



# Hawkesbury City Council

## late supplementary business paper

date of meeting: 26 April 2005

location: council chambers

time: 5:00 p.m.

**ORDINARY MEETING - Late Supplementary**

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**Meeting Date:** 26 April 2005

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SECTION 4 - Reports for Determination

Item: 133      INF B - Control and Management of Noxious Aquatic Weeds in the Hawkesbury-Nepean - (79338, 107, 74251)

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**REPORT:**

A position paper by Mr Peter Davey was considered at the last meeting of the WSROC Board held on 21 April 2005.

The position paper outlined that the *Salvinia molesta* outbreak in 2004 cost more than \$1.5M (one million five hundred thousand dollars) to control. It highlights the urgent need for better arrangements for controlling noxious aquatic weeds in the Hawkesbury-Nepean River system, and that the recent outbreak is the latest in a series of similar major outbreaks that have plagued the river system over the last 50 (fifty) years. The paper warns that the Hawkesbury-Nepean is so infested with a wide range of aquatic weeds that further major outbreaks are now more likely to occur.

The following recommendations were made at the Board meeting:

That:

1. The Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority (HNCMA), Hawkesbury Nepean Local Government Advisory Group and the Hawkesbury River County Council convene a workshop to develop and strengthen surveillance, reporting and targeted weed control program;
2. The HNCMA facilitate the co-ordination of agreement between relevant agencies, authorities (Local, State and Federal), and key community and business leaders which outlines fundamental institutional and policy changes required, and that this agreement be supported by the preparation of an Options Paper;
3. Councils and the CMA collaborate to develop a sustainable funding base which resolves the current ad hoc approach to weed management adopted by State and Federal Agencies;
4. A high level working group consisting senior agency and Local Government representatives revisit the HN Aquatic Weeds Strategy;
5. The above working group ensures that the Aquatic Weeds Strategy commits to increasing scientific and technical capacity of agencies dealing with weed issues;
6. Councils support the NSW government for its water sharing and water management reform initiatives regarding long term health of the Hawkesbury Nepean, but that they seek clarity on the specific content of various plans and strategies, how they are integrated, and their timeframes;
7. Clarify with the State Government concerns that Local Government has in relation to responsibility for the management and control of noxious weeds in the Hawkesbury-Nepean River System and the financial implications if Councils are responsible.

WSROC requested that Council make a presentation to the next meeting of the Board in relation to these issues.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the recommendations adopted by WSROC in relation to Peter Davey's report be endorsed.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

There are no supporting documents for this report.

**oooO END OF REPORT Oooo**



ordinary  
meeting

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