

## North West Regional Weed Committee - Meeting # 4

### Communication and Action Plan (Minutes)

Wed September 7 2016

Narrabri Bowling Club

Attendees	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(NEWA), Phil Blackmore (NSW DPI) Stephen Kneller, Scott McLachlan (GwySC), Ian Schwartz (Moree Plains Shire Council) Jamie Day (NWLLS) Steve Geddes, Mal Stein (TRC) James Browning (NEWA) Vicky Wong (DPI Lands) Cr Maxine Booby (NSC) Anna Cronin (DPI Lands) Robert Madden (NSW Forestry Corp) Richard Chamen (NSWF) Andrew Wright (White Haven) Don McKenzie (Moree Plains Shire Council) Marcela Lopez (NSC)
Apologies	Conrad Bolton (Chair) Ken Flower (NWLLS) Matt Davidson (NWLLS) Wayne Deer (NEWA), James Hutchinson-Smith Acting GM NWLLS, Cr Brendon Munn (Moree Plains Shire Council) Michael Hooper (John Holland Rail) Mary Knowles (Water NSW) Don Ramsland (WSC) Cr Beven O'Regan, Saul Standerwick (GwySC) Penny Fraser (TRLA) David Quince, (GUNSC) Bruce Muggleton, Ben Sharpham (ARTC) Cr James Treloar (TRC) Warren Faulkner, Matt Hellyar (RMS) Conan Rossler (NSW Forestry Corp) Matthew Fletcher (Ess En) Shane Green (NWLLS) Cr Peter Pankhurst(GwySC) Nathan Stephenson (Goondiwindi Regional Council)
Purpose	Development NW 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 Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country by Jamie Day NWLLS, Apologies, Housekeeping & Introductions.
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	As Conrad Bolton was an apology Vice Chair Mr Peter Scott (LPSC) agreed to chair the meeting. <b>Correspondence received:</b> Peter Scott, Liverpool Plains Shire Council. Biosecurity Newsletter. John Unwin commented that he supported Peter Scott's letter and shared some similar concerns around the issues raised within. Richard Chamen stated that he had forwarded Peter Scott's letter on to members of NSW Farmers for consideration. <b>Action:</b> Both items were forwarded to the committee prior to the meeting for consideration. No further action
Agenda Item #2:	Previous Minutes
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	Summary of discussion : Opportunity was provided for questions and clarification.
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	Peter Scott made mention that he felt that the minutes did not truly represent the sentiment around the room regarding heated discussions between Local control authority representatives and NSW DPI in relation to specific steps and timelines required for the transition from the current Noxious Weeds Act to the Biosecurity Act. In particular how the Biosecurity Act will be implemented on-ground by Local Control Authorities. Peter Dawson responded that he felt this issue was covered under agenda items #4 – 6 of the previous minutes.

	<p>The previous minutes are a true and accurate record  Moved: Clare Felton-Taylor  Seconded: Ian Schwartz</p>
<b>Agenda Item #3:</b>	<b>Weeds Risk Assessment</b>
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>Summary of discussion :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Weeds Risk Assessment workshop was conducted on Tuesday June 28 at NSW DPI, Calala. All weeds Officers and those with expertise attended.</li> <li>2. Phil presented an updated overview of the Biosecurity Act and General Biosecurity Duty (GBD) focusing on key messages in relation to Prevention, Elimination and Minimisation. Another important key message is the terminology around a potential defence under the Act if proposed management actions are “<i>not reasonably practicable</i>” and therefore cannot be complied with. Reasonably practicable means doing what is reasonably able to be done. If you cannot fully eliminate or minimise the risk, you must implement alternative controls to manage the risk.</li> <li>3. Heather Apps distributed copies of the draft schedule 4 priority weeds list for review.</li> </ol>
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	<p>After review it was agreed the risk assessment for Tiger pear was incorrect and needed to be conducted again to better reflect its true status at the landscape level.</p> <p>James Browning and Heather Apps(NEWA) also showed the committee through a working example of the Weed Risk Assessment for Parthenium Vs African Boxthorn</p> <p>This was completed and was a good exercise for all committee members to go through to broaden their individual knowledge of the Risk assessment process.</p>
<b>Agenda Item #4:</b>	<b>Weed Management Priority Categories</b>
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	Review allocation of Management Categories for schedule 4 priority weeds
<b>Agenda Item #5:</b>	<b>NW Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan</b>
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>For the benefit of all members the following overview was discussed;</p> <p>Local Land Services (LLS) is responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- forming the statutory regional weed committees (RWCs) and ensuring they function appropriately</li> <li>- producing and co-ordinating the delivery of RSWMPs.</li> <li>- facilitating and coordinating regional strategic weed planning</li> <li>- assisting with education and community outreach programs.</li> </ul> <p>LLS Boards are responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- preparation and lodgement of the RSWMP’s with the Minister as RSWMPs are a local strategic plan under Section 46(1) of the LLS Act 2013.</li> </ul>

