

MEETING	Alligator Weed Strategy Meeting		
MEETING NO.	3	DATE	16 October, 2018
LOCATION	Holiday Inn Parramatta	TIME	9.30am
ATTENDING	Rod Ensbey - NSW DPI, Charlie Mifsud - NSW DPI, Nicola Dixon - Hawkesbury River County Council, Anthony Schofield - Greater Sydney Local Land Services, Chris Stanfield - Hawkesbury River County Council, Karen Jenkin - Hawkesbury River County Council, Joel Daniels - Liverpool Council, David Pomery - Illawarra District Weeds Authority, Paul Marynissen - Central Coast Council, Alex Burgess–Buxton - Wollondilly Shire Council ,Kathryn Ashton - Camden Council and Hillary Cherry – OEH.		
APOLOGIES	Lis Arundel - NSW DPI, Council, Jacob Adams - Water NSW, Nick Stroinovskiy – Sydney Water, Mitchell Clark – Campbelltown City Council.		
PREPARED BY	Charlie Mifsud		

MINUTES

Start 9:30 – 9.45 am Morning tea.

1. Apologies

As above

2. Introduction and outline of the day.

Rod Ensbey welcomed all participants and gave an outline of the day. Update of the old Alligator Weed Strategy. Are the actions in the old strategy still relevant or do we need new actions. Tie in with the new Invasive Species Plan (2018-2021). Regional updates and review Priorities for the control of alligator weed in the Sydney Region.

3. Alligator weed in NSW. Over view of the original strategy.

Charlie Mifsud gave a power point presentation covering the biology of alligator weed, how it is spread, management options, the Alligator Weed Biosecurity Zones, location in NSW and distribution maps in NSW and Australia.

Discussion on the alligator weed flea beetle with some participants stating it seems to be working in areas that are not aquatic but just moist ground and in some areas the beetle is doing well but other areas not so much. Where the beetle is present you get reduced biomass but it does not reduce the extent of plants or root mass. Hillary asked if there is anything we should be raising with the biocontrol taskforce. We are doing reviews of WONS so is there potential for new agents. Discussion on fungal pathogen work by Bruce Auld and the biocontrol agent Arcola (stem borer).

ACTION to look into this agent.

ACTION to raise alligator weed biocontrol at next biocontrol meeting.

4. Biosecurity Act and Regional plans.

Rod Ensbey discussed what is in the alligator weed biosecurity zone document and the regional plans, in particular the Greater Sydney and Hunter plans. The management objective for alligator weed is Containment in the Greater Sydney Regional Weed Management Plan (GS RSWMP). Blue Mountains LGA is the Exclusion zone (eradication target) with all other LGAs identified as Core Infestation (asset protection target), with all land managers to prevent spread and mitigate risk of the plant being introduced. Nicola asked about the feasibility of including some additional LGAs within GS in the biosecurity zone. Hillary stated this should be done through the GS RSWMP but at state level need to do it through the state weed committee. Rod discussed the CBSM project on alligator weed in the Hunter.

ACTION - link into Hunter CBSM project meetings and investigate potential for similar project.

ACTION – Review status and management objective of Alligator Weed in GS RSWMP for south-west LGAs.

Sydney Alligator Weed Plan - Anthony Schofield

Priorities for the control of Alligator Weed in the Sydney Region was first produced in 2010 then reviewed in 2014. Aimed to identify at risk areas and prioritise areas for control, as an early step toward taking a regional approach to alligator weed. Process involved undertaking a risk assessment for each of the areas. Looked at potential for further spread, consequences for impact and feasibility of management. Each area given a final score on the results. This was before the WRA process DPI developed but used same methodology. Outcome of the review was a new list of areas at risk and allowed councils to prioritize areas for control.

ACTION – to review the *Priorities for the control of Alligator Weed in the Sydney Region* in 2018.

Rod questioned what the review process might look like given we now have the Biosecurity Act and regional plans. Anthony stated need to look at in context of rest of State and the fact they are the core infestation. Take additional measures to stop it spreading from the GS region into the Biosecurity Zone. Nicola stated alligator weed is only funded through the WAP in the south west LGAs, partnership delivering the Upper-Nepean Aquatic Weeds project. She is concerned that, as those LGAs are listed in the GS RSWMP as being within the Core Infestation and having a management objective of asset protection, then in the next WAP the project would not be eligible for WAP funding and all progress at reducing biomass over last 10 years would be undone. Anthony stated that a sub-regional project funded under the current WAP could look at hygiene and containment at high risk sites. Joel stated the current plan does not reflect the work they have done in the Nepean. Hillary asked can it come under the regional plans.

