

Meeting of the SYDNEY SOUTH WEST REGIONAL WEEDS COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 13th September 2012 at Blair Athol Community Centre, Blair Athol

Attendance:

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| Jeanie Muspratt | Sydney Metropolitan CMA |
| Erin Fardy | Sutherland Council |
| Stewart Harris | Sutherland Council |
| Eddie Ferry | Fairfield Council |
| Joel Daniels | Liverpool Council |
| Matthew McNaughton | Camden Council |
| Andrew Attewell | Campbelltown Council |
| Huw Evans | Hawkesbury Nepean CMA |
| Stan Rees | Crown Lands Division, DPI |
| Bart Schiebaan | Bankstown City Council |
| Charmaine Robertson | Bankstown City Council |
| Renee Winsor | Liverpool City Council |
| Lyndal Kaye | NPWS - Cumberland South Area |
| Jonathan Sanders | NPWS - Cumberland North Area |
| Greg Steenbeeke | Office of Environment and Heritage |
| Cielo Roldan | Railcorp |
| Dennis Ashton | Sydney Catchment Authority |
| Rosanna Luca | Project Officer (Weeds Action Project) |
| Michael Michelmore | DPI Invasive Species Officer |

Apologies:

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| Paul Price | Sutherland Council |
| Leanne Cross | ARTC |
| Craig Shephard | NPWS – Metropolitan South West Region |
| Liz Pearce | Project Officer (Weeds Committees) |

Welcome

Joel Daniels (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:

Targeting high risk weeds:

Bitou Bush – West of Holsworthy land, aim for eradication

Bitou Bush – East of Holsworthy land, aim for asset protection only

Boneseed – eradicate from the region

- Co-ordinate funding of on-ground projects with other *Caring for Our Country* grants also for Boneseed control (HNCMA and Southern Councils Group).
- Sutherland has 200 Boneseed sites mapped treated about 180. Good records.
- Railcorp needs specific notification from us about locations of high risk weeds such as Boneseed. They can do target weeding and allocate resources when it's part of a collaborative effort with adjoining landholders.
- Mapping across rest of region needs to be completed, there are gaps in the data.

Water Hyacinth/Salvinia – can also be eradicated from SSW region.

Water Hyacinth is at two known locations:

- Wollondilly - working towards eradication
- Cambelltown – under control

Salvinia known locations:

- Dwyer Rd Leppington, 6 dams in a row on Riley Creek (Camden LGA)
- Dams west of Kemps Creek
- Kemps Ck Nature Reserve
- Fairfield – being treated for 12 months
- Liverpool –on N.River/dams
- Yeramba Lagoon (Bankstown LGA/Georges River National Park).

Alligator Weed – asset protection in Nepean, Georges & Parramatta Rivers.

- Top of catchments are important for inspections and eradication. Realistic in Wollondilly to get it out of the creeks and streams (where accessible).
- Once it's in the N.River, the strategy is ongoing suppression – this is not necessarily reducing its distribution, but not allowing it to spread either.
- The two strategies have to go hand in hand (i) suppression in the River, (ii) check/inspect streams, surrounding properties plus good record keeping.

Other mapping (year 4 onwards) for the not yet widespread weeds:

- Gorse and Broom - similar behaviour/treatment. Growing threat, has not yet spread across whole landscape
- Cats Claw Creeper (spreading in Wollondilly. Remove seed pods at least)
- Madeira Vine

** Do the mapping to work out where these weeds are present, spreading to, and then determine future strategies for control.

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| ACTION: Rosanna Luca to distribute details of upcoming transport corridors forum |
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Serrated Tussock

- Wind blown. Need to slow it down/protect assets and agricultural. Many landholders don't know what it is
- In open grassland serrated tussock is a classic noxious weed
- treatment is damaging to underlying grasses, aggressive programs needed

WAP grant can be used for:

- landholder extension/showing them how to identify and control
- planning, landholder education, local field days etc

Who to target:

- Target people who buy sheep or hay from Canberra
- Education campaign needs to cross over into Penrith LGA/ SWBM region
- Extension to RFS – fire trucks moving through state
- Also talk to the Serrated Tussock Task Force about successful education approaches in other areas and existing resources available.

