LOCAL
GIANT PARRAMATTA GRASS
MANAGEMENT
PLAN 2005-2010

DUNGOG SHIRE
COUNCIL
Updated March 2006
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Appendices:

1. Giant Parramatta Grass Control Strategy Guidelines
2. NSW Agriculture - Control Giant Parramatta Grass (agnote) DPI 354
3. NSW Agriculture - Herbicide Control of Various Perennial Grasses (agnote) DPI 469
1.1 **GIANT PARRAMATTA GRASS (GPG)**

LOCAL WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOR THE

1.2 **DUNGOG SHIRE COUNCIL**

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1.3 (i) **COMMON NAME:**

Giant Parramatta Grass

(ii) **SCIENTIFIC NAME:**

Sporobolus fertilis

(iii) **WEED OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE STATUS**

(Not included in W.O.N.S. List)

1.4 **PLAN PERIOD:**

*Starting Date - July 2005*

*Completion Date - June 2010*

1.5 **AREA OF OPERATION:**

The Local Government Area of Dungog Shire Council.
1.6 **AIM:**

To reduce the impact of Giant Parramatta Grass on agricultural land, industries and the environment of the region.

1.7 **OBJECTIVES:**

(i) To control new and light infestations within six months of detection.

(ii) To reduce the marginal areas by 10% during the life of the plan (by June 2010).

(iii) To develop local and individual/joint property plans to manage core areas during the life of the plan (by June 2010).

(iv) Record the distribution of Giant Parramatta Grass in the region.

(v) To actively promote and support extension/education and awareness programs, particularly involving the greater community.

(vi) To support research programs and funding applications for Giant Parramatta Grass for the life of the plan.

**PLATE 1:**

GIANT PARRAMATTA GRASS PLANT DISPLAYING FANNED GROWTH HABIT

Photograph by P. Marynissen
2.0 STAKEHOLDERS:

2.1 KEY STAKEHOLDERS:

Dungog Shire Council
Department of Environment Conservation / National Parks and Wildlife Service
Department of Primary Industries / NSW State Forests
Hunter Water Corporation
Rural Lands Protection Boards

2.2 OTHER STAKEHOLDERS:

Landcare
Department of Primary Industries / NSW Agriculture
Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources / Department of Lands
Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority
State Rail Authority
Roads and Traffic Authority
Nursery Industry Association
NSW Farmers Association
Landholders/Dairy Farmers/Cattle Producers
3.0 BACKGROUND AND GENERAL INFORMATION

3.1 REASON FOR PLAN

The Giant Parramatta Grass Weed Management Plan for the Dungog Shire Council has been developed to provide a consistent and co-ordinated approach to the control of Giant Parramatta Grass and to complement the information available through the Giant Parramatta Grass Control Agnotes produced by NSW Agriculture.

3.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM

Giant Parramatta Grass is a serious aggressive weed that has invaded large areas of pasture on the NSW North and Central Coast. It is a tussocky grass that grows to a height of 1.8 metres. Giant Parramatta Grass is declared a Class 3 Noxious Weed under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 in Dungog Shire Council area.

Giant Parramatta Grass is a threat because:

♦ It reduces pasture production, animal performance and the value of grazing land.

♦ It is vigorous, persistent and invasive.

♦ It has a low palatability to grazing animals, particularly at older growth stages of the plant.

♦ It is adaptable to many situations.

♦ It produces a large number of viable seeds.

♦ Seed is readily spread by stock, native - feral animals, machinery, vehicles and floods.

It is important to recognise and treat infestations at an early stage to reduce the potential long term costs of control.

Farm hygiene, as well as being vigilant (able to identify Giant Parramatta Grass at an early stage), is essential in stopping the spread.

Giant Parramatta Grass is controlled using integrated methods and can be very expensive for heavy infestations. Chemical control, combined with pasture improvement and stock management, has proven to be effective.
Smaller infestations can be chemically controlled using flupropanate based herbicides Tussock®, Taskforce® and Kenock®. These herbicides can be used to selectively remove Giant Parramatta Grass from other perennial grasses.

Early identification is the key to long term control and the ability of many farmers to identify Giant Parramatta Grass prior to production of seedheads is having a significant impact on control.

