

**North West Regional Weed Committee - Meeting # 8**

**Communication and Action Plan (Minutes)**  
 Thursday May 11 2017  
 Quirindi Jockey Club Dining Room, Quirindi Racecourse, East Street Quirindi

Attendees	Peter Dawson <u>Executive</u> (NWLLS) John Unwin (CMCC) Lee Amidy (GUNSC), Peter Scott, Mike Whitney <u>Executive Chair</u> (LPSC) Matt Davidson (NWLLS) Vicky Lyons <u>Executive</u> (DoI Lands) Ian Schwartz <u>Executive Vice Chair</u> , Phil Blackmore (NSW DPI) Mal Stein, Ross Briggs (TRC) Stephen Kneller, Scott McLachlan (GwySC)
Apologies	Heather Apps(NEWA) James Browning (NEWA), Matthew Fletcher (Ess En) Shane Green (NWLLS) Penny Fraser (TRLA) Dave Wurst (OEH NPWS) Clare Felton-Taylor <u>Executive</u> (NSC) Anna Cronin (DoI Lands) Richard Chamen <u>Executive</u> (NSWF) Andrew Wright (White Haven) Don McKenzie (Moree Plains SC) Don Ramsland (WSC) Phil Spark (NCC) Conan Rossler, Simon Schuman (FC) Marcela Lopez (NSC) Phil Spark (NCC) Cr Rob Hooke (Gun SC) Wayne Deer (NEWA) Michael Hooper (JHR) Ben Sharpham (ARTC) Conrad Bolton (NWLLS) James Treloar (TRC) Jason Wilson (NWLLS) Mary Knowles (Water NSW) Nick Brown (ARTC) Shane Green (NWLLS) Matt Hellyar (RMS) Russell Hallaran (NWLLS) Saul Standerwick (Gwy SC) Tim Wiseman (ARTC) Warren Faulkner (RMS) Wayne Garnsey (NWLLS) Hillary Cherry, Pete Turner (OEH)
Purpose	Review of Draft Final North West Regional Strategic Weed Management for endorsement to NWLLS Board.

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

<b>Agenda Item #1:</b>	<b>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</b>
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>Summary of discussion :</p> <p>Meeting opened 10:00am          Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country by Peter Dawson NWLLS, Apologies, Housekeeping &amp; Introductions.</p> <p>Apologies accepted;          Moved: Peter Dawson          Seconded: Scott McLachlan</p>
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	Nil
<b>Agenda Item #2:</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p><b>Correspondence sent out:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agenda and Minutes of previous meeting.</li> </ol> <p><b>Correspondence received:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Matthew Fletcher, Essential Energy informing that he will not be able to attend future Weeds Meetings in the capacity of an Essential Energy representative due to internal restructuring.</li> <li>Heather Apps, NEWA, currently working on the WAP mandatory documents now for most of her time and the plan is to have them ready for the 30<sup>th</sup> June deadline.</li> </ol>
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	<p><b>Action</b></p> <p>Peter D to contact Essential Energy seeking endorsement of NW RSWMP and clarification of future representation on NWRWC,</p>

