



High Risk Pathway Management Plan for Preventing Weed Spread in the Macquarie Region

1. What is a Pathway?

Weeds can be transported to new sites intentionally by humans, accidentally by humans and by natural means such as water, wind, and native animals. The routes that these methods of transport move along are called pathways of spread. Some pathways pose a higher risk than others, depending largely on natural events and changing trends.

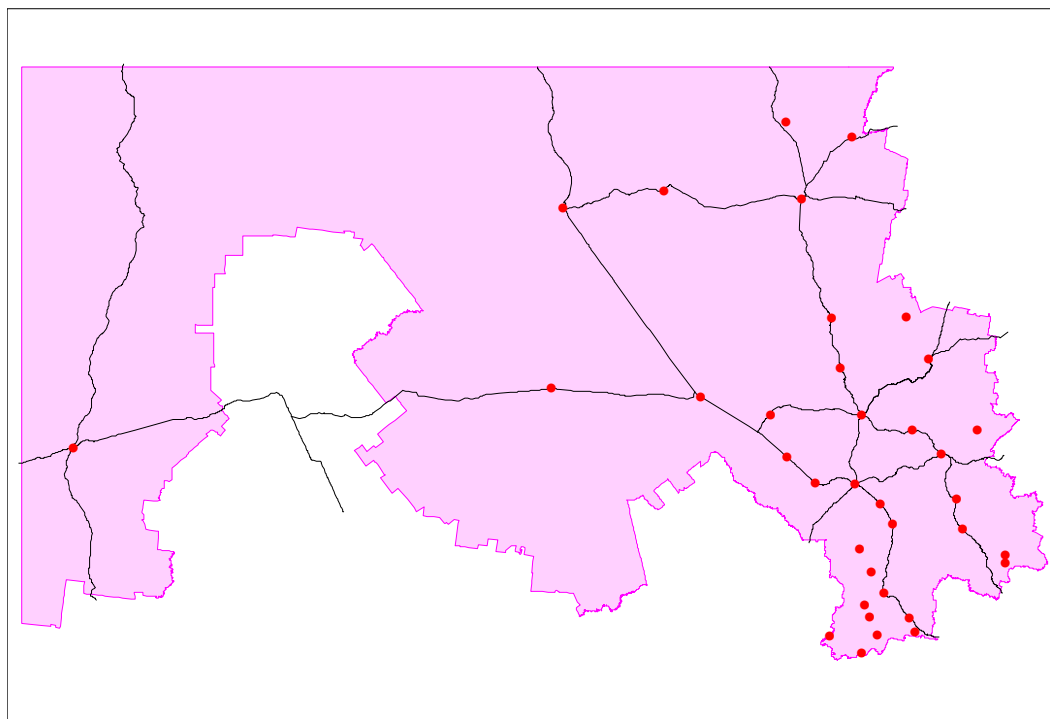
High risk pathways and sites of spread were identified under the Macquarie Invasive Species Project.

Pathways		Sites
Roads	State highways	Travelling Stock Reserves (TSR)
	State roads	Nurseries
	Regional roads	Landscape/gravel suppliers
	Local sealed roads	Lakes/reservoirs/dams
	Local unsealed roads	Wetland/marsh areas
Water Courses	Rivers	Bridge crossings
	Creeks	Boat ramps
	Irrigation channels	Public parks adjacent to water bodies/courses
Infrastructure Lines	Railway corridors	Pet shops, aquarium suppliers
	Telephone lines	Saleyards
	Gas lines	Airports
	Power lines	Other

The following pathways and sites have been identified as high risk by the weed officers that are responsible for inspecting more than 30,000,000 hectares of NSW.

