

COMPUTERISED PROPERTY INSPECTION PROGRAMME

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INTRODUCTION

The W.I.E.D.S. (Weed Infestation Eradication Database System) programme was developed to record noxious plant infestations on properties for the Central Northern Noxious Plants County Council.

A card system had been in use for many years which recorded the presence of the weed on a particular property. There was no retrieval system, except to individually read cards.

In 1981, this card system was coded to record briefly, relevant information that appeared on inspection reports. This was the forerunner to the basis of the computer programme which became operational in June 1987.

Council is responsible to the Department of Local Government and N.S.W. Agriculture and Fisheries for noxious plants within its area. One of the functions of Council is to inspect all parcels of land for proclaimed noxious plants and maintain a control and eradication programme for these. At present, the Council does not physically control noxious plants on private property, however it does maintain an advisory service to assist individuals for efficient control of noxious plants.

COMPUTER PROGRAMME

The computer programme basically records information about the noxious plant found, the degree and location of the infestation, the area infested compared to the total area inspected, and the landholder attitude prompting suitable follow-up action by Council. This information is recorded by the inspector in the field. (Fig. 1)

Central Northern County Council INSPECTION REPORT N^o 10469

SHIRE:	AREA:	HA TYPE:	DATE:	TIME:	LOCATION
NAME:					
PROPERTY NAME:					
ADDRESS:					
NOXIOUS WEED:	DEGREE OF INFESTATION:	0 1 2 SPARSE	3 4 LIGHT	5 6 7 MEDIUM	8 9 HEAVY
POSITION OF INFESTATION AND COMMENT:		LAND HOLDER ATTITUDE			
REINSPECT No	AREA	[]	Co-operative Legal	[]	Re-inspect Letter
[]	[] HA	[]	[]	[]	[]
NOXIOUS WEED:	DEGREE OF INFESTATION:	0 1 2 SPARSE	3 4 LIGHT	5 6 7 MEDIUM	8 9 HEAVY
POSITION OF INFESTATION AND COMMENT:		LAND HOLDER ATTITUDE			
REINSPECT No	AREA	[]	Co-operative Legal	[]	Re-inspect Letter
[]	[] HA	[]	[]	[]	[]
NOXIOUS WEED:	DEGREE OF INFESTATION:	0 1 2 SPARSE	3 4 LIGHT	5 6 7 MEDIUM	8 9 HEAVY
POSITION OF INFESTATION AND COMMENT:		LAND HOLDER ATTITUDE			
REINSPECT No	AREA	[]	Co-operative Legal	[]	Re-inspect Letter
[]	[] HA	[]	[]	[]	[]
NOTES FOR C W O					

Fig 1. Property inspection report.

FILES

There are several files containing master information from which the programme draws. These include:-

- (1) Noxious Plant Inspector Index. A numerical list of all Weeds Officers who carry out inspections.
- (2) Noxious Plant List. A numerical list of noxious plants as well as a number for "No Noxious Plants" for when an inspection is made and no noxious plants are found.
- (3) Weed Location List. A list of nine of the most common sites to find infestations growing. When entering information, only one, usually the most common site, is used. These include Pasture, Cultivation, Watercourse, Water/Pasture, Cultivation/Pasture, Roads, Dwelling/Yards, Fencelines, Timbered.
- (4) Property Master File. The property identification/location number was developed to accurately locate the property on Council's mapping system. Maps of 1:100,000 have been conveniently cut into A4 size so that a book of maps is easily carried into the field. The first two digits identify the page number, the second two identify the position on the page from 01 to 96. Each of these numbers represents approximately 280 ha. The last two digits allow for 100 properties to be located in this area. This is suitable for urban or hobby farm areas where many properties are in close proximity to others. This file contains information about the owner's name, property name, address, area of property and the Valuer General's or Shire assessment number. Mapping using a map number and eastings/northings to accurately pinpoint infestations can be used as well.
- (5) Landholder Attitude File. There are four areas for the Weeds Officer to position the landholder, depending upon such factors as the amount of weed problem, the attempts made to control and the problem on neighbouring properties. The Weeds Officer uses his own discretion to indicate the level of co-operation. The first allocation is for the co-operative landholder. The other three are for less than being co-operative and indicate a level of unco-operativeness. Therefore No. 1 is Co-operative, No. 2 is Reinspect, No. 3 is Letter (a stern warning about the requirements of the Act which are also printed on the back of the landholder copy of the inspection report), No. 4 is Legal (indicates some form of legal action will be or is being undertaken because the landholder has failed to comply with the requirements of the Act). The landholder attitude is closely linked to the Officer Reinspection Programme.
- (6) Officer Reinspection Programme. At the time of the property inspection, the inspector inserts a time period when a reinspection will be made. This may range from days to weeks, months or years, depending upon the circumstances. The time period is realistic in that it indicates the urgency of the problem or when the next growing/spraying season is due. The computer operator inserts the reinspect date, calculated from the time period allowed on the inspection report.

REPORTS

There are seven reports which can be produced. Two are used regularly and two others are used to produce annual reports. The other reports give updated information from the master file.