<p><b>Agenda Item #3:</b></p>	<p>Previous minutes</p>
<p>Discussion /Options / Points Raised:</p>	<p>Read with note and amendment that Gerard O'Connor NWLLS was an apology for last meeting.</p>
<p>Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation</p>	<p>Moved that the previous minutes are a true and accurate record.          Moved: Lee Amidy          Seconded: Ian Schwartz          All in favour - Passed</p>
<p><b>Agenda Item #4:</b></p>	<p>Business arising</p>
<p>Discussion /Options / Points Raised:</p>	<p>Peter D took the Committee through the latest Draft NWRSWMP</p>
<p>Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation</p>	<p>The latest version incorporates the majority of the previous regional content into the approved state wide standard template.</p> <p><b>STATE LEVEL QUALITY ASSURANCE</b></p> <p>The purpose of state level check is to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard content, checklists and regional processes have lead to a good standard.</li> <li>• RSWMPs are broadly consistent across the state and reflect good governance</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Are sections of regionally prepared text consistent with messaging and content in the standard text?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some Errata were missed such as references to the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> and to the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> and addressed.</li> <li>• Correction of newly identified Errata in Table 2.1 and a retained ref to recommended measures in s4.</li> <li>• As noted in regional checklist ensure consistency of listings in appendix 1 with the standard approach circulated and related terminology.</li> <li>• State QA understand discussion on these in progress with the TSC and trust that will resolve.</li> <li>• Clarify explanatory text for Appendix 2 listings.</li> <li>• Some minor errors noticed during checklist process have been amended in doc.</li> <li>• Review text for investment section in s6</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. <b>Has the correct version of standard text been used and have all known errors and changes per Errata DOC16/106905 been addressed?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes - noting some Errata was missed and has been addressed as noted above.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. <b>Does the completed regional checklist accurately reflect the RSWMP submitted?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes - <i>Well documented.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>4. <b>Have the post-consultation Appendices been reviewed by TSC and any red flag issues addressed?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, see regional checklist and covering email noted submitted 27 April with discussions continuing with the TSC. Format of listings and use of terminology does need addressing.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

Agenda Item #5:	Weed Management Priority Categories – Appendix 1 & 2										
<p>Discussion /Options / Points Raised:</p>	<p>Pete D noted that there may be some additional minor changes to the appendices following final review by the SWC Technical Review Committee but these should be limited to;            Clarification of State and Regional objectives for Containment Vs Asset protection and some formatting.            TSC Review, feedback and recommendations for Appendices in line with State level QA process</p> <p>Feedback from TSC, Hillary Cherry Office of Environment &amp; Heritage            In some cases, the suggested 'change' has been made in track changes, where in other cases there is a 'comment' and the change has not been made.            This is primarily where there is a need for the region to re-assess feasibility or intent. This was seen as important due to the fairly significant changes made to the appendices post-public consultation.</p> <p>Feedback from Dr Pete Turner, Senior Weeds Officer - NSW National Parks &amp; Wildlife Service</p> <p>Below are suggested edits from a NPWS view point. Plus a couple of minor errors.</p> <p><u>Appendix 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Hudson pear – change “<i>tunicate</i>” “ to “<i>tunicata</i>”</li> <li>· Harrisia cactus listed twice</li> <li>· Blackberry – suggest that in the exclusion zone, outcomes would be as per consultation draft (this may also be applicable for honey locust, St John’s wort and green cestrum). That is in the exclusion zone change to:            Land managers should prevent spread from their land.            Land managers should mitigate the risk of new weeds being introduced to their land.</li> <li>· African boxthorn, mother of millions, sweet briar and tiger pear, suggest after “Land managers should prevent seed and propagules spreading from their land” add “where feasible” OR more appropriately change to an impact reduction outcome, ie “Land managers should reduce impact on.....”.</li> </ul> <p><u>Appendix 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Are you able to add: <i>Orbea variegata</i> - Carrion Flower to your list?</li> <li>· Please also refer to consultation draft, could also re-include species such as:</li> </ul> <table data-bbox="533 1570 1305 1749"> <tr> <td>Tree of Heaven</td> <td><i>Ailanthus altissima</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Buffel Grass</td> <td><i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Spiny Burr Grass</td> <td><i>Cenchrus longispinus</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>African Lovegrass</td> <td><i>Eragrostis curvula</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coolatai Grass</td> <td><i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i></td> </tr> </table> <p><u>OEH final endorsement</u>            To seek OEH endorsement, final plan should be sent to Executive Director:</p>	Tree of Heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Buffel Grass	<i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i>	Spiny Burr Grass	<i>Cenchrus longispinus</i>	African Lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	Coolatai Grass	<i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i>
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<p>Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation</p>	<p>Peter D went through the latest version highlighting track changes and comments from TSC and NPWS for NWRWC consideration.</p>										

