

# Buffel Grass Weed Advisory Committee

**Time:** 8:30am

**Date:** 21 May 2024

**Location:** Tom Hare Conference Room, AZRI Main Building, Parks & Wildlife, Alice Springs

## Attendees:

- **Phillip Cowan** - Director, Central Australian Parks, Parks and Wildlife Division, Northern Territory Government (NTG) Department Environment Parks and Water Security (DEPWS)
- **Tracey Guest** - Natural & Cultural Resource Manager, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, Parks Australia.
- **Roy Chisolm** - Pastoral Land Board
- **Nathaniel Staniford** - Assistant Director Operations, Bushfires NT, DEPWS.
- **Benjamin (Ben) Kaethner** - Regional Land Management Coordinator, Central Land Council (CLC)
- **Garth Forrester** - Ranger Group Coordinator Harts Range, Central Land Council
- **James (Jimmy) Cocking** - Chief Executive Officer, Desert Knowledge Australia
- **Josef (Joe) Schofield** - Regional Operations Manager, Central & South Australia, Australian Wildlife Conservancy
- **Joel Andrew** - Director, Technical Services, Alice Springs Town Council
- **Alex Port** - Environment Liaison Officer, Northern Territory (NT) Cattlemen's Association
- **Ross Stanes** - NT Cattlemen's Association, Director Lyndavale Cattle Co

**Chairperson:** Phillip Cowan

**Executive Officer:** Roni Opden - Buffel Grass Weed Advisory Committee, Rangelands Division, DEPWS

If you require [workplace adjustments](#) to participate in this meeting, please let the meeting organiser know.

## 1. Meeting open and Welcome Attendees:

### Chairperson:

Welcomes members of the Buffel Weed Advisory Committee (WAC).

We respectfully acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Nations people of this country and their continuing connection to the lands, water and communities.

We pay our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language, culture, and to their leaders, past and present.

We respectfully acknowledge past and present Traditional Custodians of this land on which we work and meet, the Arrernte people. It is a privilege to live and work on Arrernte country.

Introduction around the table.

## 2. Apologies:

## 3. Disclosure of interest: real, potential or perceived:

## 4. Minutes previous meeting: Buffel Grass WAC, 18 and 19 April 2024

That the Minutes are a true and accurate record of the two meetings.

18APR24 Moved:

Seconded:

19 APR24 Moved:

Seconded:

## 5. Business Arising from the Minutes:

### 5.1 Action Items from previous WAC meeting

Actions list			
Action	Who	Due	Status
2023 Buffel Grass Technical Working Group report - circulate	Roni Opden	09May24	Complete
Buffel Grass Weed Risk Assessment – circulate	Roni Opden	09May24	Complete
Introduction slides – circulate	Roni Opden	09May24	Complete
Marg Friedel's Cost Benefit Analysis – circulate	Roni Opden	09May24	Complete
Umuwa Statement – circulate	Roni Opden	09May24	Complete
Gamba Fire Compliance Policy – circulate	Roni Opden	09May24	Complete

### 6. Correspondence In: Nil

### 7. Correspondence Out: Nil

### 8. Business Arising from Correspondence: Nil

### 9. General Business:

**9.1** Members are kindly reminded to uphold impartiality and objectivity in all discussions and decisions, noting that the Minister has appointed each member for their technical expertise and experience; to provide advice and recommendations to the Minister by 30 June 2024.

The Minister formed the WAC specifically to **develop a Buffel Grass Strategy for Central Australia that prioritises areas and methods where direct management actions will be most valuable and effective.**

The strategy will inform the development of the Buffel Grass Draft Weed Management Plans.

Should the WAC determine buffel grass be a declared weed, classification may or may not follow. Classification is not a mandatory next step of declaration.

**Classification according to the Weeds Act, is outside of the WAC's Terms of Reference (ToR).**

NT Government announced in Budget 2024, \$750K for program management, planning and technical services to implement buffel grass management in Central Australia.

**Quotes attributable to Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water Security Kate Worden:**

“Ensuring our natural environment remains protected from invasive grasses which were introduced to the Territory is a priority.

“It is critical that we manage the impacts of invasive grasses like buffel and gamba to reduce their impacts on our natural environment and our national parks.

“There is also still a role to play for buffel grass with pastoralists and we understand the importance it plays for cattle feed.”

Transparency has been prioritised, with information being provided to the public online and via media.

**9.2 Executive officer Roni Opden - presentation on geographic boundary of Strategy.**

**9.3 Executive officer Roni Opden – presentation on zoned management approach to Priority Sites management.**

**BREAK: Morning tea 10:30am**

**9.4 WAC to workshop Goals and Management Options for Strategy**

**BREAK: Lunch**

**9.5 WAC to workshop Management Objectives and Actions for Strategy**

**9.6 Round table – In your land management program, what challenges and opportunities does buffel present?**

**How can we help, what do you need?**