



DRAFT MINUTES

GREATER SYDNEY LOCAL LAND SERVICES

REGIONAL WEED COMMITTEE

MEETING No 16: Thursday 15 August 2019

SILVER ROOM, MANTRA HOTEL PARRAMATTA

Meeting commenced at 9.30 am

Chair: Peter Trahar

Participants:

Peter Trahar, GS LLS Board	Paul Marynissen, Central Coast Council
Graham Wilson, GS LLS	Anthony Newling, Sydney North Subregion
Anthony Schofield, GS LLS	Leanne Bunn, Sydney Central Subregion
Rod Ensbey, NSW DPI	Joel Daniels, Sydney South West Subregion
Steve Parker, NPWS	Dr Judy Lambert, Environmental interests
Jacob Adams, Water NSW	Craig Perring, Nursery & Garden Industry Association
Luke Durrington, Transport NSW	Amanda Kotlash, Sydney Weeds Committees Incorporated
Samir Patel, Transport NSW	Nicola Dixon, HRCC
Kathleen Williams, RMS	

Apologies/absent:

Camille Bonnot, RMS	Glenda Steain
Mel Hall, NPWS	Stan Rees, DPI Crown Lands
Chris Dewhust, HRCC	Tony Williams
Dave Whiteman, Blue Mountains Council & Sydney West Blue Mountains Subregion	

1. Welcome and apologies:

- Chair welcomed participants to the meeting.
- WH&S statement by Anthony Schofield
- A register of interests has been prepared and members requested to complete and send to Anthony Schofield by 31 August.

ACTION 16/1: All members and observers to complete interest register and email to Anthony Schofield by 31/8/19.

Action by: All members and observers

RESOLVED, that when a matter is raised where a conflict is perceived the committee considers which of the following should apply to the member with the conflict:

- a) Remain in the meeting, participate in discussion and vote on the matter
- b) Remain in the meeting but neither participate in discussion or vote on the matter
- c) Leave the meeting while the matter is discussed.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the procedure is reviewed by a third party with expertise in matters of conflicts of interest.

Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the previous meeting are accepted with correction to the reference TO WIDX on page 4.

2. Review of RWC Action Schedule:

Presented by Peter Trahar and Anthony Schofield

- New method of recording and tracking actions arising from meetings has been adopted.
- A RWC Action Schedule will be distributed with business papers and used to track status of actions from previous meeting and all other pending actions.
- Action by who and by when will be noted on the schedule.
- Actions will remain on schedule until they are shown as completed. Once completed they will be removed from schedule.
- Generally, actions items will only be discussed by exception.
- 13/04 Responsibility for action transferred to Anthony. Draft report completed and tabled at next DPI Biosecurity and Food Safety Leaders Team Meeting for discussion of recommendations, release etc. 5 page summary / PowerPoint presentation of the project is included in the business papers.
- 14/04 Awaiting final version to be uploaded to Sydney Water website. Anthony to provide update at next meeting
- 15/03 Leanne Bunn provided a detailed summary of SWC website use (43,000 total hits) over the past 18 months.

3. LLS Update:

Recent developments in LLS:

Presented by Peter Trahar, /Graham Wilson/Anthony Schofield

Peter Trahar and Anthony Schofield addressed meeting re various issues

- David Hogan has resigned from GS LLS. Sharon Elliott is acting GM until the position is filled permanently, possibly in around 6 months.
- Nicola Dixon has accepted a position at NSW DPI and will finish employment with HRCC on 31 August, after which WAP Project administration will transfer to GS LLS. Genevieve Kyi and Anthony Schofield will assume responsibility for all WAP admin and regional coordination duties previously undertaken by Nicola Dixon and HRCC. Anthony Schofield will be the main contact until further notice.
- Weeds workshop held for LLS staff in June, including presentation by Paul Marynissen on LCA roles and responsibilities.
- The committee thanked Nicola Dixon for her contribution to the WAP project over the past four years.

4. DPI initiatives & recent developments:

Presented by Rod Ensbeay.