	<p>Comments and suggestions were discussed at length with most recommendations and amendments adopted.</p> <p>Suggested changes to Appendix 2 were discussed but not adopted as</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Orbea variegata - Carrion Flower <p style="margin-left: 40px;">This species has not been identified within the North West and is not considered to be a Key Emerging species.</p> </li> <li>2. Request to re-include species such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tree of Heaven Ailanthus altissima</li> <li>• Buffel Grass Cenchrus ciliaris</li> <li>• Spiny Burr Grass Cenchrus longispinus</li> <li>• African Lovegrass Eragrostis curvula</li> <li>• Coolatai Grass Hyparrhenia hirta –</li> </ul> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">NWRWC agreed that these are all widespread weeds within the North West region and are subject to General Biosecurity Duty.</p> </li> </ol>
<p>Agenda Item #6:</p>	<p>NW Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan Finalisation</p>
<p>Discussion /Options / Points Raised:</p>	<p><b>Timeframe &amp; Deadlines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resolution of key state level issues and negotiation with DPI and through SWC – April 14</li> </ul> <p>Quality Assurance Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Window for state level QA checklist – May 5</li> </ul> <p>Governance Signoff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NWRWC stakeholder consideration and signoff – May 12</li> <li>• NWRWC window for final stakeholder signoff and endorsement – May 19</li> <li>• NWLLS Board consideration and endorsement – May 26</li> <li>• Briefing package provided to Minister – May 31</li> </ul> <p><b>Agreed State process to finalise plans is:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regions to complete draft plan refinement based on feedback from QA processes and regional stakeholder signoff negotiations.</li> <li>• Table drafts, post RWC processes, with Board for consideration and approval.</li> <li>• Provide approved plans to state level via agreed and communicated process of submission by the 31 May to meet the project milestone.</li> <li>• DPI will advise of required changes to align with final Regulation once known post Minister sign off – second week of June.</li> <li>• Agreed that regions would address and make required refinements to plans and finalise publishing by the end of June.</li> <li>• Plans resubmitted to Minister’s office in agreed and communicated format and plans <b>embargoed</b>.</li> <li>• Regions prepare supporting summary version and products to support</li> </ul>

	<p>release.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans will be announced by the Minister in the release of the Biosecurity Regulation package.</li> <li>Communication processes to be determined and advised by LLS state Communication Unit</li> </ul> <p><b>NWRWC situation</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NW Regional Weed Management Committee has developed the Final NWRSWMP post Public Consultation.</li> <li>Public consultation responses received were reviewed by the NWRWC at April 6 meeting in Gunnedah. All responses were taken into consideration and treated with respect with comments made where possible to respond to issues raised. Many responses contained general statements and / or opinions which whilst appreciated are outside the scope of the Plan and the NWRWC.</li> <li>Revised Plan post Errata as @ 1 May 2017 including amendments to Appendix A1.2 NW Priority weeds Containment and Asset Protection listings. (<i>pending Technical Sub Committee review and feedback</i>).</li> <li>Final revised post SWC and TSC feedback and NWRWC review for endorsement to NWLLS Board 11/05/2017</li> </ol> <p>Reminder to each individual representative to ensure that the final plan is forwarded to an appropriate level of management with due authority within their respective organisations and that no individual organisation has right of veto as per NWRWC constitution.</p>
<p>Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional LLS team quality assurance (checklist) has been completed by PD &amp; MD on 4/05/2017</li> <li>State level quality assurance (checklist) was completed 8/05/2017</li> <li>SWC Technical Sub Committee review and comment was received 10/05/2017</li> <li>Regional weed committee approval including stakeholder endorsement of plan (regional process) to be completed</li> <li>Local LLS Board approval of Plan for release (regional process) to be tabled for endorsement 22/05/2017</li> </ol> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> Peter D recommended that the NWRWC formally approve the NWRSWMP as it stands for endorsement to the NWLLS Board subject to any minor variations and refinement pending QA and final Biosecurity Regulations 2017.</p> <p>Moved: Ian Schwartz Seconded: Mal Stein All in favour - Passed unanimously</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Peter D to forward letter on behalf of RWC Chair along with copy of NWRSWMP to all NWRWC stakeholder organisations seeking their endorsement of the North West Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017– 2022 as endorsed by NWRWC as of today.</p>

