

Buffel Grass Weed Advisory Committee

Time: Arrive 8.30am for 9am start

Date: 20 February 2025

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

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

Attendees:

Confirmed

- **Phillip Cowan**- Director- Central Australian Parks, Parks and Wildlife Division, Northern Territory Government (NTG) Department of Tourism and Hospitality.
- **Tracey Guest** - Natural and Cultural Resource Manager, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, Parks Australia.
- **James (Jimmy) Cocking** - Chief Executive Officer, Desert Knowledge Australia
- **Lachlan Donchi**-Fire Management Officer, Bushfires NT, NT Fire and Emergency Services- proxy for **Nathaniel Staniford**
- **Joel Andrew** - Director-Technical Services, Alice Springs Town Council
- **Josef (Joe) Schofield** - Regional Operations Manager, Central & South Australia, Australian Wildlife Conservancy
- **Roy Chisholm** - Pastoral Land Board

To be confirmed

- **Garth Forrester** - Regional Land Management Coordinator - Region 2, Central Land Council
- **Will Evans** - Chief Executive Officer, Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association
- **Ross Stanes** - NT Cattlemen's Association, Director Lyndavale Cattle Co.

Chairperson: Philip Cowan

Executive Officer: Amber Clarke - Buffel Grass Weed Advisory Committee, Weed Management Branch (WMB), NTG Department Lands, Planning and Environment (DLPE)

Guests:

Stephen Wingrave Manager Operations & Compliance-WMB, NTG DLPE
Roni Opden Manager Planning & Science, WMB, NTG DLPE
Max Arkley-Smith Buffel Grass Officer, WMB, NTG DLPE

Minutes: Luisa Tong, Parks and Wildlife Division, Northern Territory Government (NTG) Department of Tourism and Hospitality

1. Meeting open and welcome: 9 am

Chairperson:

Welcome and round table introductions.

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.

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:

- **Benjamin (Ben) Kaethner** – Manager- Land Management, Central Land Council.

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

Committee members to advise of any conflict-of-interest issues. Committee to discuss, classify and provide advice as required. Information added to the Register of Interests table.

4. Minutes previous meeting:

27NOV24

Move:

Second:

Circulated out of session for WAC input.

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
Investigate potential Federal funding opportunities for the Territory following the declaration of buffel grass as a weed.	Tracey Guest WAC support on request		Ongoing This financial year will see additional resources.
Investigate potential buffel grass funding sources	Secretariat		
Contact Troy Bowman re spray trials – African lovegrass.	Roni Opden		Ongoing Email to WAC
Write to Minister re future direction of WAC	Phil Cowan		
Circulate all previous correspondence to new member	Secretariat		
Next meeting date and venue	Amber Clarke		
Email details of legal precedents regarding spray drift onto organic farms discussed	Will Evans		
Agenda items for comment, out of session to WAC	Secretariat		
Invite Troy Bowman to present at a future meeting	Amber Clarke		

WAC recap on Actions list:

Update above table

6. Correspondence out:

Letter dated 16th December 2024 from Chair- Buffel Grass WAC to the Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment seeking input into the WAC's future work and priorities post completion of the Buffel Grass Management Strategy: Central Australia 2024 – 2030 and buffel grass's declaration as a weed.

7. Correspondence in:

Letter dated 7th February 2025 from the Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment in response to the Chair of the Buffel WAC's above letter. Indicating his support for the WAC and updating the Terms of Reference.

8. Business Arising from Correspondence:

Discuss updating the WAC's Terms of Reference; post completion of the Buffel Grass Management Strategy: Central Australia 2024 – 2030 and buffel grass's declaration as a weed; and in light of feedback from the Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment.

9. General Business: Committee Updates

Members will be asked to provide a brief (5-10 min update) on any buffel management actions or issues arising since the November 2024 meeting.

- **Weed Management Branch update**
 - a. Corporate update-*Roni*
 - b. Have Your Say Survey- *Amber*
 - c. Landholder support- *Max*
- **Central Land Council update**
- **Parks Australia update**
- **Central Australian Parks update**
- **Pastoral Land Board update**
- **Australian Wildlife Conservancy update**
- **Desert Knowledge Australia update**
- **Alice Springs Town Council update**
- **NT Cattlemen's Association update**
- **Bushfires NT update**

BREAK: 10:30am

RECONVENE: 10.45am

Complete member updates if required.

10. WAC Business -Discussion

- **Member appointments and proxies**

Outline process for having members appointed to the WAC. Discuss proposed official appointment of proxies. See discussion paper for background.

- **Next meeting/s**

Confirm date of meeting #7 (26th March proposed) and venue (TBC). Field trip on the 27th March required? Possible date change to 25th March to accommodate member?

Confirm date for meeting #8- dates in late May were suggested via doddle poll, this is no longer , possible. New suggested dates: 11th, 12th, 17, 18 or 19th June 2025.

LUNCH: 12:30pm

RECONVENE: 1.00pm

11. Strategic Weed Management Plan - Discussion

See discussion paper for background.

Ministers visit/afternoon tea- 2.30 pm

Take group photo with Minister

RECONVENE: 3:00pm

Continue with item 11.

MEETING CLOSE: 4pm

Buffel Grass Weed Advisory Committee

Register of Interests

Board Member	Date of disclosure	Enterprise	Nature of interest	Buffel Grass WAC position	Controls implemented to address conflict
Garth Forrester	12 June 2024 (Meeting #3)	Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC) ARRWENNGKELTHE event on 29JUN24	Advises he will be attending the event as a private citizen	<i>No unmanageable or perceived conflict of interest</i>	<i>Garth to ensure he is clear that he is not representing the Buffel WAC</i>
	27 June 2024 (Meeting #4)	Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC) ARRWENNGKELTHE event on 29JUN24	Advised he will be sitting on the information Q and A panel.	<i>No unmanageable or perceived conflict of interest</i>	<i>Garth to ensure he is clear that he is not representing the Buffel WAC</i>
Tracey Guest	27 June 2024 (Meeting #4)	Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC) ARRWENNGKELTHE event on 29JUN24	Advised she will be sitting on the information Q and A panel in her capacity as Natural and Cultural Resource Manager, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, Parks Australia	<i>No unmanageable or perceived conflict of interest</i>	<i>Tracey to ensure she is clear that she is not representing the Buffel WAC</i>
Roni Opden	27 June 2024 (Meeting #4)	Arid Lands Environment Centre (ALEC) ARRWENNGKELTHE event on 29JUN24	Advised she will be sitting on the information Q and A panel in her capacity as staff member of the Weeds Branch, DEPWS	<i>No unmanageable or perceived conflict of interest</i>	<i>Roni to ensure she is clear that she is not representing the Buffel WAC</i>
William (Will) Evans	27 November 2024 (Meeting #5)	Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association	NTCA receives funding from DEPWS (now DLPE) to provide carbon emissions management advice for pastoralists	<i>No unmanageable or perceived conflict of interest</i>	<i>Declaration noted</i>

