

## North West Regional Weed Committee - Meeting # 5

### Communication and Action Plan (Minutes)

Wed December 7 2016

NWLLS, Level 3, Noel Park House Tamworth

Attendees	Ken Flower (NWLLS) Peter Dawson (NWLLS) John Unwin (CMCC) Dave Wurst (OEH NPWS) Lee Amidy (GUNSC), Peter Scott, Mike Whitney (LPSC) Clare Felton-Taylor (NSC) Matt Davidson (NWLLS) Wayne Deer (NEWA) Heather Apps(NEWA) Phil Blackmore (NSW DPI) Stephen Kneller(GwySC) Jamie Day (NWLLS) Steve Geddes, Mal Stein (TRC) James Browning (NEWA) Anna Cronin (Dol Lands) Richard Chamen (NSWF) Andrew Wright (White Haven) Don McKenzie (Moree Plains SC) Marcela Lopez (NSC) Steve Ryder (LPSC) Paul Moxon (TRLA) Phil Spark (NCC)
Apologies	Conrad Bolton (Chair) Ian Schwartz (Moree Plains SC) Penny Fraser (TRLA) David Quince, (GUNSC) Matthew Fletcher (Ess En) Shane Green (NWLLS) Robert Madden (NSW Forestry Corp) Cr Rob Hooke (Gun SC)
Purpose	Endorsement of draft North West Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan

#### Review and update Actions Carried Forward - Nil

Agenda Item #1:	Welcome & Introductions
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>Summary of discussion :</p> <p>Meeting opened 10:00am Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country by Jamie Day NWLLS, Apologies, Housekeeping &amp; Introductions.</p>
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	<p>As Conrad Bolton was an apology Ken Flower NWLLS GM chaired the meeting. Ken Flower spoke briefly about his wishes that the NWRWC be a committee that makes a real difference to the future of weed management across the North West.</p> <p>Ken Flower thanked Peter Scott for chairing the previous meetings.</p> <p>Introductions were made around the room by each delegate including comments about what they want and need to get out of the meeting.</p> <p><b>Correspondence received:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6/10/2016 - Narrabri Shire Council - update on Council delegates to NWRWC being Cr Campey with alternate Cr Booby.</li> <li>• 4/10/2016 - Gunnedah Shire Council – update on Council delegates to NWRWC being Cr Hooke and Cr Fuller.</li> <li>• 10/11/2016 – NCC – NWRWC representative is Phil Spark</li> <li>• NEWA – NSW 2016 – 2017 North West WAP funding allocation</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> NIL</p>
Agenda Item #2:	Previous Minutes
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>Summary of discussion :</p> <p>Opportunity was provided for questions and clarification.</p>
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	<p>The previous minutes were taken as read and moved that they are a true and accurate record.</p> <p>Moved: Clare Felton-Taylor Seconded: Lee Amidy</p>

Agenda Item #3:	Business arising
<p>Discussion /Options / Points Raised:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Frustrations were aired around the room regarding Technical Sub Committee feedback and comments on NW Weed Risk Assessment with some members feeling that their expertise and experience was being discounted or overlooked in assessing which weeds should or should not be a priority for the North West region.</li> <li>2. Recognition that the North West region has now been going through strategic evaluation and prioritisation of invasive plants for the past 3 years. This does not take into consideration the collective knowledge and experience around the room which has been involved with strategic evaluation and prioritisation of invasive plants for the past 20+ years.</li> <li>3. Frustration at the continual changes to Weed Management Plan templates that have dragged the process on for so long.</li> <li>4. Many are fed up with what they see as state level interference in regional planning processes taking resources away from delivering real on-ground outcomes for weed control.</li> <li>5. There was a call to keep the Plans regional and an imperative need for the plans not to become a State document which local communities will not bother reading let alone have any ownership of.</li> <li>6. Anna Cronin (DoI Lands) asked if further representation would be forthcoming from any of the LALAC's.</li> <li>7. Peter Dawson (NWLLS) responded that the NWLLS Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee had been the conduit for the LALC's to raise issues or recommendations. Peter also commented that he and Jamie had conducted a meeting with the ACAG at Narrabri to inform them of the Weed reforms and opportunities for them to participate.</li> <li>8. Jamie Day (NWLLS) advised that due to resourcing and commitment from some members the ACAG had been combined with the General NWLLS Community Advisory Committee.</li> </ol>
<p>Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation</p>	<p>Jamie Day to continue to communicate with NSW State Aboriginal Lands Council and North West regional LALC's to ensure any weeds issues or recommendations are reported on.</p>

<b>Agenda Item #4:</b>	<b>NW Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan Weeds Risk Assessment</b>
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	Peter Dawson took the Committee through the latest Draft NWRSWMP version including standard statewide text. This version incorporates the majority of the previous regional content into the approved state wide standard template.
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	The Committee made amendments around some minor wording to be updated.
<b>Agenda Item #5:</b>	<b>Weed Management Priority Categories – Appendix 1 &amp; 2 (Schedule 4)</b>
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	Peter Dawson and James Browning took the Committee through the NW Regional Weeds list (Appendix 1, old schedule 4) noting responses to comments received back by the State Weed Committee Technical Subcommittee after its review. These advisory comments and recommendations were scrutinised.
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	Some details around Mandatory control measures missing from Appendix 1 & 2 were completed by the NWRWC where necessary to complete this section of the plan.
<b>Agenda Item #6:</b>	<b>NW Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan</b>
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NWRWC approval is required including recommendation to the NWLLS Board that the NWRSWMP is ready for exhibition, and that a review against the state checklist has been undertaken.</li> <li>2. It was noted from Dave Wurst (OEH NPWS) that he does not have delegation to formally endorse any document. This will be done internally with OEH by a technical panel.</li> <li>3. OEH, NPWS and all representative organisations on the committee will also be able to provide further feedback throughout the consultation period.</li> </ol>
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	<p>A motion was put forward by Wayne Deer (NEWA) that the NWRWC endorse the Draft in its current form, with agreed amendments to NWLLS Board for recommendation for approval and future release for public consultation.</p> <p>Moved – Don McKenzie          Seconded - Clare Felton-Taylor          All in favour - passed</p>

