

Greater Sydney RWC Meeting 19: BUSINESS PAPER

Agenda Item 3	Regional Weed Coordination Report
ATTACHMENTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. New Weed Incursions Report2. Prohibited trade of plants campaign
BACKGROUND	<p>New Weed Incursions (see attached report) A new weed incursion report prepared by Genevieve Kyi is attached.</p> <p>Paul Marynissen (Central Coast Council) has produced a great video on parthenium weed which can be viewed using the following link. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MFNUJ9yfNwM</p> <p>Online sale of weeds Between March and July 2020, GSLLS has forwarded on 39 reports of online sales of priority weed species. The most common species being reported are <i>Opuntia</i> species</p> <p>It was proposed at a recent Sydney Weeds Network (SWN) meeting that SWN produce a best practice compliance guide addressing online sales</p> <p>Crimestoppers – Prohibited Plants Campaign The social media campaign by Crimestoppers (NSW Police) aims to reduce online sales of prohibited plants and is due to be launched in August. The initial campaign will focus on sale of aquatic weeds Frogbit, Salvinia and Water Hyacinth and includes a number of messages around protecting our native plants and animals, waterways and industries. The project is a partnership between Crimestoppers, South East LLS, Greater Sydney LLS and NSW DPI, and designed to educate the public on the impacts of the plants and encourage the community to report any illegal sales.</p> <p>Drone / Image Library Project \$10,000 of WAP funds was allocated towards a drone image library project led by South East LLS. The project aims to develop a drone image library for anyone in a LCA to use by loading a 'book' from the library into their drone. This will assist drones to effectively recognise and locate specific weeds</p> <p>Local Priority Weeds WRA Project GS LLS has funded the Sydney Weeds Network to undertake Weed Risk Assessments for up to 130 local priority weed species, including around 22 species for which a WRA does not exist. The project will help achieve greater consistency across the region in terms of weed risk assessments, compliance and specific weed control requirements.</p> <p>Garden Escapes Reprint Project GS LLS has funded the Sydney Weeds Network to update and reprint up to 10,000 copies of the Garden Escapes & Other Weeds in Bushland and Reserves booklet. The booklet has proven to be a popular resource at community events. The current version is 10 years old.</p>

Biocontrol Taskforce membership

\$6,692 of WAP funds have been provided to the NSW Biocontrol Taskforce for a 3 year regional membership, which provides:

- Regular engagement with the Biocontrol taskforce
- Contribution towards mass-rearing of biocontrol agents, and
- Regional access to biocontrol agents.

CSIRO - Wandering Trad Biocontrol Project

CSIRO is coordinating the release of the leaf-smut fungus across NSW in partnership with community stakeholders to help manage wandering trad. The project will run from July 2020 to June 2023. Refer to Items for Distribution for further details.

In addition to providing the fungus to interested community members for release into the field, CSIRO will be setting up a series of monitoring plots to evaluate agent infection levels and effects on the target weed. Several councils and agencies in Greater Sydney have been contacted in relation to this aspect of the project.

Velvety Tree Pear – Wollondilly LGA

GS LLS was able meet a request from Wollondilly Council for funding to assist with removal of a significant infestation of Velvety Tree Pear from a roadside and neighbouring properties. The request for \$8000 came shortly after all WAP funds had been allocated, and was ultimately met with LLS funds.

LCA staffing update

- Whitney Lever has commenced role as Environmental Projects Officer – Biosecurity at Strathfield Council. Whitney has completed the online training and enrolled to attend the Regulatory Training by ACFEC in August. Her appointment as an authorised officer is pending. Whitney has already met with staff from DPI, LLS and flower growers. Whitney can be contacted on 9748 9982 or whitneymay.lever@strathfield.nsw.gov.au.
- Wesley Bodill is the new primary weeds contact at City of Sydney Council. Wesley is the Senior Environmental Pest Officer and can be contacted on 9265 9354 or wbodill@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

**FOR
ACTION/DECISION/NOTING**

Noting

**DECISIONS REQUIRED BY
RWC MEMBERS**

The committee notes this business paper