

North West Regional Weed Committee - Meeting # 9	
Communication and Action Plan (Minutes)	
Thursday June 8 2017 Narrabri Bowling Club Auditorium	
Attendees	Peter Dawson <u>Executive</u> (NWLLS) John Unwin, Andrea Fletcher (CMCC) Lee Amidy, Tony Woods (GUNSC), , Mike Whitney <u>Executive Chair</u> (LPSC) Matt Davidson (NWLLS) Vicky Lyons <u>Executive</u> (Dol Lands) Ian Schwartz <u>Executive Vice Chair</u> , Phil Blackmore (NSW DPI) Mal Stein, Scott McLachlan (GwySC) James Browning (NEWA), Clare Felton-Taylor <u>Executive</u> (NSC) Michael Hooper (JHR) Fay Anderson (NWLLS) Andrew Wright (White Haven) Cr Ron Campey (NSC)
Apologies	Heather Apps(NEWA) Matthew Fletcher (Ess En) Shane Green (NWLLS) Penny Fraser (TRLA) Dave Wurst (OEH NPWS) Anna Cronin (Dol Lands) Richard Chamen <u>Executive</u> (NSWF) 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) 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) Ross Briggs (TRC) Stephen Kneller (GwySC) Peter Scott (LPSC) Gerard O'Connor (NWLLS) Cr Maxine Booby (NSC)
Purpose	Implementation of North West Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan.
Review and update Actions Carried Forward - Nil	
Agenda Item #1:	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	Summary of discussion : Meeting opened 10:10am Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country by Peter Dawson NWLLS, Apologies, Housekeeping & Introductions. Apologies accepted; Moved: Clare Felton-Taylor Seconded: Scott McLachlan
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	Nil
Agenda Item #2:	Correspondence
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	Correspondence sent out: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Agenda and Minutes of previous meeting. NW Regional Attestation Statement on QA 25 May 2017 Correspondence received: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Endorsement notifications received by; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dept of Industry – Lands Essential Energy Liverpool Plains Shire Council Moree Plains Shire Council Narrabri Shire Council OEH NPWS CMCC – Walgett
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	Action Each individual representative to ensure that the final plan is forwarded to appropriate level of management for endorsement a.s.a.p

Agenda Item #3:	Previous minutes
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	Taken as read with note of amendment that Gerard O'Connor (NWLLS) was an apology for last meeting and Tony Woods (GUNSC) was in attendance.
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	<p>Moved that the previous minutes are a true and accurate record with amendments.</p> <p>Moved: Ian Schwartz Seconded: Mal Stein</p>
Agenda Item #4:	Business arising
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 2. Phil Blackmore to organise next Parthenium weed Taskforce meeting. 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. - Completed
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Peter D and Matthew D to contact Senior RMS management. 2. Organisation of next Parthenium weed Taskforce meeting not yet finalised.
Agenda Item #5:	NW Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan Finalisation
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>All plans have been uploaded into the Google drive. This is the same for the attestation statements.</p> <p>Reconfirmed that the Milestone was all plans uploaded by the end of May and that LLS was at risk if the full set of plans had been requested by the Minister as he had been advised that LLS delivery date was the end of May. Regions were asked to confirm that the new completion date of submission to Bridget by the 23.6 would be met and all regions confirmed that this deadline would be met.</p> <p>TSC is collating a report on the TSC quality control process on plan appendices. The report will highlight any variations from the regulation or agreed process/format. The report will be utilised to brief the SWC as well as the LLS executive.</p> <p>Key items from the regional Attestation Statements will be collated to develop a state level report for the LLS executive.</p> <p>There are a few things where weeds have been put in and have not been consistent with the act.</p> <p>Common issues of concerns around the funding and implementation from the boards which will be a key issue identified in the briefing paper. Plans have been endorsed but unsure of how confident those endorsements are. Discussion around the need for regional processes to be complete and plans approved by Boards. The plans set priorities and flag implementation. Resourcing issues need to be dealt with in the implementation phase and separated from the approval process.</p> <p>OEH advised that they have endorsed nine out of the eleven plans at this stage and if the advice of the TSC is followed should have no issue in endorsing the final 2.</p>

