

Buffel Grass Weed Advisory Committee

Time: 8.30am

Date: 27 November 2024

Location: Arid Zone Research Institute, Tom Hare Conference Room, Alice Springs

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

Attendees:

- **Philip Cowan** – A/Senior Director, Central Australian Parks, Parks and Wildlife Division, Northern Territory Government (NTG) Department Tourism and Hospitality (DTH)
- **Tracey Guest** – Natural and Cultural Resource Manager, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, Parks Australia. [Via Teams](#)
- **Benjamin (Ben) Kaethner** - Regional Land Management Coordinator, Central Land Council
- **James (Jimmy) Cocking** - Chief Executive Officer, Desert Knowledge Australia
- **Will Evans** – Chief Executive Officer, Northern Territory (NT) Cattlemen’s Association [Via Teams](#)
- **Ross Stanes** – NT Cattlemen’s Association, Director Lyndavale Cattle Co.
- **Nathaniel Staniford** – Assistant Director Operations, Bushfires Recovery, NT Fire and Emergency Services
- **Joel Andrew** - Director, Technical Services, Alice Springs Town Council
- **James Christian** – Manager Agribusiness Development, NTG Department of Agriculture and Fisheries [Proxy for Roy Chisholm, Pastoral Land Board](#)

Chairperson: Philip Cowan

Executive Officer: Roni Opden - Buffel Grass Weed Advisory Committee, Rangelands Division, NTG Department Lands, Planning and Environment (DLPE)

Guests:

Travis Kelly	Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA)
Kylie Cowan	Project Manager, Priority Places, NTG DLPE
Stephen Wingrave	Manager Operations & Compliance, NTG DLPE
Amber Clarke	Program Manager-Buffel Grass, Weed Management Branch (WMB), Rangelands Division, NTG DLPE
Max Arkley-Smith	Buffel Grass Officer, WMB, Rangelands Division, NTG DLPE
Bianca Overington	Pastoral Land Board, Executive Officer

Minutes: Tabitha Fudge – Support Officer, Buffel Grass WAC, Rangelands, NTG DLPE

1. Meeting open and welcome: am

Chairperson:

Welcome.

Acknowledge and pay respects to Arrernte peoples, as the First Nations people of this country and acknowledge their continuing connection to the lands, water, and communities.

Thank you, Buffel Grass Weed Advisory Committee (WAC) members, for your ongoing commitment and time.

Alex Port has verbally advised of his intention to resign, thanks to Alex for his valuable contribution to the WAC. Welcome to the new NTCA member, Will Evans CEO NTCA.

Members are kindly reminded to uphold impartiality and objectivity in all discussions and decisions, appointments have been made on the basis that members have a genuine desire and ability to collaborate with others, who may have competing interests or opposing viewpoints on weed management.

The Minister has appointed each member for their strong existing networks which will enable broad community consultation and the dissemination of weed management advice and information, technical expertise, and experience. To provide advice and recommendations, to develop draft weed management plans and advise the Minister on the progress of weed management.

2. Apologies:

- **Josef (Joe) Schofield** – Regional Operations Manager, Central & South Australia, Australian Wildlife Conservancy
- **Roy Chisholm** - Pastoral Land Board (PLB)
- **Garth Forrester** – Ranger Group Coordinator Harts Range, Central Land Council

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

4. Minutes previous meeting:

27JUN24

Move:

Second:

Approved out of session.

That the Minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes:

5.1 Action Items from previous WAC meeting

Actions list			
Action	Who	Due	Status
WAC members provide response to Agenda Item 9.6 21MAY24 Joe Schofield has provided a response.	All WAC		Ongoing
Investigate potential Federal funding that would be available for the Territory if buffel grass was declared a weed.	Tracey Guest		Ongoing
Source alternate brands of Flupropanate – Tussock, Taskforce	Tracey Guest		Ongoing
Interpret herbicide labels	Roni Opden Joe Schofield		Ongoing
Circulate existing Buffel Grass Weed Management Guide for Central Australia	Roni Opden		Ongoing
Contact Troy Bowman re spray trials – African lovegrass	Roni Opden		Ongoing
Assess and build Ranger groups capacity ie equipment	Garth Forrester		Ongoing
Circulate list for Australian Certified Organic herbicide. USDA has a different process to Australia.	Ross Stanes		
TEAMS channel for correspondence	Secretariat		Not feasible with NTG systems

WAC recap on Actions list:

6. Correspondence in: Nil

7. Correspondence out: Nil

8. Business Arising from Correspondence: Nil

9. General Business: Committee Updates

- 9.1 Executive Officer update
- 9.2 Central Land Council update
- 9.3 Parks Australia update
- 9.4 Central Australian Parks update
- 9.5 Pastoral Land Board update
- 9.6 Australian Wildlife Conservancy update
- 9.7 Desert Knowledge Australia update
- 9.8 Alice Springs Town Council update
- 9.9 NT Cattlemen's Association update
- 9.10 Bushfires NT update

BREAK: 10:00am

RECONVENE: 10.15am

10. Guest Speakers

- 10.1 Travis Kelly – Assessment and Regulation Officer,
Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA)

10.30am confirmed

- 10.2 Kylie Cowan - Project Manager, Priority Places, NTG DLPE
[2022-2032 Threatened Species Action Plan \(dcceew.gov.au\)](https://www.dcceew.gov.au/2022-2032-threatened-species-action-plan)

11.30am confirmed

- 10.3 Stephen Wingrave - NTG DLPE, Operations & Compliance
Time to be confirmed

LUNCH: 1:00pm

RECONVENE: 1.30pm

General Business: Committee Updates continued

Guest Speakers: continued

11. Declaration FAQs - Discussion

12. Permits - Discussion

13. Strategy > Weed Plan - Discussion

14. Have Your Say – Survey - Amber Clarke

MEETING CLOSE: pm