A HARD NUT TO CRACK

Japanese walnut control in the Wilson River valley, North Coast NSW

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**SUMMARY**

In 2019-20 Biosecurity Officers from Port Macquarie-Hastings Council confirmed the long-suspected presence of Japanese walnut (*Juglans ailantifolia*) on a property on the Wilson River in Rollands Plains NSW, approximately 30km north-west of Port Macquarie. Subsequent investigations led to the discovery of several infestations across the valley and tributaries, and revealed an interesting timeline of probable introductions to the region over the previous decades.

Believed to be the only currently known infestation of this species in the State, funding for control works was provided by North Coast Local Land Services and initial control works commenced. This coincided with the largest flooding event to hit the Wilson River in recorded history.

This paper describes the various challenges presented to Local Control Authorities and land managers when attempting to detect and control a new invasive species. It demonstrates how vital the appropriate training and resources are to on-ground managers when trying to fulfil our obligations under the Biosecurity Act.

**Keywords:** new species, biosecurity, infestation, challenges