

# Gamba grass weed advisory committee meeting #8

## Meeting summary

**Time** 9:15am – 3:30pm

**Date:** Tuesday, 16 August 2022

### Gamba Grass Weed Advisory Committee members present

Anna Boustead	Representing the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network (ICIN)	AB
Susanne Casanova	Chair - Representing Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM)	SC
Justin Dunning	Representing Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) – local government interests	JD
Dr Keith Ferdinands	Representing Northern Land Council (NLC)	KF
Sharon Jones	Representing NTG – Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL)	SJ
Louise Kean	Representing NTG – Parks and Wildlife	LK
Dr David Liddle	Representing Environment Centre Northern Territory (ECNT) / Gamba Grass Roots	DL
Dr Natalie Rossiter	Charles Darwin University (CDU)	NR-R

### Gamba Grass Weed Advisory Committee apologies

Romy Carey	Representing the pastoral industry	RC
Shelly Haitana	Representing tourism industry	SH
Anna Malgorzewicz	Representing Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) – local government interests	AM

### Other attendees present:

Emma Burcher	Weeds Planning Officer – Weed Management Branch (WMB)	EB
Rowena Eastick	Guest speaker – Territory Natural Resource Management	RE
Claire Lock and Matthew Shillam	Guest speakers – Senior Project Officer NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service	CL & MS
Roni Opden	Manager – Gamba Fire Mitigation Unit	RO
Maria Wauchope	A/Executive Director Rangelands	MW
Nigel Weston	Director - Weed Management Branch (WMB)	NW

#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:

Objective of plan	Key outcomes this quarter
(1a)	Savanna Fire Management Carbon methods are being remade this year. The Clean Energy Regulator will be releasing the draft method for consultation in October 2022. Implications around gamba and other weeds are being considered. The North Australia Savanna Fire Forum will be held in February 2023. The National Indigenous Carbon Forum will be held in April 2023.

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(3a)	<p>Litchfield Gamba Grass Mapping and Monitoring Project presented final results of gamba aerial survey conducted in 2021 and 2022. Gamba grass has significantly expanded in the park in the 7 years since the last systematic survey.</p> <p>Researchers modelled the predicted extent of gamba grass in 2031/32, after 10 years of three management scenarios:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No active management,</li> <li>2. Eradicating gamba in the current Litchfield gamba eradication zone, and no active management elsewhere in the park, and</li> <li>3. Eradicating gamba grass in a significantly expanded eradication zone, to protect the majority of visitor assets in the park.</li> </ol> <p>Achieving local eradication of gamba grass in the small existing eradication zone on Tabletop Range was estimated to cost a total of \$970,000 over 10 years. Under this scenario, four visitor assets on Tabletop would likely be protected. The cost of eradicating gamba grass in a larger eradication zone (to better protect biodiversity and visitor assets) would cost a total of AU\$7,140,000 over 10 years. This scenario will likely protect the majority of visitor assets in the park.</p> <p>This two-year project was co-funded by the Northern Territory Government (Weed Management Branch) and the National Environmental Science Program (NESP). These results have been written into a draft manuscript, submitted to an international journal and are currently undergoing peer review.</p> <p>CDU and the University of Western Australia have submitted a proposal for a new NESP Project focused on research to support strategic management of invasive grasses. The project outputs aim to support the Australian Government gamba grass targets in the Threatened Species Strategy Action Plan 2021 – 2026.</p>
(4a)	<p>There has been strong public support from the community for action on gamba grass which is flowing through to political support and allocation of resources from Commonwealth and NT governments.</p>

**WMB and GFMU Updates:**

Objective of plan	Key outcomes this quarter
(1a), (3a), (4a), (5b)	<p>Assessment of gamba grass Class A zone analysis will be included in the Gamba Grass Annual Report 2022. Have your say survey conducted – feedback requested to fulfil gamba plan requirements objective 5b and to seek community feedback on environmental and cultural assets at threat from gamba. Communications Plan has been updated for next financial year. Report gamba tool – now online for reporting problem gamba / complaints. Social marketing study workshop outcomes and options for progressing action.</p>
(2a-2f), (5a)	<p>Update on compliance figures provided, which are included in the Gamba Grass Annual Report 2022. Compliance Program for the year has been finalised. Gamba Fire Mitigation Unit are liaising with Bushfires staff – who are fighting fires every day.</p>

**Guest Speakers:**

Objective of plan	Key outcomes this quarter
All Plan	<p>The Executive Director Rangelands has spoken to the Threatened Species Commissioner about the federal funding election commitments. The funding will be complementary to the Northern Territory Government's and will prioritise stopping gamba spread into Kakadu and West Arnhem.</p>
Related to (2a-2f)	<p>Gamba Army results were presented for the last gamba grass control season.</p>
Related to (4b)	<p>The Weedsan App is under development to identify and provide information on weeds. A stakeholder consultation session was held with the WAC.</p>