ACTION – to develop an Alligator Weed Weed Management Plan that sits under the GS RSWMP.

ACTION - Review GS WAP funding guidelines 2020.

5. Regional updates

Illawarra District Weed Authority - David Pomery

In the South East LLS area alligator weed is found in Shoalhaven Council area and in the Illawarra District Weeds Authority area. Illawarra District Weeds Authority has 11 active sites spread over 20 properties and 17 inactive sites where they have previously had alligator weed for at least 2 years. Most of these are ex Sri Lankan households and are still being monitored. The active sites include one residential site, Council reserves, farms, golf course, quarry and a power station. Surveillance starts in November and they undertake three treatments over the Summer with the first treatment before Christmas and then retreat every 6 weeks using brushoff. Alligator weed in their area dies back in winter with frosts. They are slowly reducing density and areas. Biggest site is 20 ha in Dunmore wetlands. The alligator weed program is centered on requirements for the zones- eradication. Did flyer up to try and get people to understand biosecurity zones for weeds including alligator weed.

In the Shoalhaven there is an infestation at Sussex Inlet covering 6 properties which has been spread by mowing. These sites inspected every 6 – 8 weeks and treated as needed. Do this year round including winter as no frosts. There is a second site at Berry that has been potentially eradicated.

David stated in relation to eradication – many of these sites can be eradicated but not within the 5 years of the WAP project. Charlie stated that the options for control have an impact on eradication ie Berry deep burial possible but Sussex Inlet no because of acid sulphate soils so it will take longer. David talking about species management plans for different zones within his LGA. Hillary suggested doing it through Regional Weed Committee.

Park Estate - Hillary Sherry

Within Park Estate there is alligator weed in the 4 branches on the coast. Some of the weed programs within the branches are dedicated just to alligator weed and 1 other weed. In the core area for alligator weed it is mostly all weeds. Programs can be critical new emerging within regional plans. Alligator weed programs split half and half asset protection and new and emerging. North coast has 4 programs and all are critical and new emerging. Goal in north coast is containment. On South coast there is 1 site at Berkeley nature reserve which is Critical new and emerging. Within the Hunter and Central coast only 2 programs both of which are asset protection. In Greater Sydney there are 15 projects - 6 are new and emerging, 7 are asset protection. Others are asset protection most of these latter ones are multi weeds. Not all programs are funded each year. Critical new emerging is prioritized for funding.

Hillary gave an overview of Connor the alligator weed detection dog. Connor has been involved in alligator weed surveillance at Woomargama and will be at Port Macquarie in November. Charlie asked about getting Connor back up to the alligator weed sites in the Namoi and Peel Rivers as he was meant to come back but Steve had been difficult to contact. Hillary said still got 5 days left on the original project and looking to get Ryan to do it.

ACTION – to provide newly developed contact list for parks staff so that LCA officers know who to contact at operations level.

Hawkesbury River County Council - Chris Stanfield

Alligator weed in the area is two stories, the Hawkesbury Nepean River and urban waterways. The rivers have lots of alligator weed with the largest infestations being between Windsor and Penrith where there is slow moving water and silted banks. Eradication not feasible. Have not been able to control some areas for years due to budgets and some areas inaccessible so effort has been applied to high risk sites such as boat ramps, highly used reserves and, river crossings to lower the risk of spread from these sites. These areas get treated 3 times a year.

Have noticed that alligator weed has not expanded greatly in the last few years even where it has not been treated and it seems to have found its niche. This has led to Chris having a change of heart in relation to management. Is it as big a problem as made out? Only has invaded to a certain extent and has not out-competed other weedy species. He is more interested in the Senegal tea. So he is thinking what are we trying to protect and what is the threat. Impacts are environmental and agricultural. Hawkesbury Nepean River system is heavily disturbed so alligator weed has invaded but probably provides habitat for some of the aquatic fauna. Alligator weed has not been the great threat that it was meant to be in the Hawkesbury Nepean River system.

