

North West Regional Weed Committee - Meeting # 2

Communication and Action Plan (Minutes)

Minutes Wed 6th April Moree Services Club, Albert Street Moree.

Attendees	Matt Davidson, Peter Dawson (NWLLS), John Unwin (CMCC) Dave Wurst (OEH NPWS) Stephen Kneller (GwySC), Tony Woods (GUNSC), Peter Scott, Mike Whitney (LPSC) Clare Felton-Taylor (NSC) Heather Apps, Wayne Deer (NEWA), Richard Chamen (NSWF) Matthew Fletcher (Ess En) Phil Blackmore (NSW DPI) Andrew Wright (White Haven) Cr Peter Pankhurst (Gwydir Shire Council) Ian Schwartz, Don McKenzie (Moree Plains Shire Council)
Apologies	Conrad Bolton (Chair) Shane Green (NWLLS) Ken Flower (NWLLS) Cr Brendon Munn (Moree Plains Shire Council) Jamie Day (NWLLS) Michael Hooper (John Holland Rail) Mary Knowles (Water NSW) Don Ramsland (WSC) Cr Beven O'Regan, Cr Maxine Booby (NSC) Cr Col Stewart (LPSC) Anna Cronin (DPI Lands) Steve Geddes (TRC) Saul Standerwick (GwySC) Penny Fraser (TRLA) David Quince, Lee Amidy (GUNSC) Bruce Muggleton, Ben Sharpham (ARTC) Cr James Treloar (TRC), Peter Coterill (NSC) Mary Knowles (Water NSW) Warren Faulkner, Matt Hellyar (RMS) Conan Rossler (NSW Forestry Corp)
Purpose	Development of Draft Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan

Review and update Actions Carried Forward - Nil

Agenda Item #1:	Welcome & Introductions
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	Summary of discussion : Meeting opened 10:10am Acknowledgement of Country, Apologies, Housekeeping & Introductions.
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	As Chair Conrad Bolton was a late apology Vice chair Peter Scott took the Chair. Introductions were made around the room by each delegate. Correspondence received: Nil
Agenda Item #2:	Previous Minutes
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	Summary of discussion : Opportunity was provided for questions and clarification.
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	The previous minutes are a true and accurate record Moved: Heather Apps (NEWA) Seconded: Clare Felton-Taylor (NSC)
Agenda Item #3:	Business arising
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	Summary of discussion : 1. Members stated that they require greater clarification around delineation and responsibilities for roadside weed control between RMS, DPI Crown lands and Local Government. 2. Dave Wurst (OEH NPWS) questioned whether the NSW Forestry Corporation has been invited to attend meetings.
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	Main points included; 1. PD stated that RMS representatives were apologies for this meeting. 2. Request that RMS representative with appropriate authority attend next meeting – PD to follow up 3. PD stated that Conan Rossler (NSW Forestry Corp) and Mary Knowles

	(Water NSW) were apologies for this meeting - PD to follow up
Agenda Item #4:	State Weed Committee
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	Summary of discussion : Phil Blackmore provided an update on the status of the State Weed Committee and the General Biosecurity Duty.
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	Cross Regional team is preparing a working paper focusing on technical representation rather than political reps. Key points will include; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assessment of weeds through updated Weed Risk Management System 2. Biosecurity threat decisions 3. Program links with other mandatory plans
Agenda Item #5:	Hudson Pear Taskforce
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>Peter Dawson provided an overview of current Hudson Pear control programs</p> <p>A Hudson Pear Task Force meeting was held on Thursday 29th October, 2016 at Lightning Ridge, which Matthew Davidson, Peter Dawson and Claire Bergin attended.</p> <p>This meeting included updates from other stakeholders on current control work (CMCC, GGSMA, LRMA and Crown Lands – Western), biological control investigations (NSW DPI and Biosecurity Queensland) and the Hudson pear risk and strategic analysis final report (Ken Harrison), as well as on the status of North West Local Land Services funding and Regional Weeds Committees (Peter Dawson)</p> <p>An outcome of this meeting was that a sub-committee, comprising independent Chair Geoff Wise, CMCC General Manager, Don Ramsland, and Peter Dawson, was to meet and prepare a brief for the next meeting regarding the future composition and role of this group.</p> <p>North West Local Land Services contracts for strategic control of Hudson pear (2014-15 Financial Year, with work continuing in 2015-16 Financial Year):</p> <p>Hudson pear control work has continued, through the existing contracts mentioned in the last update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •\$29,500 to Castlereagh Macquarie County Council (CMCC) for spraying follow-up spraying over identified priority areas (Cumborah, Lightning Ridge and Coocoran Lake areas); •\$25,000 to Glengarry Grawin Sheeppark Miners Association (GGSMA) for spraying incl. follow-up spraying over identified priority area (Grawin Glengarry opalfields area) •\$25,000 to Lightning Ridge Miners Association (LRMA) for spraying incl. follow-up spraying over identified priority area/s (Lightning Ridge opalfields area). <p>2.The Green Army project – Preserving Narran Lake through strategic Hudson pear control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Approximately \$30,000-\$40,000 NLP funding has been invested by North West Local Land Services in the project, for chemical to be used by the Green Army for Hudson pear control.

