

# South East NSW weed inspection priority mapping

## COUNCIL NAME

Palerang Council

## WEB ADDRESS

[www.palerang.nsw.gov.au](http://www.palerang.nsw.gov.au)

## SIZE

5,147 square  
kilometres

## POPULATION

15,306

## Overview

Detailed spatial analysis was completed across south east NSW to determine the resources required to effectively monitor and manage weeds at the landscape scale. This included objective definition and assessment of high risk pathways for new weed incursions, priority sites, private properties and public land, using a risk-based and tenure-neutral approach. The resulting data enabled the development of a logistical model for the efficient allocation of resources under the South East Weeds Action Program (SEWAP) for the next five years.

## Background

The regional Weeds Action Program (WAP) is an initiative of the NSW Department of Primary Industry to support local control authorities to protect the State from weed invasion in accordance with the NSW Invasive Species Plan. The five year WAP commencing mid 2015 required a regional submission from each Local Land Services (LLS) region clearly documenting the resources required to achieve the proposed activities. The Southern Tablelands and South Coast Noxious Plants Committee recognised the need for a strong application to the WAP for the South East LLS (SELLS) region and acknowledged the potential to extend Palerang Council's existing local weed prioritisation mapping.

Palerang Council, who at the time were Lead Agency for the Southern Tablelands WAP 2010-15 and later became Lead Agency for the South East WAP 2015-20, were contracted by the committee to extend their spatial model across the south east of NSW. Palerang Council was keen to facilitate this project and collaborate with adjoining councils and state agencies for a regional approach to natural resource management issues.



The objectives were to:

1. Identify high risk pathways for a consistent regional approach to monitoring for new weed incursions.
2. Determine the resources required to systematically inspect all larger properties and survey all smaller properties, across all tenure types, for new and emerging weed incursions.
3. Identify priority sites to assist planning for increased weed inspection frequency and more effective control of widespread weeds.
4. Improve inspection capacity across the region through a systematic approach based on best available local data.

---

## Implementation

The project was implemented as follows:

1. Provided presentations and a written project brief to engage all local control authorities.
2. Requested local information from each Council and/or local control authority.
3. Engaged with state agencies and source regional data as appropriate.
4. Modified the method developed for the local Palerang Council project to reflect the regional project data and budget limitations.
5. Developed draft maps of each key spatial dataset and distribute to project partners for feedback.
6. Surveyed representatives from each local control authority to determine further local information and how each authority operates.

The overarching project partner was the Southern Tablelands and South Coast Noxious Plants Committee, including specific interactions with representatives of each of the 13 local control authorities, SELLS and OEH. The project commenced in April 2014 with most analysis completed by May 2015.

## Outcomes

The project achieved a comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced by local control authorities trying to protect the south east NSW region from the impacts of weed invasion. The following activities were identified for the region as minimum aims in order to maintain a basic weed inspection program:

- 20,000 km of high risk pathways surveyed every year
- 13,500 properties inspected every year, to achieve all properties >1ha once every 5 years
- 10,000 threatened species sites affected by weed invasion; these need better survey and control to protect existing sites.

Not only does the region better appreciate the enormity of the weed war ahead, but now has a detailed understanding of the spatial distribution of each battle being waged. In the long term this resource will guide the distribution of weed management resources under SEWAP and the development of regional weed management documents.

## Key Learnings

- A systematic approach to standardising weed management practices and determining associated resource requirements has immense potential to improve efficiency, effectiveness and accountability across the region.
- Where it is thought that a dataset may exist, further inquiries should be made in order to determine whether the data can be located.
- Adequate time must be allocated to obtaining data from under-resourced councils that have competing priorities.

As lead agency of SEWAP 1520, Palerang Council will ensure that the benefits of this project are ongoing through their implementation by the SEWAP partners. This project has highlighted the ability of Palerang Council to collaborate with adjoining councils, state agencies and the ACT Government for regional benefit. The next steps are to ensure that this data is applied to enhance the coordination of the limited resources available to manage weeds across south east NSW.

## Contact

**Name:** Simon Holloway

**Position:** Co-ordinator Environmental Services

**Phone:** 02 6238 8111

**Email:** [simon.holloway@palerang.nsw.gov.au](mailto:simon.holloway@palerang.nsw.gov.au)

**This project was the 2015 winner of the Weed Management Award at the LGNSW Excellence in the Environment Awards**