

# URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE

December 2022

## Operations

2021-2022 was a difficult year for NEWA following the loss of several senior staff members, including the General Manager, Chief Financial Officer, Business Manager and Senior Weed Officer. That said, all targeted activities including property inspections, funded under the Weeds Action program (WAP), and the weed control spray program throughout the Shire were achieved for the year. Importantly, following a substantial recruitment program, NEWA is now fully staffed and commences the new year with a full team of qualified and enthusiastic employees.

NEWA has also updated its fleet with the purchase of 2 side-by-side vehicles, both fitted with twin Kwik Spray units, in a deliberate move away from use of the more dangerous quad bikes. Being only a small team of 12 staff, it is even more important that our systems are simple, efficient and reliable. These need to be easy for our staff to use, reliable and to ensure that financial information is correctly captured and logged. In the new year, we will commence the upgrade to our accounting system in order to have the flexibility to provide financial and project management information quickly and easily

The *major* project to be undertaken in the 2022-2023 FY, is the construction of new offices and depot, to consolidate all NEWA's operations on a single, purpose-built site. Expressions of Interest have been sought and it is planned to issue tender documents before the year end.

## Spray Control Program

During the past year the following spray activities were completed:

Weed Type	Date of Control	Control Activity
<b>St John's Wort</b>	Nov/Dec 2021	All roadsides were completed within Uralla Shire - NEWA spray team.
<b>Blackberry</b>	Jan/Feb 2022	All roadsides were completed within Uralla Shire - Contractor
<b>Privet</b>	May/Jul 2022	Rocky River targeted for roadside privet over winter, parks and creek also completed - NEWA spray team.
<b>Broom</b>	May/Jul 2022	Control work for broom was completed over winter in known areas of infestation - NEWA spray team.
<b>Serrated Tussock</b>	Oct/Nov 2021	Private works were completed in the later part of 2021 for Tussock. Areas of known roadside serrated tussock were also checked on and controlled - NEWA spray team and biosecurity officers.

## Planned Spray Control Program

During the next six months the following spray activities are planned:

Weed Type	Date of Control	Control Activity
<b>St John's Wort</b>	Dec 2021 to Jan 2023	Roadside St John's Wort Spraying has started in the Bundarra Area and around Kingstown this will continue through until Christmas for the rest of the Uralla Shire and a follow up run will be completed in the early new year.
<b>Blackberry</b>	Jan/Feb 2023	Roadsides will be starting in the new year. council land such as The Glen will also be controlled during this time.
<b>Privet</b>	May/Jul 2023	Control of privet will occur over winter.
<b>Broom</b>	May/Jul 2023	Control of privet will occur over winter.
<b>Serrated Tussock</b>		Roadside inspections will inform the spray team of roadside tussock to then follow up with control.

## Weeds Action Program

The following table shows the number of inspections (*to May 2022*), completed for the 2021-2022 FY.

MEMBER COUNCIL PROPERTY INSPECTIONS	Actual Jul - Sep	Actual Oct - Dec	Actual Jan - Mar	Actual Apr - Jun	Total Inspections to Date	TARGET	% of TARGET ACHIEVED	Inspections to Reach Target
Armidale Regional	86	298	137	31	552	451	122%	0
Glen Innes Severn	90	7	188	109	394	500	79%	106
Uralla Shire	10	42	42	105	199	187	106%	0
Walcha Council	149	106	25	158	438	362	121%	0
<b>NEWA Totals</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>1583</b>	<b>1500</b>	<b>106%</b>	<b>0</b>

In particular, inspections carried out in Uralla Shire Council totalled **199** against a target of **187** or **106%** of target.

In addition to landholder inspections, the following special purpose inspections were also completed within the County. A split by LGA is not currently available.

WAP INSPECTION GOALS	metric	Actual Inspections Undertaken					Annual Target	% of Annual Target Achieved	To Reach Annual Target
		Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Total			
Gravel Quarrie	no.	5	1	-	7	13	43	30%	30
National Parks	no.	10	1	-	-	11	4	275%	-
Nurseries	no.	1	-	1	4	6	8	75%	2
Recreational Area	no.	5	1	-	4	10	10	100%	-
Aquaria/Pet Shops	no.	-	-	-	2	2	2	100%	-
Weekend Markets	no.	2	2	2	-	6	3	200%	-
Machinery Dealer	no.	1	-	-	2	3	4	75%	1
Showground	no.	-	-	4	1	5	5	100%	-
Dam	no.	-	1	-	-	1	2	50%	1
Saleyard	no.	1	1	-	1	3	3	100%	-
Machinery Washdown Bays	no.	-	-	2	-	2	2	100%	-
Mines	no.	-	-	-	-	-	1	0%	1
Rural Outlet	no.	-	1	2	4	7	9	78%	2
Landfill Sites	no.	1	1	1	1	4	4	100%	-

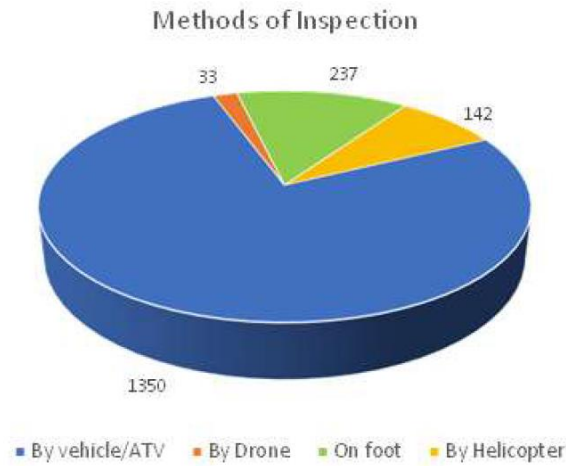
Extensions completed in the 2021-2022 Financial Year were as follows:

Extension Activity	Jul - Sep	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar	Apr - Jun	Total
School Visits	1	1	1		3
Field Days		2		2	4
Media Releases	4	2	3		9
Agricultural Shows			4		4
Landcare Events	3	4	2	3	12

### Current year to date WAP inspections

In the current financial year 2022-2023, the number of inspections that have been completed are summarised in the following chart:

MEMBER COUNCIL PROPERTY INSPECTIONS	Actual Jul - Sep	Actual Oct - Dec	Actual Jan - Mar	Actual Apr - Jun	Total Inspections to Date	TARGET	% of TARGET ACHIEVED	Inspections to Reach Target
Armidale Regional	224	95	0	0	319	451	71%	132
Glen Innes Severn	45	17	0	0	62	500	12%	438
Uralla Shire	32	40	0	0	72	187	39%	115
Walcha Council	31	63	0	0	94	362	26%	268
<b>NEWA Totals</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>1500</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>953</b>



### Projects and Private Works

NEWA’s Project Officer is currently preparing a grant application for the Future Drought Fund, for an extension and adoption of drought resilience farming practices.

A total of **\$3 million** is being requested.

If successful Uralla will receive a total of \$400,000 excluding GST over a two year period from 2023 to 2025.

The money will be allocated for extension activities and on-ground works and is aimed at preventing the establishment of new weed species, eliminate or prevent the spread of existing or new weed species, and reduce the impact of widespread invasive weed species while building capacity for a long term commitment to managing invasive species.

Biosecurity Officers and spray team members are assisting in the preparation of this submission to provide information on various areas of concern.

Other funding applications continue to be made on a monthly basis and NEWA is currently managing funding for projects totalling in excess of \$475,000.

Private Works for Member Councils continue to be completed on an as requested basis.

