



Northern Inland Weed Advisory Committee
Inverell Council Chambers– Monday 12th May, 2008

1.0 Meeting commenced at 10.00 am:

1.1 Present: Cr Maria Woods (Chair), Peter Scott (LPSC), David Nixon (GISC), Phil Blackmore (DPI), Natasha Soar (TRC), Andrew Schweitzer (Namoi CMA), George Sevil (NSC), Paul Welshman (NSC), Lee Amidy (GSC), Ken Pines (NPWS). Larry Cameron (ISC) Mark Blair (BRGCMA), Heather Apps, Mark Daly(LPSC),Mike Whitney (LPSC), Scott McFarland (NSC), Rob Munro, Phillip Durant (GSC), James Browning (NEWA), Les Tanner (ISC), Melissa Freeman (DPI), Representatives from Moree Plains Shire Council.

Absent:

Apologies: Clarke Kelly (Moree RLPB), David Crowe, Barry Johnson (Inverell Mayor), Duane Shawcross, Stuart Boyd Law (National Parks)

Motion: That the Apologies are accepted

Moved: Les Tanner

Seconded: Paul Welshman

CARRIED: All

1.2 Welcome – Cr Maria Woods (NEWA), Welcome to Inverell– Larry Cameron (ISC)

1.3 Confirmation of the Minutes from the previous meeting

Motion: That the Minutes of the General Meeting in Narrabri on February 26th, 2008 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Paul Welshman

Seconded: David Nixon

CARRIED: All

1.4 Business arising and action sheet from last meeting

Regional Weeds Brochure:

Lee Amidy will source information pertaining to the development of the brochure and pass it onto Les tanner. Les Tanner suggested making the brochure A5 size. This will ensure more identification pictures will be in the brochure.

European privet added to Regional weed strategy:

No comment

15th Biennial weed conference sub committee:

Sub Committee will meet for the first time at 10am on the 20th May 2008. Location, DPI Calala. James Browning (NEWA) was nominated to represent the New England region for the 15th Biennial Weeds Conference Sub Committee.

1.5 Correspondence – incoming and outgoing.

Incoming:

18th March 2008. Email from Jodie Bartlett-Taylor out lining acceptance to address NIWAC in relation to training opportunities

8th April 2008. Letter from RTA out lining responsibilities in relation to Noxious Weeds.

Outgoing:

17th March 2008. Email to Jodie Bartlett-Taylor (DPI) to invite her to speak to NIWAC about training opportunities.

4th March 2008. Letter of support to Macquarie valley Weeds Advisory Committee to have Mimosa bush declared noxious in there area of control.

4th March 2008. Letter of congratulations to LPSC on winning award for their Weedtr@cer mapping program.
28th February 2008. Letter to RTA to outline policies for noxious weed control
28th February 2008. Letter to thank Bronwyn Witts for her efforts with NIWAC.

2.0 Introduction of Heather Apps

Welcomed and gave a brief introduction speech about her background.

3.0 Introduction of David Crowe – Late apology

4.0 Extension and Education

NSW Weeds Training Program drafted by Jodie Bartlett-Taylor, present by Andrew Schweitzer

What?

A program that provides affordable, relevant and nationally accredited training in weed management and related topics. The Weeds Training Program provides operational and technical training through to strategic planning and management courses.

Who?

Training is suitable for all natural resource managers in NSW. This includes anyone working for local Government, Catchment Management Authorities, RLPB's, National Parks and other State Government agencies.

Courses are available for operational and field staff, newcomers and experienced staff, graduates and undergraduates.

When?

A training calendar is designed to provide a range of training to suit all learning levels and needs. New courses are developed each year, designed specifically to meet the needs of weed managers. Core training such as plant identification, legal training, report and plan writing are offered over a two - three year cycle.

Where?

Training is delivered across the state in regional and metropolitan locations.

Current Training

Planning for Pest Management

A course on how to develop effective regional plans, focussing on writing a concise action plan that will be adopted by stakeholders in your region. This course is for weed managers and vertebrate pest managers. Info sheet available.

Armidale 20 – 21st May.