	<p>Biological Control update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •the first biotype of the cochineal scale insect, <i>Dactylopius tomentosus</i>, which testing showed is effective on boxing glove or coral cactus (<i>Cylindropuntia fulgida</i> var. <i>mamillata</i>) but not Hudson pear, will be first released at Longreach in late March, 2016 following permission being granted. •Dr Andrew McConnachie (DPI Orange) will attend the release and collect some of the agent to breed up stock on <i>C. fulgida</i> material from Hebel for release in northern NSW, possibly in May. The next group of four biotypes, which includes the biotype effective on Hudson pear from the Grawin Glengarry area and the biotype effective on Hudson pear from Lightning Ridge, may be released over the summer of 2016/2017 if everything goes to plan (currently the application for permission to release the four biotypes is being finalised for submission and it is hoped that the first biotype being approved already will help with this approval process). •It is important that the right biotype only is used on the right target cactus species/ population <p>The next Hudson Pear Task Force meeting is Wednesday 9th March, 2016 at Lightning Ridge which will follow the next NWRWC meeting on the 8th</p>
<p>Agenda Item #6:</p>	<p>Regional Roundup - current activities / issues</p>
<p>Discussion /Options / Points Raised:</p>	<p>Summary of discussion : Updates from each member org on current programs (5 min each)</p>
<p>Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation</p>	<p>As mentioned at meeting 1 NWRWC members reiterated that they would like to see NWLLS TSR staff attend meetings. At a minimum the Senior TSR Ranger for the district where the meeting is being held should attend. This would greatly improve communications and working relationships.</p> <p>Peter Scott (LPSC) raised concern about wild deer populations around the Liverpool ranges and plains as well as Indian Miners acting as weed vectors across the landscape and asked what was being done to acknowledge this issue. Peter Dawson responded that the Natural Resources Commission NRC was currently conducting a review into Pest Animal Management across NSW and that Deer in particular had come under the microscope for greater scrutiny as a Key Emerging Pest animal species.</p> <p>Shane Green and Jamie Day (NWLLS) continue to act as conduits between NWRWC and the Community Advisory Groups to ensure communication and information is improved.</p> <p>TSR Weed control programs- Recent & Current activity Gerard O'Connor Team Leader Land Services Unit Travelling Stock Reserves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harrisia cactus control Boggabilla area (Wearne to merawah Boonal to merawah completed Merawah to Boggabilla in progress \$120g thus far • Sandy camp to Highway on Boori loop underway 10K thus far • Green cestrum control on Maules creek TSR's completed \$6K • Tiger Pear and mother of millions control - Tantaranna reserve \$4k • African Box thorn control abandoned at Gurley and Moree due to plant stress <p>Richard Chamen – NSW Farmers are committed to work with Regional Weed Committees as well as changes to the Biodiversity Act and Native vegetation</p>