Off river there is a lot of development and it does move around in contaminated machines and no way to track machines so new infestations are starting. Anthony asked if he was aware if any of the machinery owners had hygiene procedures. Karen said they have been talking to some of the bigger groups and they have good hygiene procedures. Hillary stated that land managers need to be aware as well. Discussion on the fact that the smaller earth moving contractors are the problem. Rod stated that it probably has filled its niche in the rivers and beetle helps but it's the lagoons and off river waterways that are under threat. Anthony stated need to articulate that for developers i.e. you are going into a higher risk area. . Rod asked about impact of turf and veggie growers. Chris there was initially fear among turf growers but they have a wide range of chemical options available to control things and their goal is to sell clean turf so they keep it out. Charlie spoke about Sussex Inlet and introduction through turf. Hillary stated there is a statement in the current strategy that it threatens the viability of the turf industry – you may need to revise that. Chris stated there maybe contamination of turf farms in a significant flood. Charlie asked if it does threaten any agricultural industries in the Sydney basin. Chris replied no.

Discussion on alligator weed growing in salty conditions. It has been observed growing in Mangroves.

Wollondilly Shire Council - Alex Burgess-Buxton

Alligator weed has been present on the Nepean River for at least 20 years. In the 1990s control consisted of 1 person in a boat and was not very effective. Control in the last 10 years has been better using contractors and follow up on their work. They treat twice a year with brushoff or glyphosate or combination of both. Have also manually harvested one 12 cubic metres patch. Used to find infestations hundreds of metres long with roots 6metres deep. After a major flood the size of populations greatly reduced to just a few scattered patches and individual plants. In 10 years have greatly reduced the area and eradicated it in some places. Not many off river sites. One farm dam at Tahmoor and 3 housing commission houses. Eradication above Menangle weir feasible but not below the weir. Have reduced potential of offsite spread drastically by concentrating on where watercraft are put in and out. These areas get 3 treatments a year.

Camden Council - Kathy Ashton

There is very little in this area with some in farm dams and in Narellan Creek which is being treated. Turf farms pump water directly from the river and they do not have alligator weed.

Liverpool Council- Joel Daniels

Alligator weed is present in Cabramatta creek and some other sites. Treat 1 – 2 times a year with metsulfuron. Most terrestrial sites greatly reduced. Concerns over contractors doing mowing and moving around Sydney from site to site. They share the border with HRCC at Wallacia and from there upstream they have been doing regular alligator weed treatments with Camden, Wollondilly and Campbelltown. Between Wallacia and Bents basin you struggle to find a patch over a metre square. Between Wallacia and Menangle weir there is 1 kilometre where you will find multiple infestations where they have not been doing treatments so it is a bit of a case study. Beetle is quite effective January and February. Plants frost off in winter and take a while for plants to come back and longer for the beetle.

Central Coast Council- Paul Marynissen

In Wyong the source is Wyong dairy trust, previously delta power. Weed officers were not allowed on the site and cattle were agisted there and moved between there and Williamstown. After the grazing stopped alligator weed became evident around water's edge. Terrestrial alligator weed occurs around Tuggerah lakes from plants washed up in floods. Alligator weed is also found in most drains in Gosford, Woy Woy and Umina. Paul feels some of the alligator

weed was spread by equipment used to put in sewer lines. Using orange marker posts and geo fencing to get people to stop slashing alligator weed sites.

Jacob Adams – WaterNSW (tabled comment)

WaterNSW is concerned that the declared drinking water catchment was not included as an exclusion zone in the regulations. We would like see any local plans in the Greater Sydney Region include the Declared Drinking Water Catchment as an exclusion zone. If Alligator Weed were to enter WaterNSW storage it could have a significant impact on our operations and ability to transfer water.

A link to the declared drinking water catchment maps is:
<https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/EPI/2011/28/maps>.

A shapefile of this can be arranged though WaterNSW GIS People. A similar issue regarding Water Hyacinth will be brought to the next Regional Weeds meeting.

Workshop issues, ISP Goals.

Rod we will assess the old strategy line by line. The old strategy mimicked the old invasive species strategy. Keep in mind have things been captured in the strategy.

