

Buffel Grass Weed Advisory Committee

Time: 8:30am

Date: 12 June 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:

Welcome.

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

2. Apologies:

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

4. Minutes previous meetings:

18APR24 Moved: **Seconded:**
Approved out of session
That the Minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

19APR24 Moved: **Seconded:**
Approved out of session
That the Minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

21MAY24 Moved: **Seconded:**
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
Investigate availability of approved organic herbicides	Ross Stanes		
Respond to Item 9.6	All WAC		
Investigate the specific amount of Federal funding that would be available for the Territory if buffel grass was declared a weed.	Tracey Guest		

6. Correspondence In: Nil

7. Correspondence Out: Email to ALEC, Alice Springs Landcare, DIPL per Agenda item 9.6 21MAY24, attachment A

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.

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

9.2 Executive officer Roni Opden - presentation on proposed Strategy Structure and Content:

- Background
- Purpose

9.3 Executive officer Roni Opden – presentation on Priorities for buffel grass management.

9.4 Executive officer Roni Opden – presentation on Management Objectives.

BREAK: Morning tea 10:30am

RECONVENE: 11:00am

9.5 Executive officer Roni Opden – presentation on Reasonable Actions.

BREAK: Lunch 12:30pm

RECONVENE 1:30pm

9.6 Executive officer Roni Opden – workshop Activating the Strategy

MEETING CONCLUDE: pm