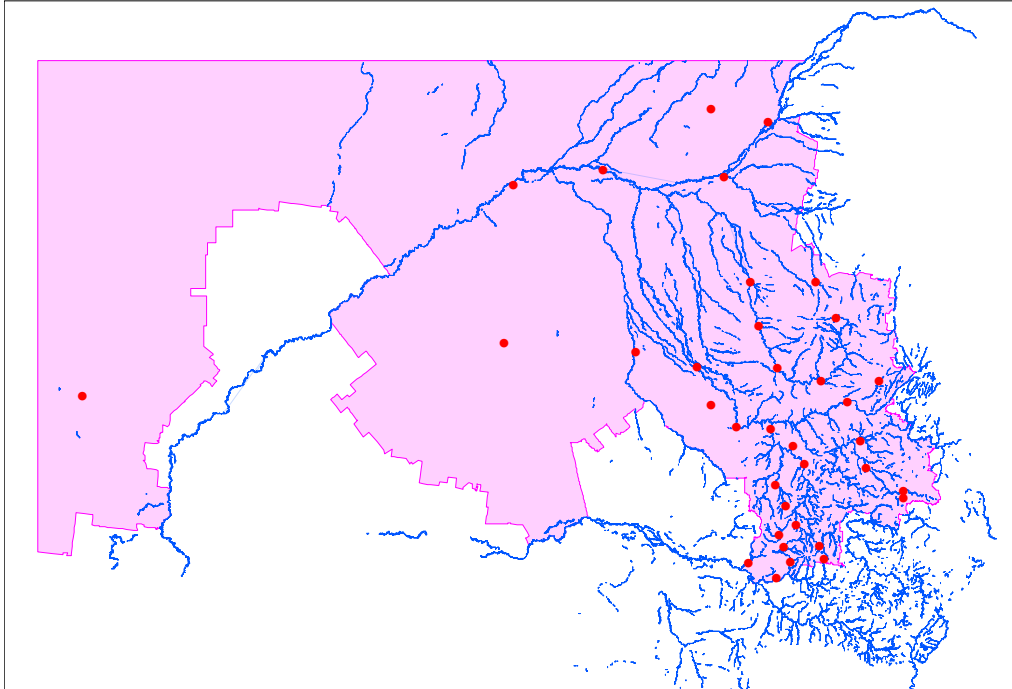
Roads

State highways	10,525 km
State roads	2,416 km
Regional roads	6,683 km
Local sealed roads	3,580 km
Local unsealed roads	11,445 km
TOTAL	34,649 km



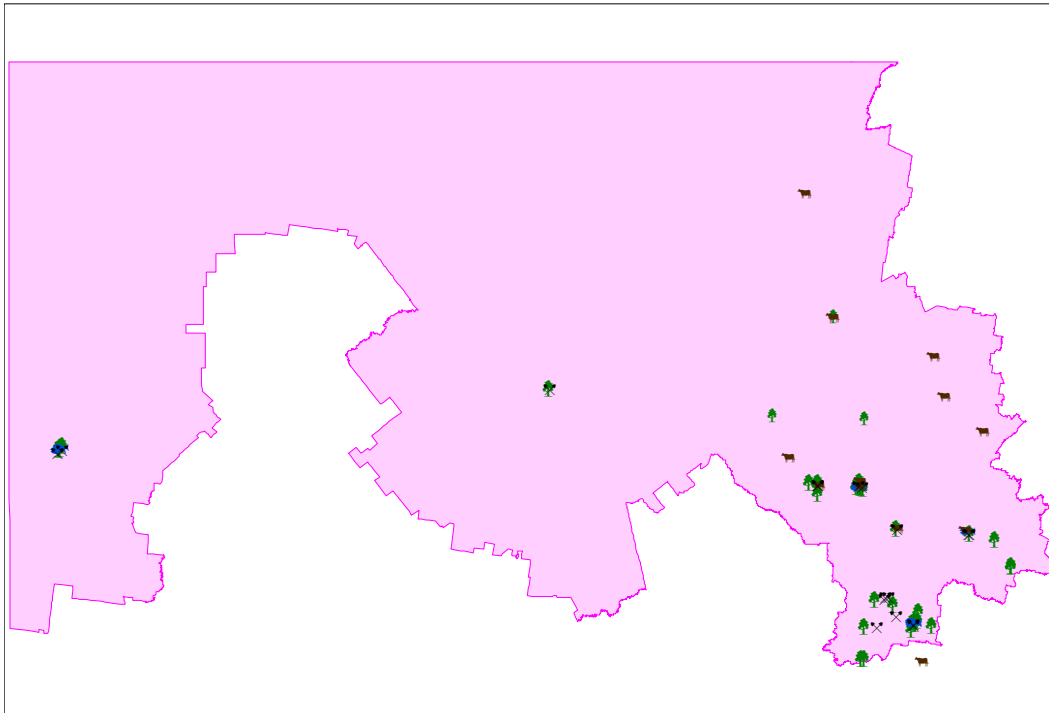
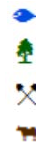
Water

