

8<sup>th</sup> June, 2011

## Fireweed in Shoalhaven

This year Council's Noxious Weeds Inspectors and landowners have reported that Fireweed is more widespread than in previous years. Inspections of private property will continue to be carried out as well as roadside control. However resources may be stretched to control the growth of Fireweed in the Shoalhaven if property owners do not actively manage their properties early in the season.

There is a need for landowners to be proactive by implementing control of Fireweed without being prompted by Council Inspectors thus breaking the seeding cycle of Fireweed and preventing the spread of seed within the property and to adjoining properties.

Research is still being carried out to improve control methods. This includes research by the Department of Industry and Investment into the chemicals that are more economical to control Fireweed and research by Professor Brian Sindel from the University of New England who is currently using two PHD students to carry out research in South Africa to identify suitable biological control agents for Fireweed that would be suitable for more thorough testing in Australia.

The Federal Government is due to review the list of Weeds of National Significance this year. Anecdotal reports indicate that Fireweed may be considered for this list. If Fireweed is accepted onto the Weeds of National Significance list there may be considerable opportunities for funding for research and control projects for this weed.

### CONTACT:

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