What Does Your Garden Grow? (Train the Trainer)

This one day course is essential for people who work with community and landholders in weed management. This course provides you with resources to provide a professional information session in your local area.

The What does your garden grow? Information package aims to increase awareness of the huge impact of weeds in Australia and to provide basic knowledge of how to deal with weeds in private gardens. Info sheet available.

Tamworth 25th June.

Weed Officer Induction and Legal Training

The Weeds Officer Induction Program provides recently employed staff with a well rounded appreciation of their roles and responsibilities, as well as familiarising them with the support network available within the weeds industry.

Armidale	25 – 26 Aug	Weed Officer Induction
	27 – 29 Aug	Legal Training Stage 2

Contact: Jodie Bartlett-Taylor 6738 8510. (Tue, Wed, and Thu)

Action: Send letter to Jodie Bartlett Taylor requesting possible course development for non full time weed professionals. I.e. RLPB rangers, Country energy, Telstra.

Action: Andrew Schweitzer to send out all weeds training opportunities forwarded by NSW DPI to all members of NIWAC.

5.0 Weedtr@cer mapping program – Mark Daly (LPSC)

Mark gave a presentation on the Weedtr@cer mapping program. This program was well received by members, Maria Woods recommended that all LCA should look at implementing such a program for weed mapping.

5.0 DPI Report – Aquatic weeds presentation – Melissa Freeman

Gave report on the effects of Aquatic weeds, need for catchments west of the divide to detect early so there is a chance of eradication.

6.0 DPI Regional Coordinator report – Philip Blackmore

Local Control Authority Audits

Audits of local control authority inspection programs, records and financial statements have commenced. These audits are being implemented under the requirements of Section 36(f) and Section 37 of the Noxious Weeds Act. A range of local control authorities were selected for the initial audits. These included a rural general purpose council and rural weeds county council. Gunnedah Shire Council and New England Weeds Authority were the local control authorities chosen.

The audits were completed successfully. The two local control authorities will be notified about the auditors comments in due course.

Delegations under the Noxious Weeds Act

During the audits some delegations were found to be deficient or incorrect. The *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* grants a range of powers, duties and functions to local control authorities. Section 35 of the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* defines a local control authority as the local government council for an area or a county council if the function has been devolved to one. The elected representatives of the council or county council are the local control authority.

Section 68 of the Act permits a local control authority to delegate any of its functions to a person, except the power of delegation. The *Interpretations Act 1987* (Section 46) permits delegations to be made either to a named person or a position title.

The *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* has different delegation powers to the *Local Government Act 1993*. The Noxious Weeds Act does not permit sub-delegations. Delegation of powers and duties under the Noxious Weeds Act made using the delegation power under Sections 377 and 378 of the Local Government Act may be invalid and the delegate may consequently be acting illegally. Delegations made under the Noxious Weeds Act must be made by the local control authority (that is, the elected representatives) to a person, either by name or position, who will be carrying out the delegated function.

Local government has received advice that the *Local Government Act 1993* overrides the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*. On advice from the Crown Solicitor the Department of Primary Industries disputes the position taken by local government. Therefore the DPI recommends that delegations be made as per the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*.

Water Lettuce

Les Tanner and Inverell Shire Council have been working with QDPI and Goondiwindi Regional Council to carry out initial control of the water lettuce infestation in the Dumaresq River downstream from Texas. A new incursions grant of \$40 000 is supporting Inverell Shire Council to carry out this work.

This infestation next threatens Moree Plains Shire Council and is a potential to the whole of the Barwon-Darling River.

Parthenium Weed

The current television advertising campaign has now been completed. It is likely that advertisements will continue to screen for some time as community service announcements.

Good work by Stephen Kneller and Doug Steiger for finding a Parthenium weed outbreak near North Star. Discussion with Stephen suggests that this may be a repeat infestation from one that occurred 15 years ago! Graders have turned over a table drain which may have brought buried seed to the surface.

Due to the lack of any significant business, the April meeting of the Parthenium Taskforce has been postponed until a date to be advised.

15th NSW Biennial Weeds Conference

The preliminary meeting to kick off organisation of the conference will be held at Tamworth Agricultural Institute on Tuesday 20th May 2008.