3.3 DISTRIBUTION OF INFESTATIONS

Giant Parramatta Grass has invaded many areas in the region to the extent that few local government areas in the region are free of the weed.

From the first recorded infestation in the Nana Glen area west of Coffs Harbour (which, together with areas around Grafton, Bellingen, Nambucca and Kempsey, provide the largest and densest areas) Giant Parramatta Grass is established in the Hunter region, south coast, far north coast, New England tablelands and slopes, as well as in Queensland.

Infestations of GPG in the Hunter Central Coast area now occur in Cessnock, Dungog, Maitland, Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Wyong and Gosford Council regions: Infestations occur as scattered outbreaks along major roads/highways and secondary roads. Private property infestations occur primarily in the Dungog LGA with minor infestations (at this time) in Maitland Cessnock and Port Stephens.

Giant Parramatta Grass continues to spread particularly on grazing land and within local road reserves.

A Map identifying outbreaks in the shire was produced in 2004. This map classified outbreaks into three types, Heavy where cover was over 20%, Medium where cover was between 5% and 20% and Light with cover of less than 5%.

To enable selective treatment of the various levels of infestation a more detailed map of existing outbreaks of Giant Parramatta Grass will be produced by June 2006 indicating the extent of infestations and their differing densities. The new ratings will be:
(1) Weed is rare or not yet found, can be spot sprayed or manually removed getting every plant.

(2) Weed is marginal, can be spot, boom sprayed or wiped treating most plants.

(3) Weed is core, can be boomed or treated with buffer zones established.

(4) Weed is core and terrain, etc, renders area unable to be treated, buffer zones need to be established.

3.4 WEED BIOLOGY/ECOLOGY

NOMENCLATURE

Giant Parramatta Grass belongs to the Sporobolus species, sporobolus combines the Greek sporos, meaning "seed", with bolos, meaning "throwing" from which arises the United States common
name "Dropseed Grass", alluding to the ease with which ripe seeds are pushed from the glumes. Parramatta Grass refers to its early development in that part of New South Wales County of Cumberland in Western Sydney.

There appears to be considerable variation within the Sporobolus complex and it is probable that a number of biotypes occur in Australia.

Anecdotal evidence provided by landholders over many years indicated that Giant Parramatta Grass (Sporobolus fertilis) was crossing with the naturalised/native species of Sporobolus (capensis diander creber and elongatus) producing plants that are shorter than Indicus var.major and retaining its invasive and unpalatable characteristics.

This now carries increased weight with confirmation from South Africa that Sporobolus africanus, the previous name for Giant Parramatta Grass in Australia, is producing crosses with other Sporobolus species in South Africa.

HABITAT

Principally the moister districts of the southern semi-arid to subhumid subtropics, occurring as a weed in disturbed soils of roadsides and reserve areas receiving runoff water, from where it invades degraded pastures. Thus infestations are often a symptom of poor land management practices.

DESCRIPTION

A tough unpalatable perennial tussock grass, reproducing by seed.

Stems - dark green, erect, slender, 50 to 150 cm high.

Leaves - dark green, mostly basal, blade rolled in the bud, slender, stiff, 10 to 30 cm long, margins unrolled and arranged in “fan like” formation.

Inflorescence - a dark rather slaty green, dense spike like pannicle up to 40 cm long and 5 to 8 mm diameter, with branches tightly packed against the primary axis; spikelets 1-flowered, 2 to 2.5 mm long with unequal outer glumes, closely arranged along the pannicle branches.

Seed - brown, subglobular, about 1 mm diameter
**Roots** - fibrous

Single clumps can grow to 40 cm in diameter and produce up to 200 seed heads.

**Life Cycle**

Seeds germinate in spring and autumn coinciding with the rapid changes in daylight (light/dark changes). The young seedlings develop rapidly producing flowering stems in mid/late summer. Established plants grow rapidly from the crown during the warmer months, growth rate slows in late autumn with growth continuing over winter in warmer areas. Growth ceases with all aerial growth dying off in colder areas.

### 3.5 METHOD AND RATE OF SPREAD

The only means of spread is by seed. At maturity, seeds become sticky when damp from morning dews, fogs and during and after rainfall. When expressed from the spikelet they stick to the outer surface of the glumes.

