

SYDNEY SOUTH WEST REGIONAL WEEDS SUB-COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 22nd September 2011 at Fairfield Council Community Nursery

Attendance:

Paul Price	Sutherland Shire Council
Eddie Ferry	Fairfield City Council
John Newton	Sydney Water
Joel Daniels	Liverpool City Council
Charmaine Robertson	Bankstown City Council
Matt McNaughton	Camden Council
Andrew Attewell	Campbelltown City Council
Peter Semple	Railcorp
Denis Ashton	Sydney Catchment Authority
Rosanna Luca	Executive Officer, Sydney Weeds Committee

Apologies:

Alex Burgess-Buxton	Wollondilly Shire Council
Stewart Harris	Sutherland Shire Council
Judie Rawling	NWAC Community representative
Rebecca Coventry	Office of Hawkesbury Nepean
Stan Rees	Crown Lands Division
Peter Cuneo	Mt Annan Botanic Garden
Ian Perkins	Bankstown City Council
Cielo Roldan	Railcorp
Craig Shephard	NPWS - Metro South East region
Shelly Slater	GIS Officer, Sydney Weeds Committee
Lyndal Kaye	NPWS - Cumberland Area South

Meeting Open

Joel Daniels (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.
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Roundtable information sharing

Fairfield Council – grant for weed removal in Upper Prospect Creek. Clearing of Privet, Green Cestrum, Blackberry, Lantana and Privet. Planting of 7000 natives. Working with Holroyd Council, who manages the other side of the creek.

Camden Council – preparing to treat Alligator Weed on Nepean River.

Campbelltown Council – 9 sites with ongoing bush regeneration work. Concerns have been communicated by Councillors regarding the possible declaration of African Olive as a Class 4. Perhaps it would best to target control in specific catchments, put conditions on DAs etc

Sutherland Council – Have been working with ANSTO, massive release of Bitou biological control over the next couple of months.
Paul presented at the NSW Weeds Conference about the Kurnell peninsula project.

Bankstown Council – Charmaine attended the NPWS Pest Management Strategy forum at Bents Basin. Good representation and voice from landholders. Interesting to see the Gaming Council attend (a state funded body) and the various interests in pest animals.

Railcorp – bush regeneration contracts happening in some rail corridors across Sydney.

ACTION: Rosanna Luca to discuss further with Railcorp representatives

Sydney Catchment Authority – Coolatai Grass control at Warragamba (eastern side). Hazard Reduction work to be done on western side, where it is also growing. Spread by construction work and soil fill over the last 10 years. Also controlling Pampas Grass, Willows and Poplars.

Sydney Water – prioritising weed management actions across their 4000 sites. 140 significant sites have been identified.

ACTION: John Newton to talk to Eddie Ferry about Fairfield STP

Liverpool Council – Alligator Weed spraying to be undertaken soon. \$50k grant received from SMCMA, weed control at Chipping Norton in 6 hectare area of good bushland. Salvinia weevil was released into 3 farm dams over Winter, currently monitoring.

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.

The term saying that the weed is to be “managed” is vague. Doesn’t saying anything about controlling the weed or reducing its spread.

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.

New incursions found in the region

Reported by Matt McNaughton:

- *Ludwigia longifolia* found at Mt Annan, behind Flower Power nursery. 800m long infestation along creek, going up to the edge of Narellan Road. Close to Campbelltown LGA boundary, Matt to inspect the area with Andrew Attewell.
- Water Hyacinth found in Leppington in a series of dams running along Rileys Creek, which flows into South Creek.

Reported by Andrew Attewell:

- Two infestations of Cats Claw Creeper found (still a relatively new weed in Campbelltown LGA).

Reported by Paul Price: *Ludwigia longifolia* found in Menai

- Tropical Soda Apple was raised at the NSW Weeds Conference “*the weed from hell*” This is a NSW wide Weed Alert. Good example of NPWS and Council working together up north.

ACTION: Rosanna Luca to put information about Tropical Soda Apple on the Sydney Weeds website.

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.

It was suggested to have at least 1 meeting a year that includes representatives from all of Sydney region sub-committees.

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:

Matt McNaughton - New Incursions Team
Andrew Attewell – High Risk Pathways Team
Paul Price - High Risk Pathways Team/ Education Team
Eddie Ferry – Education Team
Peter Semple - High Risk Pathways Team

Joel Daniels & Geoff Green (Camden Council) are both SWC Board Members.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes from the meeting of 2nd June 2011 were accepted by Matt McNaughton. Seconded by Charmaine Robertson.

General Business

Paul Price is a member of the Noxious Weeds Officers Association. Useful information is being distributed through the Association regarding the Noxious Weeds Act changes, and proposed changes to the Rural lands Protection Act. Cost is \$25 per year to join.

ACTION: Rosanna Luca to put information about the NOW Association on the Sydney Weeds members webpage.

The Garden Escapees booklet has been popular and has almost run out. Request for a reprint if funds are available.

ACTION: Rosanna Luca to note this and discuss with Education Project Team.

Next meeting: March 2012. Exact date & venue TBC.