

<b>North West Regional Weed Committee - Meeting # 15</b>	
<b>Communication and Action Plan (Minutes)</b>	
Thursday 8 November 2018 Lake Keepit Sport and Recreation Centre	
Attendees	Peter Dawson <u>Executive Officer</u> (NWLLS) Mike Whitney <u>Chair</u> (LPSC) Jo-Anna Skewes (NSLA) Scott McLachlan (GwySC) Clare Felton-Taylor <u>Executive</u> (NSC) Cr Jim Maxwell (TRC) Andrea Fletcher, Matt Savage (CMCC) Mal Stein (TRC) Peter Scott (LPSC) Lee Amidy (GUNSC) Dave Wurst (OEH NPWS) Keith Harris (NWLLS) Julie Clancy (TRLA) Ross Briggs (TRC) Tony Woods (GUNSC) Anna Cronin (NSW DPI Crown lands) Chris Watkins (NSC) Emelia Rixon (NWLLS) Luke Raveneau (NWLLS) Matt Davidson (NWLLS) Nick Godfrey-Smith (ARTC) Arum Berry (JHR) Birgitte Verbeek (NSW DPI) Maria Woods (Chair NT RWC) Ross Fuller Jonathan Lawson (NTLLS), Heather Apps, Matthew Benham, Josh Biddle, James Browning John Duggan, Cr Mark Dusting (NEWA) Goeff Riley (ISC) Archie Cameron (NSW Farmers) Piers Thomas (OEH NPWS)
Apologies	Pete Turner (NSW DPI) 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) Cr Maxine Booby (NSC) Michael Hooper (NWLLS) Cr Ron Campey (NSC) Robyn Richardson (NSW DPI) Raj Shilpakar (NWLLS) Phil Blackmore (NSW DPI) Andrew Wright (White Haven Coal) Shane Green (NWLLS) Fay Anderson (NWLLS) Brett Hanly (Whitehaven Coal) Ian Schwartz, Stephen Kneller (GwySC) Rob Burr (TRC)
Purpose	NWRWC Annual General and combined Cross Regional meeting with Northern Tablelands RWC.
<b>Review and update Actions Carried Forward - Nil</b>	
	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	Summary of discussion :  Meeting opened 9:10 am Apologies, Housekeeping & Introductions. Apologies accepted; Moved: Lee Amidy Seconded: Jim Maxwell
	NW RWC Annual General Meeting <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Annual report including financial statement and targets for Year 3 WAP 2017/18 tabled accepted unanimously.</li> <li>2. Nomination forms for NWRWC Executive were made available to all committee members.</li> <li>3. The Chair thanked the executive officer for achievements throughout the year including the completion of mandatory WAP documents.</li> <li>4. In accordance with the NWRWC Constitution 2015 the Chair declared all positions open and vacated the seat.</li> <li>5. Executive Officer, Peter Dawson stated that he had received several written nominations for the executive called for any further nominations from the floor.</li> <li>6. With no further nominations being received, the following nominations for executive positions were accepted and filled.</li> </ol>

<p>Discussion /Options / Points Raised:</p>	<p>Summary of discussion : The following were delegates nominated with all in favour; 1. Chair – Michael Whitney (LPSC) 2. Vice chair – Ian Schwartz (MPSC) 3. Ordinary member – Cr Jim Maxwell (TRC) 4. Ordinary member – Clare Felton-Taylor (NSC) 5. Ordinary member – Andrea Fletcher (CMCC)  Executive Officer – retained by Peter Dawson, NWLLS Regional Weed Coordinator.</p>
<p>Meeting opened 9:10 am</p>	<p>Combined Cross Regional meeting with Northern Tablelands RWC</p>
<p>Discussion /Options / Points Raised:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Chair Mike Whitney welcomed everyone to the combined Cross Regional meeting with Northern Tablelands RWC.</li> <li>2. Luke Raveneau (NWLLS) provided an acknowledgement of Country.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Agenda Item #1:</b></p>	<p>Apologies Housekeeping &amp; Introductions</p>
<p>Discussion /Options / Points Raised:</p>	<p>NWRWC Executive Officer, Peter Dawson tabled those apologies which had been received and called for any apologies from NTRWC. Once again many state agencies and utility providers were conspicuous by their absence.  Apologies accepted; Moved: Lee Amidy Seconded: Jim Maxwell</p>
<p><b>Agenda Item #2:</b></p>	<p>Correspondence</p>
<p>Discussion /Options / Points Raised:</p>	<p><b>Correspondence received:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conan Rossler, District Manager – Forestry Corporation NSW Update on arrangements for attendance at NW &amp; NT RWC meetings.</li> <li>2. Scott Charlton – A/Director Invasive Plants and Animals NSW DPI Proposed Biosecurity Control Order for Chinese Violet</li> </ol>
<p>Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Peter D tabled an email report from Conan Rossler regarding proposed future arrangements for Forestry Corp representation and attendance at future NW &amp; NT RWC meetings. <b>Action – Nil</b></li> <li>2. Peter D tabled email correspondence from Scott Charlton regarding the proposed Biosecurity Control Order for Chinese Violet. This proposal was developed by the Hunter Regional Weed Committee and recently endorsed by the State Weed Committee. The NSW DPI is currently drafting the new Control Order with the aim of having it gazetted in early 2019. <b>Action – Nil</b> Correspondence accepted; Moved: Peter Scott Seconded: Tony Woods</li> </ol>

