

ITEM NO: 25

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF DELEGATED AUTHORITY FOR DETERMINING DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

FILE NO: F00088

By Councillor Van der Kley:

That the Council receive a report from the General Manager on options that would increase the current Delegated Authority amount of one million dollars for determining development applications. The report should include consideration of the following matters;

- The date this was last reviewed;
- The CPI increases since that review; and
- Using the above information as a guide make recommendations on a suggested revised amount to be included in the General Managers delegations.

Background

The General Manager currently has delegated authority to determine development applications up to one million dollars in value.

There has been no review of the dollar amount in the 9 years since I have been on Council and the amount has not kept pace with inflation.

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ITEM NO: 26

SUBJECT: NOXIOUS WEED GROWTH ALONG THE GREAT WESTERN
HIGHWAY

FILE NO: F00088

By Councillor Mays:

That a report comes before the Council detailing the efforts of Council, the State Rail Authority, the RTA, the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and private landholders to proactively manage noxious weeds growth along the Great Western Highway.

Background:

It is highly noticeable even from the sight lines of vehicles traversing the GWH that noxious weeds are rapidly spreading along the highway route.

The most prevalent and visible species are:

1. Cape Broom (*Genista monspessulana*)
2. Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*)
3. Gorse (*Ulex europea*)
4. Lantana (*Lantana camara*), and
5. Crofton Weed (*Ageratina adenophora*).

As the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 implies, these species are highly detrimental to native bushland growth and regeneration and must be controlled in an industrious manner. As we are now in the primary growth season (Spring), a report on our control progress is urgently required.

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ITEM NO: 27

SUBJECT: USE OF BOTTLED WATER WITHIN COUNCIL

FILE NO: F00088

By Councillor McCallum:

That a report comes to Council on the use of bottled water within the Council operations that includes:

- Current amount purchased per month by type eg mineral, still by brand;
- Current costs of that bottled water; and
- The options for the organisation to use tap water such as that provided at Council Meetings.

Note

I have previously noted the use of bottled water at meetings and events of the Council.

In both the current economic and environmental climates, the sheer cost of buying bottled water is completely unsustainable, especially when quality drinking water is literally on tap in all council facilities.

The environmental cost of shipping bottled water all the way from France is sheer lunacy. The financial cost is in the order of 5,000 to 7,000 times the cost of the equivalent amount of water from our taps.

Even buying Australian-sourced water in plastic bottles is economically and environmentally unsustainable. The waste of oil in making the bottles and then transporting it to places that don't need it must be stopped and the best way to do that is to simply stop buying it.

And, for those who think that we are dealing in trifling costs, that a dollar or two for a bottle of water is insignificant, consider the total cost when added up, and the leadership effect of showing the people of the Blue Mountains that the Councillors are prepared to save them money while demonstrating confidence in the quality of the water provided to them.

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