<p>Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation</p>	<p>Final wording around Biosecurity Act & Regulations</p> <p>NSW DPI to provide clarification on the control orders and relevant wording for parts of the regulations to regions. Regions will then amend RSWMP's accordingly and provide final desktop published versions in PDF to State LLS.</p> <p>Final Plans are then to be embargoed pending the release/announcement by the Minister at 30 June.</p> <p><u>Priority Weed Control programs.</u></p> <p>Discussion was had around developing priority weed programs and what these might look like. It was agreed that priority would focus on key eradication and containment species as identified in the Plan. One key item for future discussion is the identification of alternative revenue streams and the need to work closer with key industry players across the North west such as the Cotton industry, GRDC, MLA etc</p> <p>New Incursion Funding</p> <p>Action: Phil B to clarify protocols for New incursion funding including triggers and timeliness to access additional funding without the need for formal application red tape.</p>
<p>Agenda Item #6:</p>	<p>NW WAP 2015-20</p>
<p>Discussion /Options / Points Raised:</p>	<p>Letter from Andrew Sanger – Director Invasive Plants & Animals NSW DPI regarding amended guidelines for NSW Weeds Action Program 2015-20.</p> <p>On 24 May 2017 the State Weed Committee endorsed changes to the Guidelines for the NSW Weeds Action Program 2015-20 (WAP1520). These changes have been made to facilitate changes requested by the Primary Industries Minister in response to the NSW Weed Review and other governance and legislative reforms made over the past two years.</p> <p>The key points that differ from the previous Guidelines are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation of WAP1520 as the NSW Government's program for supporting implementation of the NSW Invasive Species Plan and its priorities for the WAP 1520. • Confirmation of Regional Local Land Services as Lead Organisation for each Regional WAP1520 Sub-program. • Clarification of arrangements for engagement of Regional Weed Coordinators. • Confirmation and explanation of the role of effective partnerships and community engagement. <p>New submissions for regional sub-programs are not required as the effects of the changes on existing regional projects will be minor. Changes will be identified by Regional Weed Committees, agreed to by partners and requested by each Lead Organisation, via the Project Variation Process.</p>

	<p>Mandatory WAP documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regional high risk pathways and sites management plan 2. Incursion plan for high risk weeds 3. Rapid response plan 4. Regional inspection program 5. Communication strategy 6. MERI Plan
<p>Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation</p>	<p>Confirmed that LLS was the lead organisation and arrangements for the engagement of a Regional Weed Coordinator in each LLS region.</p> <p>These positions will be directly contracted by LLS with flexibility in how these arrangements occur. There will be funding of \$100K provided to each LLS region for these positions but discretion as to how this allocation is utilised. The \$100K is taken off the overall budget allocated from Treasury to each region. This will have an influence on the overall allocation. It is recognised that each region is fairly unique and DPI intend to have the invasive species officers work with the regions on the transition process.</p> <p>WAP allocations are expected to come through from Treasury.</p> <p>Discussion on how this will impact final allocations and relationships with the current WAP proponents.</p> <p>There was considerable uncertainty around the WAP process and allocation.</p> <p><u>WAP Mandatory Documents</u></p> <p>There are two issues with the mandatory documents. They are very much internal documents for the regions and not something that the department is going to set standards on to a large degree. They do not require the department's approval.</p> <p>NSW DPI have advised LLS Weeds CoP they have stretched the time for these out to 2018 simply because changes anticipated are still on-going. They are not looking to re-invent the wheel on these. There is seven years' worth of learning on these documents that needs to be considered as a revision of them and not starting from scratch. It is important to the WAP program and achievement of the target. They will not be mandating a huge amount of the content or standards on these in the future. Implementation and enabling of the document to get a standard approach to things. The Invasive Species Officers are the first point of call for these for any questions.</p>
<p>Agenda Item #7:</p>	<p>Biosecurity Legislation Training</p>
<p>Discussion /Options / Points Raised:</p>	<p>Reminder for all LLS staff and Local Control Authority Weeds Officers to complete On-line and Face to Face training; Remaining Training dates for Face to Face; Armidale – June 20 Tamworth – August 2</p> <p>There was discussion as to whether LLS TSR Field staff should also undertake training particularly in light of the fact that they are Front line field staff. Action: Matt Davidson (NWLLS) to confirm.</p> <p>Discussion was raised around new model for enforcement activities in light of new Biosecurity legislation. Question was asked around the room as to whether LCAs were ready to undertake compliance from July 1. Phil Blackmore stated that NSW DPI is currently developing a new model for</p>

