

Gamba grass weed advisory committee meeting #20

A summary of activities tabled at meeting 20, undertaken in the period 11th June 2025 to 13th October 2025 to progress implementation of the Weed Management Plan Gamba Grass 2020 – 2030. Activities are those undertaken by the Gamba Grass Weed Advisory Committee members and Weed Management Branch.

Time 9:00am – 3:00pm

Date: Tuesday, 14 October 2025

Gamba Grass Weed Advisory Committee members present

Diego Alvarez Cortes	(Proxy) Representing the Northern Land Council (NLC)	DA
Susanne Casanova	Chair – Representing Territory Natural Resource Management	SC
Natasha Clayton	Representing the Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association (NTCA)	NC
Dr David Liddle	Representing Environment Centre Northern Territory (ECNT) / Gamba Grass Roots	DL
Sharon Hillen	Representing the Local Government Association of the NT	SH
Matthew Phillips	Representing the Northern Territory tourism industry	MP
Dr Natalie Rossiter-Rachor	Representing Charles Darwin University (CDU) / National Environmental Science Program (NESP)	NR-R
Shane Tepper	Representing the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure (DLI) (new member to be appointed)	ST
Sam Washusen	(Proxy) Representing the Department of Tourism and Hospitality (DTH) (Parks and Wildlife)	SW

Gamba Grass Weed Advisory Committee apologies

Kerri O’Brien	Representing the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment (DLPE), (Vacant Crown Land)	KB
Louise Kean	Representing the DTH, (Parks and Wildlife)	LK
Anna Pickworth	Representing the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network (ICIN)	AP
Tom Price	Representing the Northern Land Council (NLC)	TP

Other attendees present:

Emma Burcher	Weeds Planning Officer – Weed Management Branch (WMB), DLPE	EB
Lou Elliot	A/Manager, Planning and Science, WMB, DLPE	LE
Norman Greenfield	Chief District Ranger, Litchfield Operational Manager, Parks and Wildlife, DTH	NG
Kieran Sekuloff	Gamba Eradication and Biodiversity Conservation Project, NLC	KS
Karl Tattersall	Gamba Coordinator Parks and Wildlife, DTH	KT
Jake Twycross	Gamba Eradication and Biodiversity Conservation Project, NLC	JT
Liesl Wilson	Director, WMB, DLPE	LW

#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: (committee member updates)

Objective of plan	Key outcomes this quarter
2a, 2c, 2e, 2f	<p>Parks and Wildlife – Department of Tourism and Hospitality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some opportunistic control at Djukbinj NP after some early September rains. Control in eastern Adelaide River floodplain since then during September. 14 x 600L = 8400L of mixed herbicide or approximately 84L of concentrate. Generally, ranger teams haven't commenced the 2025-2026 control period due to waiting for rains. • Parks and reserves have been maintaining fire breaks as required; generally, through physical methods (chainsaw, grading and sled dragging). Some contractor assistance on grading. • Ranger teams have been getting equipment ready – undertaking control season preparation.
2f	<p>Roads – Department of Logistics and Infrastructure Presentation update provided to the WAC during the meeting.</p>
1a 1b 1c, 2b, 2d, 3a, 4a and 4b	<p>Northern Land Council (NLC) – Gamba Eradication Biodiversity Conservation (GEBC) Project</p> <p>Borrooloola visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with Garawa and Li-Anthawirriyarr Rangers. • Informal discussions about experience with gamba. • Discussion of high-risk sites. • Survey planning (timing, high-risk sites). • Inspected areas of interest with Garawa Rangers around Borrooloola and checked suspect large tussock grasses none of which were gamba. • Two sites were found with Li-Anthawirriyarr Rangers with fully mature seeding gamba plants which were marked and removed. <p>Wadeye visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with Thamarrurr Development Corporation (TDC) Rangers and coordinators. • Coincided with missing person search – limited engagement with rangers, survey did not go ahead as planned. • GEBC ground truthing of the many presence and absence points around Wadeye. • Positive Gamba ID at only one site – rest are unconfirmed due to recent fire and survey outside peak detectability. • Follow-up visit and continued engagement required. <p>Kuwuma Oustation – Eastern Daly River Port Keats Aboriginal Land Trust Survey and Control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordination between Malak Malak Men and Women Rangers, TDC Rangers, GEBC Staff. • Ground-truthed existing survey data and corrected inaccurately recorded locations of gamba grass. • Recorded new gamba grass occurrences. • Assessed logistics for potential future treatment at each site. • Treated suitable patches with residual herbicide. <p>Weed hygiene inspections with Weed Management Branch (WMB):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspections of Fawcett Contracting and Lonestar Contracting equipment prior to travel to Arafura Swamp Rangers Aboriginal Corporation (ASRAC) Indigenous Protection Area (IPA), in collaboration with NTG WMB. • Inspections of bull-catchers, trucks, trailers, dollies, 4x4 vehicles and a grader. Inspections provided an opportunity to discuss the GEBC project with the contractors and provide context to the inspections and their importance, particularly for the ASRAC group. <p>Rio Tinto Weipa:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying stakeholders and scoping a workshop to share high level knowledge and determine the steps necessary to develop a meaningful partnership between gamba projects and stakeholders. <p>TNRM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with TNRM to discuss progress of deliverables so far, plan for future deliverables on behalf of the GEBC project including workshops, treatment and gamba grass operational plans for groups.

