

North West Regional Weed Committee - Meeting # 11	
Communication and Action Plan (Minutes)	
Thursday December 14 2017	
Lake Keepit Sport & Recreation Centre	
Attendees	Peter Dawson <u>Executive Officer</u> (NWLLS) Lee Amidy, Tony Woods (GUNSC), , Mike Whitney <u>Executive Chair</u> (LPSC) Vicky Lyons <u>Executive</u> (DoI Lands) Ian Schwartz <u>Executive Vice Chair</u> , Scott McLachlan (GwySC) Clare Felton-Taylor <u>Executive</u> (NSC) Cr Jim Maxwell (TRC) Dave Wurst (OEH NPWS) Mal Stein (TRC) Don McKenzie (Moree Plains SC) Peter Scott (LPSC) Charlie Mifsud (NSW DPI) Pete Turner (NSW DPI) Julie Clancy (TRLA) Raj Shilpakar (NWLLS) Rob Burr (TRC) Brett Hanly (Whitehaven Coal) Chris Watkins (NSC)
Apologies	Keith Harris (NWLLS) Richard Chamen <u>Executive</u> (NSWF) Don Ramsland (WSC) Phil Spark (NCC) Conan Rossler, Simon Schuman (FC) Marcela Lopez (NSC) Cr Rob Hooke (Gun SC) Ben Sharpham (ARTC) Conrad Bolton (NWLLS) Mary Knowles (Water NSW) Nick Brown (ARTC) Shane Green (NWLLS) Matt Hellyar (RMS) Saul Standerwick (Gwy SC) Tim Wiseman (ARTC) Wayne Garnsey (NWLLS) Ross Briggs (TRC) Stephen Kneller (GwySC) Cr Maxine Booby (NSC) Matt Davidson (NWLLS) Michael Hooper (JHR) Fay Anderson (NWLLS) Andrea Fletcher (CMCC) Andrew Wright (White Haven) Cr Ron Campey (NSC) Robyn Henderson (NSW DPI) Phil Blackmore (NSW DPI) Scott Charlton (NSW DPI) Penny Fraser (TRLA)
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 Acknowledgement of Country, Apologies, Housekeeping & Introductions. Apologies accepted; Moved: Clare Felton-Taylor Seconded: Scott McLachlan
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	A special welcome was given to Dr Pete Turner, Team Leader Invasive Species Policy & Programs Invasive Plants and Animals Unit - Biosecurity & Food Safety NSW Department of Primary Industries We were also joined by Charlie Mifsud who is the Aquatic Weeds Project Officer Invasive Species Programs for the Department of Primary Industries
Agenda Item #2:	Correspondence
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	Correspondence sent out: 1. Agenda and Minutes of previous meeting. Correspondence received: 1. NSW DPI WAP 2017-2018 Funding offer to NWLLS 2. State Weed Committee Outcomes
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	These items are covered within the agenda and minutes.
Agenda Item #3:	Previous minutes
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	Opportunity was given to discuss previous minutes

Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	Moved that the previous minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting. Moved: Ian Schwartz Seconded: Jim Maxwell
Agenda Item #4:	Business arising
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>1. 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.</p> <p>Peter D stated that this communication had not been achieved to date as the former RMS representative had moved on however he had made contact with Luke Skelton who is currently acting in Warren Faulkner's position and that he had been invited to future meetings.</p> <p>2. Lee Amidy tabled a draft GBD fact sheet to send out to Rate payers including FAQs with a local flavour and contact LCA Authorised Officer contact details. It was stated that whilst there is a lot of information on the NSW DPI Web site , it is not as easily accessible to those landholders who don't have computer access.</p>
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	<p>1. Action - Peter D and Matthew D to contact Senior RMS management for North West region.</p> <p>2. Action – Chair of NWRWC to refer concerns about the apparent lack of commitment to engage from various NSW State Agencies to the State Weed Committee.</p> <p>3. Action - Peter D and L Amidy to forward draft GBD fact sheet to NSW DPI for technical review and comment.</p>
Agenda Item #5:	State Weed Committee update
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>Pete Turner provided an over view of State Weed Committee activities including the following;</p> <p>The State Weed Committee met by teleconference on 20 November 2017 to discuss the following items:</p> <p>1. Members reports The committee received member's reports and discussed issues including: • Ongoing funding for Reginal Weed Coordinator positions. • Regional Committee update, • Outcomes from NSW Weeds Officers Association meeting. The Committee considered the request to clarify roles and responsibility of LG and LLS regarding weed management. • NSW Farmer's & Landcare concern about funding for pest and weed control.</p> <p>2. Mandatory inspections on sale The Committee discussed a previous proposal to consider the requirement for mandatory inspections prior to sale. Issues such as practicality, costs and appropriateness were debated. The Committee proposed that the issue be raised with the Local Government board for inclusion at the 2018 LGA conference.</p> <p>3. Weed Action Program NSW DPI reported on progress on the 2017/18 NSW Weed Action Program. MOUs were being received from lead organisations to finalise allocation funding. The Committee discussed the need for this to go to the regions as soon as possible.</p> <p>4. NSW Invasive Species Plan The Committee formally endorsed the 2017-2021 NSW Invasive Species Plan.</p> <p>5. Biosecurity Information System NSW DPI reported that data continues to be routinely uploaded to the BIS. DPI has now visited every Regional Committee to present mapping which is now available from the system. NSW DPI is also in receipt of data from some public land managers. A 'dashboard' is now available for approved regional users to interrogate and produce custom maps. The DPI</p>

