

SYDNEY CENTRAL REGIONAL WEEDS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 6th September 2012 at Greycliffe House, Nielson Park, Vaucluse

Attendance:

Peter Semple	Railcorp
Jonathan Sanders	NPWS
Mel Hall	NPWS Metro North East region
Paul Ibbetson	NPWS Metro North East region
Alex Mackenzie	Strathfield Council
Andrew Jack	Sydney Olympic Park Authority
Rob Stevenson	City of Canada Bay
Kyran Coogan	City of Canada Bay
Karen Kennedy	Sydney Metropolitan CMA
Lana McGee	Canterbury & Rockdale Council
Sue Stevens	Waverley Council
Jeff Hill	Woollahra Council
Kerrie Davies	Auburn City Council
Adam Smith	Rockdale City Council
Michael Michelmore	DPI Invasive Species Officer
Rosanna Luca	Project Officer (Weeds Action Project)

Apologies:

Deborah Law	Waverley Council
Liz Pearce	Project Officer (Weeds Committees)

Welcome

Jeff Hill (Chair) opened the meeting at 9.30am and welcomed all in attendance.
No pecuniary interests were declared.

Weeds Action Project (WAP) planning session

Rosanna Luca facilitated a planning session about the strategy for the next three years of the WAP Project. The session was based on the background paper that was distributed prior to the meeting.

Main points of discussion and priorities identified:

- The WAP Project Steering Group can approach councils/agencies not represented at this planning session if the high priorities are also relevant for them.
- Look further into a shared weeds inspector position for Canada Bay/Strathfield (similar model to Canterbury/Rockdale position). This position could also cover inspections of the Sydney Markets at Flemington, which are identified as a NSW priority 'high risk pathway' for new weeds coming in from other regions and states.
- "High risk sites" - all council officers need to be checking high risk sites in their LGAs: nurseries, garden centres, aquariums, development sites, local produce markets etc. Parrots Feather was recently found for sale at large hardware retail outlet in Rockdale and Lana McGee was able to follow it up with the retailer's national manager for biosecurity!

Eradication of Boneseed!

- NPWS has been controlling on their land in Sydney Central. Co-operation needed from neighbouring councils to enforce on private land and council reserves.
- Railcorp can assist by controlling it in rail corridors, can be justified as it is part of a collaborative regional weed control effort. Procedure to follow: Peter Semple needs to be sent an official letter indicating the priority locations for control. Rosanna can collate the locations seen by the council & NPWS weeds officers and send to Peter in batches every 6 months.
- Railcorp is also currently managing the Commonwealth Freight Line – a high risk pathway.
- Department of Defence Land – small amount of Boneseed present, access difficult.

Staged eradication is achievable in Sydney Central:

Stage 1: Coastal zone: Rail land, NPWS, Randwick, Botany, Woollahra, Waverley, Centennial Park, Defence land, around Sydney Port and airport. SMCMA's "Teeing Off" golf course project can also link in to get eradication on golf course land.

Stage 2: Area around SOPA, Auburn, Canada Bay (including Department of Health land).

Ideas for regional education and awareness raising, to support the Boneseed control:

- "Now targeting" road signs (these were tried years ago with the Asthma Weed campaign, can be challenging getting co-operation to install signs on major roads)
- ½ page newspaper ad or press articles
- Focus the awareness raising campaign when Boneseed is in flower (Spring)
- Identification kit for council outdoor officers with pictures and reporting procedures

Other priorities:

- Education and internal training of other council officers to prevent weed spread etc. Lana has started doing this. Eg. educate about mowing practices to prevent spread of Alligator Weed at Scarborough Ponds in Rockdale.

Control of new incursions

- *Heteranthera* at Sydney Olympic Park: 6m² infestation being treated, funded by SOPA. Andrew Jack has also been checking downstream for spread. None found to date.
- Wild Onion on Centenary Drive (Strathfield LGA)
 - Awkward spot for weed control on road side, traffic control needed. No control to date.
 - We need to do a Weed Risk Assessment of it to determine if it is a high risk where it is growing. Weight up risks. If it is worth it, use WAP funds for weed control and traffic control costs.

Other Wish List projects (outside of WAP priorities, consider for other grants and CMA programs)

- Alligator Weed control at Scarborough Ponds in Rockdale (significant breeding habitat for native fish species)

ACTIONS:

Rosanna Luca:

- (i) Weeds inspector for Strathfield/Canada Bay LGA, keep on agenda for discussion with the WAP Project Steering Group and DPI, and maybe use some WAP funds from Year 4
- (ii) Collate a list of the weeds being found sold in garden centres and homemaker outlets - to assist with broad education campaign in years 4 and 5
- (iii) Collate locations of Boneseed infestations in rail corridors and send to Peter Semple with letterhead from the weeds committees
- (iv) Send a letter to all Sydney Central councils raising profile of WAP Project priorities and seeking their co-operation (Jonathan Sanders to assist with drafting letter)

Paul Ibbetson:

Talk to Department of Defence representative (Omar Seycell) about Boneseed locations and if WAP funding support needed.

Weed Risk Assessment Team:

Do a WRA for the Wild Onion (*Asphodelus fistulosus*) on Centenary Drive

Normal Weeds Committee meeting

1. Confirmation of Minutes from last meeting on 14th March 2012

Confirmed by Jeff Hill. Seconded by Alex Mackenzie

2. Completion of actions

Lana has notified WONS Co-ordinator about the Saggitaria in Rockdale LGA
Rosanna confirmed all other actions completed.

3. Matters arising from previous minutes

There are no matters arising from the previous minutes.

4. New weed incursions or unusual sightings

Alex Mackenzie brought in a sample, suspected to be *Asparagus falcatus*.
NPWS staff also found a new *Asparagus* species.

ACTIONS:

Alex Mackenzie to get a positive ID of the specimen.

Rosanna Luca to follow up with the WONS Co-ordinator (Hillary Cherry)

5. Recent changes with the Sydney Weeds Committees ~ any Qs?

No questions raised.

6. General business

Recent reprint of "Grow Me Instead" booklets – good for distributing to Bunnings stores etc, real estates agents for new residents. Future idea: Make it into an App.

Request to include NPWS contact details on Sydney Weeds website

ACTION: Liz Pearce

7. Next meeting

Date: Thursday 7th March 2013

Host: City of Canada Bay

Presentation & Discussion: *Noxious Weeds Act* & declaration changes

Michael Michelmore, Department of Primary Industries

Mich led a discussion of the rationale and requests from 2 years ago for new and changed noxious weeds declarations. The analysis of these new requests has not yet been finalised by the Department, and would be included in the next Order 30.

A huge number of requests for noxious weed changes and new declarations were received from the Sydney region. What are the priorities for this region? Two years later, are they still the same?

Important points from the discussion:

- Need to have a clear reason for why a weed is declared noxious
- Can't be just for administrative consistency across a group of councils.
- Some additional class 4s seem to be a "wish list", can't be enforced across an LGA/the region.

Which plants are the ones that we can slow down, and if nothing done the invasion process will take over (eg Boneseed).

If nothing will change with distribution of a plant, why have it declared noxious?

ACTIONS:

Liz Pearce to post a copy of Mich's discussion paper on Sydney Weeds member's webpage.

Mich Michelmore to collate a matrix of the new declaration requests from the region, highlighting the ones that need to be reconsidered and justified further.

All local control authorities to do an analysis of the matrix with reference to Mich's discussion notes (see SWC website member section) and consider which listings to justify on more detail or remove from the list.

Further questions?

Mich Michelmore

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Meeting closed at 2.30pm.