

**DUNGOG LOCAL BIOSECURITY AND WEED MANGEMENT ADVISORY
COMMITTEE.**

**MINUTES OF MEETING ON
17 September 2019**

File: EF09/54

Meeting Commenced at 3.00 pm at Council Chambers Dowling St Dungog

Cr John Connors- Chairperson

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Present: Eric Pasenow (DSC), Paul Minett (DSC), Cr John Connors, William Flannery, Rod Kater, Peter Lawrence,

Apologies; John Simpson

2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 18 June 2019 were confirmed.

3. WEED OFFICERS REPORT

Eric Pasenow reported that since the previous meeting he had conducted 67 property inspections with a main focus on green cestrum. Most inspections have been in the main creek and Monkerai areas.

He has collected some Cactoblastis Larvae and redistributed this for bio control of prickly pear. Done in conjunction with Port Stephens.

There was some discussion about the spread and prevalence of Nigrospora in the Shire , Eric believes that it is now naturally occurring in most parts of the shire, committee members agreed generally.

Eric also advised that NSW Weeds conference was held in Newcastle and was considered a success.

Arising- Peter Lawrence asked whether Eric would recommend the use of Diesel and Garlon for treatment of Green Cestrum. Eric advised that this shouldn't be used near waterways but would do the job. His preferred chemical is Grazon Extra for Green Cestrum.

presented his reported for the period 16 April 2019 to 18 June 2019.

During this time 41 inspections had been carried out mainly in the Clarence town area.

Arising – Tillegra lands

From the cestrum discussion the current status and progress with weed management on the former Hunter water lands at Tillegra was raised. Eric advised that he had visited some properties and that he was aware that Hunter waters contractor was progressing however progress seemed slow in getting on top of weeds in some areas. It was noted that there was only a few years left of Hunter water weed maintenance and the committee raised concern that at the expiry of this period the new property owners may not continue with weed management programs. Some members suggested that Councils weed officer should spend more time in the Tillegra precinct in the next few years to assist Hunter water in ensuring that the weed management program is effective.

It was agreed that a letter should be forwarded to Hunter Water acknowledging the good work in relation to weed management to date and requesting Hunter Water to work closely with Councils weed officer for the remainder of the maintenance period to ensure a good outcome.

Action

PM to write to Hunter Water on behalf of the committee to congratulate them on the work done so far at Tillegra and requesting closer liaison with Councils weed officer for the remainder of the maintenance term

4. EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL TO NEW PROPERTY OWNERS

Rod Kater suggested that the group consider the type of material that new property owners need to be provided and the method used to get this information out to them.

PM provided a copy of an existing booklet "Weeds of the Hunter and Central Coast" which was produced by the Hunter Weeds Group.

There was some discussion about this booklet with a consensus that it needed to be modified and condensed to suit the needs of Dungog Shire.

EP referred to some fact sheets that had been prepared by Hunter Local Land Services that are more up to date and that weeds of concern in Dungog Shire could be selected from.

It was agreed that these fact sheets could be used as a "kit" to send to new property owners by Council/the weeds Committee. The booklet could be used if there are still some copies of it available.

There was some discussion about how to dispense the information and it was agreed that the information would be sent to new owners that Council identifies through property transfer information.

The factsheets or booklet would be sent with a covering letter to new landholders. The covering letter will provide references where further information can be found.

In addition to this, educational material will start to be dispersed via the Councils social media pages (facebook).

Action

- **PM to establish a notification system for property transfers.**
- **PM to seek weed fact sheets from Hunter LLS and determine through discussion with EP the most appropriate Fact sheets applicable to Dungog Shire.**
- **PM to draft covering letter on behalf of the weeds committee.**
- **PM to seek opportunities to post educational material on Councils facebook page.**

5. NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

PM referred to an email from Bob Doyle who had recommended that Nikki Brown be approached to join the committee.

Nikki has assisted the committee this year through presenting at the field day.

Action

PM to forward correspondence to Nikki Brown to determine her interest in joining the Committee.

6. General Business

Rod Kater asked EP if there was any evidence that Crofton Weed Rust that had been released in the Shire about 5 years ago had established. Eric advised that he had seen no evidence of it taking hold.

Arising – Eric advised that Epiblema, introduced to attack Ngurra Burr has taken off in the Shire and still exists

EP made comment on two recent locations where property owners had been over vigorous in their chemical use adjacent to the roadside, affecting native vegetation. These were on Bingleburra road where Pandorea Vines had been affected and on Gresford Road near the old hospital.

TIME AND DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Date set is **Tuesday 12 November 2019 at 3.30 pm NOTE CHANGE IN TIME**

Meeting closed at 4.30 pm