Updates were provided regarding new incursions of prohibited matter. Including

- ongoing management of black knapweed (Tenterfield). Area is severely affected by drought.
- Detection of rubber vine near Wanaaring – treated and no major spread. No local government so LLS management with Crown Lands. In Paroo River catchment (risk of downstream spread if there are subsequent floods)
- Frogbit (Georges River, Sydney) – second Sit Rep prepared in early August. Booms put in place to limit spread and several treatment of relevant areas. Drought is currently restricting spread but also high nutrients favourable to local establishment. If it moves below weir into saltwater it will not survive

ACTION 16/2: Anthony Schofield to distribute second Frogbit Sit Rep with draft minutes.

- Current drought conditions conducive to aquatic weeds in Georges and Hawkesbury Rivers, requiring close monitoring to avoid repeat of 2003/2004 infestation of Hawkesbury-Nepean system.
- Advice from Paul Marynissen that current water releases into river are at pH 7 (to meet EPA standard) which appears to be higher pH than natural river water and may be making river more conducive to weed growth both on banks and for aquatic weeds.

ACTION 16/3: Anthony Schofield to liaise with Paul Marynissen and draft letter/email to EPA regarding pH of STP discharges into Sydney's rivers.

Action due: Nov 19

- Further information provided on permit process for sale of devitalised listed weeds through Sydney Markets which is being jointly managed by Strathfield Council and

market operators. Proposed that Strathfield Council enters into Biosecurity Undertaking as part of enforcing permit conditions. May need further referral to technical RWC subcommittee to assess sale of 2 further Asparagus weeds in markets under conditions of a Biosecurity Undertaking.

ACTION 16/4: Rod Ensbey draft paper outlining issues and decisions required for RWC technical subcommittee consideration.

Action due: Nov 19

- A more general policy/procedure is being prepared by NSW DPI addressing the biosecurity risks associated with sale of regional priority species of weeds at Flower Markets, and will be provided to RWC for review once available.

5. RWC Terms of Reference (ToR):

Presented by Anthony Schofield.
Refer to business paper for item 5.

- Peter Trahar proposed that Chair not have determinative vote, but rather when the vote of members is tied that the issue be referred back to RWC for further work to come up with a proposal that received wider support.
- Also proposed that RWC meeting frequency be reduced from 4 to 3 times per year with one in early year, one in middle and one in later year.

RESOLVED, that the proposed ToR is endorsed with the following amendments:

- i. include in section 2, *to promote concept of shared responsibility for managing weeds across government, industry and the community*
- ii. remove from section 4 reference to Office of Environment and Heritage. This section should only refer to National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- iii. Remove from section 4, reference to footnote and footnote regarding public land managers.
- iv. Amend section 12.1 so that RWC must meet at least 3 times per year instead of 4, and
- v. Amend section 13.3 by removing the determining vote by the Chair.

6. Regional Weed Coordination Report:

Presented by Anthony Schofield & Nicola Dixon
Refer to Business Papers for Item 6.

- Amendments that were endorsed by RWC in February 2019 have been subject to a 4 week consultation period in June/July and will be presented to the GS LLS Board at their next meeting (20 August).
- A further amendment has been proposed by Wollondilly Council and is currently being considered by the technical subcommittee.

ACTION 16/5: Anthony Schofield to re-distribute (with draft minutes) procedure for amending RSWMP previously endorsed by RWC.

- SWC is currently voting on whether to change name and operations Sydney Weeds Committees Incorporated and subregional committees to make a clear distinction to

RWC and/or align subregional committees operations to RWC. If vote is very close it will need further consideration by Sydney Weeds Committees board and members.

- Update on numbers and appointment of LCA authorised officers – currently a number of new appointments underway.
- LCAs – 8 not currently reporting on weed activities but 4 of the 8 are making arrangements. Sydney City LGA is proving difficult to progress and Graham Wilson agreed to contact through LEMC reps asking that arrangements be expedited.
- Need to plan for a Regional Weed Awareness Event. To be discussed during handover with GS LLS.
- \$187K WAP funds unspent/carryover from year 4.

7. Rail Corridor Weed Management Plan

Presented by Luke Durrington.

