



MEETING 19 OUTCOMES – 21 March 2022

The NSW State Weed Committee held its 19th meeting face-to-face on 21 March 2022.

1. Chair's update.

The Chair welcomed the Committee to its first face-to-face meeting since early 2021 having met via videoconference since that time. The meeting was conducted at the Albury Entertainment Centre prior to the NSW & VIC Combined Weeds Conference of 22-24 March.



2. Outcomes.

Outcomes arising from discussions included:

- The Committee was addressed by the Hon. Dugald Saunders MP, Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW, via video conference. This was the first appearance of Minister Saunders to the Committee where he spoke on a number of matters, including:
 - The NSW Government prioritising funding toward activities that prevent and eradicate new weed threats in their early stages of invasion where return on investment is greatest.
 - The valuable role of the Regional Weed Coordinators based in each LLS region and the importance of Regional Weed Committees and of all key public landholders and other landholder groups attending committee meetings and adopting the priorities within the Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans.
 - An overview of the Ministers recent visit to Orange and his tour of the weed biological control facilities in DPI.
 - The critical importance of preventing state priority weeds from establishing in NSW, particularly weeds such as parthenium weed which have impacts on human health.
 - The Minister also welcomed two new members to the Committee - Mr Craig Mitchell representing NSW Farmers and Mr Chris O'Connor from the Nursery and Garden Industry NSW & ACT.
 - The Minister expressed his desire to join the Committee in person at a later mutually agreeable date.

- The Committee considered and provided comment on the Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2023-2027 template. Once each region adds text, draft versions of the Plans will be made available for stakeholder and public consultation. Importantly, a state-wide MERI framework has been developed for annual performance measurement, and agreement has been reached on the minimum reporting metrics to be applied and regions having the flexibility to include additional metrics suited to the region. DPI, LLS and Regional Weed Committee members are currently working in close partnership in applying the NSW Weed Risk Management system to existing regional priority weeds and those proposed for consideration.
- The Committee received an update on three control orders that are due to expire, those being boneseed, parkinsonia and tropical soda apple. The Committee agreed to the establishment of a sub-committee to undertake a review and consider renewal. The Committee also discussed forthcoming amendment considerations to Schedule 3 of the Biosecurity Regulation 2017 with a checklist of the proposed amendments to be endorsed by the Committee at a later date.
- DPI provided advice to the Committee that a review of the policy for online sale of priority weeds is underway for issuance to local control authorities to adopt and adapt to their circumstances as appropriate.
- DPI also provided an update on state priority weed responses and Situation Reports published to date – available at <https://extranet.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds/state-priority-weeds>. Subsequent Sitreps published will be provided to the next Committee meeting.
- The Committee received two presentations from DPI staff, the first topic being the weeds training program (<https://extranet.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds/training>) which includes use of both physical and 3D models of prohibited matter, the second being the WeedScan project. Both presentations were very well received.
- Finally, the Committee revisited a core function under its terms of reference, that being the review and development of a new 3-year plan to enhance and promote weed control initiatives.

The Committee adjourned for the NSW & VIC Combined Weeds Conference welcome function of that evening and will next meet in the second half of 2022.



Reg Kidd
SWC Chair
21 March 2022