<b>Agenda Item #3:</b>	<b>Previous minutes</b>
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	As this is the first combined Cross Regional meeting with Northern Tablelands RWC there are no previous minutes to be tabled and that the previous minutes of the North West RWC be taken as read.
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	Moved that the previous NWRWC minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting. Moved: Lee Amidy Seconded: Scott McLachlan
<b>Agenda Item #4:</b>	<b>Business arising</b>
Decision / agreement / action / Recommendation	There was no business arising
<b>Agenda Item #5:</b>	<b>State Weed Committee update</b>
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>Concern was raised about the lack of regular communication from the SWC to RWCs other than Outcomes reports which tend to be very high level generalisations lacking detail.</p> <p>A question was raised regarding the state of the NSW Weeds Officers Association and it's representation on the SWC.</p> <p>Whilst it is recognised that SWC and RWC meetings will not coincide there was strong support to identify pathways to improve communication channels between RWCs and SWC. This may be achieved by Regional Weed Coordinators being given a direct contact or representative within the SWC to improve communications to and from the regions.</p> <p>Whilst not a criticism, many RWC members would like to see the SWC providing a higher level of advocacy to the minister's office on specific issues raised by RWCs as there is a question mark over the SWC level of influence on priority weed management issues.</p> <p>It is recognised that RWCs should also be focusing on developing answers to areas of concern or issues which can then be taken up to LLS boards for endorsement or to the SWC or directly to the minister's office.</p>
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	<b>Action</b> – The NT & NW RWCs decided to write to both the SWC and NSW Weeds Officers Association with a formal invitation to send delegates to future RWC meetings
<b>Agenda Item #6:</b>	<b>Consultation Draft RSWMP MERI framework</b>
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>Discussion was held around the Draft RSWMP MERI framework proposed by NSW DPI.</p> <p>Overall combined delegates accepted that the proposed framework appeared to be a reasonable process however concerns were raised about some of the language throughout the document which was convoluted.</p>
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Summary of Regional Weed Committee Comments</b></p> <p>1. Massive assumptions that Regional Weed Committees have the capacity or resources to implement and comply with objectives</p>

	<p>2. Regional Weed Coordinators and LCAs will end up doing all the work</p> <p>3. Need to differentiate between Regional High priority and widespread weeds</p> <p>4. Regional Weed Committees <u>do not</u> invest in extension/training programs.</p> <p>5. Regional Weed Committees <u>do not</u> operate or coordinate regional investment programs</p> <p><b>Action</b> – Peter D and Jono L to compile comments and recommendations to be forwarded to NSW DPI for consideration.</p>
<p>Meeting suspended</p>	<p>The meeting was suspended at 10:36am for a short break and resumed at 10:50am</p>
<p>Agenda Item #7:</p>	<p>NSW Weeds Awareness Campaign</p>
<p>Discussion /Options / Points Raised:</p>	<p>Birgitte Verbeek, Leader for Invasive Species Extension, NSW DPI provide an overview of the latest NSW Weeds Awareness Campaign.</p>
<p>Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation</p>	<p>NSW DPI have contracted Agency Strategic Creative (Agency) to develop a new weeds awareness campaign and resources to assist Regional Weed Committee members and LCAs deliver messages to their community around Biosecurity in relation to weeds management.</p> <p>NSW DPI posted a link on the Weeds Extranet to assist Agency to survey the thoughts of weed professionals on past weeds awareness campaigns and ideas for the future. As many weed professionals as possible were asked to complete the questionnaire so that NSW DPI can create a weeds awareness campaign that meets the needs of weed professionals, Regional weed committees and targets the required audiences.</p> <p>A reference group was formed to work with Agency including LCA &amp; Regional Weed Coordinators from across the state.</p> <p>The new No Space for Weeeeds awareness campaign was officially launching at the Australian National Field Days. NSW DPI invite partner organisations - to engage in sharing and promoting this new campaign across NSW.</p> <p>It has been tested over 12 months of development with Agency - a multinational social marketing company and a Technical Reference Group of NSW weeds professionals. The brand uses an invasive "e" to play on the spreading nature of weeds, and the key message is that preventing weeds protects our native plants and animals.</p> <p>Other messages can also be used - that preventing weeds protects the natural beauty of Australia, our land, water and food production and our agricultural way of life.</p> <p>Birgitte played the campaign video which forms the centrepiece of the campaign and can be hosted and shared by anyone and everyone. Regions can also opt to have the campaign video localised for their specific region.</p> <p>There's loads of collateral on the Weeds Extranet that regions can download and use - wordmarks, merchandise, event and display resources, digital and social resources and stock images, and each LLS region will be receiving a localised Regional Starter Kit in the new year.</p>