Goal 1 Exclude

Prevent Establishment of New Alligator Weed Infestations

1.1.1: Appoint a state aquatic weeds coordinator to help oversee the implementation of the strategy	1.1.1: NSW coordinator appointed and funding secured for life of strategy. State strategy is coordinated.	I&NSW
--	--	------------------

Decision to maintain this as position still required

1.1.2: Deliver the aquatic weed early detection survey guidelines into LCA's inspection and community monitoring program	1.1.2: Early detection survey guidelines promoted for inclusion in LCA's inspection programs and community group programs by 2011 <i>Ten Recognising Water Weeds workshops run across NSW</i>	LCA's and RWAC I&NSW
---	--	-------------------------------------

Recognising water weed workshops run each year which include early detection survey guidelines. High risk pathways and sites are covered in regional plans and documents. Suggestion should we change this to focus on hygiene however hygiene is in management. Suggestion change to include regional champions to run the courses or to say establish trainers to do training.

1.1.3 Establish NSW alligator weed reference group to give advice and direction on management, extension and research	1.1.3: NSW alligator weed reference group established for the life of this plan with key stakeholders represented	I&NSW
--	--	------------------

Charlie this refers to national group Andrew Petroeschewsky was on. We have regional taskforces in specific areas and are trying to get taskforces going back in the Riverina and North coast. Do we need one for Sydney ? Nicola we are a bit committed no need in Sydney. Hillary tweak to say establish regional taskforces as needed in the biosecurity zone.

1.1.4 –Maintain liaison with Federal Government agency and National Aquatic Weeds Management Group	1.1.4: Participate in the national aquatic weeds management group and maintain communication with federal agencies	I&NSW
---	---	------------------

Not managed as a WONS anymore so this overarching group is not there anymore. Some interaction with federal departments on reporting etc but no group as such. Probably disappear from the strategy as is. Suggestion to replace with contact with state weed committee Have an update once a year sent to the state weed committee.

1.1.5: Develop cross-border protocols for information exchange and preventing new incursions	1.1.5: Protocols developed with Australia, Qld, Vic and S.A Government	I&NSW and NAWMG
---	---	--------------------------------

**agencies by 2013 that detail prevention
and rapid response procedures**

Yes this occurs with information exchange between NSW, Victoria and Queensland weed professionals. Steve Taylor from the ACT attends the South East regional meetings and discusses alligator weed issues occurring in the ACT. How relevant is South Australia they may be interested in what we are doing?

Goal 1 Outcome – The likelihood of alligator weed new incursions is decreased.

Discussion on what is a new incursion. We have found new sites in the last 5 years. Discussion about new sites and natural spread from existing sites. How do you measure the outcome? Outcome is number of new sites is reduced or no new sites in the biosecurity zone.

Goal 2 Eradicate or Contain

Prevent and reduce the spread of alligator weed.

Objective 1 – Identify new alligator weed incursions

2.1.1: Utilise trained community members and stakeholders to broaden surveillance

2.1.1: Record the number of new incursions reported

I&INSW, LCA's and CMA

Charlie stated in previous meetings we have discussed land care groups and how to link in with them. Hillary asked do they have to be trained or are there trained members out there. Anthony stated if we have an action to use trained community members then you need to have trained community members. Nicola stated there are Regional Landcare Facilitators and Local Landcare Coordinators and 6,500 regular bushcare volunteers in Sydney (2012 data so probably number is higher now). Approx. 1,000 groups. Some councils have received funding through the WAP to train them on priority weeds. Charlie said he sees the potential to use these groups in regional area. Discussion need to do training on weekend to get these people. Hillary stated Landcare have an app called landcarer and one of the things they want to have on it are high priority weeds so they can id these plants. Chris stated if we do the training how do we fund it. Provide training and utilise trained staff.

2.1.2: Assist with new incursion funding applications

2.1.2: Source funds and in-kind support for rapid eradication programs as required

LCA's, I&INSW, CMA and DECCW

Yes this occurs and there is funding available if you find any new incursions.

2.1.3: Implement immediate eradication strategies as per current best practice (i.e. Alligator weed control manual), at all new sites

2.1.3: Best practice eradication strategies applied at all new sites

LCA's

Hillary asked why have eradication in there? Charlie stated generally this occurs at new sites. Rod and Anthony stated that the regions have new weed incursion plans and rapid response plans so tweak it. Charlie a bit like we have for frogbit – rapid response and eradication in biosecurity zone and high priority areas. David asked do we need to talk about containment to the core areas. Not needed as in objective 2. Anthony asked what about something to do inspection and surveillance. Rod something about regional inspection programs. Regional plans talk about local inspection programs. Inspection programs needs to be captured somewhere.

