategic Response in the region**
Sicklethorn *Asparagus falcatus*	• The plant is eradicated from the land and the land is kept free of the plant • Land managers mitigate the risk of new weeds being introduced to their land • The Local Control Authority is aware the plant is found on the land • The plant or parts of the plant are not traded, carried, grown or released into the environment	• Implement quarantine and/or hygiene protocols • Undertake high risk sites & pathways analysis to identify potential introduction areas and preventative options • Have a collaborative rapid response protocol in place
Kidney leaf mud plantain *Heteranthera reniformis*		
Glush weed *Hygrophila costata*		
Water lettuce *Pistia stratiotes*		
Holly leaved senecio *Senecio glastifolius*		
Giant rat's tail grass *Sporobolus pyramidalis*		

Regional Priority Weed Objective – ERADICATION (Whole of Region): *The following weeds are present in limited distribution and abundance in the region. Elimination of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is a reasonably practical objective.*		
Species	**Outcomes to demonstrate compliance with the GBD**	**Strategic Response in the region**
Ming asparagus *Asparagus macowanii var. zuluensis*	• The plant is eradicated from the land, or if that is not practicable then as much of the plant as is practicable is destroyed and the spread of any remaining plant is suppressed • Land managers mitigate the risk of new weeds being introduced to their land • The plant or parts of the plant are not traded, carried, grown or released into the environment • Local Control Authority is notified if the plant is found on the land * For these species, the following legislative requirement also applies: ***Mandatory measure (Part 2, Division 8, Clause 29, draft Biosecurity Regulation 2016)***: A person must not move, import into the State or sell any plant. ** For these species, the following legislative requirements also apply: ***Duty to notify presence of prohibited matter (Part 4, Division 3, Clause 30, Biosecurity Act 2015):*** A Aperson who becomes aware of, or suspects, that a prohibited matter event has occurred, is occurring or is about to occur has a biosecurity duty to immediately notify the prohibited matter event in accordance with the requirements specified in the regulations.	• Establish agreed quarantine and/or hygiene protocols • Surveillance and mapping to locate all infested properties • Monitor progress towards eradication. • High level analysis of pathways to identify potential introduction areas and preventative options
Groundsel bush *Baccharis halimifolia*		
Pink pampas grass *Cortaderia jubata*		
Blue hound's tongue *Cynoglossum creticum*		
Cats claw creeper *Dolichandra unguis-cati (Macfadyena unguis-cati)**		
Senegal tea plant, Temple plant *Gymnocoronis splianthoides*		
Horsetail *Equistum spp.*		
Spanish heath *Erica lusitanica*		
Long-leafed water primrose *Ludwigia longifolia*		
Ludwigia *Ludwigia peruviana*		
Cane needle grass *Nassella hyalina*		
Salvinia *Salvinia molesta**		
Giant Devil's fig S*olanum chrysotrichum*		
Spanish broom S*partium junceum*		

