

Integrating Service Delivery - Roadside Maintenance and Weed Control

COUNCIL NAME

Mid Coast Council

WEB ADDRESS

www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au

SIZE

10,053 square
kilometres

POPULATION

90,504

Overview

The former Great Lakes Council developed a simple, cost saving approach to roadside management that increased the ability to deliver roadside weed management and the amount of roadside maintenance works delivered on regional roads per annum.

Background

The key motivation for Council was to develop cost savings and to address weed management which is a significant issue in managing biodiversity values in roadside environments. Council managers collaborated to coordinate noxious weed control works with the infrastructure maintenance schedule. Firstly, opportunities were identified to align maintenance schedules, then resource planning was undertaken to allocate internal staff responsibilities and budgets. This allowed cost sharing and joint resourcing for weed management along roadsides including resourcing of traffic management measures, chemical and other weed control resources and staff resources.

Implementation

Council undertook the following steps to implement joint infrastructure maintenance and weed control::

- Step 1:** Consult with a supervisor to ensure there are no other relevant restrictions such as “no spray” zones in environmentally sensitive areas and complete a site management checklist before commencing works.
- Step 2:** Undertake field works in accordance with work plan.
- Step 3:** Undertake reporting (by site supervisor with checks carried out by Council's noxious weeds coordinator, infrastructure manager and environment manager).

This project links to higher order plans within council including:

- Community Strategic Plan Key Direction 1: Our Environment, 1.4 Reduce the impact of noxious weeds and invasive species in our environment through strategic management and education
- Delivery Program 2013-2017 and Operational program 2014-15
- Work Health Safety system
- Consolidated asset management plan
- Noxious weeds plan

Outcomes

The key outcome for the project was a greater area of roadside managed for noxious weeds and roadside infrastructure maintained. Others achievements include:

- Increased extent of roadside maintenance works per annum
- Estimated cost savings of \$3,000 per 5-6km

REFERENCES

Great Lakes Council
Consolidated Asset
Management Plan
2030 (v2 Dec 2014)



Source: Manning River Times

Key Learnings

Challenges to this approach include:

- Ability to collaborate across council sections
- Aligning field scheduling
- Resource planning

Contact

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