

Gamba grass weed advisory committee meeting #5

Time: 12:30pm – 5pm

Date: 16 September 2021

Attendees:

Gamba Grass Weed Advisory Committee (WAC) members present:

- Susanne Casanova (SC) – Chair – representing Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM)
- Romy Carey (RC) - representing the pastoral industry
- Justin Dunning -representing Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT)- local government interests Shelly Haitana (SH) representing tourism industry
- Sharon Jones (SJ) - representing NTG – Vacant Crown Land (VCL)
- Louise Kean (LK) representing Parks and Wildlife
- David Liddle (DL) - representing Environment Centre Northern Territory (ECNT) / Gamba Grass Roots
- Natalie Rossiter (NR-R) – Charles Darwin University (CDU)
- Proxy for Anna Boustead (AB) - Dominic Nicholls (DN) representing the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network (ICIN)

Other attendees present:

- Emma Burcher (EB) Weeds Planning Officer – Weed Management Branch (WMB)
- Roni Opden (RO) Manager – Gamba Fire Mitigation Unit (GFMU)
- Chris Parker (CP) Onshore Petroleum Weed Management Officer (WMB)
- Nigel Weston (NW) Director – Weed Management Branch (WMB)

#To demonstrate progress against the [Weed Management Plan for Gamba Grass 2020 – 2030](#), the objectives of the 2020 – 2030 gamba plan being implemented have been noted beside each outcome listed below.

Summary of Key Outcomes against the Weed Management Plan for Gamba Grass 2020 – 2030:

WAC member	Objective of plan	Key outcomes this quarter
DL	(2f)	Gamba Grass Roots are exploring funding for Seniors under the Commonwealth Home Package for gamba management, as gamba falls within keeping things safe.

WAC member	Objective of plan	Key outcomes this quarter
DL	(3a), (4b)	Completion of the Casuarina Coastal Reserve Gamba Mapping Program, a wonderful example of community action and involvement. This program arose from bad fires in the reserve, and since completion has directed management action taken by Gamba Army & Parks.
DL, KL	(2a), (2c-2f), (4a)	Discussions being progressed about 'Adopt a spot' for gamba management in Casuarina Coastal Reserve using the Casuarina Coastal Reserve Mapping Program work recently completed.
LK	(2a), (2c-2f), (4a)	Parks and Wildlife are liaising with the Gamba Army, making arrangements for the 2021 - 2022 control season.
SH	(4b)	Gamba being discussed in tourism planning such as the 'Darwin Region Destination Management Plan'. Tourism Top End are looking to push the gamba issue from a tourism perspective. If tourism is one of the top three drivers of the economy in the NT - what is being done to protect this industry?
SJ	(2a-2f), (4a)	VCL will continue to work with the Gamba Army, noting recent staff departures have left VCL currently short staffed.
RC	(1a), (1b)	Class A zone mapping is underway. RC will be working with producers and the Katherine WMB on this. NTCA will communicate the message about the Class A zone requiring eradication, and mapping and monitoring project.
RC	(2b)	NTCA have been pushing for a wash down bay though the 'Heavy Vehicle Fund'. People want to know where they can wash down vehicles in the NT.
JD	(2a-2f)	Litchfield Council are preparing for gamba control in upcoming gamba control season
SC	(1a), (1b)	TNRM are co-ordinating gamba work in Zone A - helping rangers with spread prevention - vehicle hygiene awareness, collecting gamba data, removing gamba, and addressing main highways and roads into Arnhem Land, including central road.
SC	(4a), (4b)	The next TNRM Conference (Nov 2021) will include several gamba focussed workshops. 1. To focus on getting cross tenure stakeholders into the room to progress Darwin & surrounds gamba management. 2. A community forum workshop on successes and gaps with gamba management, the outcomes of which can be used to identify what extra work is needed to improve management outcomes (and how to go about it).
CP	(4b)	CP is working on a gamba ID brochure. When a draft is ready it will be circulated to the WAC for comment.

WAC member	Objective of plan	Key outcomes this quarter
NW	(4b)	A Best Practice Manual is being developed for gamba grass by the Australian Government. NR-R will be involved in a meeting scheduled for Oct 2021 to progress action.
NW	(5b)	In Oct 2021 the following to be released, 1. Annual report against 2020 – 2030 gamba plan, 2. Snapshot on Gamba Management Framework implementation. Noting: performance against the 2020 – 2030 gamba plan will be provided in the annual reporting via a colour coded system. Prior to release the WAC will be reviewing the assessed colour coded performance for each annual report. The snapshot is to be short – 2 pages and readable
EB	(4a)	Gamba communications progressing – flyers outlying gamba requirements under the new plan were distributed with Litchfield and Coomalie Council rates recently.1
RO	(2a), (2c-2f)	Compliance to have a focus on Litchfield and Coomalie Shires. GFMU will respond to gamba complaints, prioritising areas where a lot of people are living and where there is a lot of gamba. The GFMU have 400 priorities ready to go for follow up at the start of gamba compliance / control season
RO	(3a)	'Life' and 'property' assets are being explored further. GFMU are referring priority properties to the fires.
RO	(4a)	Regarding engagement - Gamba Fire Simulation Model demonstrations have been held at schools recently. The simulation model is available online - https://nt.gov.au/environment/weeds/weeds-in-the-nt/A-Z-list-of-weeds-in-the-NT/gamba-grass/gamba-grass-risk-check
RO	(4a)	Public reporting tool ideas presented to the GWAC. Ideas will be workshopped further at the next WAC meeting and any ideas developed in the interim will be circulated to the WAC for comment.
RO	(4b)	'Gamba – Check Your Risk' tool is available on the web, which is based on the parcel compliance score for properties.
DL, EB	(3a)	List of environmental and cultural assets at risk of impact from gamba to be discussed and workshopped further in next Gamba WAC meeting.