



MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES  
MINISTER FOR ENERGY  
MINISTER FOR MINERAL RESOURCES  
MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT

## MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 4 December, 2008

### **\$8.3 million weeds funding across NSW**

The NSW Government will spend \$8.3 million to control noxious weeds across the State this financial year, Minister for Primary Industries Ian Macdonald said today.

Minister Macdonald said the noxious weeds grants would be allocated to local councils and other weed control authorities to help tackle weed issues.

“Noxious weeds are extremely costly to control, so this issue is important to the State’s agricultural sector and our economy as a whole,” he said.

“Each year weeds cost NSW agriculture about \$1.2 billion and approximately \$2 billion, when the impact on water and the natural environment is also included.

“There are more than 100 individual weeds threatening over 200 species in NSW, including both fauna and flora.

“That’s why the NSW Government is taking action, and investing \$8.3 million to maintain local control efforts.

“This year’s funding allocation is an increase on last year’s funding, which was \$8.15 million, and reflects the importance of weed control being carried out at the local level.

“Local councils and the other agencies that manage weeds have a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of which weeds cause the most problems, which is why we allocate these funds to be spent at the grassroots level.”

This year’s noxious weeds grants, based on Regional Weed Advisory Committees, include:

- \$202,000 for Eastern and Western Riverina
- \$161,000 for Hunter and Central Coast
- \$61,000 for Lachlan Valley
- \$223,000 for Macquarie Valley
- \$180,000 for Mid North Coast
- \$207,000 for Northern Inland
- \$250,000 for North Coast
- \$195,500 for Southern Tablelands and South Coast
- \$141,000 for South West Sydney
- \$181,000 for Sydney West Blue Mountains

“This latest funding will be used to finance noxious weed control campaigns, community education programs, help combat new weed incursions and train weeds officers,” Minister Macdonald said.

“Included in this year’s funding allocation is \$100,000 specifically aimed at helping raise awareness of and control new weed incursions.”

High priority weeds on this year’s NSW hit list include Broom, Water Lettuce, Alligator Weed, and Parthenium Weed.

Submissions for noxious weeds grants are reviewed by this Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee, which includes representatives of NSW Farmers’ Association, the Shires Association, the Local Government Association, Rural Lands Protection Boards, Catchment Management Authorities, the Nature Conservation Council, the Nursery and Gardening Industry Association, a community representative, and representatives from the Department of Primary Industries.

The NSW Government provides funding of up to a dollar to match each dollar contributed by the local control authority for approved projects.

**Media contact: Lyndall Derrig 0400 462 447**