

North West Regional Weed Committee - Meeting # 14	
Communication and Action Plan (Minutes)	
Thursday 9 August 2018 Lightning Ridge Bowling Club	
Attendees	Peter Dawson <u>Executive Officer</u> (NWLLS) Mike Whitney <u>Chair</u> (LPSC) Ian Schwartz <u>Vice Chair</u> , Jo-Anna Skewes (NSLA) Scott McLachlan (GwySC) Clare Felton-Taylor <u>Executive</u> (NSC) Cr Jim Maxwell (TRC) Don Mackenzie (MPSC) Rob Burr (TRC) Andrea Fletcher (CMCC) Mal Stein (TRC) Stephen Kneller (GwySC) Peter Scott (LPSC) Lee Amidy (GUNSC) Dave Wurst (OEH NPWS)
Apologies	Tony Woods (GUNSC) Pete Turner (NSW DPI) Matt Davidson (NWLLS) Richard Chamen (NSWF) Don Ramsland (CMCC) Phil Spark (NCC) Wayne Garnsey (NWLLS) Conan Rossler (FC), Simon Schuman (FC) Marcela Lopez (NSC) Cr Rob Hooke (Gun SC) Ben Sharpham (ARTC) Ron Walker (Water NSW) Nick Brown (ARTC) Matt Hellyar (RMS) Saul Standerwick (Gwy SC) Tim Wiseman (ARTC) Ross Briggs (TRC) Cr Maxine Booby (NSC) Michael Hooper (NWLLS) Cr Ron Campey (NSC) Robyn Richardson (NSW DPI) Raj Shilpakar (NWLLS) Julie Clancy (TRLA) Phil Blackmore (NSW DPI) Andrew Wright (White Haven Coal) Shane Green (NWLLS) Fay Anderson (NWLLS) Brett Hanly (Whitehaven Coal) Matt Savage (CMCC) Keith Harris (NWLLS)
Purpose	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implementation of North West Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan. 2. Review of WAP Mandatory documents.
Review and update Actions Carried Forward - Nil	
Agenda Item #1:	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>Summary of discussion :</p> <p>Meeting opened 9:20 am Acknowledgement of Country, Apologies, Housekeeping & Introductions.</p> <p>Apologies accepted; Moved: Jim Maxwell Seconded: Peter Scott</p>
Agenda Item #2:	Correspondence
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>Correspondence received:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resignation of Richard Chamen NSW Farmers rep 2. Paul Erkelenz – Western LLS RWC 3. Heather Apps – NEWA / Northern Tablelands RWC – Combined RWC meeting attendance.
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Peter D tabled Richard Chapman’s notification of his intention to step down from the NW RWC due to personal reasons. The committee thanks Richard for his input into the NW RWC and now seeks to contact NSW Farmer to identify a replacement candidate. Action – Invitation to be sent to NSW Farmers Association seeking new candidate for NW RWC 2. Peter D tabled email correspondence from Paul Erkelenz in relation to potential cross regional priority weed issues between Western and North West. Action – Peter D, Don M & Andrea F to draw up a response to specific issues raised by Western LLS RWC.

	<p>3. Peter D stated that he had receive confirmation that the Northern Tablelands RWC would like to accept the NW RWC's invitation to attend the next NW RWC meeting at Lake Keepit in November.</p> <p>Action – Pete D to confirm RSVPs and finalise venue and catering. Agenda to be discussed with NW & NT RWC Executive.</p>
<p>Agenda Item #3:</p>	<p>Previous minutes</p>
<p>Discussion /Options / Points Raised:</p>	<p>Opportunity was given to discuss previous minutes</p>
<p>Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation</p>	<p>Moved that the previous minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting. Moved: Ian Schwartz Seconded: Clare Felton-Taylor</p>
<p>Agenda Item #4:</p>	<p>Business arising</p>
<p>Decision / agreement / action / Recommendation</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Action – Peter D and Matthew D to contact Regional RMS management and arrange meeting to discuss concerns and seek clarification of on-going commitment and representation to NWRWC and assistance to LCAs for operational matters. Ongoing 2. Action – NW Weeds Officers to forward final Word versions of Local RBPGs to PD& MW Pete to put all completed plans on USBs for Officers 3. Action - Peter D and L Amidy to forward final GBD fact sheet to NSW DPI for any further technical review and comment prior to release. It'll happen!!! 4. Action – NW LLS General Manager and NW LLS Board to be informed of on-going issues with lack of commitment from state agencies and utility providers to RWC. Pete D to continue to push 5. Action – Regional Weed Coordinator to develop delegate reporting template. Pete D to complete. 6. Action – All comments and feedback on Draft 2 Compliance Standard to be sent to Pete D for inclusion in formal response by C.O.B June 8. Completed 7. Action – Pete D to send formal response to Syd Lisle NSW DPI. Completed – July 6 8. Action – Pete D to amend all Mandatory documents with relevant changes as agreed for further review at next meeting. Completed 9. Action – Matt D and Pete D to meet with NWLLS Biosecurity staff and run an Emergency exercise between LLS and LCAs to test responses Pending 10. Action – A communique to be sent from NWRWC to NWLLS Board raising concerns about the Plant nursery industry and horticulture industry. Matt D and Pete D to discuss with NWLLS GM prior to next meeting

