

Gamba grass weed advisory committee meeting #12

A summary of activities tabled at meeting 12, undertaken in the period 7th June to 11th September 2023 to progress implementation of the Weed Management Plan Gamba Grass 2020 – 2030. Activities are those undertaken by Gamba Grass Weed Advisory Committee members, the Weed Management Branch and the Gamba Fire Mitigation Unit

Time 9:00am – 2:30pm

Date: Tuesday, 12 September 2023

Gamba Grass Weed Advisory Committee members present		
Susanne Casanova	Chair – Representing Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM)	SC
Shelly Haitana	Representing the Northern Territory tourism industry	SH
Sharon Jones	Representing NTG – Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL)	SJ
Dr Keith Ferdinands	Representing Northern Land Council (NLC)	KF
Dr David Liddle	Representing Environment Centre Northern Territory (ECNT) / Gamba Grass Roots	DL
Dr Natalie Rossiter-Rachor	Charles Darwin University (CDU) / National Environmental Science Program	NR-R
Sam Washusen (proxy)	Representing NTG – Parks and Wildlife, Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security (DEPWS)	SW
Gamba Grass Weed Advisory Committee apologies		
Anna Boustead	Representing the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network (ICIN)	AB
Romy Carey	Representing the Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association	RC
Louise Kean	Representing NTG – Parks and Wildlife, DEPWS	LK
Other attendees present:		
Emma Burcher	Weeds Planning Officer – Weed Management Branch (WMB), DEPWS	EB
Roni Opden	Manager – Gamba Fire Mitigation Unit (GFMU), DEPWS	RO
Nigel Weston	Director – WMB, DEPWS	NW
Lauren Cooper (Guest speaker)	Assistant Director – WMB, DEPWS	LC
Tom Price (Guest speaker)	Regional Weeds Manager – WMB, DEPWS	TP
Shane Tepper (Guest speaker)	Project Director – Civil Asset Management, DIPL	ST
Mick Castelli (Guest speaker)	Project Manager – Horticulture, DIPL	MC

#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
4a, 4b, 4c, 5b, 5c	<p>Gamba Grass Roots</p> <p>A variety of community engagement actions ranging from market stalls to social media. Advocacy activities including correspondence with the Federal Minister for the Environment and Water; and Threatened Species Commissioner in regards to implementation of federal funding for gamba grass control in the Northern Territory.</p>
2	<p>Casuarina Coastal Reserve Adopt-a-Spot pilot program conducted under the Parks and Wildlife Volunteers program</p> <p>Collation and processing of data collected over the last two years in preparation for a review of the pilot program.</p>

WMB and GFMU Updates:

Objective of plan	Key outcomes this quarter
2f, 4c, 5a	<p>Gamba grass compliance</p> <p>Throughout May/June 2023, follow-up inspections occurred to measure compliance with almost 300 orders issued to control gamba (since October 2022). At the end of August 2023, 19 infringement notices have been issued for failure to comply with an order. The Gamba Fire Mitigation Unit has concurrently administered the Firebreak and Flammable Material compliance program for Bushfires NT in the Vernon Arafura region, attended Council and Committee meetings, working groups, and public events.</p>
2a-2f	<p>Gamba Action Program</p> <p>Improvements to the implementation of the Gamba Action Program are being considered including moving herbicide allocations to an online platform into the future. Changes to this system are considering how GAP can better align with the requirements of the gamba plan, noting GAP pre-dates the current gamba plan.</p>
5b	<p>Communications</p> <p>Liaison with councils about gamba grass requirements leaflet to be included with 2023 rates notices. Agreement from Coomalie Council to include with their council rates. Gamba grass annual report 2023 was finalised and is with managers for approval.</p>
4b	<p>Research</p> <p>The Weed Management Branch is providing in-kind support for a proposal to the 'Saving Native Species' federal grants, focused on developing biocontrol solutions for gamba grass. Objectives of this project proposal, by Kumaran Nagalingam from CSIRO, are to define management goals, conduct native range surveys, conduct genetic analyses of invasive population to compare with the native range, and conduct preliminary risk assessment of potential biocontrol agents.</p>