

Weed Management

Winner in Division A

Gunnedah Shire Council ***Alligator Weed Management***

In April 2012 Alligator weed (a Class 1 noxious weed) was discovered by Gunnedah Shire Council in the Namoi River. As the Namoi River feeds into the Murray-Darling River system, an effective, rapid response program was essential to protect the environment, farming and irrigation enterprises in the Shire and downstream. The Council initiated a collaboration to contain the weed, which involved 12 local & regional councils and numerous land holders. Inspections were carried out and 14 infestations were identified and then removed. On-going monitoring and control measures were put in place, in addition to an awareness campaign.



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Winner in Division B

New England Weeds Authority ***Integrated Aerial Surveillance Innovative Pilot Project***

This innovative project involves pilot testing of Integrated Aerial Surveillance as part of the regional weed inspection program. This involved the use of unmanned aerial vehicles, multi-spectral imaging and a proven existing mapping system for the detection of four selected high risk invasive species (Water Hyacinth, Serrated Tussock, Alligator weed and Tropical Soda Apple). Project partners include the NSW Department of Primary Industries and the University of Sydney. This project is likely to result in significant outcomes in improving the efficiencies of inspection, surveillance and mapping of weeds in NSW.



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Highly Commended in Division C

Blue Mountains City Council

Potential Removal of 3 Aquatic WoNs, a Win for Glenbrook Lagoon

This program involved the control of 3 aquatic Weeds of National Significance (or WoNS) at Glenbrook Lagoon. This lagoon is a natural escarpment wetland in the Blue Mountains with a history of poor water quality, aquatic weed infestations and algal blooms. The program involved a sequenced series of treatments, water oxygenation and subsequent monitoring. The project achieved over 99% control of the infestation of Cabomba and other problem weed species in the Lagoon, with no loss of endemic fish or turtle species. The project also provided supporting data to inform future Cabomba control at other sites nationally.



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Winner in Division C and Overall Winner

Greater Hume Shire Council

Red Guide Posts – Riverina & Central Western NSW

Eastern Riverina Noxious Weeds Advisory Group, Western Riverina Noxious Weeds Advisory Group, Lachlan Valley Weeds Advisory Committee, Macquarie Valley Weeds Advisory Committee, Riverina & central west Local Control Authorities, Local Land Services and Roads and Maritime Services have collaborated to develop a simple system to assist in reducing the spread of high risk invasive species along roadsides. It involves the installation of red guide posts at the 'start' and 'end' of each roadside weed infestation to identify the site, and an extensive awareness campaign to ensure that the local weeds officer is consulted on any works that occur at these sites.



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