African Olive

- HNCMA has some funding to allocated to on ground control for asset protection. Discussing with Peter Cuneo and others. Also looking into the option of using aerial imagery to analyse distribution and containment.
- Asset protection sites in Sydney South West region.
- Southern containment line needed where it is spreading south out of Wollondilly into Wingecarribee LGA.
- Northern containment line (SWBM region, HNCMA working with HRCC)

HNCMA is co-ordinating an African Olive field day, scheduled for November 2012 Mt Annan about: control techniques at various stages of invasion. In 2013 might also run a similar workshop for private landholders.

New Incursions/limited infestations in the region

- Sighting of Japanese Knotweed in vicinity of Western Sydney Parklands
- Senegal Tea Plant at Audley Weir. Has been there for years, ongoing control program with NPWS and Sutherland.

ACTIONS:

Lyndal Kaye to confirm location of Japanese Knotweed in SSW region.
Rosanna Luca to talk to Craig Shephard (NPWS) and progress of Senegal Tea Plant work, and whether there are other infestations in hard access areas

Inspection programs

Some council inspectorial positions are still part-funded through WAP grant: Sutherland, Wollondilly, Camden. Bankstown had a position in past but no longer.

Inspections of High risk sites (nurseries, development sites etc)

- There is a problem with major hardware chains (Bunnings, Flower Power , Masters) noxious or environmental weeds we need to be checking regularly and finding out what they are selling.
- Online plants sales also a concern and another form of 'inspecting' to check what's being sold through the net.
- We need to compile a list of weeds showing up in nurseries and then provide to landscapers, garden industry, large development. Integrate this list into council urban tree policies.

High Risk Pathways inspections

- It is hard to document and report on inspections along roads, railways etc
- If checking something along a road and making a field note, count it as one inspection

Most important is to look out for what are the changes being noticed over time?

Normal Weeds Committee Meeting

1. Confirmation of Minutes from previous meeting, 15th March 2012

Correction on page 2 "Eastern Creek dragway"

Andrew Attewell confirmed the minutes. Seconded by Matthew McNaughton

2. Completion of actions

Letters have been written for Chris Guthrie and Anna Larsson.

ACTION: Rosanna Luca to follow up with Sutherland Council staff about forwarding addresses.

3. Matters arising from previous minutes Nil

4. New weed incursions or unusual sightings

Lyndal Kaye: Kei Apple in Kemps Creek NR. Tree looks like a box thorn, fruit looks like an apricot. Probably in rural northern NSW.

ACTION: Rosanna Luca to contact Peter Ridgeway (HNCMA) and Lyndal Kaye for more information about locations of Kei Apple. Weed Risk Assessment also to be completed.

Joel Daniels brought a specimen of an unknown plant found growing on an embankment.

ACTION: Joel to send a specimen to the Herbarium and report back to the committee once identified.

Matt McNaughton detected Bitou Bush infested soil that was brought into a development site – will be treated by the developers.

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

It was confirmed that the role of the Hawkesbury River County Council will be primarily as the administrator of the funding, on behalf of the four weeds committees.

6. General business

- Question raised regarding next round of Crown Lands grants and required reporting procedures – no information available to date.
- DPI Weed training package – won't be funded to same extent in future years, as the demand for training courses has been less. Everyone is encouraged to do regular training and stay up to date. WAP can part fund costs training fees.
- ABC Gardening AustraliaTV program – featuring article on Fairfield nursery.

7. Next meeting date and host

Date: Thursday, March 14th 2013

Host: Camden, Venue TBC. Proposed joint committee/planning meeting with Sydney West Blue Mountains/Sydney South West combined.

Presentation: *Noxious Weeds Act* changes

Mich 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.

ACTION:

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, Department of Primary Industries

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Meeting closed at 3.00pm