From there they readily attach to animal fur, clothes and machinery. Some seed also spreads in mud sticking to animal hooves, footwear and machinery. As a result first infestations usually occur along roadsides and animal tracks. Giant Parramatta Grass is particularly aggressive competing readily with other pasture species, becoming dominant in open sunny positions and seriously reducing pasture production. Giant Parramatta Grass has a high silica content making it tough and unpalatable with low digestibility, particularly at older growth stages.

Because of this tough nature animals are unable to break the grass when grazing resulting in loosening or pulling out of teeth while grazing Giant Parramatta Grass.

For protocols for vehicles and machinery and stock handling refer to NSW Agriculture Agnotes "Control of Giant Parramatta Grass" for the section Stopping the introduction and spread (refer Appendix 2).
3.6 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF LAND MANAGERS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Has a role to:

(a) Regularly inspect roadsides, reserves and vacant Crown Land which falls under its control, and to continually suppress and destroy all Giant Parramatta Grass utilising recognised control practices.

(b) Inspect private property advising landholders of required control works and options. Enforcement of the Noxious Weeds Act where required in relation to notices to control/eradicate.

(c) Map/record infestations regularly (annually).

(d) Liaise with government agencies/authorities regarding their control programs to ensure compliance with the regional plan and Noxious Weeds Act 1993.

(e) Liaise with Landcare, Progress Associations, Catchment Management Authorities and other relevant organisations regarding group/catchment approach to Giant Parramatta Grass control.

(f) Provide training/education/awareness in Giant Parramatta Grass identification, control, best work practices.

GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES

DEC/National Parks and Wildlife Service
DPI/NSW State Forests
DIPNR/Department of Lands
State Rail Authority
Rural Lands Protection Board
Roads and Traffic Authority

Have a role to:

(a) Suppress and destroy all Giant Parramatta Grass infestations, with particular emphasis on major roadways, picnic/camping areas and along boundaries utilising recognised control practices.
(b) Liaise with local government weeds officers/inspectors when planning works.

(c) Map and record areas of infestation regularly (annually).

PUBLIC UTILITIES

Country Energy
Telstra

Have a role to:

(a) Liaise with Council weeds officers/inspectors when planning works in relation to weed infestations.

(b) Provide training to staff in Giant Parramatta Grass identification and best management work practices to limit the spread of Giant Parramatta Grass.

LANDCARE and COMMUNITY BASED CATCHMENT GROUPS

Have a role to:

(a) Liaise with council weeds officers in relation to works which involve Giant Parramatta Grass control which covers larger areas, eg, several properties, catchments or subcatchments.

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES/NSW AGRICULTURE

Has a role to:

(a) Provide agronomic advice to Councils and landholders on Giant Parramatta Grass regarding replacement species, soil improvement and management options.

(b) Provide updates on recent findings/results of trials which may effect current control methods/options and replacement competitive grass/pasture species.

(c) Provide a co-ordinating role in the statewide control of Giant Parramatta Grass.
4.0 LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY STATUS

4.1 CURRENT DECLARATION

The current declaration situation for the constituent councils in the Lower Hunter and Central Coast Weeds Committee are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNCIL</th>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cessnock Council</td>
<td>Class 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dungog Council</td>
<td>Class 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gosford Council</td>
<td>Class 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloucester Council</td>
<td>Class 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Lakes Council</td>
<td>Class 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Macquarie Council</td>
<td>Class 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maitland Council</td>
<td>Class 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newcastle Council</td>
<td>Class 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Stephens Council</td>
<td>Class 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyong Council</td>
<td>Class 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Noxious weeds are those plants declared, by order of the Minister for Agriculture, to be noxious weeds under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993. Weeds are classified into five (5) main categories with differing control measures required for each classification. The category referred to above is Class 3:

**Class 3 noxious weed:** The weed must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.

**Class 3 description:** Pose a serious threat to primary production or to the environment of an area, are not widely distributed in the area and are likely to spread in the area or to another area.

In core areas where the terrain makes destruction of a heavy infestation unfeasible, the strategy that the weed be prevented from spreading and its numbers and distribution reduced may be more appropriate.
In these areas property owners will be required to actively manage a program developed in consultation with Council’s Noxious Weed Operator, to contain the spread and to reduce the area and density of the infestations.

4.2 DECLARATION CHANGES

No change to the current declaration is anticipated at this time. This situation will be reviewed annually.