	<p>was asked why the Metadata Standard was updated several times as it was disruptive to the implementation, in response the DPI explained that the changes were necessary and of technical nature. The DPI would try to limit changes to the Standard and agreed that it was important to continue to work closely with users when changes occur.</p> <p>6. Compliance Standard The SWC technical working group presented a draft Compliance Standard written to provide a benchmark for weed management compliance in NSW. The Committee discussed the scope and specific content of the document with particular interest in the level of which the Standard set. The committee also discussed the relationship with other proposed industry Standards and regulatory requirements as set by the NSW Biosecurity Act. The DPI proposed that a lengthy 3 month consultation period was required to properly test the document and get stakeholder 'buy in'. A series of regional visits were proposed as a minimum. The Committee resolved that members needed more time to consult with their organisations to refine the draft before broader consultation could occur in the New Year.</p> <p>7. 'Plant sure' update The Committee received an update on the Plant-sure project and development of an Ornamental Plant Code of Practice.</p> <p>8. SWC Business Plan A business plan for the SWC has been developed by the Secretariat for review of the Committee. The business plan provides a structured process to assist the Committee meet their obligations in delivering the NSW Weed Review endorsed recommendations, and outcomes from the NSW Invasive Species Plan. The Committee ran out of time and this item was held over out of session for comment prior to Christmas.</p> <p>9. MERI development NSW DPI informed SWC that a workshop is to be held on 28 November to develop a 'program logic' for Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans and determine appropriate performance indicators.</p> <p>DRAFT: Action Plan – State Weed Committee 2018 - 2021</p> <p>The State Weed Committee (SWC) is responsible for ensuring a coordinated and strategic approach to weed management in NSW. This includes providing strategic planning advice to Regional Weed Committees (RWCs) to ensure consistent approaches across the State. Further, the SWC has a role to oversee the implementation of, and reporting on, the NSW Government endorsed recommendations from the NSW Weed Review.</p> <p>The Terms of Reference for the Committee sets out that a 3-year action plan will be developed to guide the SWC. Further, the TOR, draft NSW Invasive Species Plan, the NSW Government endorsed recommendations from the NSW Weed Review and the DPI Policy on Biosecurity – Weed Management all detail specific roles and responsibilities of the SWC. This plan combines key actions from these documents to ensure that the NSW Government key reforms for weed management are progressed.</p>
<p>Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation</p>	<p>NW RWC delegates appreciated the update from the SWC.</p>
<p>Agenda Item #6:</p>	<p>NWRSWMP</p>
<p>Discussion /Options / Points Raised:</p>	<p>Terms of Reference review for implementation</p> <p>Implementation Strategy is currently being developed as part of both WAP and NW Communication and Engagement Strategy.</p> <p>The current focus is on finalising Regional Best Practice Guides for priority species to ensure consistency across each LCA in language and messaging.</p>

