



MEETING 12 OUTCOMES – 26 March 2019

The State Weed Committee met at Rydges International in Sydney on 26 March 2019 to discuss the following items:

1. Environment and Invasive Committee (EIC)

The EIC is an advisory sub-committee of the National Biosecurity Committee formed under the IGAB (Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity). The EIC implements the Australian Weeds Strategy and all states and territories contribute to the action plan. The Committee is interested in biocontrol targets for weeds, emergency preparedness and the ongoing need for an emergency response agreement for expenditure between affected parties in weeds responses. The member organisations of the SWC have contributed information for the EIC's assessment of work remaining for WONS species – for example, that 5 WONS don't have best practice manuals.

2. Chinese violet Control Order

The Chinese Violet Control Order has been finalised and is awaiting final approval. It is hoped that it will have been issued by the end of May.

3. Plant Sure

The Plant Sure project, currently supported by the NSW Environmental Trust, aims to reduce the availability of weedy ornamental plants from supply and trade in NSW. A voluntary certification scheme will be developed to remove or prevent the use of plants that pose an environmental weed risk. Phase 1 (2017-18) investigated existing schemes and plant assessment processes, and Phase 2 builds will finalise building, piloting and delivery of the Scheme. This will be delivered in a two-staged approach over six years (2019 – 2025). The Environmental Trust is currently reviewing the funding of Phase 2.

4. Weeds Management Capacity Audits

Piloting has commenced with 6 LCAs to be audited against the Standard for Weeds Management Capacity in NSW by the end of June. Three pilot audits have been conducted by Syd Lisle with the management executive of three local governments. The auditing process is helping to highlight areas where a council is excelling with their weeds management capacity, and areas they still need to develop. Councils will be supported to work towards achieving good weeds management capacity. The pilot process is helping to fine tune the audit tools in preparation for full implementation post June. LCA's can expect to be randomly selected for auditing from June onwards. The finalised Standard and the audit tools will be made available at completion of the pilot phase.

5. LLS DPI MOU update

Teleconferences are underway to draft the Schedule 4 for Invasive Plants and Animals that will support the MOU between DPI and the LLS. A number of rounds of development are expected to be needed before the Schedule is finalised.

7. Hudson Pear & DPI/CISS research updates

DPI has received funding from OEH to build a 30 m long tunnel house to rear and release Hudson pear biocontrol agents at Lightning Ridge. Additional funds have been made available for outlier control and capacity building. Castlereagh Macquarie County Council and NW LLS are subcontracted to deliver these activities

NSW DPI is continuing discussions with the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions on the RD&E plan for weeds.

8. NSW Weeds Action Program state sub-program updates – Capacity Building & Engagement; Aquatic Weed Coordination; Hawkweed Eradication

Project coordinators presented the outcomes to date and future directions for 3 of the NSW WAP state sub-programs. The CB&E sub-program has focussed on plain language; boosting print resources such as the New South Wales Weed Control Handbook 7th Edition to the largest print run it's had (56,000 copies); updates to NSW WeedWise to allow searching by plant characteristics; additions to the WIDX website and training on behaviour change. The Aquatic Weeds Coordination sub-program has dealt with prohibited matter incursions of frogbit and other state priority aquatic weed incursions; delivered training to 88 weeds professionals this financial year-to-date; and addressed online sales of aquatic weeds and associated protocols and policies. The Hawkweed Eradication sub-program has created new surveillance techniques to better account for wind dispersal and these have proven successful. Drone technology has been extremely helpful. The sub-program has provided a foundation for securing Environmental Trust funding for an 8 year surveillance program that allow for an 8-fold increase in surveillance, maximising the chance of successful eradication of hawkweeds from NSW.

9. NSW WAP 20-25 Planning and preparation

The Guidelines for the next round of the NSW Weeds Action Program are in development, along with a new administration system that will be a sub-system of WIDX, replacing the Journey App. Weeds Officers, Regional Weeds Coordinators and DPI staff have been involved in the development of the new system that will allow each organisation to workflow their project administration through to the next level (from local, to regional to state), allowing for consolidated reports at every level. All users will have the opportunity to participate in testing the new system and reviewing the program Guidelines.

10. RSWMP MERI Framework launch

The Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement (MERI) framework for Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans has been launched. Regional Weeds Coordinators are now familiar with it and how it could be used. The SWC will discuss the minimum reporting requirements they expect to see against the framework. The MERI framework can be found on the Weeds Extranet.



Reg Kidd
SWC Chair
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