Rivers / Creeks / Streams	32,266 km
Major Lakes / Dams / Reservoirs	27 sites
Wetlands / Marshes	206 sites
Boat ramps	22 sites
Bridge crossings	379 sites



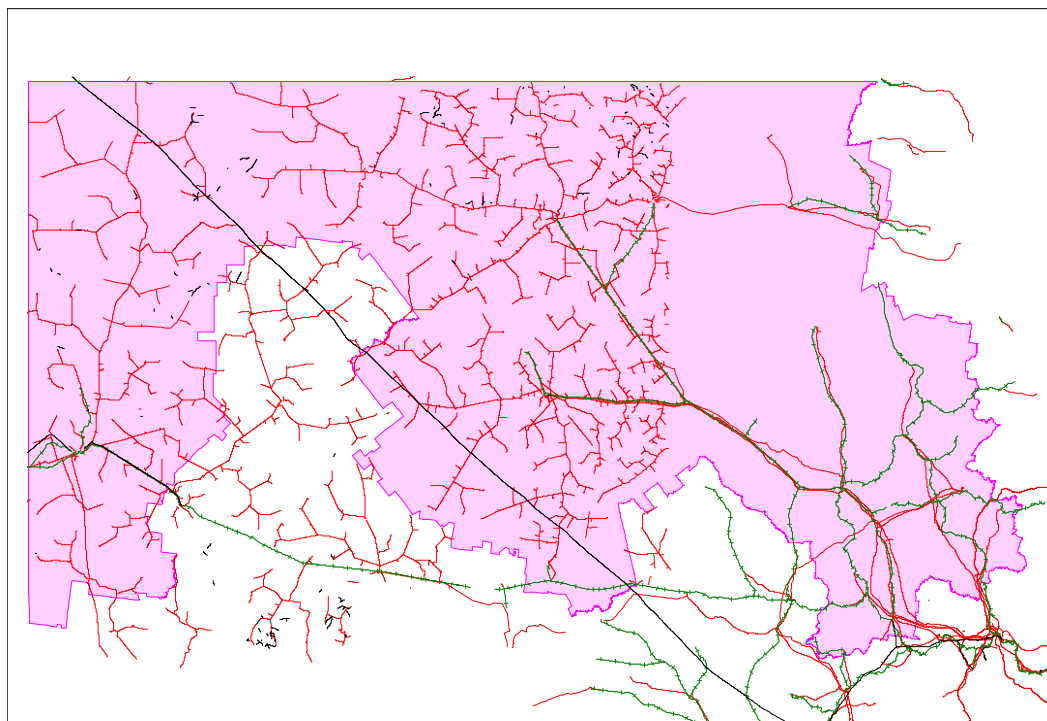
Commercial

Petshops / Aquarium suppliers	11 sites
Nurseries	42 sites
Gravel / Soil suppliers	26 sites
Saleyards	20 sites



Infrastructure

Railway corridors	2,565 km	
Telephone lines	1,225 km	(not shown)
Gas pipelines	849 km	
Electricity transmission lines	13,720 km	

**2. Aim**

Prevent new weeds entering the Macquarie region, and prevent existing weeds from spreading within and out of the Macquarie region.

3. Management Levels

Local Control Authorities (LCA's) and Livestock Health and Pest Authorities (LHPA's) were asked to rank each pathway and site according to their experience and personal opinion.