	enforcement protocols for LCAs to follow.
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	<p>Mike Hooper (JHR) asked why all stakeholders are not engaged in the new Biosecurity Legislation and how they intend to meet their GBD obligations. Pete D and Mike W stated that all key stakeholders from across the region have been given ample opportunity to participate in NW Regional Weed meetings and it was up to them to demonstrate how they intend to meet their GBD obligations.</p> <p>The Chair, Mike W took time out to publicly thank John Unwin (CMCC) for his participation and valuable input into the NW RWC and wished him well in his retirement.</p>
Agenda Item #8:	Native vegetation legislation
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>Frances Wright, Senior Land Services Officer - Regional Services, Sustainable Land Management North West Local Land Services provided a presentation on Current and Proposed NSW Native Vegetation/Biodiversity Reform Legislation Management Options for <i>Vachellia farnesiana</i> (Mimosa) on Public Lands.</p> <p>Native Vegetation Act still in effect until new legislation commences</p> <p>Mimosa = native species but is a weed</p> <p>Managed under:</p> <p>Regrowth – 1 June 1990 and legally cleared</p> <p>Some RAMAs – minimum extent necessary (can't use noxious weed RAMA)</p> <p>Listed as “feral native species” - (RAMA)</p> <p>Invasive Native Species – Code of Practice for INS or Property Vegetation Plan</p> <p>Current management of Mimosa under NVA includes Mimosa control trials on TSRs – Code of Practice with Crown Lands –2 x Moree TSRs (native grasslands)</p> <p>Small number of PVPs – private properties</p> <p>Regrowth management</p> <p>TSRs – very limited control, have started using scrub-master pellets in Walgett and Moree sectors</p>
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	<p>Legislation is still draft and subject to change. It is due to be released on 25 August 2017.</p> <p>Best potential options for public land may include;</p> <p>Category 1 land</p> <p>Allowable activities – environmental protection works (approved weed management plan) - TBC</p> <p>Land Management Code – INS (if listed), other Parts?</p> <p>Groundcover still being identified in mapping process</p> <p>Further information: www.landmanagement.nsw.gov.au</p>

<p>Agenda Item #9:</p>	<p>General Business</p>
<p>Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ag Quip – Peter D reminded committee members that Ag Quip will be held August 22,23,24 and asked for nominations to attend. Lee Amidy will organise the Weeds display trailer. Questions were raised as to whether any modifications are required to the trailer and what promotional materials we may need for the event to promote the NW RSWMP. It was agreed that NSW DPI and LLS State Operations will need to provide standardised Biosecurity information and promotional materials. Action: Pete D to follow up with LLS State Operations. Action: Lee Amidy to source quote to re-wrap the trailer with updated logos etc. 2. Confirm access protocols for inspections on Rail corridors. Clare Felton Taylor raised this issue and discussion was had about what steps could be made to confirm and improve protocol requirements. Mike Hooper stated that both John Holland Rail and ARTC are both contractors and there are specific and stringent guidelines and protocols in place for all contractors to follow to access rail corridors. Mike also stated that he is currently investigation the use of UAVs to carry out inspections on nonoperational section 3 dead tracks because of the high WHS risk associated with these lines. Action: LCAs to liaise directly with John Holland Rail and ARTC 3. Draft-Pesticides-Regulation-2017 – Mike Whitney informed the committee that Pesticide use notification plans are up for review and suggested members have a look and see what they are proposing. Discussion was had around all Public Land management and all relevant stakeholders are encouraged to review their individual Notification plans in light of the proposed changes. 4. Section 64 action under the Noxious Weeds Act – James Browning questioned as to what the status of Section 64s for property sales would be under the new Biosecurity legislation. This question was referred to the New England / North West Weeds Officers meeting for comment.
<p>Agenda Item #10:</p>	<p>Confirm actions/agreements</p>
<p>Discussion /Options / Points Raised</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Priority - Each individual representative to ensure that the final plan is forwarded to appropriate level of management for endorsement a.s.a.p 2. Peter D and Matthew D to contact Senior RMS management. 3. Phil B - Organisation of next Parthenium weed Taskforce meeting not yet finalised. 4. Phil B to clarify protocols for New incursion funding including triggers and timeliness to access additional funding without the need for formal application red-tape. 5. Matt Davidson (NWLLS) to confirm as to whether LLS TSR Field staff should also undertake formal Biosecurity training. 6. Phil Blackmore to report back on enforcement protocols for LCAs to follow 7. Pete D to follow up with LLS State Operations on promotional materials for Ag Quip. 8. Lee Amidy to source quote to re-wrap the trailer with updated logos etc. 9. LCAs to make contact with John Holland Rail and ARTC for access agreements.

<p>Agenda Item #11:</p>	<p>Future Agenda items / Confirm meeting dates and locations for future meetings</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"> • Thursday August 17 - Lightning Ridge (following Hudson Pear Taskforce meeting on 16th) • Thursday October 12 - Moree • Thursday December 14 - Lake keepit Sport & Rec
<p style="text-align: center;">Meeting closed at 2.16 pm</p>	