	<p>These LWMPs are important communication tools particularly in relation to informing landholders of what the expectation for control measures are from LCAs for particular species at the local level. Any person or persons receiving this information <i>ought to reasonably know</i> of their general biosecurity duty to ensure the risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised or otherwise in accordance with the NW RSWMP and Biosecurity Act 2015.</p> <p>Failure to initiate control works after receiving this and or any other written or verbal information may trigger further action by the LCA / Biosecurity Officer.</p>
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	<p>Pete Turner asked that copies of the final Best Practice Guides be made available to NSW DPI for dissemination to other RWCs currently considering similar options. This was agreed to by the NWRWC.</p> <p>A motion was proposed by Peter D that the format and wording of these Regional Best Practice Guides presented on the day should be accepted as the final version at this point in time and that any further changes would be review in the future pending any legal advice as an adaptive management approach.</p> <p>Moved: Don McKenzie Seconded: Lee Amidy All in favour / passed</p>
Agenda Item #7:	BIS
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>Dr Pete Turner, Team Leader Invasive Species Policy & Programs, provided an overview of the NSW Biosecurity Information System including current reporting outcomes relevant to the North West region or lack thereof.</p> <p>There are obviously still on-going challenges in uploading mapping data into BIS with all LCAs reporting difficulties with some Third party products and services.</p>
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	<p>Peter D also commented that NWLLS is currently investigating mapping and reporting options for their TSR networks in order to improve accuracy in distribution and density data capture for priority species. This may also assist in future budget modelling and resource allocation for the management of these areas.</p>
Agenda Item #8:	Hudson pear UAV
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>Raj Shilpakar (GIS & Data Modelling) gave a presentation on the recent NWLLS Hudson pear Drone mapping exercise.</p>
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	<p>Accurate and reliable mapping is required for thorough and timely measures for controlling and eradicating weeds such as Hudson pear. North West LLS, in consultation with the landholders and key stakeholders (eg North West Regional Weed Committee), is investigating current technologies such as Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) survey, Satellite Remote Sensing, and Species Distribution Modelling for mapping potential and actual weed incursion area across the landscape.</p> <p>As part of the process, North West LLS has flown a UAV survey to collect training samples from known Hudson Pear incursion areas near Cumborah and Lighting Ridge region from 27th - 29th November 2017.</p> <p>Sites were selected based on local Council Weed Officer and Local Land Services</p>

	<p>staff field experience and knowledge. The sites were also selected to cover different vegetation structures including timbered woodlands to open floodplains.</p> <p>Landholders were also ensured by North West LLS that this was not a compliance activity. All the UAV images collected from the selected sites will be used only for North West LLS internal planning purpose for implementation of the Hudson pear eradication plan (which is currently under development).</p> <p>All images captured during UAV surveys will be copyright to North West LLS. North West LLS may share the images externally for the purposes of the mapping program. Electronic copy of the images can be supplied to landholders upon written request.</p> <p>The results and analysis of this weed mapping technology test initiative including UAV survey will be shared for non-commercial purposes as per the North West LLS information strategy and policies.</p>
Agenda Item #9:	North West WAP 2017/2018
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>Guidelines for WAP 2018 - 2020</p> <p>Pete D reported that the memorandum of Understanding between NWLLS and NSW DPI had been executed and that Service agreements would be finalised with each LCA in early 2018.</p>
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	<p>Mandatory WAP documents</p> <p>Peter D stated that the following documents had been revised and amended for NWRWC review at the next round of meetings.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft North West Regional Rapid Response Plan 2017-2022 2. Draft North West Regional Weed Incursion Plan 2017-2022 3. Draft North West Regional Inspection Program 2017-2022 <p>Other documents currently under development include the Draft North West Communication and Engagement Strategy</p>
Agenda Item #10:	General Business
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>The Biosecurity Act and access to properties</p> <p>David Witherdin, Chief Executive Officer Local Land Services recently provided advice to LLS staff regarding recent CSG public meetings in the Central West region and alleged breaches of biosecurity signage and entering farms without consent. This information is provided to NW RWC members as a reminder to adhere to their own individual organisational protocols on such matters.</p>
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	<p>DPI have developed the attached speaking points for any staff required to respond to questions around unauthorised entry to farms on the basis of the Biosecurity Act. These scenarios have come to light with both utility and mining companies accessing land. The speaking points specifically refer to farm gate signs and their role in managing biosecurity risks. Note, farm gate signs are a tool to manage biosecurity risks, they are not tools to prevent entry. The Inclosed Lands Protection Act provides for trespass.</p> <p>All questions in this space are best directed to DPI. The point of contact within DPI is: Jenny Thomson Manager - Regulation Policy, Legislation and Performance </p>

Biosecurity and Food Safety
NSW Department of Primary Industries
Orange.