Agenda Item #5:	State Weed Committee update
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	1. SWC Consultation Draft 2 Compliance Standard
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	Peter D tabled the NWRWC comments on Draft Standard for Weed Management Compliance on 6 July 2018. No further comment or response has been received from NSW DPI
Agenda Item #6:	North West WAP 2017/2018
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>Mandatory documents,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. North West Regional Weed Incursion Plan 2017-22 2. North West Regional Rapid Response Plan 2017-22 3. North West Regional Inspection Program 2017-22 4. North West Regional Communications Strategy 2017-22
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	<p>Final draft plans were reviewed in their entirety. It is recognised that these are only semi-public documents not for consultation. They should be read as operational actions plans which are clear and concise and can be followed accurately by any level of employee or stakeholder.</p> <p>Decision – The NW RWC gave it’s in-principle endorsement of the following Mandatory WAP documents subject to minor edits;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. North West Regional Weed Incursion Plan 2017-22 2. North West Regional Rapid Response Plan 2017-22 3. North West Regional Inspection Program 2017-22 <p>Action – Peter D to make minor amendments and confirmation on some minor wording and forward to Phil Blackmore NSW DPI I.S Officer for review.`</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. North West Regional Communications Strategy 2017-22 to be reviewed against the NSW DPI State Strategy when available.
Meeting suspended	The meeting was suspended at 10:36am for a short break and resumed at 10:50am
Agenda Item #7:	General Business
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drought fodder risks – Education & Awareness program Cr Jim M raised his concerns around the amount of “Drought fodder being brought into the North West with the potential to spread multitude weed species along with the “Good will”. This raises the question of the level of “Biosecurity matter” being moved, donated and dealt with across the State and particularly arriving into the North West. 2. NSW EPA – changes to licensing requirements - Pete Turner, NSW DPI provided the following advice in relation to this matter; <p>Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In line with COAG endorsed national harmonisation measures on pesticides regulation in Australia, the NSW Pesticides Regulation has been amended, and includes changes to incorporate licensing for all fee for service pesticide contractors. • From July 1, anyone that sprays weeds for fee or reward must hold a Ground Applicator (GA) licence, if you engage or contract a GA it is your responsibility to ensure they hold the required licence. • There are exemptions to this requirement which can be found in Section 6(2)

of the Regulation. In addition, a conditional exemption has been granted for Public Authority employees.

Public Authority Exemption

Exemption from holding a GA licence from all public authority employees carrying out GA works on public land, or under enforcement action by authorisation of the Biosecurity Act.

Example:

Exemption to licence requirement applies:

- Council sends a Biosecurity Direction to control weeds to a private land holder;
- The private land holder does not do any work and council decides to take enforcement action and control works under the authority of the Biosecurity Act.

Exemption does not apply, licence is required

- Council sends a Biosecurity Direction to a private landholder
- The Private landholder contracts council to do the work and pays the fee.

Why only exempt on public land?

Public Authority employees have been granted an exemption from ground applicator work on public lands, as it is recognised that they are carrying out a function of that Public Authority. In these cases, employees must still meet mandatory training requirements.

The requirement to hold a licence when carrying out private (contract) spraying, has been made to maintain a level playing field between private and public authority contractors competing for ground applicator work.

Business or individual licence?

Only individuals are able to apply for a GA licence. It does not matter that the individual doesn't receive the fee or payment directly (but the business does). This is the same situation for private contractors who also employ GA staff.

What about Chemcert/AQF3?

Anyone using pesticides as part of their work must meet the mandatory accreditation (training) requirements. If you have completed your training then you can apply for the GA licence. Once you hold the GA licence you do not need to complete the chemical user retraining. The prerequisite for reapplying for your licence is holding a current GA licence.

Other exemptions

If the work being done only relates to bush regeneration/ bush care or amenity horticulture (which covers things like grounds and garden maintenance –golf courses, bowling greens, sports fields and race track maintenance as well as general garden and lawn maintenance), then you do not need a licence.

There are also domestic-like use and occasional use exemptions.

Cost

Pre July 1 the cost was \$196, from July 1 the cost is now \$295 (retraining costs will not be required once they hold a licence).

