

## North West Regional Weed Committee - Meeting # 3

### Communication and Action Plan (Minutes)

Wed June 8 2016

Lightning Ridge Bowling Club.

Attendees	Matt Davidson, Peter Dawson (NWLLS), John Unwin (CMCC) Dave Wurst (OEH NPWS) Tony Woods, Lee Amidy (GUNSC), Peter Scott, Mike Whitney (LPSC) Clare Felton-Taylor (NSC) Heather Apps, Wayne Deer (NEWA), Phil Blackmore (NSW DPI) Cr Peter Pankhurst, Stephen Kneller (GwySC), Ian Schwartz (Moree Plains Shire Council) Steve Geddes, Mal Stein (TRC) Wayne Newton (NSWF) Lis Arundell (Macquarie and Lachlan Valley Weeds Advisory Committee)
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) Saul Standerwick (GwySC) Penny Fraser (TRLA) David Quince, (GUNSC) Bruce Muggleton, Ben Sharpham (ARTC) Cr James Treloar (TRC), Peter Coterill (NSC) Warren Faulkner, Matt Hellyar (RMS) Conan Rossler (NSW Forestry Corp) Matthew Fletcher (Ess En) Richard Chamen (NSWF) Andrew Wright (White Haven) Don McKenzie (Moree Plains Shire Council)
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 an apology Vice chair Peter Scott took the Chair. Introductions were made around the room by each delegate.  <b>Correspondence received:</b> Cr Maxine Booby (NSC) concerned about Mimosa bush growing at Wee Waa along the Pilliga Rd, can something be done about it before it gets out of hand. <b>Action:</b> Clare Felton-Taylor (NSC) to contact Cr Booby and discuss options.  Tanya Slack-Smith, NSW DPI- Lands, West Region Would like to see Hudson Pear identified in the regional strategic Weeds plan list as it is a huge risk to surrounding significant water resources including the Narran Lake RAMSAR wetland and the Barwon-Darling river system. Any projects being conducted on Crown Land under our management will need to be negotiated with us, and consent arranged prior to any activities taking place.
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: Ian Schwartz Seconded: Wayne Deer

Agenda Item #3:	Business arising
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>Summary of discussion :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clare Felton-Taylor (NSC): RMS submission for weed control for Mother of Millions along Newell Hwy at Narrabri was successful. Clarification to be sought from RMS on process to secure funds for on-going annual control programs.</li> <li>2. No communication has been received from Conan Rossler, NSW Forestry Corporation or Mary Knowles Water NSW.</li> <li>3. No communication has been received from Scott Charlton, Manager Invasive Species Programs at NSW DPI. Proposed that a formal invitation be sent to Scott Charlton to attend the next meeting.</li> <li>4. New Incursion Funding – applications were put forward by Moree Plains and Gunnedah Shire Councils for additional funds for containment and where possible, eradication of Water Hyacinth and Alligator Weed.</li> <li>5. Hudson Pear Task Force will meet the following day after this meeting.</li> </ol>
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	<p>Main points included;</p> <p>Wayne Newton NSW Farmers, expressed concern that Hudson pear infestations were getting worse in some areas and that a concerted eradication program is urgently required to prevent it from spreading into the Narran Lake and Barwon Darling river system. There is also a real threat that unmanaged infestations will render some properties unviable into the future.</p> <p>John Unwin CMCC, commented that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a need to focus on established containment lines with eradication of out-layers on private property. Most complaints received by CMCC regarding HP come from town residents around Lightning Ridge rather than private land holders.</li> <li>• Current resources to conduct inspections are limited and further resource allocations need to be looked at to assist with coordinated inspect and control programs.</li> </ul> <p>Matt Davidson NWLLS stated that North West Local Land Services is currently investigating options to implement a 5 year integrated management program which will focus on;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Delineation surveys to re-establishing containment lines</li> <li>2. Localised eradication of outliers</li> <li>3. Allocated \$75,000 and access to quick spray units to assist with chemical control programs in priority areas with in-kind contributions from participating landholders.</li> <li>4. Additional resources and partnerships will continue to be investigated.</li> </ol> <p>Ian Schwartz MPSC commented on the success of current North West and former NIWC Rapid Response teams implementing control programs for Tropical Soda Apple, Alligator weed and Green Cestrum. This was supported by Wayne Deer NEWA.</p> <p>Peter Scott, Liverpool Plains SC stated that Local Government was becoming increasingly worried about Weeds Officers being involved in Rapid Response programs due to time away from local priorities, risk of WHS and potential insurance claims against them and the high cost of these activities of which they feel they receive very little value in return.</p>