Rank 1	Historically new incursions have frequently been found along this pathway or at this site AND/OR In your opinion, potential for a new incursion of a high priority weed (such as Parthenium weed or aquatic weeds) to occur here in the future is high.
Rank 2	Historically new incursions have occasionally been found along this pathway or at this site AND/OR In your opinion, potential for any new incursion to occur here in the future is high AND/OR In your opinion, potential for a new incursion of a high priority weed (such as Parthenium weed or aquatic weeds) to occur here in the future is medium.
Rank 3	Historically new incursions have occasionally been found along this pathway or at this site AND/OR In your opinion, potential for any new incursion to occur here in the future is medium AND/OR In your opinion, potential for a new incursion of a high priority weed (such as Parthenium weed or aquatic weeds) to occur here in the future is relatively low.
Rank 4	Historically new incursions have rarely been found along this pathway or at this site AND/OR In your opinion, potential for any new incursion to occur here in the future is relatively low.
Rank 5	Historically no new incursions have been found along this pathway or at this site AND/OR In your opinion, potential for any new incursion to occur here in the future is relatively low.

The results of these surveys were analysed and categorised:

Priority	Pathway	Management level
Highest	State highways, state roads, rivers	Annual inspection program to cover at least 80% of total state highway and road sides, and 40% of total river banks
Medium	Regional roads, local roads, creeks, rail corridors	Annual inspection program to cover at least 60% of total regional and local roadsides, and 20% of total creeks and rail corridors
Lowest	Irrigation channels, telephone, power and gas lines	Annual inspections of these pathways is at the discretion of the LCA

Priority	Site	Management level
Highest	TSR's, nurseries, landscape/gravel suppliers, water bodies, boat ramps, saleyards	Annual inspection program to cover at least 90% of total number of sites
Medium	Wetlands, bridges, public parks adjacent to water bodies/courses, airports	Annual inspection program to cover at least 40% of total number of sites
Lowest	Pet shops and aquarium suppliers	Annual inspections of these sites is at the discretion of the LCA

4. Private Property Inspections

Local Control Authorities have obligations to inspect private properties for noxious weeds. They are also required by NSW Primary Industries to report on those activities. Below is an example of the report they may provide, additional to the reporting requirements under the Weeds Action Program.

Private property inspections	Ground	Aerial	TOTAL	
Rural			0	
Rural reinspections			0	
Rural/Residential			0	
Rural/Residential reinspections			0	
Urban			0	
Urban reinspections			0	
TOTAL inspections	0	0	0	
TOTAL reinspections	0	0	0	
Target inspections set out in submission:				Target reached / ## remaining
Target reinspections set out in submission:				Target reached / ## remaining

5. Related Documents

- Macquarie Invasive Species Project
- Macquarie Valley Regional Weed Strategy
- NSW Invasive Species Plan

Appendix 1. Council Weeds Inspection Program Policy - template

This template was developed to help all Councils participating in MISP to adopt an inspection policy.

1. Overview

This policy sets out Councils noxious weeds inspection program

2. Background

Council has demonstrated it's commitment to achieving inspectorial targets by becoming a participating partner of the Macquarie Invasive Species Project (MISP).

3. Policy

3.1 Employment of inspectors

Council will employ at least **1 (one)** appropriately qualified weeds inspector at all times, or make every effort to ensure the position is filled as soon as possible after becoming vacant.

3.2 Property inspections

Council weed inspector(s) will ensure every residential and rural property within the Council area is inspected for weeds at least **once** during a **3 (three)** year period.

The target number of inspections of properties, as well as businesses and Council managed lands, per year are set out in Council's submission to MISP under the Weeds Action Program (WAP). Council will make every effort to reach these targets each year.

3.3 High risk sites & pathways of weed spread

Council will ensure inspections of high risk sites and pathways are carried out and the targets set out in the MISP submission are met. High risk sites and pathways include but are not limited to:

Pathways		Sites
Roads	State highways State roads Regional roads Local sealed roads Local unsealed roads	Travelling Stock Reserves (TSR) Nurseries Landscape/gravel suppliers Lakes/reservoirs/dams Wetland/marsh areas
Water Courses	Rivers Creeks Irrigation channels	Bridge crossings Boat ramps Public parks adjacent to water bodies/courses
Infrastructure Lines	Railway corridors Telephone lines Gas lines Power lines	Pet shops, aquarium suppliers Saleyards Airports Other

4. Related Documents

- Macquarie Invasive Species Project submission
- Macquarie Valley Regional Weed Strategy
- NSW Invasive Species Plan