

Testimonial from Hawkesbury River County Council

HAWKESBURY RIVER COUNTY COUNCIL

ABN 21 896 475 455
6 Walker Street, (Corner Dowling Place) South Windsor NSW 2756
Postal Address P.O. Box 6021, South Windsor Delivery Centre NSW 2756
Phone: (02) 4577 5573 Fax: (02) 4577 5653
Email: business@hug.com.au Web Site: www.zeta.org.au/~hrcwest

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To Whom It May Concern:

Hawkesbury River County Council is a single purpose authority responsible for noxious weed control in the Cities of Blacktown, Hawkesbury, Penrith and the Shire of Baulkham Hills a combined area of 3,985 sq km's. Council was formed in 1948 to control water hyacinth in the area and to prevent infestation of the Hawkesbury Nepean River System. Since then Councils functions have expanded to cover all noxious weeds within the County area. The main activity is aquatic weeds, name, water hyacinth, alligator weed, salvinia and ludwigia.

Due to altered flows, urban development and other environmental factors the growth of water hyacinth reached an alarming level, with most of the lagoons in the low lying flood plains being infested.

In 1991, Council decided to purchase a hovercraft to assist with the control work. Queensland Hovercraft Service was chosen to build the machine. The hovercraft was 14 feet long with a full flow bag, twin engine (13hp Briggs & Stratton for lift and 51hp Yamaha for thrust) and constructed of kevlar & foam. The hovercraft proved to be quite effective at reaching areas of water hyacinth infestations, however, the machine was severely underpowered and was prone to skirt tearing and breakdowns.

After a trip to Florida in 1998 where I had the opportunity to trial airboats on aquatic weed control it was decided that when the hovercraft was due for renewal an airboat would be a far better option.

In July, 2001 an order was placed with Tornado Airboats at Salt Ash New South Wales to supply a 15 foot Airboat fitted with a 350 cubic inch chevrolet engine and power shift prop. The Airboat was delivered in September, 2001 and has been fitted out with spray equipment.

The machine is proving to be effective in reaching areas that were not accessible previously.

Benefits of Airboat:

- Highly manouverable;
- Stable;
- Well constructed;
- Ample thrust;
- Visibility; and
- Less maintenance

Tornado Airboats completed our order on time and to budget, since delivery their after sales service has been faultless.

I have no hesitation in recommending Tornado Airboats Australia to any prospective purchaser.

Yours faithfully,



David Karlson
Manager, Weeds Operations