2.1.4: Develop an emergency response template for new incursions

2.1.4: Template developed by 2012 for use by LCA's to detail their management actions for new incursions

I&INSW and LCA's

We have regional documents that cover this. Suggestion to change “develop” to “maintain”. Rod stated outcome still ok as you have an indicator. Hillary suggested new alligator weed infestations are eradicated promptly. Rod general comment of entire document is to tighten up the outcomes. Discussion on the milestones at back of strategy. Anthony stated all these are still relevant but if I was going to write it I would forget what is in there and simply think about what the priorities are for the next 5 years and formulate everything around there. Some of these will drop off. i.e. highlighted today in this region we need to do more to prevent spread. Still all relevant. What are we missing? Hillary or another way is what do we take out.

Objective 2 – Develop coordinated and strategic management practices

2.2.1: Identify and inspect high risk sites, sources and pathways	2.2.1: High risk sites, sources and pathways listed in each regional alligator weed management plan upon review	I&INSW, RWAC, CMA and LCAs
--	--	---------------------------------------

All this is captured in each regions high risk sites mgmt. plan, possibly it can be moved up into objective 1.

2.2.2: Establish and maintain alligator weed taskforces (Barren Box Swamp and Richmond River)	2.2.2: Establish taskforces in alligator weed infested areas containing key stakeholders by 2014 Taskforces meet at least twice annually to direct alligator weed management and lobby potential funding opportunities	I&INSW, RWAC, CMA, DECCWand LCA's
--	---	--

Charlie discussed existing taskforces and need to get others going again. Hillary this goes back up above. Rod a bit of duplication.

2.2.3: Apply current best practice control techniques at all alligator weed sites (i.e. Alligator weed control manual)	2.2.3: Site specific best practice techniques applied at all sites. Number of sites and size of infestations is reduced.
---	---

Discussion on manual, if it is still best practice and if it needs updating. Consensus yes but needs updates however weedwise is available and permits and chemicals have changed. Update manual? Consensus no as weedwise is where we recommend people go. Something else that could be mentioned is promoting the availability of best practice.

2.2.4: Monitor and adopt new management techniques where necessary	2.2.4: Regional annual report submitted detailing management actions at alligator weed sites	LCA's, I&INSWand NAWMG
---	---	-----------------------------------

New techniques or chemicals will be on weed wise. Include case studies on use of certain chemicals. Suggestion once a year Charlie gives an update to the network on what is happening with alligator weed – best practice new chemicals etc.

2.2.5: Record location of existing and new infestations to State aquatic weeds coordinator and develop a state map	2.2.5: Location of infestations recorded and NSW map produced by 2014	LCA's and I&INSW
---	--	-----------------------------

Yes we have maps and can generate maps with BIS; need to maintain BIS to get better maps over time.

2.2.6: Continue part-time alligator weed project officer position for Riverina district to: engage landholders• coordinate control• raise awareness	2.2.6: Support for position continued and project officer retained	I&INSWand LCA's
--	---	----------------------------

Charlie explained what this position was about and how it is not needed.

2.2.7: LCA's to establish <i>Development control plan conditions</i> to prevent spread via urban development, earthmoving and construction industry	2.2.7: <i>Development control plan conditions</i> introduced into the Council DAprcess by 2014	RWAC and LCA's
--	---	-----------------------

What are people's thoughts on this are. Chris stated something needs to be done on a regional level not at local areas.

Outcome - needs to tie back to goal which is eradicate and contain. Maintain coordination.

Goal 3: Effectively Manage

Reduce the impacts of Alligator Weed.

Most of what is in the core area should be captured here.

Objective 1 – Provide support and resources to increase capacity

3.1.1: Engage stakeholders to commit to achieving strategy outcomes	3.1.1: Presentation and publication of strategy at each RWAC meeting and post strategy on I&INSWinternet	I&INSW
--	---	-------------------

Hillary stated what about achieving effective management. Rod its about promoting the strategy but needs to be worded clearer. Hillary needs something about getting it endorsed. All 5 strategies going up to minister and endorsed by state weeds committee

3.1.2: Develop integrated projects involving multiple stakeholders	3.1.2: At least one project submitted annually or per funding round	RWAC, I&INSW, CMAand LCA's
---	--	---------------------------------------

Put a line through this not required.