The Biosecurity Act and access to properties

- The focus of the Biosecurity Act is managing biosecurity risks – preventing them, mitigating them and managing them when and if they occur.
- The Act is not a tool to manage unwanted or illegal entry onto your property
- Unlawful entry onto land is managed under the *Inclosed Lands Protection Act 1901*. There are offences for trespassing and you can report any occurrences to the police.
- It should be noted that Teleco's and other approved companies have rights to enter land without your approval.
- They must meet their industry code of practice, which includes advanced notice of their intended visit.
- The same applies for coal seam gas explorers and the farmer. It is common for a written agreement between the explorer and the landholders before work commences. Ultimately the agreement should be what works best for the landholder. The Office of Land and Water Commissioner has a range of supporting materials and guidance on how this process works.
- It is inevitable that people will visit or enter your property for a variety of reasons– this does not mean they are necessarily creating a biosecurity risk.
- The Act provides the tools to assist in the prevention of management of biosecurity risks that may arise.
- The general biosecurity duty means that people must do what is reasonably practical to prevent or minimise biosecurity risk that they know about.
- If they don't take appropriate action and a significant risk does arise, there are mechanisms to take compliance action.
- The important thing about the Biosecurity Act is that people need to know there is a risk and they need to know what action they must take to prevent that risk.
- Signs are a good way of informing people who visit or enter your property that it is subject to a biosecurity plan or biosecurity management practices.
- In developing your plan, you need to consider the risks that may arise with people coming onto your property.
- If there is a risk, what is the level of the risk? Is it something that is acceptable or is it something that will have a significant impact on primary production, or threat to public health and safety, for instance?
- For example, if you live in an area where sweet briar is widespread and present on your property, the impact of the risk of a person bringing that weed onto your property or on their clothes or vehicle is probably low.
- If however you are in an area where there are only patches of serrated tussock around and you have implemented a program to eradicate it from your property due to the impact of the biosecurity risk, your plan

	<p>may include actions that people must take before entering your property e.g., wash down.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a person does enter your property in these circumstances without washing their vehicle and there is a clear patch of new weed along the route the vehicle travelled, your sign and biosecurity plan may contribute to compliance action by demonstrating that the person should have known about the risk because they went through a signed gate and had obviously not cleaned their vehicle. • If it can be proved, that person may be issued with a direction to clean the mess up. • Alternatively, depending on the significance of the biosecurity risk and impact, arrangements can be made to have the situation immediately rectified with the person then being required to pay fees for cost recovery • If you don't have a plan in place and have not placed signs or advised visitors in another way that there are certain actions they must take before entering your property, the ability to prove that the person should have known is a lot more limited. • The Department has held early discussions with key utility providers to discuss the development of a code of conduct that must be followed when entering and leaving properties to minimise the biosecurity risk. • LLS propose to hold a workshop in the new year to educate these bodies about the Act and their biosecurity duties and the consequences of not adopting good biosecurity practices.
<p>Agenda Item #11:</p>	<p>Confirm actions/agreements</p>
<p>Discussion /Options / Points Raised:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Action - Peter D and Matthew D to contact Senior RMS management for North West region. 2. Action – Chair of NWRWC to refer concerns about the apparent lack of commitment to engage from various NSW State Agencies to the State Weed Committee. 3. Action - Peter D and L Amidy to forward draft GBD fact sheet to NSW DPI for technical review and comment. 4. Action - Peter D to send Final NW Best Practice Guides to NSW DPI for dissemination to other RWCs. 5. Action - Mandatory WAP documents to be sent out to RWC members prior to next meeting.
<p>Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation</p>	<p>Nil</p>
<p>Agenda Item #12:</p>	<p>Future Agenda items / Confirm meeting dates and locations for future meetings</p>
<p>Discussion /Options / Points Raised</p>	<p>Confirmed 2018 meeting dates;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. February – Thursday 8th - Moree 2. May – Thursday 10th - Narrabri 3. August – Thursday 9th - Lightning Ridge 4. November – Thursday 8th - Lake Keepit

Meeting closed at 2.30 pm