

<b>North West Regional Weed Committee - Meeting # 6</b>	
<b>Communication and Action Plan (Minutes)</b>	
Thursday March 9 2017 NWLLS, Level 3, Noel Park House Tamworth	
Attendees	Peter Dawson (NWLLS) John Unwin (CMCC) Peter Scott, Mike Whitney (LPSC) Clare Felton-Taylor (NSC) Matt Davidson (NWLLS) Jamie Day (NWLLS) Ross Briggs, Mal Stein (TRC) Richard Chamen (NSWF) Ian Schwartz, Don McKenzie (MPSC) Scott McLaughlin (GwySC) T Penny Fraser (TRLA) Matthew Fletcher (Ess En) Richard Allan (ARTC) Tony Woods(GunSC)
Apologies	Conrad Bolton (NWLLS) Simon Schuman (NSW Forestry Corp) Cr Rob Hooke (GunSC) Marcela Lopez (NSC) Steve Ryder (LPSC) Paul Moxon (TRLA) Phil Spark (NCC) Wayne Deer (NEWA) Heather Apps(NEWA) Phil Blackmore (NSW DPI) Dave Wurst (OEH NPWS) Lee Amidy (GunSC) Anna Cronin (Dol Lands) Stephen Kneller(GwySC) Andrew Wright (White Haven)
Purpose	Review of draft North West Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan Post Public Consultation
Agenda Item #1:	Welcome & Introductions
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	Summary of discussion :  Meeting opened 10:00am Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country by Jamie Day NWLLS, Apologies, Housekeeping & Introductions.
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	<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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phil Blackmore NSW DPI to advise Weeds Officers and LLS staff that training will be run at various locations around NSW from early May to early June. So it would be preferable to try and keep their program flexible during this period.</li> </ol> <p>The training will consist of: An online training course plus a 2 day face to face session. The F2F session will consist of: 1st day general training in the Biosecurity Act and the 2nd day will be weed specific. No one can be appointed as an Authorised Officer (AO) until they have successfully completed the training. In addition, the Biosecurity Act gives a lot of powers to AO's, whereas the Noxious Weeds Act gave nearly all the powers to the local control authority, which were then delegated. So if managers want control over their AO's to, for example, issue an Individual Biosecurity Direction, they should consider doing the training too.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phil Spark NCC rep raised concerns to Peter D via phone conversation regarding the lack of resources being provided to Local control Authorities and LLS and the community to make any significant change in weeds management on the ground. NCC is considering raising this issue with the Ministers office. Peter D responded by stating that a Business Plan complete with budgets needs to be developed addressing top priority species which can then be tabled to support any future funding requests.</li> </ol> <p><b>Action:</b> Nil</p>

<b>Agenda Item #2:</b>	<b>Previous Minutes</b>
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	Summary of discussion : Opportunity was provided for questions and clarification.
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	The previous minutes were taken as read and moved that they are a true and accurate record. Moved: John Unwin (CMCC) Seconded: Clare Felton-Taylor (NSC)
<b>Agenda Item #3:</b>	<b>Business arising</b>
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	Action from previous - NWRWC to write to SWC seeking clarification about any proposed changes to Lead agency arrangements and associated functions including resourcing.
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	Mike Whitney and Peter D to draft and letter to SWC.
<b>Agenda Item #4:</b>	<b>Draft NW RSWMP Public Consultation</b>
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>Peter D has undertaken a series of Public Consultation information sessions at 12 locations across the region with Local Control Authority reps throughout February. Information session details were sent out through all media channels and communications networks.</p> <p>Whilst attendance figures were poor this was not a wasted exercise as there was some meaningful discussion among participants which has helped inform recommendations for consideration towards the final plan.</p> <p>The greatest issue raised by community members to date is that they want to see more coordinated control programs for priority species and a greater level of funding made available to encourage participation. This will require bipartisan support and on-going commitment from all levels of Government into the future.</p> <p>Peter D reported that the public consultation process was still currently underway with and extension for submissions extended to Wed March 29.</p>
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	The Committee agreed to suggested amendments around some minor wording to be updated.
<b>Agenda Item #5:</b>	<b>Priority weeds lists – Appendix 1 &amp; 2</b>
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>Peter D tabled recommended changes to Appendix 1 &amp; 2 tables following public consultation for consideration by the committee.</p> <p>Key changes suggested to Table A1.2 Regional Priority Weeds include;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Updating Control measures, Strategic responses or Documentation to support regional objectives for some species.</li> <li>2. Refining Regional or Sub-regional Objective and Land use and/or area where specific requirements apply for some species.</li> <li>3. Clarifying Specific requirements to discharge the GBD in North West LLS Region for some species</li> </ol>