	<p>Kakadu Gamba Grass Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion around general project process as well as confirming interest in a National gamba grass meeting to be organised by GEBC project. Attendance at West Arnhem Regional Meeting. • Attendance at working group meeting for Kakadu Gamba Grass Project to discuss actions, progress, discussion of data and any other issues with key stakeholders. <p>2025 Northern Australia Indigenous Ranger Biosecurity Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GEBC attendance at 2025 Northern Australia Indigenous Ranger Biosecurity Forum to promote GEBC project and continue engagement with First Nations Ranger groups and other relevant stakeholders. <p>Dhimurru Rangers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Dhimurru Ranger Coordinator to discuss provision of resources for gamba management and plan for upcoming control season. <p>Associated Advertising and Promotions (AA&P):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with AA&P to discuss priorities and plan for upcoming events and engagement opportunities. Also discussed finalisation of fact sheets and GEBC website. <p>Mutjung Rangers/TNRM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with TNRM, Mutjung Ranger Coordinator and GEBC project to discuss and plan for the delivery of a gamba grass specific workshop by TNRM on behalf of the project. <p>Batchelor Institute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Batchelor Institute to discuss availability and plan for delivery of accredited training to groups on behalf of the GEBC project. <p>Telstra Field Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting between GEBC project, AA&P and Telstra Field Services lead to discuss how Telstra and GEBC project can work together and improve reporting and reduction of spread of gamba grass at Telstra assets. • Presentation to Telstra Field Services Team at their Wednesday weekly briefing. <p>Malak Malak Rangers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations planning discussion with Ranger Coordinator relating to Eastern Daly River Port Keats Aboriginal Land Trust and access to outstations for follow up treatment. <p>Thamarrurr Development Corporation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting to discuss Daly River Port Keats Aboriginal Land Trust field trip and plan for upcoming treatment, methods, data collection and clear delineation of roles between groups. • Discussion regarding GEBC/TDC scope of works for 2025/26 gamba grass treatment season, as well as overall strategy for area.
4a and 4b	<p>TNRM support for NLC GEBC project</p> <p>Continued response to requests from NLC Project staff for the GEBC Project. Activities include supporting gamba planning for ranger groups and delivery of educational sessions (where is your existing gamba, where to look for new incursions, understanding disturbance, fire and other risks of entry & spread, how to detect/ID, what to do about it, who to educate etc). Undertaken: 1 x road surveys with Njanjma Rangers July 2025. Ongoing planning: 4 x Ranger group workshops in Oct/Nov, support for on-ground treatment works in WTE.</p>
2c and 2d	<p>Community – Casuarina Coastal Reserve Landcare Group - Casuarina Coastal Reserve Adopt-a- Spot program conducted under the Parks and Wildlife Volunteers Program</p> <p>Field control of gamba on hold for the dry season. Planning in progress for control activities during the upcoming wet season.</p>
2g	<p>Community - Landcare NT - Darwin Harbour Catchment Waterways Project</p> <p>Field survey of gamba grass in three urban catchments completed. Progressing to next step of tenders for weed control.</p>

WMB and GFMU Updates:

Objective of plan	Key outcomes this quarter
1a	<p>Class A zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class A zone assessment finalised for 2025 Gamba Grass Annual Report. Automated system for processing eradication register has been set up and validated with manual assessment this year. • Attendance at the Kakadu Gamba Grass Eradication Project Steering Group meeting.

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1d and 1e	<p>Review gamba grass Class A permits and A/B zone boundary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up with various stakeholders NTCA, Kakadu, Defence, ILSC, Wagait Council, GEBC, Larakia Nation about review of gamba grass Class A / B zone boundary review. Pastoral properties around border to be contacted.
2a, and 2c-2f	<p>Gamba Action Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work underway for set up of Gamba Action Program for 2025/26 season.
4a and 4b	<p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gamba Grass Annual Report 2025 completed and undergoing final reviews before can be approved by Minister for upload online. Gamba grass requirements leaflets released with Litchfield Council and Coomalie Council rates. New Communications Plan for 2025 - 2026 approved and distributed to the WAC.
2a, 2d, 2e, 4b	<p>Gamba Litchfield Neighbours Project (GLNP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning underway for GLNP Coomalie Field Day to be held in November 2025. Working with vacant Crown land (VCL) to boost the VCL work program in the Coomalie region. Working with the Coomalie Council to develop a weed strategy for the region including an expanded gamba action program.
2b, 2d	<p>Vehicle Hygiene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration and partnering with the GEBC project to facilitate and conduct vehicle hygiene inspections for bull catching and transport equipment being sent to the ASRAC IPA within the gamba grass Class A zone.
5a	<p>Compliance Program targeting Class B zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fines issued in accordance with the gamba grass compliance program. New gamba grass buffer fact sheet produced - approved and available online.