



**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF THE NORTHERN INLAND WEED ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 10 AUGUST 2010 AT THE GUNNEDAH SHIRE COUNCIL TRAINING ROOM, GUNNEDAH, COMMENCING AT 10.02AM.**

**PRESENT**

Jonathon Lawson	Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA
Greg Lumber	Central North LHPA
David Nixon	Glen Innes Severn Council
Tony Woods	Gunnedah Shire Council
Glen Pereira	Gwydir Shire Council
Philip Blackmore	Industry & Investment NSW
Cr Larry Cameron	Inverell Shire Council
Les Tanner	Inverell Shire Council
Phil Sutton	Inverell Shire Council
Peter Scott	Liverpool Plains Shire Council
Mike Whitney	Liverpool Plains Shire Council
Ian Schwartz	Moree Plains Shire Council
Troy Crittle	Namoi CMA
Scott McFarland	Narrabri Shire Council
Geof Michell	Narrabri Shire Council
James Browning	New England Weeds Authority
Maria Woods	New England Weeds Authority
Wayne Deer	New England Weeds Authority
David Lindsay	North West LHPA
Heather Apps	Secretary NIWAC
Natasha Soar	Tamworth Regional Council
Neil Rossington	Tenterfield Shire Council

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

Christen Henriksen	Australian Rail Track Corporation (Guest Speaker)
Ben Swain	Property Manager, Shenhua Coal (Guest Speaker)

**APOLOGIES**

Graham Price	Glen Innes Severn Council
Cr Rick Molsworth	Inverell Shire Council
Nicki Whale	Moree Plains Shire Council
Cr Peter Strang	Moree Plains Shire Council
Bec Ballard	Southern New England Landcare
Cr Tom Peters	Tenterfield Shire Council



**ITEM 3: BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**PRECIS: (i) NSW WEED ACTION PLAN**

It was agreed that the NSW Weed Action Plan and Memorandum of Understanding be referred to General Business

**PRECIS: (ii) CLASS 4 MANAGEMENT PLANS**

NIWAC and Weed Officers have revised and resubmitted the Class 4 Weed Risk Management assessments as advised by I & I.

Notification was received on 21/07/10 from I & I NSW that the assessments will be considered as part of a larger assessment on the declaration of these species in NSW that I & I are currently completing.

**RESOLVED:** That the updated weed risk assessment be ratified.

Moved: James Browning                      Seconded: Lee Amidy

**CARRIED**

**PRECIS: (iii) REVIEW OF THE WORD “CLASS” HISTORICALLY AND THE NEED FOR A COMMON LANGUAGE**

It was agreed that this matter be referred to General Business

**PRECIS: (iv) UPDATE ON BORDER RIVERS-GWYDIR WONS PROJECT & CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY HARRISIA CACTUS APPLICATION**

James Browning updated members on the Project: Strategic Implementation of WONS Containment lines and Outlier Infestation Control Programs.

The program is running on target, with on ground work having commenced and tv commercials being arranged in mid August.

Jonathon Lawson reported that he has received no feedback for the Caring for our Country application for Harrisia Cactus from Canberra.

**PRECIS: (v) PARTHENIUM CARAVAN**

The green Parthenium caravan has been relocated undercover in Inverell. The trailer is currently undergoing renovation.

James Browning reported that he had been approached by GWYMAC on behalf of NIWAC regarding the shared use of their caravan – which had not been used in the past two years. It is proposed that the caravan be relocated to Armidale and used as a resource management van shared with local control authorities, Landcare networks - SNEELCC, GWYMAC and GLENRAC and CMAs. NEWA have offered to pay for the registration and insurance



- k) NEWA – Invitation to attend the farewell dinner for Kevin Waters 30<sup>th</sup> Aug 2010
- l) I & I (Jessica Grantley) – Weed awareness 2010 poster series. Request for comments.
- m) I & I (Stephen Johnson) Section 76 highlights a statutory review of the Act every five years commencing from 1 June 2005. The Minister has not announced the consultation arrangements yet but expects to do so in the second half on 2010.
- n) Clare Hamilton (NSW/ACT Serrated Tussock Coordinator) Tussock Talks newsletter
- o) I & I (Richard Carter) – Received the locally controlled (Class 4) noxious weed risk management assessments and they will be considered as part of a larger assessment of the declaration of these species in NSW.

