

## DRAFT PROCESS FOR AMENDING

### GREATER SYDNEY REGIONAL STRATEGIC WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN 2017-2022

#### **Background**

The Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2011 (RSWMP) was developed by the Greater Sydney Regional Weed Committee (GS RWC) on behalf of the Greater Sydney Local Land Services Board for endorsement by the board.

The text sections were developed from a combination of standard text chapters written for use in all 11 regional RSWMP's after local review and adoption, and region specific text prepared by regional weed committees and reviewed by a state level quality assurance process.

Appendix 1.1 "State level determined priority weeds" was developed by NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and is common to all RSWMP's in the 11 regions of NSW.

Appendix 1.2 "Regional priority weeds" was developed by an expert regional panel on behalf of the GS RWC, using the NSW Weed Risk Management (WRM) system with quality assurance provided by the Technical Subcommittee of the State Weeds Committee (SWC).

Appendix 2 "Other weeds of regional concern" was developed by the regional expert panel, primarily from pre-existing lists of significant weeds from the Office of Environment and Heritage and the four sub-regional weeds committees. While the Technical Subcommittee of the SWC reviewed the list and provided some comments these were suggestions rather than requirements for endorsement.

The RSWMP has no legislative status and its provisions are not legally enforceable as a result of being included in the Plan. Those provisions of the RSWMP that are enforceable have that status as a result of being legislated in the NSW *Biosecurity Act 2015* or the NSW *Biosecurity Regulation 2017*.

#### **Amending the RSWMP**

The RSWMP is intended to be a "living" document, in that it requires regular and ongoing updating and corrections as further information becomes available about priority weed species and their management in the region, and as errors are identified.

Chapter 7.3 of the Plan states that:

- a mid term review of the Plan will be undertaken in 2020 and a full review towards the end of the 5 year term of the Plan in 2022
- a focus of the mid term review will be the evaluation and review of Appendices 1 and 2
- Weed Risk Assessments will be updated as needed
- Both Appendix 1 and 2 may be amended as necessary in accordance with the process outlined in Chapter 4.

Chapter 4.4.2 states that both the priority weeds list (Appendix 1) and the additional regional weed list (appendix 2) may be amended as necessary in accordance with the processes outlined in that section.

Chapter 4 describes the process by which a regional prioritization process was originally undertaken to develop the regional priority weed list, or appendix 1.2. It does not prescribe a process for amending either the Plan generally or the Appendices specifically.

The following processes are proposed for the GS RWC to follow when amending various parts of the Plan, having regard to the legislative status of the Plan, and to maintain consistency with the original process by which the Plan was developed, reviewed and approved.

### **Proposed RSWMP amendment processes**

**Appendix 1.1 “State level determined priority weeds”** were determined by NSW Department of Primary Industries. Any proposed changes to Appendix 1.1 (additions/deletions/changes to Weed Objective) will therefore require approval by DPI, and should be proposed through the regional DPI Invasive Species Officer. This will need to be supported by the following documentation:

- A covering document outlining the change proposed and the background, current situation and recommendation.
- A comprehensive supporting document including consideration of the legislative requirements relevant to the species and references.
- Weed Risk Assessment at a state level to support a proposal for addition or deletion or change of Weed Objective
- Draft instrument where a new or amended compliance tool such as a Control Order, Mandatory Measure etc. is being proposed.

Note that DPI may choose to refer the proposal to the State Weed Committee for evaluation.

**Appendix 1.2 “Regional priority weeds”** were determined by the Regional Weed Committee. In the absence of any other prescribed process, proposed changes to Appendix 1.2 (additions/deletions/changes to Weed Objective) should follow a similar process to that used to develop the original version. This will entail the following process:

1. Preparation of the following documentation by the proposer:
  - A covering document outlining the change proposed and the background, current situation and recommendation.
  - A comprehensive supporting document, including evidence of consultation with relevant Local Control Authorities.
  - Weed Risk Assessment at a regional level to support a proposal for addition or deletion or change of Weed Objective.
2. Review and endorsement of the proposal by the Regional Weed Committee. The RWC may decide that the proposal requires a review by a technical sub-committee with a recommendation to the RWC.
3. RWC refers the endorsed proposal to the NSW DPI Invasive Species Officer (ISO) for quality assurance review.
4. The proposed amendment(s) are subject to a public consultation process, for example 4 weeks on the LLS website.
5. After public consultation the proposal is then referred to the Greater Sydney LLS board for endorsement.

6. Once endorsed by the Greater Sydney LLS board the amendment is deemed to be a part of the RSWMP.
7. NSW DPI is advised so that WeedWise can be updated to reflect the amendment(s)

**Appendix 2: "Other weeds of regional concern"** was developed by the Greater Sydney RWC and is exclusive to the region. The RWC has previously considered clarifying the criteria by which species are to be listed or removed from Appendix 2, and a draft Decision Diagram prepared (Meeting 9, Agenda Item 7). However this work has not progressed to a final product and therefore no process currently exists for amending Appendix 2.

If the RWC approves the addition or removal of species, either in accordance with listing criteria or not, or otherwise decides to remove Appendix 2 in its entirety these amendments will require endorsement from the Greater Sydney LLS board.

**RSWMP text sections** are a combination of state prescribed (with regional review) and regionally developed and approved text. Amendment of the text will entail one or both of the following process:

- I. Any errors, for example of spelling, formatting or fact will be raised at RWC meetings in the standing agenda item for this purpose. If approved by the RWC the amendments will be compiled and periodically (approx. annually or as otherwise agreed by the RWC) incorporated into an updated draft version of the Plan. This will then be submitted to the Greater Sydney LLS board for endorsement.
- II. Other text amendments, for example addition of new text or removal of existing text will require approval by the RWC, approval by the SWC, and endorsement by the Greater Sydney LLS board.