



MEETING 15 OUTCOMES – 8 September 2020

The NSW State Weed Committee held its 15th meeting online via TEAMS on 8 September 2020. The shortened agenda covered:

1. New and retiring members.

The Chair acknowledged the Minister's re-appointment of the State Weed Committee and welcomed new members Jake Tanner (LLS) and Scott Charlton (DPI) and members who have been reappointed to the Committee and thanked retiring members Brett Miners (LLS) and Andrew Sanger (DPI).

2. Chair's update.

The Chair advised of his travels through Western NSW and that Parthenium weed remains a concern. He also noted that the biocontrol agent for Hudson Pear is working well thus far. The shared role of Department of Primary Industries Director, Invasive Species Biosecurity, between Andrew Sanger and Scott Charlton was acknowledged.

3. Member reports.

Each of the members provided an update report including their action items to the Committee. In summary:

1. DPI provided updates against four new sub-programs – State Priority Weeds Coordination and Response (Parthenium weed, frogbit, kidney-leaf mud plantain, tropical soda apple, alligator weed); Partnerships and Programs (NSW Weeds Action Program, BIS-Weeds data, Sydney Flower Market inspections, LCA audits); Enabling Voluntary Compliance (new publications, BIS-Weeds maps in NSW WeedWise, Crime Stoppers, Weeds Training Program) and Delivering the Biological Control Pipeline (digital monitoring through WIDX, ox-eye daisy agents, quarantine facility at Orange Agricultural Institute, Hudson pear biocontrol mass rearing facility at Lightning Ridge); outputs of the Weeds Research Unit (Bathurst Burr Bioherbicide, Weed DNA tool, WeedID/WeedScan project and submissions to national funding programs) and reported on 11 action items.
2. Local Government NSW advised it has contacts in Transport for NSW and that an increase in funding for weeds officer activities will be sought.
3. The Weeds Officers Association would like to see increased government funding and upskilling of new recruits in the face of a tranche of officers retiring, and clarifications on which species an LCA can submit to BIS-Weeds. Opportunities for targeting 'innovation' and 'partnerships' are on the rise - this is a robust approach applying to high priority weeds and where councils can work in partnership with other agencies in holistic landscape scale programs.
4. The Local Land Services is working closely with DPI and the Regional Weed Coordinators on the Parthenium Weed Response. Further, the Regional Weed Coordinators have submitted their WAP 2020-2025 sub-regional plans which are being reviewed by DPI.
5. NSW Farmers identified recurring resourcing problems with inspections and highlighted a positive narrative being set by Upper Macquarie County Council. Further, NSW Farmers Association Conservation and Resource Management Committee discussed the issue of

“tenure neutral control” of weed and pest animal management with the need for application of enforcement.

6. The Nursery and Garden Industry NSW & ACT is working with DPI on the Crime Stoppers project and with the Plant Sure project consortium, focusing on ornamentals. Other developments include positive discussions about the potential for a Property Identification (PIC) Scheme in consultation with DPI Strategic Projects staff Di Watkins. Plantsure Scheme proceeding well as a tool to independently and transparently assess the risk of invasiveness or ornamental garden plants.
7. NSW Parks is focusing on post-bush fire recovery and opportunistic weed control. A new position in the NPWS Weeds Team is dedicated to establishing state-wide monitoring sites to measure post-fire weed management and biodiversity response.
8. The Crown Lands Crown Reserves Improvement Fund has been released with over 240 applications for \$4.2 million of funding. In addition to the annual CRIF program, there is funding available through the regions to undertake additional projects during the year.

4. NSW Weeds Action Program (WAP) Funding.

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The Committee will next meet in December 2020.



Reg Kidd
SWC Chair
8 September 2020