**RESOLVED:** That the incoming correspondence be accepted and the outgoing correspondence be endorsed

Moved: Lee Amidy                      Seconded: Ian Schwartz

**CARRIED**

#### **MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE**

Lee Amidy raised the outgoing correspondence to Richard Torbay (MP New England) and Peter Draper (MP Tamworth) from the meeting in Tenterfield on February 9, 2010.

The letter included in closing, congratulations to the I & I for their new grant initiative, which was considered not the reflection of the members.

It was reinforced that all outgoing correspondence be forwarded to the Chairperson for approval prior to circulation.

#### **ITEM 5:    REPORTS FROM MEMBERS**

Member reports were taken as read.

It was reinforced to Weed Action Plan stakeholders that the quarterly reports must be signed by their General Managers (or delegated Senior Staff) and submitted prior to the NIWAC meetings.

Clarification of reporting requirements will be addressed as part of Weeds Officers meetings.

**ITEM 6: GENERAL BUSINESS**

**PRECIS: (i) UPDATE ON PARTHENIUM TOUR**

Tony Woods (Gunnedah Shire Council) is organising a Parthenium tour of Northern NSW / Southern QLD border area from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> November 2010 to assist Weed Officers identify the plant. There is still room on the tour for front line people to participate. Accommodation etc will be invoiced back to Councils.

Gunnedah Shire Council was commended for organising the trip.

**PRECIS: (ii) VIEWING OF THE TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL'S DVD "NOXIOUS WEEDS IN YOUR REGION – A SUSTAINABLE APPROACH"**

Members viewed the 7 minute DVD presentation on 'Noxious weeds in your region – a sustainable approach' which was developed by Tamworth Regional Council (TRC).

Natasha Soar was commended for the DVD and it was suggested that TRC enter it in the environmental awards.

**PRECIS: (iii) CLASS ISSUE**

As referred from Business Arising, Peter Scott tabled the NSW Agricultural Indicators document as adopted and used by members of the Northern Inland Weeds Advisory Committee (updated 1 July 2004) (Appendix two)

Clarification was sought over the use of the term "Classes of Infestation", which was devised prior to the current classifications and use of the word "class".

Discussion followed.

**RESOLVED:** That "Classes of Infestation" be changed to "Category of Infestation", with Category 1, Category 2 and Category 3 replacing the existing Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3 respectively.

Moved: David Nixon                      Seconded: Mike Whitney

**CARRIED**

**PRECIS: (iv) PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN**

Les Tanner reminded members that the Pesticide use notification plans were due for revision. He also noted that the regulations have changed.

**PRECIS: (v) REVIEW OF CLASS 1 TO 3 DECLARATIONS BY I & I**

Philip Blackmore reported that the Class 1 to Class 3 declarations have been reviewed and recommendations of the Class 1-3 Noxious weed review relevant to NIWAC are listed as follows;

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Green Cestrum                  | Move to Class 4. LCA's must justify any move to Class 3.                                |
| Honey Locust                   | LCA's will be invited to declare this species.  |
| Grey Sallow                    | DII and LCA's to investigate for possible declaration in Northern Tablelands @ Class 2. |
| Black Willow                   | As for Grey Sallow.   |
| Giant Rats Tail Grass          | Recommend Class 3 for Northern Tablelands.  |
| Chinese Tallow                 | Recommend Class 2 for Northern Tablelands.  |
| Mother of Millions and Plains. | Class 3 for Northern Tablelands, Class 4 for North West Slopes and Plains.              |
| St John's Wort                 | Recommend Class 4. Requests from LCA's to revoke the declaration to be supported        |
| Pampas Grass                   | Recommend existing Class for 4 declarations move to Class 3.                            |
| Johnson Grass                  | Requests from LCA's to revoke the declaration to be supported.                          |
| Other Sorghum sp.              | Requests from LCA's to revoke the declaration to be supported.                          |

Most reviews were conducted by Prof. Bruce Auld. The remainder were conducted by Stephen Johnson.

Class 4 reviews have all been completed. I & I NSW will go through the list and any weeds with the risk assessment on "manage weed" or less will have to have their declarations justified by LCAs.

Phil commended Tony Woods for organising the Parthenium trip and reinforced the need to support the tour.