	<p>legislation.</p> <p>Matt D – stated that NWLLS is still waiting on final Codes of Practice for Native Veg management under the new legislation and that ongoing communication will be critical. Matt also asked the committee about their experiences with Mimosa control methods. Matt also stated that there is need for stronger commitment from Water NSW, RMS and NSW Forestry Corp to attend meetings.</p> <p>Phill B – There is a balance of New Incursion funding available through NSW DPI which <u>may</u> be available for use on Key Emerging species. Suggest that Weeds Officers consider applying for additional funds for ongoing Alligator weed program.</p> <p>Dave Wurst – Current OEH NPWS Annual Pest weeds & Animals strategies are up for their 5 year review. Saving Our Species funding programs are always looking for collaborators. On-ground programs are slowing down due to adverse seasonal conditions and focus on back burning operations through cooler months.</p> <p>John Unwin – Parkinsonia has once again been discovered in the Walgett Shire, Mesquite has been found and treated near Carinda which is a major concern for the Macquarie marshes. Cacti species are a daily concern with Harrisia incursions now down as far as Gilgandra. Major concern over the new proposed inland rail corridor.</p> <p>Clair FT – Fish Habitat grant, mapping the shire for mimosa, Coolatai containment lines, Alligator Weed inspections along Namoi river, Honey locust control program along Namoi river.</p> <p>Mike W – Dry seasonal conditions are impacting on StJW, Sweet briar. Targeting Mimosa across Liverpool plains. Concern over railways particularly in relation to access to conduct inspections. Peel & Namoi Alligator weed program, TSA rapid response program is showing some great results.</p> <p>Tony W – Alligator weed inspection program for the Peel and Namoi rivers is going well with Weeds Officers from Castlereagh Macquarie County Council joining the search. This was a great cooperative program providing education and exposure to Alligator weed for adjoining shires.</p> <p>Steve K – Parthenium incursions are increasing along with Parkinsonia outbreaks however all are under control and strictly monitored.</p> <p>Ian S – Stakeholder meeting for Water Hyacinth to secure on-going funding to work in with environmental flows for Gwydir wetlands. Don McKenzie working with MPSC, strong focus on Harrisia and continuing work on Slaughter House creek Green Cestrum programs.</p> <p>Matt F – Matt is keen to secure update publications and Fact sheets for Hudson Pear etc for Essential Energy field staff Tool Box meetings.</p> <p>Andrew W – Whitehave Coal is coordinating weed control with contractors across mine sites and off –set areas. Strong commitment towards vehicle hygiene – Come Clean. Go Clean.</p>
Agenda Item #7:	WAP 2015/20
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>Summary of discussion :</p> <p>Heather Apps (NEWA) provided an update on WAP 2015 – 2020 programs and funding allocations.</p>

<p>Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation</p>	<p>NEWA as lead agency for WAP 2015-20 is providing assistance to NWRWC in preparation of draft Regional Weed Plans and Communication Plans.</p> <p>Mandatory WAP actions and documents will require review BIS reporting requirements and mapping standards have been updated and circulated to all Weeds Officers All LCA's must be providing compliant data by 5th August 2016</p> <p>There is still concern that some LCAs do not have the resources and ability to meet this requirement</p>
<p>Agenda Item #8:</p>	<p>Draft Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan</p>
<p>Discussion /Options / Points Raised:</p>	<p>Overview of Draft Plan & Existing Regional Weed Plans</p>
<p>Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation</p>	<p>Heather Apps was thanked by the committee for her efforts in pulling together the draft documents for review. It is acknowledged that this is a moving feast with much information still not available from NSW DPI such as the Weeds Risk Assessment and supplementary information on the Biosecurity Act.</p> <p>All committee members were asked to review the Draft North West Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan and send all comments back to Heather Apps and Peter Dawson prior to 27th May.</p>
<p>Agenda Item #9:</p>	<p>Confirm actions/agreements</p>
<p>Discussion /Options / Points Raised:</p>	<p>Summary of discussion :</p>
<p>Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All committee members to review the Draft North West Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan. 2. Request that RMS, Water NSW and NSW Forestry Corp representatives with appropriate authority attend future meetings. 3. Senior NWLLS TSR Rangers to attend next meeting. 4. Fact sheets for Hudson Pear etc for Essential Energy staff
<p>Agenda Item #10:</p>	<p>Future Agenda items</p>
<p>Discussion /Options / Points Raised:</p>	<p>Summary of discussion : Confirm meeting dates and location for next meeting</p>
<p>Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation</p>	<p>Actions:</p> <p>Next meeting will be Wednesday 8th June Lightning Ridge District Bowling Club 9.30 for 10am start John Murray Function Room</p> <p>Meeting will be followed by field trip around Lightning Ridge to view Hudson Pear control works</p>

Meeting closed at 2.30 pm	