

NOXIOUS WEEDS REDUCED AROUND DAMS

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The number of noxious weeds surrounding major dams in rural NSW has been reduced since the introduction of a land management initiative by State Water Corporation in 2007.

Findings from a two-year review of the Leased Land Management Plan indicate improved land management and a reduction in noxious weeds in the 55 leases around nine major dams.

Chief Operating Officer, Geoff Borneman said the dams included in the project were Burrendong, Chaffey, Glenbawn, Glennies Creek, Keepit, Lostock, Split Rock and Windamere, as well as Lake Brewster.

Under the plan, lessees were required to develop Property Management Plans (PMP), including details of noxious weed management.

"Since the introduction of the agreement, we have worked with local council weed officers, the Namoi Catchment Management Authority and leaseholders to improve the management of land around our dams," Mr Borneman said.

"Under the arrangements, all leased foreshore land is regularly monitored to ensure lessees comply with the agreed environmental management conditions.

"At Windamere Dam, for example, there was evidence of a reduction of noxious weeds in more than 73 percent of leases.

"This result is thanks in part to repeated inspections and assistance from the local council weed officers," Mr Borneman said.

Managed by Landmark, the program involves six-monthly reviews of leaseholders' compliance with their PMPs.

The systematic, auditable review process is set to improve as leaseholders become more familiar with their obligations and continue to see the benefits of the plan.

The initial review of the Leased Land Management Plan indicated it should continue, with more time allocated to guiding and monitoring lessees' adherence to their PMPs and improved inspection and reporting techniques.

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