4.3 ENFORCEMENT STRATEGY

Due to the variation in levels of infestation of Giant Parramatta Grass within the region, between neighbouring properties and in some instances on the same property, specific control strategy guidelines for Giant Parramatta Grass have been developed. (Refer to Appendix 1)
5.0 CONSIDERATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

5.1 OPPORTUNITIES TO BE EXPLORED

(i) A number of quality Agnotes exist covering the control of Giant Parramatta Grass.

(ii) Several posters currently exist, together with video tapes, which can be utilised for education and extension programs.

(iii) The North Coast Weeds Advisory Committee, whose current area overlaps part of the Mid North Coast Weeds Advisory Committee, has funded research/trial works by Mr David Officer at the NSW Agriculture Research Station at Grafton for rotational cropping options and replacement pasture species for Giant Parramatta Grass.

(iv) Queensland Department of Primary Industry has for many years been working on controls for some Sporobolus grasses. Results of this work will be made available through the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

(v) The extensive and to date little utilised resource of the rural community provides possibly the greatest opportunity to achieve results against Giant Parramatta Grass, particularly in relation to increased awareness, neighbour cooperation/self policing and information sharing/data collection.

5.2 INDUSTRY SECTOR

(i) The dairy industry may be able to assist financially with the completion of a full toxicity package for fluproponate to allow for its use in areas grazed by lactating dairy cattle.

(ii) Chemical companies may be able to assist with development of new herbicides or improved use of existing herbicides.

5.3 ECOLOGICAL

(i) No biological controls are currently being investigated for Giant Parramatta Grass.

(ii) The importance of replacement species for Giant Parramatta Grass when utilising non selective herbicides,
eg, Glyphosate and 22DPA is vital both to compete with new
germinations of Giant Parramatta Grass and the secondary
weed invasion of these bare areas, eg, fireweed and
thistles.

(iii) The ecological impacts from large area treatment by
herbicides should also be considered, eg, erosion from bare
areas, contamination from herbicide residue.

(iv) Neighbouring land use should be considered, eg, organic
growers/biological farmers.

5.4 SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Integrated weed management practices are the key to successful
Giant Parramatta Grass control. A range of options for control is
covered in the attached Control Strategy Guidelines. (Refer
Appendix 1)

Specific replacement species work is ongoing, eg, NSW
Agriculture’s work (David Officer and John Betts) on competitive
grasses including seeding varieties of Swazi Grass.

5.5 COMMUNITY

Community awareness and participation in all aspects of Giant
Parramatta Grass control and extension activities is demonstrated
by the level of attendance at education and awareness programs
activities, community meetings and field days, etc.

The community is possibly the greatest resource available in the
fight to contain and control Giant Parramatta Grasses and every
opportunity to work with community groups should be pursued.

5.6 EXTENSION AND EDUCATION

Extension and education programs for Giant Parramatta Grass will
be ongoing and include:

(i) Field Days/Demonstrations of control option techniques.

(ii) Displays at Agricultural Shows utilising current resources,
weeds posters, live weed samples, videos and practical
demonstrations.
(iii) Addresses to community groups/organisations on the subject of Giant Parramatta Grass.

(iv) Newspapers and television articles/advertising on Giant Parramatta Grass awareness and control techniques updates.

5.7 LINKS TO OTHER STRATEGIES

This Giant Parramatta Grass Plan is linked to the Regional Weed Strategy and Regional Giant Parramatta Grass Plan all of which are in accordance with the concepts of the National and State (NSW) Weed Strategies.

5.8 CONTINGENCIES
(Barriers to be overcome)

(i) Giant Parramatta Grass continues to spread.

Action: Continue education and awareness program utilising Agnotes concerning farm hygiene and protocols for vehicles and machinery.

(ii) Lack of awareness of Giant Parramatta Grass problem by new land owners.

Action: Incorporate a notification program for new land owners into local control authority weed programs utilising information on property transfers from Council’s rate records sections. Notification to include current Agnotes, weed posters, etc.

(iii) Core areas are costly to control.

Action: Encourage the preparation of individual or joint property management plans utilising the Giant Parramatta Grass Control Strategy Guidelines.

(iv) Consistency and co-ordination for control and regulation by local control authority.