- Luke Durrington presented on work underway to map weeds along railway corridor. Implications for management yet to be determined but envisage a management plan approach, being done with adjoining land holders where feasible, with different approaches to eradication, containment and asset protection class weeds.
- Proposed that priority be given to treatment of eradication and containment species with asset protection management limited to where it is being done for a clear priority eg conservation of an EEC and the generally done in cooperation with adjoining land manager.
- Presentation was highly commended and may be suitable for broader audiences such as State Weeds Conference as an example of best practice public land management.

8. Subregional committees updates & issues:

Presented by Leanne Bunn

- SWC member vote in progress to determine preferred option for alignment with RWC. Voting closing on 23 August.
- Some confusion being raised about priority weeds reporting requirements to BIS.
- Nicola Dixon is preparing a BIS users guide.
- Sydney Weed App meeting planned for 11 September could be opportunity for DPI to present to users. BIS reporting is based on metadata standard (requires 32 line items and only state and regional priority weeds). Potential for reporting on other weeds should be discussed at Sydney Weed App meeting.

ACTION 16/6: Anthony Schofield to re-send invite to Sydney Weed App users meeting.

9. Agency/member updates & issues

- Rod Ensbey (NSW DPI) advised WAP guidelines and application process being revised. Applications to be lodged and processed online. Regional weed coordinators meeting planned for November 2019.
- Anthony Newling (Sydney North) commented that reporting for WAP is currently onerous and discourages councils from applying for funding. Application and

reporting should be streamlined under next five year WAP project. Anthony Schofield offered to assist during next application process.

- Kathleen Williams (RMS) – oversees management of residue land – land that is vacant and being held for future projects or excess to past projects. Statewide weed management program being implemented. Does not include linear corridors (ie roads).

ACTION 16/7: Anthony Schofield to send local government contact list to Kathleen Williams.

- Craig Perring (NGINA) – Proposed funding for Plantsure project currently with environmental trust. Biosecurity training to be delivered to nursery industry with input from Nicola Dixon and Martin Horwood (LLS). Sought advice/information from members regarding oxalis palmifrons, which appears to be for sale in Victoria despite not being approved by AQIS for import. Has also been raised with State Weed Committee.

ACTION 16/8: Craig Perring to provide update on the status of oxalis palmifrons at next meeting.

- Steve Parker (NPWS) – NPWS is currently updating branch pest management strategies, which identify priorities for management programs. Revision will incorporate threatened species program (Saving Our Species) strategies and regional pest and weed management strategies/plans. Sea spurge surveillance conducted in Royal NP with three plants found.
- Paul Marynissen (Central Coast) – responding to outbreak of boneseed in contentious site including aboriginal heritage, land claims and endangered ecological communities.

10. Glyphosate

Presented by Graham Wilson.

Refer to Business Papers for Item 12

- Several local councils are under pressure to limit the use of glyphosate due to legal liability and toxicity concerns, with some having acted to prevent its use by staff or contractors (e.g Randwick), others have conducted reviews and determined the risk is not significant if used with PPE as per label.
- Issue was considered by the State Weed Committee at the recent meeting.
- NPWS and LLS both have a policy of referring to APVMA label requirements for safe use and supporting ongoing use in a manner complying with this. This approach was generally supported by other RWC members.
- Anthony Schofield has compiled a list of relevant publications about the issue (provided to RWC) and will continue to keep RWC updated re advice re use of chemical and relevant scientific studies.

11. Amended Mandatory (WAP) Documents

Presented by Anthony Schofield.

Refer to Business Papers for Item 6.

RESOLVED, that the four amended mandatory (WAP) documents are approved without further amendment.

12. Amendments to GS RSWMP

Updated provided by Anthony Schofield during agenda item 6.

13. Items for next meeting

Update from NSW Weeds Conference
Alignment of subregional committees (update)
MERI reporting for RSWMP
2020 RSWMP Review
Conflict of Interest register – report back

14. Items for Distribution

All items distributed with meeting agenda as Business Papers for information of members.

15. Summary and Next Steps:

Meeting closed: 12:45pm

Next meeting: 14 November, 9am – 2pm, at Parramatta.