

This business paper has been prepared to address the following action from the RWC Meeting 17 - Thursday 28 November 2019

Action 17/02: Leanne Bunn to provide business paper clarifying the relationship between RWC and SWN, clearly defining roles and functions of the SWN to present and be accepted or modified by the RWC.

Action by: Leanne Bunn
Action due: next meeting - March 2020

Shortly after this meeting the President of the Sydney Weeds Network (SWN), Leanne Bunn resigned and has been replaced by Dave Whiteman.

SWN has also revamped its original four sub-committees into three sub-networks. The table below shows which councils and agencies are in which sub-network. Councils listed in red are not members of SWN and Councils in *italics* are under Hawkesbury River County Council:

Coastal	Central	West
Central Coast	Hornsby	<i>Blacktown</i>
Nth Beaches	Ku-ring-gai	Blue Mountains
Willoughby	Ryde	<i>Hawkesbury</i>
Mosman	Lane Cove	<i>Penrith</i>
North Sydney	Hunters Hill	Camden
Waverley	Inner West	Campbelltown
Woollahra	Georges River	Fairfield
Randwick	Strathfield	Liverpool
Bayside	Canada Bay	Wollondilly
Sutherland	Cant. Bank.	Water NSW
City of Sydney	Parramatta	<i>The Hills</i>
	Cumberland	
	Burwood	

SWN has 32 members – 31 councils and 1 State agency.

The SWN has five key goals. Some points have been added under each goal to help identify the relationship between the SWN and the RWC. They are:

Key Goal 1:

To provide a platform for our member organisations to have their views represented in regional, state and national weeds legislation, planning, policy and program development and vice versa.

- provide a voice for each member LCA through collective representation on the RWC
- advise the RWC on emerging weed priorities, local strategic and operational matters

- support delivery of regional communication, education training and awareness programs
- assist with identifying information and research needs

Key Goal 2:

Instigate, develop and lead collaborative weed management projects amongst Councils and other agencies, within and/or across our subnetworks.

- provide networking opportunities for on-ground practitioners within our member organisations
- support the implementation of the GRSWMP
- promote coordination of weed management across member organisations
- assist with identifying information and research needs

Key Goal 3:

Increase the understanding of industry best practice for weed management for our member organisations.

- support implementation of the RSWMP
- promote weed policy, risk assessments, best practice control to member organisations and the community
- assist with identifying information and research needs

Key Goal 4:

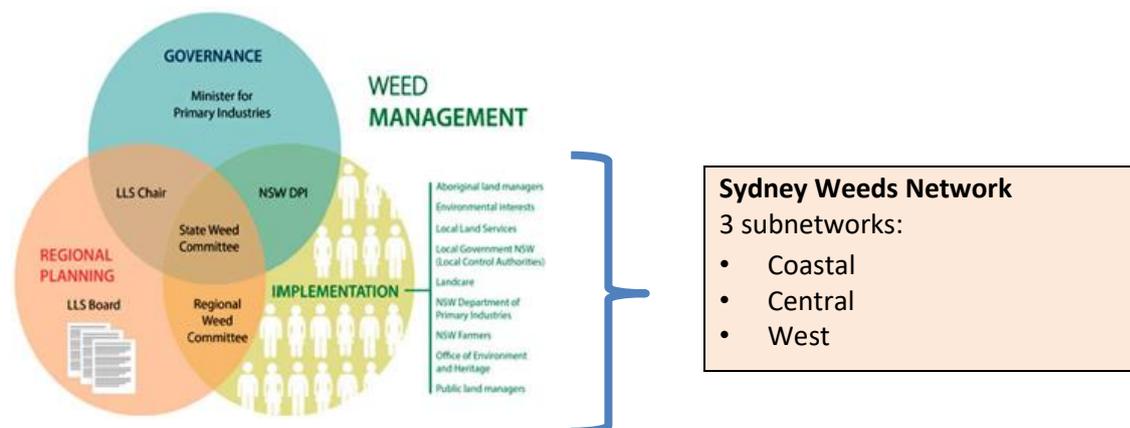
Increase community and industry awareness, understanding and engagement of weed issues and their management across the Greater Sydney region

- promote weed policy, risk assessments, best practice control to member organisations and the community
- support delivery of regional communication, education training and awareness programs
- assist with identifying information and research needs

Key Goal 5:

Administer Sydney Weeds Network efficiently and effectively.

The figure below (adapted from GRSWMP 2017-2022), shows the roles in weed management. SWN sits in the implementation component of this schematic.



Listed below are a list of activities extracted from the GS RWC Terms of Reference. It is quite clear that the RWC operates on a very different level to that of the SWN.

The RWC provides 'tenure neutral' strategic planning and coordination of weed management activities at the regional level, including:

- promote the concept of shared responsibility for managing weeds across government, industry and the community
- support implementation of the weed components and underlining principles of the NSW Biosecurity Strategy, NSW Biosecurity Act and the NSW Invasive Species Plan 2015-2022;
- provide advice to the Board and Management regarding delivery weed functions for the Local Land Services (LLS) consistent with the Local Strategic Plan;
- to oversee the implementation of the regional weed management plan on a region-wide perspective, using committee expertise and best available knowledge, , research and technology.
- provide a forum for the community and stakeholders in decision making, and develop communication education and awareness programs based on local and/or regional priority weeds and issues.
- to advise the State Weed Committee on weed priorities and other strategic matters in the region and seek their advice relating to weed listings, cross jurisdictional and other matters.
- to liaise with neighbouring regional weed committees, especially with respect to any significant incursions and potential movement of priority weeds from one region to another.
- to promote weed policy, risk assessments, declarations, best practice and control outcomes to member organisations and the community.
- to facilitate regional communication, education, training and awareness programs that promote RSWMP outcomes.
- to promote effective co-ordination of weed management across agencies and tenure, including appropriate resource and information sharing between member organisations.
- to identify synergies from collaborations and opportunities for funding and priority project delivery
- to identify information and research needs and appropriate collaborative actions
- to oversee measurement and evaluation of weed control activities in the region to inform management actions and planning.
- to monitor, evaluate and report on outcomes of the RWC collaborative planning and delivery processes.

The RWC require the role of individual members of the RWC to include:

- the ability to promoting a strategic and coordinated approach to regional weed management
- having the support of and ability to represent their stakeholder group or organisation;
- being a conduit for information flow between their respective stakeholder group and the RWC;
- building a cooperative, collaborative and effective RWC;
- having a broad understanding of the issues relevant to the regional management of weeds;

- developing background knowledge on relevant emerging weed issues and the ability to communicate this; and
- addressing barriers to effective implementation and willingness to assist in the development of appropriate solutions.

The strengthening of the relationship between the RWC and the SWN is an ongoing process. Anthony Schofield has attended SWN Board meetings when items of mutual benefit have been discussed. The SWN Board hopes this will continue as it will assist with the collaborative and consistent approach to weed management.

Anthony organised some face-to-face DISc training for the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of the three sub-networks, but the COVID 19 pandemic has stalled this for the present.

The SWN looks forward to continuing to work collaboratively with the RWC to help in the delivery of sustainable weed management across the Greater Sydney region.

Kind Regards,



DAVE WHITEMAN

President of the Sydney Weeds Network Inc.