Regional Priority Weeds objective – CONTAINMENT: *These weeds are widely distributed in parts of the region. While broad scale elimination is not practicable, minimisation of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is reasonably practicable.*			
Species	**Land area where requirements apply**	**Outcomes to demonstrate compliance with the GBD**	**Strategic Response in the region**
Mysore thorn *Caesalpinia decapetala*	***Exclusion zone***: Whole of region except core infestation area ***Core infestation area***: Wollongong Local Government Area	**Whole region:** • Land managers mitigate the risk of new weeds being introduced to their land • The plant or parts of the plant are not traded, carried, grown or released into the environment * The following legislative requirement also applies to these species: ***Mandatory measure (Part 2, Division 8, Clause 33, draft Biosecurity Regulation 2017)***: A person must not import into the State or sell any plant. **Within Exclusion zone:** • The plant is eradicated from the land, or if that is not practicable then as much of the plant as is practicable is destroyed and the spread of any remaining plant is suppressed **Within Core infestation area:** • Land managers reduce impacts from the plant on priority assets	**Within Exclusion zone:** • Establish agreed quarantine and/or hygiene protocols. • Surveillance and mapping to locate all infested properties and maintain currency of exclusion zone and objectives. • Monitor change in current distribution to ensure containment of spread. • High level analysis of pathways to identify potential introduction areas and preventative options **Within Core infestation area:** • Identification of key sites/ assets in the geographic area • Identification of regional containment zones where required • Develop region-wide coordinated campaigns for collaborative management • Species managed in accordance with published weed management plan
Cabomba *Cabomba caroliniana**	***Exclusion zone***: Whole of region except core infestation area ***Core infestation area***: Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama Local Government Areas		
Scotch broom / English broom *Cytisus scoparius subsp. scoparius**	***Exclusion zone***: Bega Valley Local Government area ***Core infestation area***: Whole of region except exclusion zone		
Sea spurge *Euphorbia paralias*	***Exclusion zone***: Whole of region except core infestation ***Core infestation area***: Eurobodalla and Bega Valley Local Government Areas		
Flax-leaf broom, Mediterranean broom *Genista linifolia**	***Exclusion zone***: Whole of region except core infestation area ***Core infestation area***: Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama, Shoalhaven and Eurobodalla Local Government Areas		
Montpellier broom *Genista monspessulana**	***Exclusion zone***: Wingecarribee and Bega Local Government Areas ***Core infestation area***: Whole of region except exclusion zone		
Coolatai grass *Hyparrhenia hirta*	***Exclusion zone***: Whole of region except core infestation area ***Core infestation area***: Wollongong Local Government Area and localities of Bigga, Crooked Corner and Narrawa in the Upper Lachlan Local Government Area		
Lantana *Lantana camara**	***Exclusion zone***: Whole of region except core infestation area ***Core infestation area***: Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama Local Government Areas, and the part of Shoalhaven LGA north of 35 11'42"S (known as the Lantana National Containment Line, running east-west through the Princess Hwy / Bendalong Rd intersection)		
Fireweed *Senecio madagascariensis**	***Exclusion zone***: Whole of region except core infestation area ***Core infestation area***: Wingecaribee, Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama, Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla and Bega Valley Local Government Areas		
Giant Parramatta grass *Sporobolus fertilis*	***Exclusion zone***: Whole of region except core infestation area ***Core infestation area***: Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama, Shoalhaven and Eurobodalla Local Government Areas		
Gorse *Ulex europaeus**	***Exclusion zone***: Whole of region except core infestation area ***Core infestation area:*** Upper Lachlan, Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama, Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla, Yass Valley and Bega Valley Local Government Areas		

Regional Priority Weeds objective – CONTAINMENT: *These weeds are widely distributed in parts of the region. While broad scale elimination is not practicable, minimisation of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is reasonably practicable.*			
Species	**Land area where requirements apply**	**Outcomes to demonstrate compliance with the GBD**	**Strategic Response in the region**
Serrated tussock *Nassella trichotoma**	***Exclusion zone***: Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama, Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla and Bega Valley Local Government Areas ***Core infestation area***: Whole of region except exclusion zone	**Whole region:** • Land managers mitigate the risk of new weeds being introduced to their land • The plant or parts of the plant are not traded, carried, grown or released into the environment * The following legislative requirement also applies to these species: ***Mandatory measure (Part 2, Division 8, Clause 33, draft Biosecurity Regulation 2017***: A person must not import into the State or sell any plant. **Within Exclusion zone:** • Land managers prevent spread from their land **Within Core infestation area:** • Land managers reduce impacts from the plant on priority assets	**Within Exclusion zone:** • Establish agreed quarantine and/or hygiene protocols. • Surveillance and mapping to locate all infested properties and maintain currency of exclusion zone and objectives. • Monitor change in current distribution to ensure containment of spread. • High level analysis of pathways to identify potential introduction areas and preventative options **Within Core infestation area:** • Identification of key sites/assets in the geographic area • Identification of regional containment zones where required • Develop region-wide coordinated campaigns for collaborative management • Species managed in accordance with published weed management plan

Regional Priority Weeds objective – ASSET PROTECTION:

These weeds are widely distributed in the region. While broad scale elimination or containment is not practicable, preventing the spread to priority assets or reducing the impact on priority assets by weeds already present is reasonably practicable. Priority assets for protection typically have high environmental, economic and/or social value.

