



Northern Inland Weed Advisory Committee  
Tamworth Regional Council Chambers– Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2008

**1.0 Meeting commenced at 10.00 am**

**1.1 Present:** Peter Scott (LPSC), David Nixon (GISC), Phil Blackmore (DPI), Natasha Soar (TRC), Andrew Schweitzer (Namoi CMA, Secretary NIWAC), Lee Amidy (GSC), Cr Larry Cameron (ISC) Heather Apps (NIWAC), James Browning (NEWA), Les Tanner (ISC), Mike Hooper (TRC), Aaron Annis-Brown (MPSC), Simon Heung (MPSC), Jodie Bartlett-Taylor (DPI), John Busby (NSC), Tony Lawler (TRC), Clarke Kelly (Moree RLPB)

**Absent:** Rod Williams (BRGCMA), John Lane (Country Energy), NPWS

**Apologies:** David Lindsay, Phil Durant (GISC), Cr Maria woods, Cr George Sevil (NSC), Scott McFarlane (NSC), Andrew Croft (NSC), Neil Rossington (TSC)

**Motion:** That the Apologies are accepted

**Moved:** Les Tanner

**Seconded:** Lee Amidy

**CARRIED: All**

**1.2** Philip Blackmore (DPI) is acting chairman in the absence of Cr Maria Woods.

**1.3 Confirmation of the Minutes from the previous meeting**

**Motion:** That the Minutes of the General Meeting in Inverell on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

**Moved:** Les Tanner

**Seconded:** Lee Amidy

**CARRIED: All**

**1.4 Business arising and action sheet from last meeting**

David Nixon confirmed 15,000 Noxious Weed posters at 20cent each will produced.

Lee Amidy advised that \$3675 was available for poster production from the NIWAC funding.

Les Tanner updated members on the Amitrole T registration for use in waterways on Green Cestrum. The process/application is nearly finished; Les Tanner has requested that the NSW DPI is to take ownership of the APVMA registration application, to avoid the registration fee.

**1.5 Correspondence – incoming and outgoing.  
Refer to attachment**

**2.0 Update on 15<sup>th</sup> biennial weed conference – Andrew Croft NSC**  
Noxious Weeds Conference 2009

Planning has commenced for the 2009 conference which is to be held in Narrabri at the Crossing Theatre on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of September. The 2009 conference theme is: "The Old and the New" Changes in Weed Management).

This topic was selected to encourage Weeds Officers to talk about their experiences at the coalface of weed management. We all know that much has changed over the years (such as an increase in the number of property owners that live in big cities and not on the farm, the introduction of GPS /

GIS / computers for capturing weeds information, and more and more paperwork!). What hasn't changed is the shyness of weeds officers when it comes to putting up their hand to talk about what they have experienced and done to tackle weeds in our communities.

The format of each conference will be the same as previous years (but there will be no partner's tour):

We envisage that:

- \* the first evening will be for pre-conference registration
- \* the second evening will be a pre-arranged informal evening at the Narrabri RSL
- \* the third evening will entail a formal dinner at the Crossing Theatre.

Syd Lisle and Andrew Croft had a discussion about how to get more weed officer involvement. This will be achieved by requiring each NIWAC type ground across NSW to present at the conference. There 14 groups but around 7-8 unique localities.

NSC is still waiting for the letter of offer from the NSW Department of Primary Industries confirming that Narrabri is the host for the event.

Andrew Croft asked NIWAC members to discuss possible presentation topics.

Ideas from the NIWAC members –

- Aquatic weeds.
- Class 1 weeds.
- Report on Parthenium weed.
- CMA's around the state to present on innovative weed projects.
- Stuart Boyd Law to present on the 'old and the new with NPWS.
- A new weeds officer's perspective.
- Strong recommendation that there is a need to call for papers as soon as possible.
- Syd Lisle to give NIWAC templates for papers.