Licences are valid for 5 years: <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/pesticides/licences-and-advice-for-occupational-pesticide-users/pest-management-technicians-fumigators-training-permits>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. BIS – Pete D tabled report from Robyn Richardson NSW DPI as to the current status of BIS reporting for North West. All LCAs are currently BIS compatible other than Gwydir Shire Council. 4. NW RSWMP – amendments procedure Review process for amendments or additions to NWRSWMP – Appendix A1.2 & A2.1 Discussion was held about Serrated tussock and Scotch broom species in particular around Exclusion zones and Core infestations comprising all LGA lands East of the Newell Hwy. All amendments to listings must be supported by appropriate evidence for change including a revised Weed Risk Assessment. The key point listed for change focused on moving the Exclusion zone from East of the Newell Hwy to the Eastern Shire boundary of Narrabri Shire and Western boundary of Tamworth Regional Council. Peter D raised concern that whilst they were well defined boundaries the landscape on top of Mount Kaputar through to Barraba is still suitable climate and soil types for both Serrated tussock and Scotch broom species to exist. 5. Clare Felton-Taylor raised the question of moving Coral cactus / Boxing glove cactus from A2.1 Key Emerging up to Containment or Eradication status given the latest physical evidence for regional inspection programs showing a greater distribution across Walgett and Narrabri shires than previously known. Pete D stated that the NWRSWMP is a living document and suggested that the NWRWC factored in regular specific Strategic planning dates to coincide with future RWC meetings so that a collective of proposed amendments can be reviewed along with supporting evidence. 6. Chair – Mike W asked if the NW LLS Board could provide the NWRWC with a quarterly communique / update on key activities, policies or strategies relevant to Weed Biosecurity and the NW RWC. 7. Pete D provided an update on the NW LLS Aboriginal staff replacement for the previous member Jamie Day. Luke Raveneau is the new NW LLS Aboriginal Communities Officer. Luke is based in Tamworth at TAI and covers the entire NW LLS region. Luke will be looking to attend future NW RWC meetings to act as a conduit from and back to Aboriginal communities across the North West.
<p style="text-align: center;">Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Action – Lee A & Pete D to draft up a Drought Fodder media release for approval. 2. Action – LLS, DPI and LCAs to make contact with coastal counterparts to enquire as to what if any Education & Awareness programs and Inspection programs are currently underway in relation to people selling / donating Fodder with hidden or Known Biosecurity matter e.g. Tropical Soda Apple, Giant Parramatta grass, Parthenium weed etc. etc. etc. etc. etc. etc. etc. !!! 3. Action - Peter D and Phil B to meet with senior management at Gwydir Shire Council to confirm adoption and implementation of BIS compatible mapping and reporting systems as specified in WAP funding program. 4. Action - Pete D to identify potential Strategic planning / Weed Risk Assessment dates for review of nominated species currently listed in NWRSWMP.

	5. Action – Pete D & Matt D to speak with NW LLS General manager about providing quarterly board communiques for future meetings.
Agenda Item #8:	Confirm actions/agreements
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Action – Invitation to be sent to NSW Farmers Association seeking new candidate for NW RWC 2. Action – Peter D and Matthew D to contact Regional RMS management and arrange meeting to discuss concerns and seek clarification of on-going commitment and representation to NWRWC and assistance to LCAs for operational matters. 3. Action – NW Weeds Officers to forward final Word versions of Local RBPGs to PD& MW 4. Action - Peter D and L Amidy to forward final GBD fact sheet to NSW DPI for any further technical review and comment prior to release. 5. Action – NW LLS General Manager and NW LLS Board to be informed of on-going issues with lack of commitment from state agencies and utility providers to RWC. 6. Action – Regional Weed Coordinator to develop delegate reporting template. 7. Action – Matt D and Pete D to meet with NWLLS Biosecurity staff and run an Emergency exercise between LLS and LCAs to test responses 8. Action – A communique to be sent from NWRWC to NWLLS Board raising concerns about the Plant nursery industry and horticulture industry. 9. Action – Peter D to make minor amendments and confirmation on some minor wording in Mandatory WAP documents and forward to Phil Blackmore NSW DPI I.S Officer for review. 10. Action – Lee A & Pete D to draft up a Drought Fodder media release for approval. 11. Action – LLS, DPI and LCAs to make contact with coastal counterparts to enquire as to what if any Education & Awareness programs and Inspection programs are currently underway in relation to people selling / donating Fodder. 12. Action - Peter D and Phil B to meet with senior management at Gwydir Shire Council to confirm adoption and implementation of BIS compatible mapping and reporting systems as specified in WAP funding program. 13. Action - Pete D to identify potential Strategic planning / Weed Risk Assessment dates for review of nominated species currently listed in NWRSWMP. 14. Action – Pete D & Matt D to speak with NW LLS General manager about providing quarterly board communiques for future meetings.
Agenda Item #9:	Future Agenda items / Confirm meeting dates and locations for future meetings
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>Confirmed future 2018 meeting dates;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. November – Thursday 8th - Lake Keepit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note that this will be a combined RWC meeting with delegates from the Northern Tablelands RWC attending.
Meeting closed at 12:25 pm	