

Frogbit (*Limnobium laevigatum*) detection and eradication in New South Wales

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Summary Frogbit (*Limnobium laevigatum*) is an emerging aquatic weed in New South Wales (NSW) and is listed as Prohibited Matter under the *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015*. On 12 July 2017 a member of the public reported to MidCoast Council a suspicious plant growing on a pond in bushland located at the village of Green Point south of Forster. MidCoast Council staff inspected the site on 13 July and suspected the plant to be frogbit. A sample was submitted to the NSW Herbarium and the plant was confirmed as frogbit on 18 July. This was the first known naturalised infestation in NSW and posed an environmental threat to waterways within the adjoining national park. A rapid response plan was initiated involving staff from MidCoast Council, NSW Department of Primary Industries and National Parks. This plan involved:

1. treatment of the known infestation undertaken on 17 July;
2. surveillance of all 312 residential properties in Green Point on 8–9 August and high risk sites

identified within 10 kilometres of the known infestation between August–October 2017; and

3. a communication plan involving advertising to alert the public undertaken by 31 July.

During surveillance the probable source of the infestation was located on a neighbouring residential property in Green Point where frogbit and other aquatic weeds were discovered in ponds. No other infestations of frogbit were discovered during the surveillance. A management plan was initiated on the residential property to eradicate the frogbit. A trace-back was initiated on the source of the frogbit to the residential property however the original supplier was no longer in business. Other sources of frogbit were located for sale online through Ebay and Gumtree. These sellers were contacted, their properties inspected and the plants confiscated.

Keywords Frogbit, prohibited matter, rapid response, eradication.