Mine sites need to be explored with regard to Queensland vehicles entering BHP sites with the risk of introducing Parthenium in the region.

Phil will remain the I & I NSW Regional Coordinator, and now also has the Upper Hunter region and Hemp licensing in his portfolio.

Maria Woods reported that I & I NSW will be having a presentation by John Tracey at the next NWAC meeting on what I & I does and who does what.

**PRECIS: (vi) GROUP PROJECTS**

Heather Apps reminded members that Group Project final reports and Weed Control Coordination reports must be submitted to I & I NSW by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

**PRECIS: (vii) 16<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL NSW WEEDS CONFERENCE**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Biennial NSW Weeds Conference will be hosted by Coffs Harbour City Council at Pacific Bay Resort, Coffs Harbour from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> July 2011.

Meeting broke for lunch.  
Christen Henriksen left the meeting.

**PRECIS: (viii) NIWAC WEED ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

**a) Weed Action Business Plan 2010-2015**

The draft NIWAC Weed Action Business Plan 2010-2015 was circulated in hard copy (previously emailed).

Noted that Glen Innes Severn Council needed to be corrected P6 Namoi & BR-G CMA's to be added to P6

Heather Apps, Wayne Deer and James Browning outlined the proposed Business Plan including the;

- a. Budget summary
- b. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
- c. Program Logic
- d. Risk Management Matrix
- e. WAP Grant Submission

General discussion ensued.

The Business Plan provides a comprehensive regional approach to implementing the effective and coordinated weed control programs and measurable outcomes in the WAP application as well as a financial plan for the next five years. It also establishes an alliance amongst all member Councils through the MoU and a management structure incorporating a Weed Action Coordinating Team with representatives of each of the LCA's.

The MoU was developed based on an LGSA draft and revised by the Mid North Coast Weed Advisory Committee with legal advice from Solicitors Paton Hook, Taree.

It was agreed that the letter sent out from Paton Hook Lawyers with the MoU to the MNCWAC be provided to stakeholders.

Clarification was sought over Annexure A 3.4 (Liability and Indemnity).



**Option One**

The maximum allowable contribution option is 10% of Agency funds and 10% of Project funds – based on NIWAC’s WAP Submission;

Total Agency funds    \$1,262,700        (10% = \$128,270)

Total Project funds    \$1,022,258        (10% = \$102,226)

**Option One Total = \$230,496**

**Option Two**

Based on NIWAC’s WAP Submission

Total Project funds    \$1,022,258                      10% = \$102,226

NIWAC Regional Coordinator & Admin                      \$22,063

LCA contribution (\$3800 x 10)                      \$38,000

LHPA contribution (\$2,000 x 3)                      \$6000

**Option One Total = \$168,289**

**Option Three**

Based on NIWAC’s WAP Submission

Total Project funds    \$1,022,258                      10% = \$102,226

NIWAC Regional Coordinator & Admin                      \$22,063

LCA contribution (\$2000 x 10)                      \$20,000

LHPA contribution (\$1,500 x 3)                      \$4,500

**Option Three Total = \$148,789**

Discussion ensued. Concerns were expressed in relation to the level of funding required, particularly in regard to the 10% of the total WAP program. Inverell Shire representatives expressed particular concern at the contribution levels required to manage and administer the WAP.

Following further discussion it was agreed that Option 3 was preferred and that a review of the funding plan take place after 12 months operation of the NIWAC WAP project.

**RESOLVED:**                      That NIWAC approve funding Option 3 as listed above of \$148,789 for the administration and management of the NIWAC WAP project.

Moved:                              Maria Woods                      Seconded: Neil Rossington

**CARRIED:**

**d)                              Weed Officer’s Meetings**

So as to meet the requirements of the NIWAC WAP project, it was considered essential that Weed Officers initially meet on a regular basis to ensure that the measurable outcomes and activities required under the NIWAC WAP as well as reporting requirements are satisfied.

It was agreed that Weed Officer meetings will be held regularly, initially on a monthly basis. Set agendas will be provided to Weed Officers prior to the meeting.

It was agreed that the first meeting date will be Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August in Bingara.

**ITEM 7:**

**MEETING CLOSE**

**PRECIS:** There being no further business, Chairperson Maria Woods declared the meeting closed at 3.25pm

**Next Meeting TBA**