**3.0** ABC talk for weeds – AGQUIP. Lee Amidy was contacted to participate in a live radio broadcast at AGQUIP, this will involve audience participation. The broadcast is garden orientated. Lee will inform members as to participation in the coming days. AGQUIP, NIWAC weeds stand will have same displays; the roster went out on 11<sup>th</sup> August. Members are to contact Lee Amidy and indicate preferred days to assist at AGQUIP.

**4.0** Les Tanner made a Power point presentation on the NIWAC Weed control handbook.

- Namoi CMA to provide logo.
- **ACTION: Heather to contact previous sponsors from the last publication.**
- Namoi CMA has contributed \$10,000 Border Rivers Gwydir CMA has contributed \$13,000 to the production costs.
- Estimated total cost for 20,000 publications is \$30,000.

NIWAC Committee agreed there is to be a distinction between noxious and environmental weeds. Les presented the committee with a cover for the handbook that illustrated the effects of some weeds on cattle. The image showed dead cattle. The group agreed that this was an effective cover that will get noticed.

**5.0** John Lane (Vegetation control officer, Country Energy), in the absence of John Lane, David Nixon discussed the NIWAC Noxious weeds poster. The general consensus was that the poster was of excellent quality. The committee decided that three weeds were outdated or of little importance for the poster. These weeds are

- Mint weed
- Senegal Tea Plant and
- Siam Weed.

The committee decided that the replacements for the removed weeds will be

- Privet

- Lippia and
- Gorse.

**6.0** Jodie Bartlett-Taylor NSW DPI presented courses information for weed professionals and non weed professionals.

**ACTION:** Andrew Schweitzer to pass on contact details of RLPB's to Jodie.

**7.0** Regional strategy, survey of Virtue weeds assessment questions. The members agreed that contact with Steven Johnson is to be made to discuss the Virtue system and ways in which it can be improved.

**ACTION:** Heather Apps to contact Steven Johnson to arrange a meeting in Gunnedah with interested members to discuss the Virtue weed assessment.

**8.0** Regional Coordinator NIWAC (Heather Apps) Refer to attached Pdf document.

**9.0** Regional coordinator DPI (Philip Blackmore)

#### **Grant Applications**

Grant applications have been processed. Several were late, risking rejection. Most applications were either deficient or deviated from the guidelines in some way. Next year, deficient applications will be returned for amendment before being accepted.

#### **Grants**

The Minister approved grants for WCCA, CC Admin, New Incursions Fund and Continuing Group Projects on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2008.

#### **Noxious Weeds Act 1993 Amended**

The Noxious Weeds Act 1993 was recently amended to extend the time limit by which any prosecution for an alleged offence must be commenced. The previous time limit was 6 months, as provided for all summary offences under the Criminal Procedure Act 1986 unless otherwise stated. The new time limit is 2 years after the alleged offence was committed.

#### **Hunter Region Managers Induction Program**

The DPI is conducting a half day induction program for local control authority managerial staff with responsibility for noxious weeds from the Hunter region at Tocal this month. This program was put together at the manager's request. Depending on its level of success, the program may be run across the state.

#### **New Weeds Officer Induction Program**

This is to be conducted at Armidale commencing 25<sup>th</sup> August.

#### **Peter Gorham Retires**

Peter Gorham has retired after 40 years with the Department. Peter was in the Weeds Unit for 27 years, based at Cowra and Richmond. I wish Peter well in his retirement. He will be sorely missed.

#### **Leave**

I will be on leave from 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2008 until 9<sup>th</sup> October 2008. Any enquiries should be directed to Rod Ensbey at Grafton (6640 1648) or Alan Maguire (6763 1131) while I am away.

**10.0 Individual report** Reports taken as read unless additions reported below.  
NEWA - Serrated Tussock officer (SNELCC) NAP funding application was unsuccessful. Application will be resubmitted in the Caring for our Country funding program.

#### **11.0 General Business**

Tony Lawler TRC Weeds officer has been in the weeds industry for the past 26 years. Tony has submitted his resignation and will move into the commercial weed contractor business. On behalf of all members past and present of NIWAC we wish Tony every success in his new venture. Thanks mate.

**Meeting closed at 2:00pm**

**Next Meeting AGM Narrabri Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2008**