	<p>LLS regions are responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- operational delivery of LLS responsibilities under the weed reforms (above)</li> <li>- ensuring RSWMPs are ready for RWC and LLS Board approval in a timely manner and that the RSWMP meets both RWC and LLS Board requirements.</li> </ul>	
<p>Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation</p>	Communication to LLS Board and RWC on agreed process	End September 2016
	SWC Technical subcommittee review of the regulatory component, weed categorisation and management responses for each RSWMP	September through December to cover all 11 plans.
	Compilation and editing of the RSWMP for the region	November 2016
	Regions to ensure plans are ready for RWC and LLS approval in a timely manner and ensure all necessary meetings and resourcing are scheduled. Regions must ensure the RSWMP meets both LLS Board and RWC requirements in a timely manner to avoid conflicts during January.	Early December 2016
	RWC review and consideration of draft RSWMP against checklist	December 2016
	RWC approval as a recommendation to the LLS Board that the RSWMP is ready for exhibition, and that a review against the checklist has been done and stakeholders understand their obligations per section 50(4) of the Act.	Early to mid-January 2017
	LLS Board approval for draft RSWMP to go to public consultation.	Mid-January 2017
	State quality control check for draft plans and completed regional checklists. <i>Advice provided to the regions.</i>	January 2017
	Public notice of plan preparation and public exhibition per Section 48 of the LLS Act (and as required by the Regulations or Minister).	February 2017
<b>Agenda Item #6:</b>	<b>NW WAP 2015-20</b>	
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	Heather Apps (NEWA) provided an update on WAP 2015 – 2020 programs and funding allocations including agreement to update the North West Weeds Handbook.	

Agenda Item #7:	General business
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Ian Schwartz highlighted a problem with MPSC spray vehicles being stood down due to exceeding vehicle GVM when fully loaded with tank mixes. This was raised as a warning to all members involved in undertaking spray operations. Robb Madden expressed similar issues with Forestry vehicles and on-going WHS negotiations and obligations between staff and supervisors in resourcing weed control activities.</li> <li>2 Lee Amidy thanked all members who participated and assisted with the Weeds display at Ag Quip this year. Good to have the Regional weeds reps on the Local Land Services stand.</li> <li>3 Steve Geddes and Mal Stein asked if any other LCAs held concerns around legalities of uploading property information to BIS. The consensus around the room is that LCA Officers are undertaking the uploading of this data as a requirement of their core regulatory functions under the current Noxious Weeds and Biosecurity Act.</li> <li>4 Mike Whitney voiced concern that the official elected NWRWC chair has not attended any meetings since inception. This concern was echoed around the room.  <b>Action</b> – Peter D &amp; Matt D to seek commitment from current Chair to attend all future meetings.</li> <li>5 No TSR management representation on the committee or at meetings is a concern with some members particularly as they are a key player in the weeds space.  <b>Action</b> - Peter D &amp; Matt D to seek commitment from NWLLS TSR Team Leader to either attend in person or nominate TSR Unit representatives to attend all future meetings.</li> </ol>
Agenda Item #8:	Future Agenda items
Discussion /Options / Points Raised:	<p>Review Terms of Reference adopted in relation to Senior Executive member attendance in light of concerns raised about current Chair attendance to date.</p> <p>Confirm meeting dates and location for next meeting- Out of session meeting may be required mid-November for technical review of Schedule 4 priority listings depending on feedback from SWC technical committee prior to next meeting.</p>
Decision/ agreement/ action/ Recommendation	<p>Actions: Next meeting will be Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December Level 3 Conference room, Noel Park House Tamworth 9.30 for 10am start</p>
<b>Meeting closed at 13:55 pm</b>	