<b>Agenda Item #7:</b>	<b>NW WAP 2015-20</b>
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>Heather Apps (NEWA) was an apology and was not able to provide an update on the North West WAP 2015 – 2020 Heather is currently working on mandatory WAP documents that must be completed by June 30 2017 –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Regional high risk pathways and sites management plan</li> <li>2. Incursion plan for high risk weeds</li> <li>3. Rapid response plan</li> <li>4. Regional inspection program</li> <li>5. Communication strategy</li> <li>6. MERI Plan</li> </ol> <p>Heather is seeking clarification from NSW DPI as to whether there will be new templates for these documents in line with final RSWMPs.</p>
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	<p>Peter D commented that the question of any changes, amendments or new templates for WAP documents has been tabled for discussion at the State LLS Weeds Community of Practice meeting with NSW DPI representatives on Monday May 15.</p>
<b>Agenda Item #8:</b>	<b>Biosecurity Legislation Training</b>
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>Phil Blackmore provided an update on Biosecurity Legislation Training process, timeframes, General Vs LCA</p>
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	<p>On-line Learning modules are to be completed prior to Face to Face training. All NWRWC members are encouraged to undertake Biosecurity legislation training opportunities as they arise.</p>
<b>Agenda Item #9:</b>	<b>NWLLS Funding programs</b>
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>NWLLS are seeking projects to enhance vegetation communities EOI - Project Proposals are sought from Landcare Groups and Local Councils for Enhancing Vegetation Communities in NWLLS region.</p> <p>Project tenders are invited from suitably qualified organisations or groups to implement and manage a North West Local Land Services (NWLLS) funded project that aims to enhance Priority Regional Vegetation Communities.</p>
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	<p>Peter D went through the Project Brief, indicating that proposals are due COB Wed 17th May 2017. Any questions should be directed to Sara Chapman in the first instance</p>
<b>Agenda Item #10:</b>	<b>General Business</b>
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. LCA officers raised on-going concerns with RMS failing to attend RWC meetings and failing to engage with weed control programs across the region.</li> <li>2. Phil Blackmore raised the point on future Parthenium weed Taskforce</li> </ol>

	<p>meetings which are due and suggested that the next meeting be held at NSW DPI Wollongbar.</p> <p>3. Scott McLachlan (GwySC) raised concerns about the increase spread of Mimosa bush (<i>Vachellia farnesiana</i>) along the Gwydir Hwy and asked for clarification of the NSW Native Vegetation legislation and where LCA's stood in relation to roadside control.</p>
<p>Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation</p>	<p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Peter D and Matthew D to contact Senior RMS management and arrange meeting to discuss concerns and seek clarification of on-going commitment and representation to NWRWC.</li> <li>2. Phil Blackmore to organise next Parthenium weed Taskforce meeting.</li> <li>3. Peter D to invite Dennis Boschma to attend future NWRWC meeting to provide overview of current NSW Native Vegetation legislation and potential future obligations around control of Mimosa bush (<i>Vachellia farnesiana</i>) on public lands.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Agenda Item #11:</b></p>	<p><b>Future Agenda items / Confirm meeting dates and locations for future meetings</b></p>
<p>Discussion /Options / Points Raised</p>	<p>PD stated that NWRWC should be able to move back to quarterly meetings from July on-wards.(Executive need to remain flexible within these dates) PD to check that proposed dates do not clash with Ag Quip in August or the NSW Weeds Conference in October and are outside School holidays.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thursday June 8 – Narrabri – Bowling Club (Locked in)</li> <li>• Thursday August 17 - Lightning Ridge (following Hudson Pear Taskforce meeting on 16th)</li> <li>• Thursday October 12 - Moree</li> <li>• Thursday December 14 - location TBC</li> </ul>
<p><b>Meeting closed at 2.00 pm</b></p>	