

# NT Buffel Grass Technical Working Group

## Terms of Reference (2023)

### 1.0 Purpose

The NT Buffel Grass Technical Working Group (TWG) has been formed to:

- Analyse the 'issue' of buffel grass and how it is being managed in the Northern Territory;
- Consider and evaluate existing and alternative management approaches; and
- Make recommendations to the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water Security (the Minister) about the best management approach or approaches.

### 2.0 Membership

#### 2.1 Selection Criteria

The TWG will comprise persons who, in the opinion of the Minister, have expertise or experience relevant to the management of buffel grass. Individual members will be appointed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security (DEPWS) and will have:

- A genuine desire and ability to collaborate with others who may have competing interests or opposing viewpoints on buffel grass; and
- Strong existing networks which will enable further consultation and investigation if required.

#### 2.2 Membership representation

The TWG comprises 8 members as follows:

- 1) Aboriginal land manager – Central Land Council
- 2) Agronomist – NT Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade
- 3) Australian Government protected area manager – Parks Australia
- 4) Botanist – NT Herbarium Alice Springs
- 5) NT Government protected area manager – NT Parks and Wildlife
- 6) Pastoral land manager – Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association
- 7) Weed researcher – Charles Darwin University, Alice Springs Campus
- 8) NT Government public land manager – Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics

The group will be convened by the Regional Director Southern, DEPWS and logistical and secretariat support will be provided by the Weed Management Branch within Rangelands Division of DEPWS.

#### 2.3 Terms of office

- Meetings will be called by the Convener as needed, up to once per month during the year 2023 or until the Purpose is achieved.
- Time commitment is required for meetings, and additional time allotted for tasks related to TWG work, such as reading, communication, responding to and representing committee issues and recommendations.
- Meetings will be held in person in Alice Springs and via Teams as necessary.
- A member of the TWG holds office for the period of the group's utility, namely from the date of commencement (1 June 2023) until the final report of recommendations is submitted to the Minister.
- TWG members may cease to be a member if they resign from the group or by decision of the CEO, DEPWS.

## 2.4 Conditions

Members will not be eligible for payment as the TWG is not a statutory board; however, out-of-pocket expenses may be paid upon request.

## 3.0 External Support

### 3.1 Technical and Expert Support

Additional technical and expert information and advice may be sought from outside the TWG to provide guidance on specific issues or questions. This will be on invitation from the Convenor and will be an advice role only.

### 3.2 Secretariat Support

Logistical and secretariat support will be provided by the Weed Management Branch; however, additional support may be sought from time-to-time (e.g. mediation, legal research)

## 4.0 Outcomes

- The TWG will provide recommendations to the Minister by way of a report submitted not more than six months from the date of its first meeting.
- The TWG will also provide regular public updates by way of meeting summaries and other forms of communication as required.
- The TWG will make recommendations only. It is not a statutory board and has no power or authority, whether by delegation or otherwise, to exercise any function, right, duty or power of DEPWS or any other agency.

## 5.0 Document Control

Document Title	NT Buffel Technical Working Group Terms of Reference (2023)
Version	1.1
Changes	Addition of 8 <sup>th</sup> member
Document Owner	Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security
Approver and Date	Jason Hill, A/Executive Director, Rangelands Division, DEPWS, 16 October 2023
Next Review	As required

## 6.0 Reference:

Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security. (2021). *Alice Springs Regional Weeds Strategy 2021-2026*. NT Government, Darwin.

Department of the Environment. (2015). *Threat Abatement Advice for Ecosystem Degradation, Habitat Loss and Species Decline in Arid and Semi-Arid Australia Due to the Invasion of Buffel Grass*. Australian Government, Canberra.

Friedel, M., Marshall, N., Van Klinken, R.D. and Grice, T. (2009). *Quantifying costs and benefits of buffel grass*, Land and Water Australia, Canberra.