Mick Kane

Both on behalf of the DPI and personally, I would like to thank Mick for his considerable efforts to prevent Parthenium weed from establishing in NSW, his support for the Parthenium Taskforce and his contributions to containing water hyacinth in the Gingham Watercourse. I wish Mick well in his life away from the world of weeds.

Philip Blackmore

Regional Coordinator (Weeds)

ARMIDALE

23rd May 2008

7.0 Regional Planning Coordinator's Report:

I have had the role of Regional Planning Co-ordinator for NIWAC since mid March 2008, based at the New England Weeds Authority for 15 hours a week, from Monday to Wednesday 8.30 to 2pm.

During this time I have been familiarising myself with the role and working through the actions from previous meetings.

I spent two days at Taree with Terry Schmitzer in April and this was a very valuable experience. He gave me a great insight into the position, and I also sat in on their weeds meeting.

GROUP PROJECT FUNDING

A large portion of my time to date has been co-ordinating the Group Project funding. This year we have submitted applications for the following continuing projects:

- Blackberry;
- Blue Heliotrope;
- Green Cestrum;
- Mother of Millions;
- Serrated Tussock;
- Silver leaf Nightshade;
- Chilean Needle Grass
- St John's Wort- Class 3; and
- St John's Wort- Class 4
- Parthenium Weed (State Management project)
- Regional Planning Coordinator position

There are new project applications for the following weeds:

- African Boxthorn; and
- Mimosa Bush

Thank you to everyone for helping me get the grants off – next year I will know what I am doing!

Please let me know if you would like to work on a new group project for next year.

PRESS RELEASES

David Nixon has compiled a press release for African Lovegrass and it has been circulated to the Northern Daily Leader and Northwest magazine.

James Browning is currently working on the environmental weeds press release.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Over the next few months I plan to

- Update the website
- Work on the Regional Strategy and Management plans in conjunction with Weed Officers. Please let me know if you have weeds that have Management Plans that need updating.
- Re-submit the Parthenium Management Plan (ends June 2008)
- Attend committee meetings for the 15th NSW Weeds conference
- Actions as directed from the NIWAC meeting

I look forward to working with NIWAC and thank the New England Weeds Authority for providing me with a great working environment, and also Bronwyn Witts for leaving the files and instructions in such a good manner.

Compiled by Heather Apps

6 May 2008

Philip Blackmore (NSW DPI) to run the Regional weed assessment. Heather to liaise with Phil about this matter.

8.0 Parthenium weed caravan

Gwydir shire has been custodian of the Parthenium weed caravan. Les tanner has Asked if anyone will want to use it. Must store in a shed to keep it out of the sun.

Inverell to take control if there is no cost. If there is any maintenance cost Inverell will approach the Parthenium Taskforce for reimbursement. Lee to talk to Paul about providing a tarp. Les to approach Parthenium taskforce to obtain funding for a protective tarp to protect the caravan

10.0 Individual report

Reports taken as read unless additions reported below.

ISC presented information about the Water Lettuce outbreak on Dumaresq River.

David Nixon (GISC) asked how many copies of the noxious weeds posters does NIWAC members want? Posters must be purchased by the end of F'08. NIWAC to put funds towards the development of the poster

Action: David Nixon to send an email in relation to this matter to Heather Apps. Heather is then to forward onto NIWAC members.

Action: Lee Amidy to send Maria Woods an email to report how much money NIWAC has to go towards the production costs of the posters.

NIWAC to recognise Moree plains noxious weeds officer. Mick Kane for a wonderful job in dealing with Parthenium.

11.0 Jackie Bowe: SNELCC Serrated Tussock NLP project

12.0 General Business

- Paul Welshman Green cestrum plan need to put a permit to use Amitrole t within waterways AVPMA.
- ACTION: Les and Andrew to put in an application with AVPMA. Get information from Heather.
- Mark Blair, informed that Francis Pike had left the BRG CMA

Meeting closed at 2:30pm

Next Meeting Tamworth Council Chambers Tuesday 12th August 2008 @ 10am