



19 October 2018

Jillian McIntrye

President

Sydney Weeds Committees

Re: Response to Sydney Weeds Committee letter of 14 June 2018

Dear Jillian

I am writing in response to your letter dated 14 June 2018 regarding the need to consolidate Sydney Weeds Committees and the Greater Sydney Regional Weed Committee.

Please forgive the lateness of my reply, the retirement of Rob Adam from the role and delays in recruiting his replacement and along with a number of biosecurity emergencies in our region have put considerable demands on Greater Sydney Local Land Services over the past 8 – 10 weeks.

As you know, the NSW Government's Weed management reforms required the establishment of a single Regional Weed Committee (RWC) in each of the 11 Local Land Services Regions with the first priority for the committee to develop a Regional Strategic Weed Plan.

As part of this reform the NSW Government has also determined that each LLS Region has a primary role in leading and coordinating strategic weed management across the region, working in close collaboration with Local Governments which retain the responsibility for on ground weed management and priority setting within the LGA area in a manner which is consistent with the Regional Plan and the LLS regional planning role.

We recognise that to date the Sydney Weeds Committee has played an extremely valuable role in sub-regional planning and coordination through its sub-committees as well as undertaking a range of broader regional functions and we thank your organisation for this. However it is now time to look at how this model evolves, including the partitioning of responsibilities and resources between the various committees and organisations involved in weed management across our region.

As a first step, we proposed via Rob Adam to look at how to best bring the existing Sydney Weeds Committees structure into the Greater Sydney Regional Weed Committee (GS RWC). This has been partly achieved through the current representation on the GS RWC but we need to achieve greater cohesion, strength and efficiency in weed planning and management in our region. We must continue to focus efforts to increase efficiencies and reduce duplication, not to mention confusion amongst stakeholders, and the community.

As a result, I strongly support a meeting to be held in late November at a mutually agreeable time between yourself and GS LLS to discuss the finer details around these issues noting the need to maintain and support the 4 sub-regional committees is critical going forward.

I would like to update you in regards to some of the latest developments regarding the Greater Sydney Regional Weed Committee.

These include:

- 1) As a result of a decision by the GS LLS Board, the RWC (along with all other committees of GS LLS) will be chaired by a Board member or nominated Representative. This will mean there is no need for an election of a Chair going forward. I have already advised the GS RWC Chair, Chris Dewhurst of this outcome and have asked him to remain as Chair for the October 2018 meeting of the GS RWC. I proposed that the next meeting be held in February 2019 and the GS LLS Board has nominated Graham Wilson, Manager Biosecurity and Emergency for GS LLS, as the Chair of that meeting. There will be a number of changes to the GS LLS Board in February 2019 and following those changes a permanent Board appointment as Chair will be made for the following GS RWC Meeting.
- 2) GS LLS has now successfully completed recruitment of the GS Regional Weed Planner Role. Anthony Schofield has been appointed to the role after an open and competitive selection process. I have asked Anthony to make contact with you prior to the next RWC meeting.
- 3) Rob Adam's retirement from GS LLS along with 2 other retirements triggered changes to be made to various GS LLS organisational responsibilities. Rob Adam's replacement will be focussed more so on building new revenue sources and managing the new funding arrangements and investor obligations for GS LLS. Management responsibilities for both the Regional Weed Committee and Regional Pest Committee have been assigned to Graham Wilson.
- 4) I will be writing to all 34 Local Councils in the Greater Sydney Region to advise them formally of these changes but also to reiterate the need to consolidate and merge the current weed planning and management arrangements present in the region. This will substantially improve weed management efficiency, engagement of stakeholders and reduce confusion within the region in terms of Weed Strategy and Planning responsibilities as a result of the reforms announced some time ago by the NSW Government.

I thank you again for your efforts and contribution to the GS RWC and look forward to working with you and the SWC in realising the value of the Weed Management reforms in delivering real change and improvement in weed management outcomes in our region. Graham Wilson will liaise with you regarding a time to meet to discuss how we progress forward.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Hogan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Hogan,
General Manager