Species	Land area where requirements apply	Outcomes to demonstrate compliance with the GBD	Strategic Response in the region
African lovegrass *Eragrostis curvula*	Whole of region	Land managers reduce impacts from the plant on priority assets	• Identification of key sites/assets • Species managed in accordance with published weed management plan

Appendix 2: Other weeds of concern in the South East Local Land Services region

Appendix 2.1: Potential regional priority weeds

These species pose a potential biosecurity risk within the region however there is insufficient information on their distribution, pathways, impacts and/or feasibility of control to complete a regional risk assessment and inform an appropriate regional response.

Regional Strategic Response:

- Complete local surveys to determine the current distribution across the region
- Develop regional level weed risk assessments
- Determine the regional priority objective and whether the weed should be included in Appendix A1.2, A2.2 or simply managed under the GBD

Common name	*Scientific name*
Blue stars/Blue corn-lily	*Aristea ecklonii*
Chinese knotweed	*Persicaria chinensis*
Chinese violet	*Asystasia gangetica* subsp. *micrantha*
Glory lily	*Gloriosa superba*
Hymenachne	*Hymenachne amplexicaulis* and hybrids
Kudzu	*Pueraria lobata*
Ragwort	*Senecio jacobea*
Reed canary grass	*Phalaris arundinacea*
Sea wheatgrass	*Thinopyrum junceiforme*
Sicilian sea lavender	*Limonium hyblaeum*
Skunk vine	*Paederia foetida*
Water poppy	*Hydrocleys nymphoides*
White blackberry / Mysore raspberry	*Rubus niveus*
Yellow bells / Golden bells	*Tecoma stans*

Appendix 2.2: Species subject to local management programs

These species are high risk, high priority for a number of local programs and have significant environmental and/or animal health impacts. It is not possible to eradicate or contain these weeds across the region.

Regional Strategic Response:

- Work within existing widespread weed programs for strategic asset protection
- Prioritise actions under the GBD to assist with management
- Work with industry and the community to develop voluntary restrictions on sale and trade.

Common name	*Scientific name*
Arum lily	*Zantedeschia aethiopica*
Asparagus species*	Asparagus spp. (except *A. officianalis, A. racemosus, A. declinatus, A. falcatus & A. macowanii var. zuluensis*)*
Balloon vine	*Cardiospermum grandiflorum*
Blackberry*	*Rubus fruticosus* aggregate (except cultivars)*
Cape ivy	Delairea *odorata*
Chilean needle grass*	*Nassella neesiana**
Chinese celtis	*Celtis sinensis*
Creeping lantana	*Lantana montevidensis*
Crofton weed	*Ageratina adenophora*
Dolichos pea	*Dipogon lignosus*
Giant reed	*Arundo donax*
Green cestrum	*Cestrum parqui*
Honey locust	*Gleditsia triacanthos*
Madeira vine	*Anredera cordifolia*
Morning glory	*Ipomoea* spp
Moth vine	*Araujia sericifera*
Ox-eye daisy	*Leucanthemum vulgare*
Pampas grass (Common)	*Cortaderia selloana*
Rhus tree	*Toxicodendron succedaneum*
St. John's wort	*Hypericum perforatum*
Tree of heaven	*Ailanthus altissima*
Turkey rhubarb	*Acetosa sagittata*
Willows*	*Salix* spp.*

* The following legislative requirement also applies to these species: ***Mandatory measure (Part 2, Division 8, Clause 29, draft Biosecurity Regulation 2016):*** A person must not move, import into the State or sell any plant.

Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 - 2022

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