<b>Agenda Item #8:</b>	<b>NT RWC presentation</b>
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	Jonathan Lawson provide an overview of the activities of the NT RWC and Local Control Authorities over the past 12 months.
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	Particular focus has been on coordinated rapid response efforts on Tropical Soda Apple incursions in the upper Maclean - Clarence river catchment.
<b>Agenda Item #9:</b>	<b>NW RWC presentation</b>
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	Peter Dawson provided an overview of activities of the NW RWC and Local Control Authorities over the past 12 months.
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	<p>Throughout 2017 -18 the North West Regional Weed Committee has been focusing on the implementation and delivery of the North West Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017.</p> <p>Quarterly meetings have been rotated across the region to cope with the tyranny of distance and allow for attendance of as many members as possible.</p> <p>Despite on-going drought conditions all NW WAP proponents have met and in many cases exceeded projected inspection targets. As local seasonal conditions deteriorated focus was moved to high risk target areas.</p> <p>Some extension activities have been heavily impacted by adverse seasonal conditions resulting in some activities or events being cancelled. North West RWC and Authorised Officers have been focusing on building relationships with land managers by attending NWLLS Drought workshops across the region and providing one on one advice to landholders about weed identification and management techniques.</p> <p>The following documents are mandatory under WAP1520 and provide the basis for weed management planning and delivery. The following operational documents have been developed in consultation with the NWRWC and approved for distribution.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. North West Regional Weed Incursion Plan 2018-22</li> <li>2. North West Regional Rapid Response Plan 2018-22</li> <li>3. North West Regional Inspection Program 2018-22</li> </ol> <p>The North West Regional Communication &amp; Engagement Strategy 2018-22 is currently under development and will be finalised in the near future.</p> <p>Throughout the 2017/2018 financial year many North West Local Control Authorities have been actively engaged in the delivery of a NWLLS Priority Weeds Program focussed on controlling priority invasive weed species identified in the North West Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017. This includes maintaining or improving the condition of key native vegetation and biodiversity assets identified as threatened or endangered ecological communities (TECs &amp; EECs) and their immediate surrounds by.</p> <p>On-ground incentives were highly targeted towards priority species including Harrisia cactus and Hudson pear, Mother of Millions, Tree pear, Cat's Claw Creeper, Green Cestrum, Blackberry, African Boxthorn, St John's wort, Oleander, Feral fruit trees, Bridal creeper, African Olive and Privet to name a few.</p>

<p><b>Agenda Item #10:</b></p>	<p><b>General Business</b></p>
<p>Discussion /Options / Points Raised:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Once again Question was raised regarding the frequency and adequacy of Regional Weed Coordinator meetings or workshops. Currently coordinators may meet face to face once or twice a year however it was suggested that coordinators (and RWC) may benefit from more regular state-wide communications or as an independent coordinators network or community of practice to discuss issues including WAP program delivery, training or professional development needs.</li> <li>2. There was also a question raised about how to continually improve relations between Local Government and Local Land Services particularly in relation to WAP program delivery and partnership programs.</li> <li>3. Some RWC members would like to see NSW DPI Regional Invasive Species officers take greater steps to becoming more involved in on-ground programs. This would help improve language, communications and understanding of challenges.</li> <li>4. The issue of rail corridor access and inspections was raised again as a level of frustration to many Local Control Authorities with confusion over validity of Corridor Access cards and Authorised officers being able to undertake their work.</li> <li>5. Delegate reports and updates were provided <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OEH NPWS are currently revamping Pest Control Plans and undertaking reviews of strategic plans.</li> <li>• John Holland rail are currently conducting inspections on the Werris creek to Armidale operation line. JHR are happy to invite District Biosecurity / weeds officers to undertake Hi Rail Runs and undertake joint inspections.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<p>Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NW &amp; NT Regional Weed Coordinators to discuss framework for improved communications and training at next state-wide meeting in March 2019.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Agenda Item #11:</b></p>	<p><b>Confirm actions/agreements</b></p>
<p>Discussion /Options / Points Raised:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Action</b> – NT &amp; NW RWCs decided to write to both the SWC and NSW Weeds Officers Association with a formal invitation to send delegates to future RWC meetings.</li> <li>2. <b>Action</b> – Peter D, Jono L &amp; Heather A to compile comments and recommendations to be forwarded to NSW DPI for consideration.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Agenda Item #13:</b></p>	<p><b>Confirm meeting dates and locations for future meetings</b></p>
<p>Discussion /Options / Points Raised</p>	<p>Confirmed future 2019 meeting dates;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities for future combined Cross Regional meetings with NT an NW RWC will be confirmed after discussions between executive committee members.</li> <li>• Next NW RWC will be Thursday February 7 with location and venue to be confirmed by NW Executive.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Meeting closed at 12:52 pm followed by lunch</b></p>	