Action: Co-ordination of inspection and control programs to be addressed in the Regional Weed Strategy.

(v) Local resistance to chemical control techniques.
Action: Facilitate meetings between differing groups and formulate alternate controls and provide relevant information of toxicity and environmental breakdown of herbicides.

(vi) Seed bank viability.

Action: Continue support of NSW Agriculture’s research into competitive replacement species and crop rotation methods utilised to exhaust seed banks.
6.0 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND ACTIONS

Objective (i):

To control new and light infestations within six months of detection:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Performance Indicators</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control all new infestations</td>
<td>• Council</td>
<td>All new infestations treated</td>
<td>Within 6 months of detection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Landholders</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inspect properties which are clean or where rare and isolated infestations occur as a priority</td>
<td>• Council</td>
<td>Minimum 300 property inspections annually per local government area and review map annually</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Landholders</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enforce control where reasonable according to priorities and level of infestations</td>
<td>• Council</td>
<td>Section 18 Notices served. Section 20 Notices enforced.</td>
<td>When required, within six months of detection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Objective (ii):**

To reduce the marginal areas by 10% during the life of the plan:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Performance Indicator</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liaise with public utilities and government authorities regarding their control programs and containment strategies</td>
<td>• Council</td>
<td>Contact local public utilities, government authorities and community groups to discuss programs</td>
<td>Annually (Minimum)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inspect properties with previous history of GPG or with ongoing control programs to ensure compliance</td>
<td>• Council</td>
<td>All known areas reinspected.</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control on Council land according to priority and level of adjacent infestation</td>
<td>• Council</td>
<td>Annual treatments as per Control Strategy Guidelines (contact community groups). Treat roadsides and reserves annually. Higher use areas, eg, cattle crossings, quarries, picnic areas. Annual treatment plus follow up treatment.</td>
<td>August to March annually</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Objective (iii)

To develop individual/joint property plans to manage core areas during the life of the plan:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Performance Indicator</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Landcare Groups, property owners, groups, etc, to develop local GPG plans for core areas | • Council  
• Landcare  
• Property Owners | • Local plans developed  
• Property/Joint Property Plans for core areas developed | July 2010 |
| Enforce buffer zone treatments to protect clean land and reduce the potential spread | • Council | • Inspections completed and notices served  
• Buffer Zones implemented  
• Wick Wiper actively promoted | As required |
| Explore avenues of possible assistance for landholders in core infestation areas | • Council  
• Lower Hunter Central Coast Weeds Advisory Committee  
• NSW Ag | Assistance addressed as part of the annual review | Annual and ongoing |

Objective (iv):

Record the distribution of Giant Parramatta Grass in the region:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Performance Indicator</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Map infestations of GPG in region showing densities                    | • LHCCWAC  
• Local Control Authorities  
• NSW Ag | Produce map                                           | December 2006 Review annually |
| Record infestation levels as per inspection                            | • Local Control Authorities  
• LHCCWAC | Local Control Authorities maintain a records database | June 2007 |
Objective (v):

To actively promote and support extension/education and awareness programs, particularly involving the greater community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Performance Indicator</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Produce noxious plants ID brochure</td>
<td>• LHCCWAC • NSW Ag</td>
<td>brochures produced</td>
<td>July 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raise awareness at displays, field days and with media outlets</td>
<td>• Council • NSW Ag • LHCCWAC • Community Groups</td>
<td>Publicity at Agricultural shows, newspaper articles, television</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inform of best control practices</td>
<td>• Council • Agronomists</td>
<td>Liaise with landholders, public utilities, government agencies and community groups</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement new owner notification program</td>
<td>• Council</td>
<td>Program Implemented</td>
<td>June 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procedures/Protocols to address vehicle hygiene and Giant Parramatta Grass spread, particularly in emergency situations.</td>
<td>• Lower Hunter Central Coast Weeds Advisory Committee • Council • NSW Ag</td>
<td>Procedures/Protocols developed as part of SOP’s for Regional and Local Weeds Strategy</td>
<td>June 2006</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Objective (vi):**

