

SYDNEY NORTH REGIONAL WEEDS SUB-COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 14th March 2012 at Lane Cove National Park

Attendance:

Rob Gleeson	Ku-ring-gai Council
Matthew Watts	Lane Cove Council
Jacqui Vollmer	Hunters Hill Council
Sean Granger	Manly Council
Jillian Macintyre	Warringah Council
James Brisebois	Warringah Council
Brendan Smith	Warringah Council
Steven Smith	Mosman Council
Meg Covey	Willoughby Council
Anthony Newling	Hornsby Council
Mel Hall	NPWS Metro North East region
Matt Springall	NPWS Metro North East region
Gith Strid-Nwulaekwe	City of Ryde
Christine Turner	Sydney Water
Lavinia Schofield	Pittwater Council
David Cleary	Railcorp
Rosanna Luca	SWC Executive Officer

Apologies:

Cameron Bennell	Willoughby Council
Susan Westcott	Sydney Water
Kerry Heatley	Lane Cove Council
Gareth Debney	North Sydney Council
Dominic Edmonds	Ku-ring-gai Council

Welcome

Jillian Macintyre (Chair) opened the meeting at 10.00am.

No pecuniary interests were declared.

1. Roundtable information sharing

An information sharing session was held to provide updates and information of interest to other officers in the region.

- Bitou Bush Threat Abatement Plan - identifies where Bitou Bush is removed, Asparagus Fern and Cats Claw Creepers are starting to show up.
- NPWS is currently preparing pest management strategies for NPWS in each Region (Metro South East and Metro North West). Committee members are encouraged to review the draft strategies and priority areas of NPWS land.
- The Priority Action Statements (PAS) for threatened fauna species are being reviewed. Threatened plant species will be looked at next year.
- Myrtle Rust shown up in Lane Cove and Mosman LGAs.
- Madeira Vine biocontrol about to be released in Lane Cove National Park (working with Royce Holtkamp from DPI)
- It is a good time to control Pampas Grass – now
- Warringah is doing trials on controlling Pampas Lily of the Valley.
- Ku-ring-gai LGA seeing an increase in St Johns Wort and Patersons Curse
- NPWS is not controlling Coolatai Grass along roadsides anymore. How viable is this? Pittwater is still controlling it and aiming to keep it out of the LGA.
- Sydney Water has just finished a weed management strategy for their priority sites including EECs. This is an internal strategy to guide their grounds maintenance teams.

- A weed management strategy is being developed for the M2 motorway. The City of Ryde has recently been invited to provide input into the strategy. Tussock Paspalum a big issue.

Question: it still needs to be clarified who treats weeds along smaller RTA roads. Council or RTA?

2. New Incursions

Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) growing on rail corridor embankment, in between Wahroonga and Waitara stations (at Myra Road bridge over railway). Information and photos are on the Sydney Weeds website.

ACTION: Rob Gleeson to confirm if this weed is also growing at Turramurra Station.

Heteranthera (Kidney Leaf Mud Plantain)

Two locations in LCNP and in a pond in Blackbutt Creek (Ku-ring-gai LGA). Paul Marynissen from Wyong Council is currently writing a permit for it.

ACTION: Executive Officer to distribute info on Heteranthera, sent by Rob Gleeson.

ACTION: Rob Gleeson and Matt Springall to complete New Incursion report forms, so locations can be recorded onto the SWC GIS layer.

Also need to keep an eye out for local new incursions and weed spread:

- (Pittwater LGA) Glory Lily, could become a big problem in the sand dunes
- Cats Claw Creeper is spreading in Pittwater, LCNP and Manly.

3. Noxious Weeds Act Order 28

(i) Class 4 plans are now not required under the new wording for Class 4 weeds (Order 28). There is some uncertainty among council officers about the best approach to take now for enforcing and education about containing spread of Class 4 weeds. There was some discussion about what councils can do now:

- The strategic content of the existing Class 4 plans is relevant, and simply needs to be reformatted into a noxious weed policy document.
- The Class 4 plans need to be revoked at a Council meeting, and the new weed policy needs to be adopted.

ACTIONS: Executive Officer to:

Send around a template for a Report to Council re: Order 28

(ii) Find out if any other councils have started developing a template for a weed policy, and whether this can be distributed as a template for other councils

4. Update on the review of the Weeds of National Significance (WONS)

Rosanna Luca provided an update on the review, on behalf of Hillary Cherry WONS Co-ordinator, who was unable to attend the meeting.

There are 12 new proposed WONS (the list is awaiting sign off from Federal Minister). It is important that the WONS National Co-ordinators are aware of the distribution of these weeds in each LGA across the Sydney region. This will assist with future grant applications to fund education and control of these WONS.

Other WONS such as Boneseed and Alligator Weed are still important, but are being "phased down" in terms of how much national co-ordination is required from now on. These other WONS have good strategies in place that are now being implemented at the state and regional levels.

ACTIONS: Executive Officer to:

(i) Post a copy of Hillary's presentation on the Sydney Weeds Member's webpage.

(ii) Circulate the information request about which WONS are a concern in each LGA.

5. Weed Action Program grant funding

The SWC Board recently wrote to the Minister for Primary Industries seeking clarification about SWC's authority to allocate WAP funding to organisations other than Local Control Authorities (local councils and county council). SWC President Jonathan Sanders has received a verbal response from John Tracey in the Department of Primary Industries, indicating DPI's support of SWC to allocate the funds to lands of all tenures (councils, NPWS etc), so long as the funds are being used to implement the Invasive Species Plan. A written response to the Board's letter has not been received to date from the Minister or DPI.

Jillian Macintyre also tabled a letter to Sydney Weeds Committee from the Local Government and Shires Association. The LGSA had a role in the development of the new WAP funding program, and aimed to ensure that the funding is primarily for local control authorities.

There was some discussion about how the WAP funding is allocated across Sydney Region:

- NPWS region in Sydney North has accessed these grant funds from DPI since 1995
- NPWS lands are important corridors throughout Sydney, linked with parcels of council land
- Main focus of NPWS is now on protecting EECs assets such as STIF, BGHF and Duffys Forest (the communities that are specific to the Sydney region). Protecting these communities is the core responsibility of NPWS, not just weed management.
- Part-funded or shared noxious weed officers positions among councils are also important. The WAP is good seed funding for these staff positions.

Comments to feed back to the SWC Board:

- The SWC Board needs to set clear priorities for allocation of the funding
- The Sydney North committee indicated that they wish to discuss amongst themselves how the funding should be allocated each of their regions, according to the funding criteria. This could be done via a separate planning meeting scheduled for around July.
- Support for continued WAP funding allocation to NPWS.

6. Follow up from Previous Meeting

The minutes from the Sydney North meeting on 21st September 2011 were accepted by Rob Gleeson. Seconded by Jillian Macintyre.

Actions from both meetings have been completed. No other matters arising.

7. Nomination of Sydney Weeds Committee Board Members

Jillian Macintyre and Steven Smith were elected as Board Members. Written nominations and signatures of acceptance were received for both Board positions.

8. General Business None

9. Next Meetings and hosts

Wednesday 5th September 2012 ~ to be hosted by Warringah Council

March 2013 ~ to be hosted by Willoughby Council

Dates & venues TBC

Meeting closed at 1.30pm.