

Greater Sydney RWC Meeting 14: BUSINESS PAPER

Agenda Item 4

GBD Decision Support Tool

ATTACHMENTS

BACKGROUND

A draft GBD Decision Support tool, which incorporated initial feedback from DPI, was presented to the GS RWC at meeting 10 (December 2017).

Following feedback from RWC members and field testing by Northern Beaches Council and HRCC, the RWC endorsed the tool subject to inclusion of a "Local Priority Weed" section. (Refer meeting 12, motion 3).

A further amended version was emailed to RWC members on 13 June 2018. This version was also forwarded to DPI for comment. Comments that warrant particular noting include:

- The GBD is activated only when weeds have been determined through a weed risk assessment (WRA) process as posing a biosecurity risk and requiring control action.
- At the heart of the GBD is a risk assessment on a case by case basis. Ie the risk of a weed can be different on individual properties, and therefore, control actions may or may not be required. Listing a species in local plans assumes that the weed has the same risk across all properties in all contexts.
- The tool in current form is suitable for LCA's. The document and diagram need to be less complex for landholders.

Some LCA's have already produced Local Weed Plans and/or Local Priority Weeds lists.

Discussion about Local Weed Plans at recent subregional meetings indicates there is ongoing confusion among Local Control Authorities about the application of the GBD, and in particular, the ability to undertake enforcement or regulatory action for weeds that are not identified as State or regional priority species.

In the interests of consistent interpretation and application of the GBD across the region, it is important to expedite the availability (to LCA's) of the GDB Decision Support Tool or similar document.

Anthony Schofield proposes to prepare a further amended version of the tool, taking into consideration the most recent comments from DPI, for endorsement by the RWC at the next meeting.

**FOR
ACTION/DECISION/NOTING**

Noting

**DECISIONS REQUIRED BY
RWC MEMBERS**

**Note this business paper and DPI comments on the GBD
Decision tool (version 7).**