

SYDNEY NORTH REGIONAL WEEDS SUB-COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 21st September 2011 at Lane Cove National Park

Attendance:

Rob Gleeson	Ku-ring-gai Council
Steph Franc	Ku-ring-gai Council
Adam Smith	City of Ryde
Andrew Scott	North Sydney Council
Matthew Watts	Lane Cove Council
Jacqui Vollmer	Hunters Hill Council
Jean-Paul Dubois	Manly Council
Steven Smith	Mosman Council
Cameron Bennell	Willoughby City Council
Mel Hall	NPWS Metro North East region
Matt Springall	NPWS Metro North East region (LCNP)
Jess Relton	NPWS Metro North East region
Gith Strid-Nwulaekwe	City of Ryde
Jillian Macintyre	Warringah Shire Council
Rosanna Luca	Executive Officer, Sydney Weeds Committee

Apologies:

James Brisebois	Warringah Shire Council
Lavinia Schofield	Pittwater Council
Shelly Slater	Sydney Weeds Committee GIS Officer
Anthony Newling	Hornsby Shire Council
Mark Hood	Hornsby Shire Council
Susan Westcott	Sydney Water
Kerry Heatley	Lane Cove Council

Meeting Open

Jillian Macintyre (Chair) opened the meeting. 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.

Roundtable information sharing

Cameron, Jill and Mel attended the NSW Weeds Conference. More of an urban perspective this time and recognition of the Sydney Region Weeds Action Program. It was agreed to encourage more Sydney region weeds officers to attend next time, and submit paper from Sydney Weeds Committee.

ACTIONS: Rosanna Luca, noted for 2013 Conference. Jill Macintyre to give Rosanna a copy of Conference proceedings for Sydney Weeds Member's webpage.

Gith mentioned the EEC mapping by Office of Environment and Heritage (previously DECCW). Ground truthing is being undertaken by many councils. This has been challenging as some EECs are so similar.

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. Mel thanked all who attended the consultation workshop.

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.

There is a preference for the control category wording to be like it was originally, ie. that the weed is to be “controlled...” Saying that the weed is to be “managed” is vague and too open to interpretation.

ACTION: Rosanna Luca to place information updates on the Sydney Weeds member’s webpage, and collate the comments made for a Sydney Region submission to DPI on the proposed Order 28

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

Information was circulated about a small patch of a species of Wild Onion, growing on road side along Centenary Drive (Alex Mackenzie, Strathfield Council). It has been identified as *Asphodelus fistulosus*, which is a problem in Victoria. Centenary Drive is an RTA road, it is unclear through who will do the weed control.

ACTION: Rosanna Luca to put this information on the Sydney Weeds website.

Apple of Sodom (*Solanum linnaeanum*) has been found by NPWS Metro North Region staff at a few sites. Very similar to Tropical Soda Apple (a NSW Weed Alert).

ACTION: Mel Hall to give Rosanna details of the where the plants were found.

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:

Jacqui Vollmer – Weed Risk Assessment Team
Rob Gleeson – New Incursions Team (may also contribute ideas to Education Team)
Matt Springall - New Incursions Team
Cameron Bennell – Education Team
Matt Watts or Kerry Heatley - Education Team **TBC**
Sean Granger – Weed Risk Assessment Team **TBC**

Jillian Macintyre & Steven Smith are both SWC Board Members.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes from the meeting of 1st June 2011 were accepted by Mel Hall. Seconded by Rob Gleeson.

Regional Plans

The Sydney region plans are hard to find on the website, suggestion made to relocate on the website so they are more obvious.

ACTION: Rosanna Luca to follow up with Frances Pike (who maintains the website).

General Business

A review is being conducted about weed management activities across Australia.

ACTION: Rosanna to circulate the information and encourage Sydney Weeds members to respond to the survey.

Next meeting date & host:

10:00am Wednesday 14th March 2012, Lane Cove Council.