Agenda Item #7:	NW WAP 2015-20
<p>Discussion /Options / Points Raised:</p>	<p>Heather Apps (NEWA) provided an update on the North West WAP 2015 – 2020</p> <p>Items covered included; Approved 2016-17 North West WAP allocation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Amount applied for 2016-17: \$764,850</li> <li>▶ Amount received: \$597,154</li> <li>▶ Amount compared to 2015-2016 funding: -\$51,092</li> </ul> <p>Variation in Project Deviation 2016 - 17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Priority sites funding less \$20,000 – ISP3.2, control program decreased by \$6,800</li> <li>▶ Regional extension ISP 4.3 less \$13,500</li> <li>▶ Educational resources removed (ISP 4.4) less \$5000</li> <li>▶ Project Officer – less \$6,345</li> <li>▶ NW RWC attendance removed</li> <li>▶ Lead Agency component – less \$16,769</li> <li>▶ Parthenium component removed as per year 1 (ISP 2.2) – less \$43,500</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Reduce NW LLS WAP funding from \$45,000 to \$30,000 and utilise carryover of \$45,000</li> <li>▶ Reduce funds to NW RWC to \$2,000 (-\$1,500)</li> <li>▶ Reduce Project Officer component from \$35,150 to \$31,155 (-\$3,995)</li> <li>▶ 10% Lead Agency = \$59,715.40 (-\$5,110)</li> <li>▶ Reduction of each LCA by 5%</li> </ul> <p>Year 2 WAP Outcomes to be completed when final state templates are finalised???? include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NW Regional High Risk Pathways and Sites Management Plan</li> <li>▪ NW Incursion Plan for High Risk Weeds</li> <li>▪ NW Rapid Response Plan</li> <li>▪ NW Regional Inspection Program</li> <li>▪ NW Communications Strategy</li> <li>▪ MERI Plan</li> <li>▪ Best Practice Guides for Appendix 1 weeds</li> </ul> <p>Year 2 WAP Work Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ We will wait till Feb 2017 for the release of any WAP Plan templates to be used from the State Weeds Committee.</li> <li>▶ Plans that have had no templates provided by Feb 2017 will have the previous NIWAC plans revised.</li> <li>▶ All WAP Plans will be completed for NW RWC endorsement in May 2017, subject to template changes.</li> </ul>
<p>Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation</p>	<p>Communication received by NEWA as Lead Agency from Chris Dewhurst, General Manager – Hawkesbury River County Council; <i>That he has been advised by State Weeds Committee that the Minister wants all WAP Lead Agency arrangements transferred to each relevant LLS. Most likely to commence at the start of year 3 being 1 July 2017.</i> Note - Formal notification of any said proposed change has not been received by NEWA or NWLLS. Communication from State Weed Committee has been quote “Appalling”</p>

	<p>Lead Agencies have received no formal communication around any such decisions which is impacting heavily on staff moral and any further commitment to current weeds reforms.</p> <p>This is an important issue for and RWC &amp; LLS who are currently operating under a collaborative partnership agreement.</p> <p><b>Action</b> - NWRWC to write to SWC seeking clarification about any proposed changes to Lead agency arrangements and associated functions including resourcing.</p>
<b>Agenda Item #8:</b>	<b>General business</b>
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	It was agreed that General business for this meeting had been heard under Business arising from earlier in the meeting.
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	Nil
<b>Agenda Item #9:</b>	<b>Future Agenda items</b>
Discussion /Options / Points Raised	Nil
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	<p>Actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Executive members may be required to meet on a monthly basis throughout 2017 in order to address any potential issues around draft RSWMP.</li> <li>2. Next General meeting will be held in early March to pick up on Public consultation process. –Location and Venue to be confirmed.</li> </ol>
<b>Agenda Item #10:</b>	<b>Annual General Meeting – opened at 2.30pm</b>
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>In accordance with the NWRWC Constitution 2015, Ken Flower declared all positions open and called for nominations from the delegates for office bearers for the NWRWC. Nomination forms were made available to all committee members.</p> <p>Financial Statement and independent Auditors report for Year 1 WAP 2015/16 were tabled by Wayne Deer – NEWA with a request that these reports be accepted.  Moved – Wayne Deer  Seconded – Lee Amidy</p>
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	<p>The following were delegates nominated with all in favour;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chair – Mike Whitney, Liverpool Plains Shire Council</li> <li>2. Vice chair – Ian Schwartz, Moree Plains Shire Council</li> <li>3. Ordinary member – Clare Felton-Taylor, Narrabri Shire Council</li> <li>4. Ordinary member – Richard Chamen, NSW Farmers</li> <li>5. Ordinary member – vacant</li> <li>6. Secretary &amp; returning officer – Peter Dawson, NWLLS</li> </ol> <p>Ken Flower thanked all outgoing committee members for their efforts and welcomed the new executive to the role.</p>
<b>Meeting closed at 3.00pm</b>	