

SYDNEY CENTRAL REGIONAL WEEDS SUB-COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 15th September 2011 at Randwick Council Sustainability Centre

Attendance:

Jeff Hill	Woollahra Council
Matt Leary	Randwick Council
Alex Mackenzie	Strathfield Council
Deborah Law	Waverley Council
Rob Stevenson	City of Canada Bay
Paul Ibbetson	NPWS Metro North East region
Mel Hall	NPWS Metro North East region
Lana McGee	Canterbury & Rockdale Councils
Assaad Baheer	Sydney Water
Rosanna Luca	Executive Officer, Sydney Weeds Committee

Apologies:

Rudi Adlmayer	Woollahra Council
Omar Seychell	Department of Defence
Andrew Jack	Sydney Olympic Park Authority
Peter Semple	Railcorp
Peter Goss	Canterbury Council
Jenna Hore	Sydney Metropolitan CMA
Shelly Slater	GIS Officer, Sydney Weeds Committee

Welcome

Jeff Hill (Chair) declared the meeting open. No pecuniary interests were declared.

High Risk Pathways & Hot spots in the region

The discussion continued (from last meeting) about the highest priority locations for weed spread within the region.

ACTION: Rosanna Luca & Shelly Slater to collate the new information, and add to the GIS layer.

Noxious Weed Control Order 28 - update

- Rosanna Luca and two Sydney Weeds Committee Board Members met with a representative from DPI to clarify the implications of the proposed new changes.
- The only legally enforceable documentation is the Noxious Weed Act itself, the associated letters that can be issued and the new control category wording declared noxious weeds (changes to the wording will be in Order 28).
- It is understood that Class 4 Plans (in their current format) are no longer required and are not legally enforceable documents. Councils should still have their own adopted policies for how Class 4 weeds are to be managed within their LGA, but an individual Class 4 plan for each weed is not needed. The council policy can also be used to inform private landholders on controlling the weed/s in their LGA.

ACTIONS: Jeff Hill to seek further clarification from DPI about how to enforce the Act, without the use of Class 4 plans.

Rosanna Luca to place further information and updates on the Sydney Weeds members webpage, and collate feedback received for a Sydney region submission to DPI.

(Order 28 .. continued) The proposed new and changed declarations for Class 3 & 4 weeds in the Sydney Region were not included in Order 28. DPI staff are still finalizing these for the whole State, and it is expected that they will be changed officially in 2012.

New Incursions found in the region

Alex Mackenzie found a 30m² patch of a species of Wild Onion, growing on road side along Centenary Drive. It has been identified as *Asphodelus fistulosus*, which is a problem in Victoria. Centenary Drive is an RTA road, it is unclear yet who will do the weed control.

ACTIONS:

Rosanna Luca to circulate the Identification information with the Minutes, and put on Sydney Weeds website. Matt Leary & Rob Stevenson to circulate details of their contacts in RTA. **Alex Mackenzie** to provide an update on the control of this new incursion, at the next meeting.

Sub-Committee meetings from 2012

It was agreed by all to now have a minimum of two sub-committee meetings each year, to be held in March & September. In place of the sub-committee meetings, new Project Teams are being formed with specific tasks and outcomes to be achieved.

Project Teams

It was agreed by all to have people participate on the new Project Teams being formed to achieve some of the strategic tasks outlined in the Sydney Region Weed Action Program. So far, the following people offered to be involved:

- Rob Stevenson – Education Team/ High Risk Pathways Team (if needed)
- Lana McGee - Education Team
- Deborah Law - Education Team
- Alex Mackenzie – Weed Risk Assessment Team
- Mel Hall – High Risk Pathways/New Incursions Team
- Paul Ibbetson (back up for Mel Hall if unavailable)
- Matt Leary & Jeff Hill are both SWC Board Members.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes from the meeting of 9th June 2011 were accepted by Paul Ibbetson. Seconded by Matt Leary.

Roundtable sharing

Assad Baheer has worked on a weed management funding model for aquatics. He is now working on a model to cost terrestrial weed management, which could be shared with councils and other agencies.

ACTION: Jeff Hill to discuss this with the Sydney Weeds Committee Board.

Mel Hall is preparing a new 4 year pest management strategy for the NPWS Metro North East region. The strategy addresses pest fauna and pathogens as well as weeds, and focuses on the threats and protection of most significant assets in the region. The strategy will specifically prioritise areas.

ACTION: Mel Hall to circulate information about the draft strategy and the opportunity to provide comment.

Next meeting date: Thursday 8th March 2012. Host: Strathfield Council (tbc)