3.1.3: Promote project achievements and outcomes	3.1.3: Achievements presented at NSWBiannual Weeds Conference and regional meetings etc	I&INSW, LCA's and CMA
---	--	----------------------------------

Promote at Conferences, state weeds committee. Hillary this is where you can identify asset protection zones. This is the sort of information you need in here. How do we manage the core infestations? Rod – recognition of regional weed plans. Recognition of regional plan and any other alligator weed plans.

3.1.4: Promote and encourage use of extranet	3.1.4: All weed professionals subscribed to I&INSWweeds extranet website	I&INSWand LCA's
---	---	----------------------------

Forget about this

3.1.5: Collate and produce annual alligator weed strategy report	3.1.5: Annual report on implementation of the NSWalligator weed strategy prepared and distributed	I&INSW
---	--	-------------------

Yes and include the best practice update.

3.1.6: Coordinate and support submission of minor use permits in consultation with DECCW	3.1.6: Minor use permits obtained as required	I&INSWand DECCW
---	--	----------------------------

Still relevant. Include the word communicate.

3.1.7: Provide funding and support to research and field trials	3.1.7: Support or funding provided to alligator weed research projects	I&INSW, CMA, LCA's and CSIRO
--	---	---

Important! Is there an action about identifying the research priorities.

3.1.8: Collate data on environmental and economic impacts of alligator weed	3.1.8: Data collated and alligator weed impact report produced by 2014	I&INSWand CSIRO
--	---	----------------------------

Do councils have the capacity to do this, is it necessary and what are you going to use it for? Helps with funding applications – potential impact. It's the value of the industry you are protecting not what the impact would be.

3.1.9: Investigate the potential use of predictive hydrology modelling information	3.1.9: Report on predictive hydrology modelling information and its potential for incorporation into survey techniques	RWAC and LCA's
---	---	-----------------------

Did happen in Richmond valley after floods. Was discussed in Riverina meeting as something that could be done there.

Discussion on what else needs considering. Risk management, hygiene, control, engaging high risk industries. Develop strategies around risk management and asset protection plans. All plans can be in there. What is effective management of alligator weed as it causes different problems in different areas? In time need to redevelop the Sydney alligator weed plan. Alligator weed specific management plan. Risk management plan might highlight areas in Sydney where you have to do a bit more and areas where you could do less. Strategy to prevent spread from the core which is different to goal 2 which is the thing that is going on out in the zone. Support regions to develop strategies and their risk management procedures. Not just a strategy for dpi but to engage the state, the regions etc.

Goal 4: Capacity and Resources

Develop resources and improve capacity to manage Alligator Weed.

Objective 1 – Increase awareness of people working with alligator weed

4.1.1: Conduct field demonstrations of alligator weed control techniques

4.1.1: Field demonstrations of alligator weed control techniques conducted

I&INSW and LCA's

Demonstrations undertaken previously in the Riverina. Nothing similar undertaken elsewhere. There are videos on Sydney weeds website.

This is where to include case studies maybe not field demonstrations and broadened out to include info sharing etc. Could include something about volunteer groups ie Increase capacity of the volunteer groups before we use them. Big group of bushcare and landcare people in Sydney.

Get rid of the word awareness out of everything as it does not do anything. Give them identification tools. Discussion on the wording and how since it was written the priorities have changed. Is the priority to increase awareness in the professional field or is it in increasing awareness and capacity in volunteers bush regen etc. The concept was through whether you were getting support through council for your alligator weed work.

In relation to the zone how could we split objectives ie in the zone you have one set of objectives and not in the zone another set of objectives. This is articulating your expectations and this guides the regions, as the biosecurity zone over takes a lot of this. These objectives do not apply across the state as we have different objectives in Sydney.

Reframe goal 2 around the biosecurity zone and goal 3 around core infestation actions.

Suggestions for outcome for goal 4 objective 1. Alligator weed managers have capacity to implement strategic management. LCAS, private contractors, bush regen, weed professionals. Weed professionals are aware of alligator weed.

4.1.2: Increase awareness of LCA's management and industry staff

4.1.2: LCA's management and industry staff participated in alligator weed awareness activities. Council planning and management staff participate in the 'Managers training course on understanding the role of a weeds officer'.

I&INSW and LCA's

Objective 2 – Increase community awareness.

Change to Increase community participation in aw management

4.2.1: Promote and make use of the NSW alligator weed No space 4 weeds television commercial

4.2.1: TV commercial promoted and utilised by LCA's

LCA's and RWAC

We are saying before we want to improve weed professionals capability and now we are saying the same for community.