To support research programs and funding applications with the life of the plan:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Performance Indicator</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Investigate alternative treatments</td>
<td>• Council</td>
<td>Develop prototypes and modify existing techniques as necessary, including establishment of one demonstration area in Shire</td>
<td>By December each year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• NSW Ag</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Rural Industry Groups</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support research projects, eg, wick wiping, beef and beans, competitive pastures, etc</td>
<td>• LHCCWAC</td>
<td>Seek funding to support</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Council</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funding</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply for funding under Regional Weed Program</td>
<td>• Council</td>
<td>Funding received</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review plan for effectiveness</td>
<td>• Council</td>
<td>Plan reviewed and amended</td>
<td>July annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Landholders</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• All Stakeholders</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pursue additional funding opportunities</td>
<td>• LHCCWAC</td>
<td>Number of funding opportunities pursued</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• NSW Ag</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Rural Industry Groups</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• National Heritage Trust</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Council</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Abbreviations:**

NSW Ag                   New South Wales Department of Agriculture
LHCCWAC            Lower Hunter Central Coast Weeds Advisory Committee
Council               Dungog Shire Council
GPG                   Giant Parramatta Grass
ID                    Identification
7.0 MONITOR AND REVIEW PROCESS

An annual review of the Giant Parramatta Grass Plan will be conducted in July each year. All stakeholders will be invited to participate in the review.

Achievements of performance indicators and any non compliance will be discussed at the review and reported to Council and the Lower Hunter and Central Coast Weed Advisory Committee for their consideration.

ABOVE: Wickwiping is an effective tool in the management of weedy Sporobolus species.

Photograph by P. Marynissen
8.0 BENEFITS

This plan is aimed at protecting grazing lands of Dungog Shire Local Government Area as well as other areas of the Hunter Central Coast Region and New South Wales from the threat of Giant Parramatta Grass due to it being a vigorous, persistent and invasive perennial grasses of poor quality and low palatability.

Giant Parramatta Grass has not reached its full range within the region and state. This plan is protecting this area and other regions in the state such as Northern Tablelands, North and South Coast.

The full extent of production losses as a result of Giant Parramatta Grass infestation is not officially known, however, anecdotal information suggests that where land is heavily infested, production losses of up to 50% for beef/dairy cattle enterprises can be expected.

ABOVE:
INFESTATIONS OF WEEDY SPOROBOLUS SPECIES GREATLY REDUCE THE CARRYING CAPACITY OF ONCE PRODUCTIVE LANDS.
9.0 RESOURCES

9.1 EXTENSION AND EDUCATION

* CONTROL OF GIANT PARRAMATTA GRASS AGNOTE (Agnote DPI/354)
  John Betts, District Agronomist, Grafton. David Officer, Pasture Research Officer, Grafton

* HERBICIDE CONTROL OF VARIOUS PERENNIAL GRASSES AGNOTE
  (Agnote DPI - 469) 1st edition October 2003
  J J Dellow Weeds Agronomist Orange

* NOXIOUS WEEDS GUIDE
  (Lower Hunter Central Coast Weeds Advisory Committee - Leaflet)

* GIANT PARRAMATTA GRASS
  Awareness Video
  (North Coast Weeds Advisory Committee)

* GIANT PARRAMATTA GRASS
  Control Strategy Guidelines
  (Adapted from Mid North Coast Weeds Advisory Committee Guidelines)

9.2 LIST OF CONTACTS

* COUNCIL STAFF

  Mr Eric Pasenow, Weeds Inspector
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  Mr Terry Kavanagh, Manager of Environmental Services
  Dungog Shire Council
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  Regional Weeds Coordinator, Michael Somerville
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Telephone: (02) 4588 2161

Mr Neil Griffiths, District Agronomist, Tocal
Telephone: (02) 4939 8948
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/REFERENCES

This Plan and Guidelines were adapted for use in the Dungog Shire Council area from the
"Regional Giant Parramatta Grass and Giants Rats Tail Grass Control Plan" Mid North
Coast Weeds Advisory Committee

NSW Agriculture Agnotes
Agnote DPI/354

Noxious Weeds of Australia (Page 132/133)
(Parsons & Cuthbertson)

Parramatta Grass is a Serious Weed of the NSW North Coast
(Proceedings Eighth Australian Weeds Conference, p.71)

Mr John Betts, District Agronomist
Mr Rod Ensbey, Regional Noxious Weeds Co-ordinator
NSW Agriculture, Grafton