

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING ON
18 June 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, John Simpson (Hunter Water)

Apologies;

2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 16 April 2019 were confirmed.

3. Field Day

The field day of 18 May was discussed.

It was agreed that the field day was a success and that the committee would aim to deliver at least one field day per year in the future. There was discussion on future topics and it was agreed that the alternatives to the use of glyphosate would become topical in the near future with legal actions having commenced against the manufacturers of Roundup.

It was agreed that alternative treatments and products may be an appropriate subject, if presenters and opportunities are available.

4. WEED OFFICERS REPORT

Eric Pasenow 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 Clarencetown area.

2 days of river inspections with PSC had been carried out treating alligator weed on the Williams and Paterson Rivers. Some floaters removed and some others treated on water.

Eric reported that several clusters of Coolatai had been treated after being reported by Bill Dowling in Salisbury. Also a cluster of Thatch grass (giant Coolatai) had been sprayed beside Bingleburra road and in clarencetown.

Mother of Millions had been treated in Martins creek and Glen martin

Blackberries have been treated in a 2ha cluster at Chichester road.

Eric has taken part in the Tocal field days and in our own field day of 18th may and has been involved in the planning for the state weed conference in Newcastle.

5. **COMMUNITY SURVEY**

The preparation of a community survey to determine the communities knowledge and wants in relation to weed management in the shire was highlighted as a potential action in the brainstorming session held at the last meeting.

Paul M produced a questionnaire that the committee produced in 2013, but that was never widely distributed.

Some time was taken considering the questions in the 2013 questionnaire for current relevance. Some amendments and additions were made on the questionnaire and Paul M suggested that it could be circulated to the Council's and LLL's contact emails in an online survey format so the committee could get some data to form its actions. This was agreed.

Action

Paul M to modify the 2013 questionnaire as discussed and launch it online using the Council's Survey Monkey program.

The questionnaire to be forwarded to the contacts list and LLS be approached to circulate it to their contacts as well.

6. **OTHER INITIATIVES IDENTIFIED IN BRAINSTORMING SESSION**

A) Training of contractors and landholders in plant hygiene/washdowns

It was agreed that the training courses already exist but were expensive and should be subsidized or free to encourage participation. Eric advised that a new course was going to be launched at the NSW weeds conference as well.

It was suggested that this should be an initiative of the regional strategy and that LLS should be requested to consider free weed hygiene training in our Region.

Action

Paul M to raise the issue at the Regional weeds Strategy group meeting on 20 June 2019 and provide feedback at the next meeting.

b) Weed Management information for new property owners

It was noted that other regions have produced booklets outlining the General Biosecurity Duty and basic weed management practices for landholders. It was agreed that if the region had such a booklet then it could be distributed through real estate agents and also by Council to new residents.

Action

Paul M to investigate weed management information used by other Regions that would be appropriate to Dungog Shire.

7. **General Business**

a) The passing of Garry Middlebrook

John Connors relayed a request from Bill Dowling that the recent passing of Committee member Garry Middlebrook be noted and that Garry's excellent contribution to the Dungog Local Weeds Advisory Group be acknowledged.

The group, through the chair, expressed its gratitude for Garry's contribution and its condolences to Garry's family on his passing.

b) Appointment of new members to the Committee

Paul Minett requested feedback in relation to the groups thoughts on the recruitment of new members to the committee. It was pointed out that there is a constitution for the committee which stipulates advertisement of vacant positions however that this had not been strictly followed in the past. Paul advised that whilst the call for new members would be advertised , suggested from members would also be welcomed. Discussion also revealed the need to attract a new member from ward A or B as ward C was reasonably represented on the committee.

Action

**Paul Minett to advertise for interest for new committee members.
Existing members to make suggestions in relation to appropriate new members and advise Paul Minett.**

c) The name of the committee

Rod Kater suggested that having regard to the change in focus and title of the legislation, that the Committee could more appropriately be titled the "Local Biosecurity and Weed management Advisory Group". It was agreed that this title change could better describe the focus areas of the committee, however the primary focus would still be weed management.

Action

The title of the group be changed to the "Dungog Local Biosecurity and Weed Management Advisory Committee".

d) Biosecurity Signage

There was some discussion regarding the availability of biosecurity signage that is long lasting. Noted that there is metal signage available at cost from local land services but that it may be more convenient if the Council acquire some signs that could be purchased as cost price by landholders.

Action

Paul Minett to look into acquiring signage from LLS for sale by the Council at to landholders at cost price.

TIME AND DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Date set is **Tuesday 20 August 2019 at 3pm**

Meeting closed at 5.00 pm