Target community groups to what – manage probably not, report yes. Discussion on who manages alligator weed – mostly weed professionals but sometimes volunteer groups. Identify and report – fishing groups, bush walkers etc. Develop capability of targeted community groups to identify and report Alligator weed.

4.2.2: Develop alligator weed awareness signs and identify strategic locations

4.2.2: Signs erected at strategic locations by 2014

I&INSW and LCA's

Discussion on the boating signs distributed by DPI and the alligator weed signs on the Hawkesbury. Signs are good at strategic locations and the alligator weed signs at Windsor boat ramp are good as there is room and wash down bays. Question do the signs tell you exactly what to do what is the behavior you want people to do. Boating hygiene ones tell people what to do. Need to state what are the actions we need to do. Discussion on relevance of signs if no wash down facilities. Signs still relevant and big issue for core areas. Question Do we need to have some sort of targeted

strategy talking about cbsm ,what are the behaviours, who's the audience, what do we want people to do for alligator weed management. Developing science-based behavior change for targeting the community for alligator weed management. Discussion on dealing with recreational fishers and often they do not see the weeds as weeds but as habitat and do not distinguish between weeds and native water plants they are all weeds to them i.e. like sea weed.

4.2.3: Display alligator weed awareness information at events

4.2.3: Information displayed at a minimum of one event per LCA per year

I&INSW, RWAC, LCA's, DECCW and CMA

Change to provide alligator weed and water weed best practice information at a variety of events, training work shops. Targeted stakeholder events and industry groups.

4.2.4: Update Sri Lankan alligator weed brochure and maintain awareness activities where necessary

4.2.4: Media release published in National Sri Lankan newspaper Sri Lankan alligator weed brochure updated and posted on I&I NSW internet

I&INSW

Charlie explained about the Sri Lankan communities growing of alligator weed. Discussion on the fact a lot of it may still be there but has fallen off the radar a bit.

NSW Invasive Species Plan 2018-2021

GOAL 1 Exclude

How we link these in with the alligator weed plan. Highlight things we have not already covered – we have covered 1.1.1. 1.1.2.

1.1.3 : There is no action around enforcement and would compliance be a better word. Put it in goal 4 or in goal 1 – 1.1.3. Alligator weed interesting one for compliance as a lot of it is on water and who controls this.

1.1.4 : Looks good tweak this around as part of your hygiene –work with industry needs to be included – goal 4 ?

1.2: Where do we capture the stuff about the drones and the dogs, new technology. Comes into the best management practices ie new technology. Needs to be an action about incorporating new technologies into new incursion response, detection, management. A few elements such as supporting research, development of new technologies – adopting new techniques and technology.

1.2.2: General one for biosecurity not Alligator weed. We already have a biosecurity zone in place.

1.2.3: We have identified alligator weed as that.

1.2.4: We have awareness there again we won't read that out.

Goal 2 Eradicate or Contain

2.1.2: We have incursion response plans in mandatory documents and new incursion funds.

2.1.4 :This has been done on State level with the zone. However on South Coast they have 5 – 15 year timelines if not longer. At some point we might say it is not an eradication target but is a containment target. Already done at the state level ie sub regional plans might say it is a 10 year eradication target.

2.1.5: New incursion plans are going to be updated. You can use some of the outcome text from the ISP here.

We might have missed something on research engagement. ie if they develop a tool in Victoria on the detection of alligator weed we get to know about it. This is where cross border collaboration comes up. So what did we have – develop cross border protocols for cross border communication etc – so just add new technologies, research and collaboration.

2.2.5 Record location of existing and new infestations to state aquatic weed coordinator and develop a state map – Yes being done with BIS. Change the outcome or the activity there.

Goal 3 Effectively Manage

3.1.1: Already talked about this through developing the regional plan.

3.1.2: Prioritise regional efforts, that will happen in the plan.

3.1.3: This has already been captured. Hillary – might need to explain it a bit better that it has been captured in the regional alligator weed plan. Rod -Anything else, national parks plans, WONs strategies, regional plans. Hillary – you could have an action that lumps all that together and linking with the stakeholder plans to see that alligator weed priorities are shared, ie the state plan recognizes other stakeholder plans out there other than the regional weed plans. There is an action like that in the regional weeds MERI draft something like getting alligator weed priorities recognized in stakeholder plans such as WONs etc. – nice catch all for when groups like Environmental Trust have funds available and you have an action in your regional plans that says saving our species actions and say its captured in two plans – something like that.

