STATE WEED COMMITTEE

MEETING 20 and 21 OUTCOMES –
16 NOVEMBER 2022 and 27 APRIL 2023

The NSW State Weed Committee (the Committee) conducted two meetings being November 2022 and more recently April 2023. The following outcomes provide the focus of these discussions.

- **Statutory review of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*:**

  NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is undertaking a statutory review of the Act for which the Committee received a presentation on its progress. Further to this:
  - The Committee is developing a decision tool for the review of weeds to be listed in Schedule 3 of regulations (banned from sale) for further consideration before finalising and roll-out.
  - DPI has developed an online policy for illegal trade of weeds and work instructions are being prepared.
  - DPI will prepare additional resources to continually improve Biosecurity Information System (BIS) data capture.
  - DPI are commencing audits of Local Control Authorities (LCAs) to assist them in implementation of their duties as required for LCAs.

- **Extension of training for weed officers, Local Land Services (LLS) coordinators/managers and expansion of prohibited matter training:**

  The Committee received a presentation from the DPI training team on updates about weed training on the DPI Weeds Extranet for NSW weed professionals. This service has been initiated to improve the relationship between our organisations and simplify the process for users accessing information and resources. Further details are provided at the conclusion to this document.

  Click on the link to access/subscribe - https://extranet.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds)

- **Regional Weed Committees (RWCs):**

  The Committee discussed:
  - Draft Regional Strategic plans that have been endorsed by LLS boards.
  - A forum for information exchange between the RWCs and the Committee will be held on 7 August 2023 prior to the commencement of the NSW Weeds Conference at Dubbo.
  - The Committee also discussed and will work with RWCs to ensure representation on RWCs of key stakeholders.

- **Weed Biosecurity Officers:**

  A sub-working group to the Committee will be established to develop a plan to look at the retention of current weed officers and how to provide support to employ trainees and apprentices, as part of succession planning. The Committee will consider its findings for policy improvement recommendations.

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- **NSW Weeds Action Plan:**

  The Committee received the DPI report on activities for 2021-22 WAP programs, where expenditure was aligned to the guidelines, being inspection of high-risk pathways, early detection, and rapid response of new high-risk weeds. DPI's allocation was matched by local government and other partners as part of the criteria.

- **Workplan for the Committee:**

  The Committee will develop a four-year plan with RWC representatives during the forum in Dubbo on 7 August 2023.

- **Presentation provided on weed management databases**

  The Committee received two presentations:
  1. Crown Lands presentation of ORBIS to store and integrate resource databases.
  2. NSW NPWS presentation on the Pest and Weed Information system.

- **State Planning**

  The Committee also considered and endorsed the following:
  - The Invasive Species Plan 2023-2028 (November 2022 meeting).
  - NSW Black Knapweed Strategic Plan.
  - Report cards for State Priority Weeds will be provided annually to the Committee.

- **Additional information on weeds training and website statistics:**

  - Three 3-day Weed Officer Induction courses are scheduled for June, July and August 2023.
  - Four 2-day Getting to know prohibited matter courses are scheduled in May, June and September 2023, this follows previous courses held in 2022 with 163 participants across NSW.
  - Two 2-day Community engagement – moving people towards action courses are scheduled in May and July 2023.
  - NSW WeedWise website had 877,885 visits in 2022.
  - DPI weed webpages had an additional 107,130 visits.
  - DPI Social Media posts for weeds had 130,602 views in 2022.
  - Module 11 "Applying the Biosecurity Act to Weeds" had 178 participants in 2022.

The Committee will next meet in mid-July 2023 to progress the planning and agenda for the Regional Weed Committee forum.

Reg Kidd
SWC Chair
5 JUNE 2023