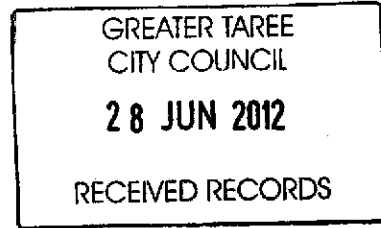




**Department of
Primary Industries**



IM12/15908

Mr Gerard Jose
General Manager
Great Taree City Council
PO Box 482
TAREE NSW 2430

Dear Mr Jose

I refer to your letter of 24 April 2012 concerning a request to amend the *NSW Fisheries Management Act 1994* in relation to the common carp. Ms Katrina Hodgkinson, Minister for Primary Industries, has asked me to respond to you on her behalf.

I appreciate the concerns of the Greater Taree City Council regarding common carp. The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) recognises that carp are a significant and widespread pest species.

In 2010 DPI developed the *NSW Control Plan for the Noxious Fish Carp (Cyprinus Carpio)* which provides current information about the biology and impacts of carp, what is being done, or should be done, to stop further spread, control the size of populations, better understand carp, and increase the understanding and involvement of the community. Unfortunately, there are only limited circumstances in which carp can be effectively controlled.

I am aware that there are a number of collaborative research initiatives focusing on control technologies or improving the efficiency of control programs which are currently being funded by the Murray Darling Basin Authority and the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre. Emerging technologies have potential for long-term suppression of carp populations, but offer little hope in the short to medium term.

Carp are listed as a Class 3 noxious fish in NSW in recognition of the fact that common carp are an established pest species in NSW. As you have noted, this listing also permits the sale and possession of this species as carp are part of the inland commercial fishery and because koi carp are a popular ornamental fish in NSW.

Despite being permitted for possession and sale in NSW, the Government discourages further spread of carp through education and awareness-raising activities.

According to anecdotal reports, Carp are presumed to be present in many Northern NSW catchments, including the Manning Catchment. Despite some of these populations being unconfirmed by scientific expertise, the extent of the carp populations in NSW are such that carp are considered an established pest fish species, for which there are currently no effective control mechanisms available.

Through educational programs the DPI aims to prevent the further spread of carp. Advisory materials such as the '*Freshwater pest fish in NSW*' factsheet and the popular '*Don't Dump that Fish!*' bookmark and brochure are widely distributed to raise awareness of noxious fish species and encourage responsible keeping of ornamental fish. The '*Don't Dump That Fish!*' publication has also been translated into five community languages to better target stakeholder groups. DPI also attends events such as the annual Koi Society's Pet and Garden Show in Sydney to further promote these key messages.

The Department is working to implement a consistent approach to the management of ornamental fish throughout Australia by implementing recommendations from the national strategy, '*A Strategic Approach to the Management of Ornamental Fish in Australia*'. This includes the adoption of the first two stages of the National Noxious Fish List into the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*.

The DPI does provide advice to landholders regarding the removal of carp from private dams and has developed the publication, '*Carp in farm dams*' which outlines how to reduce carp numbers and potentially eradicate carp from farm dams in some circumstances. Copies of this and the other publications listed above can be sourced from the Department if required.

I have asked that Ms Melissa Walker A/Manager Aquatic Biosecurity and Risk Management, be available to discuss this matter further with you

Yours sincerely

Bruce M Christie
Executive Director Biosecurity NSW

28 May 2012