3.2.1: Has been captured.

3.2.2: Rod – Parks is on board with this tenure neutral thing are the other agencies. Nicola – Sydney water and Sydney Trains yes. Hillary – recognizing those bodies in this plan gives them the power to go back to their agency to say we are in the state plan. Discussion on terminology for government departments in the document given that Departments can change names. Possibilities on wording include; authorities responsible for waterways so it covers a big group or use NSW government authorities. Nicola – can we put it in there that we need the name of a person from each government agency that agrees to be point of contact ie a communication list.

3.2.3: Not sure it's relevant

3.2.4: Already captured that

3.2.5: Important to put in.

3.2.6: Need an action in there about the MERI, monitoring and reporting. What – annual reporting to whom. One failing of original plan was no reporting. Need an annual report and then an end of plan report.

Goal 4 – Capacity Building

4.1: Roles are clear.

4.2.1: yes done

4.2.2: Done but some good wording there to use

4.3: Rod – I guess you have the Recognising Water Weed Identification Course.

4.3.2: Yes we have these across the State. Do we have enough training for them.

4.4 .1: Suggestion to change to maintain relevant research priorities. There is a fair bit going on overseas ie NZ.

4.4.2: Hillary – what good is it to put that in a plan it is just another line. We are doing it all the time. The way to get funding is to have a good strategy. Rod – I was thinking about some future research. Hillary – yes you could tie that in with your research and technology. Source funds for developing things

4.5.1: We are already working in that framework

4.5.2: Fairly high level that action

4.5.3: Above and over us.

4.6: Rod - We have captured most of the relevant information. The other mentioned was the MERI component of this plan. I think at the back of the original plan it did talk about Meri but it may not have happened so we should look at that. We need to put some thought into the Meri framework process. The plan could link to the Meri plan that is coming out. Annual report with a best practice update from weed officers and then your summations of the alligator weed actions from your Meri. Hillary – hopefully the LLS Meri will be broad enough to capture all stakeholders. At the moment it is just capturing LCAs. If other stakeholders are doing work on alligator weed it should be captured in the regional plan. Discussion on reporting by community groups such as landcare, bushcare. Not compulsory for them to report but if they understand that if supervised they have to report. You have to give them an easy way to do it ie the Sydney weeds app.

Anything else we have not captured that we need to put in there.

The distribution page because that has a whole bunch of spots on it? I assume you are going to do like there a quick summary of areas by LLS level. More around the biosecurity zone and whats happening in core infestations etc.

Probably reflect on what is happening in Sydney and Hunter. There is your opportunity to link the regional plans.

The control strategies page needs to be revised. The whole term of immediate eradication is not really relevant.

Replace that with the biosecurity speak. So what is written in the regulation will probably be written on that page. The map will be there whether we have the invasion curve we will be told if it should be in there or not. I don't think we should have letters representing different regions , your either in the zone or your not.

A case study would be good in there too.

Good if we can standardize these with the other plans. We were talking about shortening them quite a bit getting straight to the guts of it. Getting the crap out of it. We have control manuals for all these so we do not need to be talking about biology etc. Get it right 4 – 6 pages. Have links to everything.

ACTION TABLE

Item	Action	Who
1	Investigate the Biocontrol agent Arcola (stem borer)	Charlie Mifsud
2	Raise alligator weed biocontrol at next biocontrol meeting.	Hillary? Charlie?
3	Review the <i>Priorities for the control of Alligator Weed in the Sydney Region</i> in 2018 (to include Central Coast LGA)	Anthony Schofield with public land managers
4	Link to Hunter CBSM project preventing AW spread through mowers/slathers and investigate similar project for GS region	Nicola Dixon

Item	Action	Who
5	Provide newly developed contact list for OEH-NPWS staff so that LCA officers know who to contact at operations level.	Hillary Cherry
6	Develop an Alligator Weed Weed Management Plan that sits under the GS RSWMP.	Anthony Schofield with GS RWC
7	Review status and management objective of Alligator Weed in GS RSWMP – WRAs for Camden, Wollondilly and Campbelltown LGAs.	Anthony Schofield with GS RWC subcommittee
8	Review WAP funding guidelines 2020	Nicola Dixon and WAP steering committee