To streamline Council's property inspection programme, the Officer Re-Inspection Report is regularly used to inform inspectors which properties are due to be inspected. This relates to the re-inspection date which had originally been entered from the inspection report. The report lists the re-inspection date, name of the inspector, the map/location number (or property number), number of the last inspection report, landholder's name and property name, noxious plant and its location. (Fig. 2).

OFFICER RE-INSPECTION REPORT
 CENTRAL NORTHERN COUNTY COUNCIL SHIRE OFFICE PO BOX 155 QUIRINDI 2343
 AS AT DATE 15/01/90

DATE	INSPECTOR	MAP/LDC	INSP/No	OWNER	PROPERTY	WEED	LOCATION
12/01/90	J.CHERRY	447400	72812	G. FORSYTH	"CHILCOTTS CREEK"	BLACKBERRY	WATERCOURSE
12/01/90	A.LAWLER	309340	77712	M PAULING	"TYRONNE"	BATHURST BURR	PASTURE
12/01/90	A.LAWLER	309340	77713	M PAULING	"TYRONNE"	BLACKBERRY	WATERCOURSE
12/01/90	A.LAWLER	309000	77721	SC. & MJ. McRAE	"MACSLAND"	NOOGOOORA (XAN SP.	WATERCOURSE
12/01/90	A.LAWLER	372200	77732	S. GOURLAY	"BELTANA"	BATHURST BURR	PASTURE
12/01/90	R.SWAIN	244100	75791	B. UMBACK	"CROYDON"	BATHURST BURR	WATERCOURSE
12/01/90	R.SWAIN	245100	75801	M. PARDENE	"GLENBROOK"	BATHURST BURR	PASTURE
12/01/90	R.SWAIN	245100	75802	M. PARDENE	"GLENBROOK"	NOOGOOORA (XAN SP.	WATERCOURSE
12/01/90	R.SWAIN	241800	75812	H.M. MILLER	DUNMORE	GALVANISED BURR	PASTURE

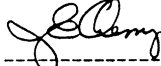
Fig. 2. Officer re-inspection report.

COUNCIL - PROPERTY INSPECTION REPORT
 CENTRAL NORTHERN COUNTY COUNCIL SHIRE OFFICE PO BOX 155 QUIRINDI 2343
 FROM 01/11/89 TO 31/12/89 SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 24/01/90
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DATE	I/No	T	NAME	PROPERTY NAME	COUNCIL	PROP/NO	INSPECTOR	WEED	INFEST	ATTITUDE	LOCATION	R/INPECT
20/12/89	102161	P	FORESTRY COMMISSION	MUNDLE STATE FOREST	NLM	460900	J.CHERRY	ST. JOHN'S WORT	SPARSE	RE-INSPECT	TIMBERED	20/01/90
20/12/89	102511	F	PASTURES PROTECTION BOARD	BENANA RESERVE	NLM	443001	J.CHERRY	ST. JOHN'S WORT	LIGHT	CO-OPERATIVE	PASTURE	20/01/90
21/12/89	81451	P	A. ALLEN	"ARROSS"	NLR	428890	M. BOYLE	ST. JOHN'S WORT	SPARSE	CO-OPERATIVE	PASTURE	21/01/90
21/12/89	81461	P	C. WAKE	"MERRIBON"	NLR	439140	M. BOYLE	ST. JOHN'S WORT	SPARSE	RE-INSPECT	PASTURE	02/01/90
21/12/89	81471	K	SCHOFIELD	"DIRAVILLE"	NLR	438300	M. BOYLE	ST. JOHN'S WORT	SPARSE	CO-OPERATIVE	PASTURE	21/12/90
21/12/89	81481	P	B.H. THOMPSON	"JEMABRI"	NLR	439010	M. BOYLE	ST. JOHN'S WORT	SPARSE	RE-INSPECT	PASTURE	12/01/90

THIS IS PAGE 15 OF THE LIST OF PROPERTY INSPECTIONS SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24/01/90

-----COUNTY CLERK -----CHAIRPERSON



 J. CHERRY
 CHIEF WEEDS OFFICER

Fig. 3. Council meeting report.

A report is presented to Councillors at their bi-monthly meetings. This report lists the inspection date, inspection number, the type of inspection (includes F-ull, P-art, T-elephone), landowner's name, property name, which Local Government Council area, where property is found, property number, inspector's name, weed, infestation level, attitude, location and re-inspect date.

Two reports assist in producing annual reports of Council's activities. One is the Weed Infestation Report which lists the weeds and their area of infestation. They are recorded as the actual area multiplied by the degree of infestation. If the weed infestation worsens, this is easily observed. Conversely, when good control measures are undertaken, the level of infestation lessens. The programme is currently being enhanced to record the total area inspected on each property. Future reports will compare infested and uninfested areas.

The other report is the Weed Location Report. The activated location numbers are plotted onto a map. Trends in weed movements are easily observed.

CONCLUSIONS

The adoption of this programme statewide, even nationwide, would standardise operation procedures as well as accurately measure the extent of weed problems for N.S.W. and for Australia.

Further applications for this programme, with minor adjustments to the master files, include recording information about other plants, either native or exotic, and native or feral animals.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Work on the actual computer programming was carried out by Mr. Herman Hulsen of New England Software and Education.