



LATE AGENDA

Council Meeting

Tuesday 20 May 2025

AGENDA

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Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr
GENERAL MANAGER

MM3/25. Weed Growth in the Singleton LGA
Author: Governance Lead**FILE:** 25/00006

There is an ongoing concern regarding the management of invasive weeds along the rail and highway corridors within the Singleton Local Government Area.

While these transport corridors are vital to our region's connectivity and economic growth, they have unfortunately become major pathways for the spread of invasive weeds. Council continues to receive numerous reports from landholders and community members about increasing weed infestations along railway lines and highway verges.

These infestations pose a serious threat to local biodiversity and agricultural productivity and undermine the significant efforts of landholders who invest time and resources into managing weeds on their own properties.

Although Council has taken action to manage weeds within areas under our responsibility, the control of weeds on land owned or managed by state agencies, particularly rail and transport authorities, is beyond our direct jurisdiction. However, the impacts of inaction are being felt widely across our community.

Given this, I recommend that Council advocate for a coordinated, properly resourced approach to weed control along these key transport corridors, in partnership with relevant state authorities.

RECOMMENDED that Council:

1. Write to the Hon Jenny Aitchison, Minister for Roads and Minister for Regional Transport, Wayne Johnson, CEO ARTC and Erin Flaherty, Chair Transport Asset Manager and in so doing draw their attention to the unacceptable weed growth in the Great Northern Railway corridor and the New England Highway corridor, both of which bisect this region;
2. Views the risk of weeds spreading from the Rail & Highway corridors to adjacent prime agricultural land as unacceptably high;
3. Requests that the Minister direct the Department to allocate the funds and resources necessary to control, manage and eradicate weeds on land controlled by Transport for NSW, ARTC and Transport Asset Manager and that they liaise with Singleton Council, Upper Hunter County Council and Hunter Local Land Services on the delivery of weed control in the rail and highway corridors in the region.

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.