	<p>It was agreed around the room that Rapid Response programs are very resource hungry but this is well justified given the return on investment in eradicating key emerging invasive species. This point may well be lost on some Local Government directors and administrators.</p> <p>This once again underpins the need for adequate contingency funding to be continually available from all levels of government.</p> <p>Cr Peter Pankhurst requested a copy of updated maps of Hudson pear distribution and density.</p> <p>Action: Peter Dawson NWLLS to follow up.</p>
<b>Agenda Item #4:</b>	<b>State Weed Committee</b>
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>Summary of discussion :</p> <p>Phil Blackmore provided an update on the status of the State Weed Committee and the General Biosecurity Duty.</p>
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	<p>The State Weed Committee has been established with the responsibility to ensure coordinated and strategic weed management across NSW.</p> <p>The makeup of the State Weeds Committee is as follows;</p> <p>Reg Kidd – Appointed Chair Brett Milners – LLS Chris Dewhurst – WOA Pete Turner – OEH Nick Skeleton – NCC Sonja Cameron – NGINA Phyllis Miller – LGNSW Andrew Sanger - DPI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Commencement of the Biosecurity Act 2015 is due on March 1 2017</li> <li>• Public consultation of draft Regulation and Regulatory Impact Statement is currently underway with finalise regulation, policies and procedures due early 2017.</li> </ul> <p>Peter Scott asked for further details including specific steps and timelines for the transition from the current Noxious Weeds Act to the Biosecurity Act.</p> <p>Matt Davidson commented that the Local Land Services Executive Support Unit (ESU) Cross Regional Team is currently working with NSW DPI on procedural guidelines and clarification of the language and interpretations of the Biosecurity Act particularly in relation to Weeds Officers powers and duties under the Act.</p>
<b>Agenda Item #5:</b>	<b>NW WAP 2015-20</b>
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>Heather Apps (NEWA) provided an update on WAP 2015 – 2020 programs and funding allocations.</p> <p>Lis Arundell gave an overview of the approach MVWAC are taking in the development of the Central Tablelands, Central West and Western Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans.</p>
<b>Agenda Item #6:</b>	<b>NW Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan</b>
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>Summary of discussion: Review comments / feedback</p> <p>Wayne Deer, NEWA commented on the latest iteration of supplementary supporting documents and asked if these were the final guidelines?</p>

	<p>Matt D asked for further detail on how the overall process for finalising the RSWMP will run and pointed out that we need clarification from NSW DPI to explain how the Biosecurity Act will be implemented on-ground for both Weeds Officers and Local Land Services staff. Reiterated that Scott Charlton be invited to the next NWRWC meeting at Narrabri in September.</p> <p>Wayne Newton NSW Farmers asked for the legal definition of the term Landholder, Phill Blackmore responded that under the current Noxious Weeds Act 1993</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An occupier of land (other than a public authority or a local control authority) must control noxious weeds on the land, as required under the control category or categories specified in relation to the weeds concerned.</li> <li>• This includes any Owner, Occupier or Controller of land</li> </ul>
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	<p>Discussion was held around establishing Control Zones for specific priority weeds including Common boundaries between LCAs / Control zones, Establishing or re-defining containment lines and subsequent Control obligations for different land classes / LCAs</p> <p>Split declarations should still be possible across LCAs based on geographic boundaries including Roads, Rail lines, Rivers, Mountain ranges, Catchment or sub-catchment boundaries. Areas should be easily defined and spatially represented.</p> <p>John Unwin raised concern about the continuing spread of <i>Harrisia</i> cacti with new incursions becoming common outside of early containment lines.</p> <p>Matt D raised the issue of introduced sub-tropical pasture species as key threatening processes</p> <p>Concern was once again raised regarding on-line purchasing of illegal plant species and also increasing number of landholders purchasing generic chemicals with nil or limited quality control auditing. The question is who within the Federal government agencies such as Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service or Biosecurity Australia is screening Amazon, Gum tree and EBay for these biosecurity risks. Is E commerce the new High Risk Pathway?</p>
<b>Agenda Item #7:</b>	<b>Weeds Risk Assessment</b>
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	Weeds Risk Assessment workshop is set down for Tuesday June 28 at NSW DPI, Calala. All weeds Officers and those with expertise are asked to attend.
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	Heather Apps (NEWA) asked all members to review the weeds list handed out and forward any additions or updates back to her by Monday June 20
<b>Agenda Item #8:</b>	<b>Future Agenda items</b>
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	Summary of discussion : Confirm meeting dates and location for next meeting TBC
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	Actions: Next meeting will be Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September Narrabri District Bowling Club 9.30 for 10am start
<b>Meeting closed at 12:55 pm</b>	