	<p>Concern was raised by the committee that some species were not given the correct priority allocation within Appendix A1.2</p> <p>Sagittaria, Rope pear, Mother of Millions and Green Cestrum all need to be re-assessed to reflect concerns raised through Public consultation and further NWRWC review against the original NW Weed Risk Assessment submitted to the SWC technical sub-committee for review. It was felt that some rankings had changed without adequate explanation.</p> <p>Key changes suggested to Appendix 2: Other regional weed lists include;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A2.1 Key Alert Weeds Watch list and A2.2 Key Emerging - removal of priority ranking column as it is not warranted and may lead to confusion by general public.</li> <li>2. Remove entire A2.3 Widespread weed table as there is potential for confusion and GBD applies to all species.</li> <li>3. Feral Fruit and Nut trees be removed from Widespread weed table and included into the Key Emerging table A2.2 as this is where they were originally ranked.</li> </ol>
<p>Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation</p>	<p>Open discussion was held around the proposed recommended changes with majority in attendance agreeing for those changes to be accepted and adopted.</p> <p>Moved: Peter D Seconded: Mike Whitney</p> <p>It was also agreed that NWRWC executive, NEWA and available technical experts would re-assess these species for the final plan prior to or at the meeting.</p>
<p><b>Agenda Item #6:</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed State wide changes to RSWMPs</b></p>
<p>Discussion /Options / Points Raised:</p>	<p>LLS Weeds CoP has recommended the following Proposed changes to all RSWMPs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• shorten the RSWMP substantially, remove duplication and consolidate where possible</li> <li>• retain all text that delivers key messages or is essential to implementing the RSWMP</li> <li>• write the plan as a final plan supported by the biosecurity legislation with all references to the plan as an LSP removed. The plans are not required to be a local strategic plan (according to legal advice from the Department of Industry), so the plans will be approved by LLS Boards with a briefing to Minister on process and finalisation. LLS will collaborate with SWC on the finalisation process.</li> </ul>
<p>Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regions can comment on proposed changes and the draft up to Friday March 17. This will be confirmed in discussion at WCoP.</li> <li>• Regional input will be incorporated and the final redraft copyedited.</li> <li>• The final edited version will be provided to regions as a new Standard RSWMP designer version. Regions to incorporate feedback from public submissions in that version (in consultation with RWCs) as the basis of regional plans.</li> <li>• TSC advice will be sought on the approach to appendices for RSWMPs and any key issues resolved with DPI</li> </ul>

<p><b>Agenda Item #7:</b></p>	<p><b>NWRSWMP Plan finalisation</b></p>
<p>Discussion /Options / Points Raised:</p>	<p>Peter D indicated that at the State level the LLS Weeds Community of practice group had requested an extension of time through the State Weed Committee to the Ministers office until May 31.</p> <p>Peter highlighted the steps required to be completed for formal RSWMP finalisation which include;</p> <p>Public consultation -including extension to March 29</p> <p>Document feedback</p> <p>Document and summarise consultation and key state level issues</p> <p>Draft Plan Refinement and Standard content refinement to reduce duplication until April 21</p> <p>Regions revise drafts to address standard content and integrate required changes from consultation by April 21</p> <p>Resolution of any key state level issues and negotiation with DPI and through SWC throughout April.</p> <p>Quality Assurance Process with window for state level QA checklist</p> <p>Governance Signoff including RWC stakeholder consideration and signoff in early May.</p> <p>NWRWC window for final stakeholder signoff and endorsement to NWLLS Board mid-May.</p> <p>NWLLS Board consideration and endorsement in mid-May</p> <p>Briefing package provided to Minister by May 31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note, we are still seeking final agreement from SWC to these dates.</li> </ul>
<p>Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation</p>	<p>As timeframes are now getting very tight the NWRWC executive may be required to meet out of session for endorsement to NWLLS Board prior to April 28 if extension is not granted</p>
<p><b>Agenda Item #8:</b></p>	<p><b>General Business</b></p>
<p>Discussion /Options / Points Raised</p>	<p>Don McKenzie (MPSC) raised the question of the possible increase in the length of time it may take to conduct property inspections and development of individual management plans with landholders under the Biosecurity Act.</p> <p>It was agreed that Authorised Officers would need to monitor this issue to inform proposed inspection and WAP targets. It is critical that inspections are conducted thoroughly to inform any Biosecurity directive and possible management plans, it is not a numbers game to satisfy unrealistic targets which undermines current weeds reforms.</p> <p><b>BIS</b> reporting is still clunky but all North West LCA's are working towards compliance.</p> <p><b>NSW Weeds Conference 2017</b></p> <p>Peter d reminded committee members to submit an abstract outlining their proposed presentation for the 19th biennial NSW Weeds Conference by Friday 31 March 2017.</p> <p>Abstract submissions around the session themes below are invited or any suggestions</p>

	<p>you may have – tell us your stories!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Biosecurity</li> <li>· Technology and Innovation</li> <li>· Community Engagement</li> <li>· Collaboration in Action</li> <li>· Health &amp; Wellbeing: Putting your best foot forward</li> <li>· Other</li> </ul>
<b>Agenda Item #9:</b>	<b>Future Agenda items</b>
Discussion /Options / Points Raised	<p>Meeting dates and locations for future meetings up until June 30 were agreed as follows;</p> <p>April 6 – Gunnedah Creative Arts Centre (was Lightning Ridge Bowling Club but has been moved to Gunnedah for operational reasons)</p> <p>May 11 – Quirindi Jockey Club</p> <p>June 8 – Narrabri – Bowling Club</p>
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 April to review Public consultation submissions and finalisation of RSWMP to be forwarded to Ministers office.</li> </ol>
<b>Meeting closed at 3.00pm</b>	