

Gamba grass weed advisory committee meeting #9

Meeting summary

Time 9:00am – 2:30pm

Date: Tuesday, 6 December 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
Shelly Haitana	Representing Tourism Industry	SH
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
Anna Malgorzewicz	Representing Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) – local government interests	AM
Dr Natalie Rossiter	Charles Darwin University (CDU)	NR-R

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Romy Carey	Representing the pastoral industry	RC
Dr Keith Ferdinands	Representing Northern Land Council (NLC)	KF

Other attendees present:

Emma Burcher	Weeds Planning Officer – Weed Management Branch (WMB)	EB
Roni Opden	Manager - Gamba Fire Mitigation Unit (GFMU)	RO
Nigel Weston	Director - Weed Management Branch (WMB)	NW
Julie Quinn	Assistant Director – Office of the Threatened Species Commissioner, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Australian Government) Observer	JQ

#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),(1b),(1c),(2a),(2d),(3a),(4a),(4b)	Signage prepared for Kakadu info bays and campgrounds – stop gamba grass in its tracks campaign. Implementation of gamba work plan for Kakadu. Contracting of weed contractors for weed spraying – protecting Kakadu National Park. Construction of gamba management plans and work plans for 6 ranger groups in gamba Class A zone. Gamba Army pre-season cross tenure site planning workshop in October 2022 with key agencies. Preliminary workshop

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	in November 2022 with key agencies to initiate prioritisation of areas for federal funding – managing gamba grass for biodiversity conservation.
(2a-2f)	Litchfield Council area – spraying occurring on road verges – road furniture and spot spraying through Knuckey Lagoon area, Howard Springs area, Darwin River to Livingstone and Lambells Lagoon. Excised land and un-maintained road easements – spraying occurring on all council land and easements.
(4b)	NESP Resilient Landscape project proposal ‘supporting the strategic management of invasive grasses’ has been submitted to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. If approved will commence March 2023 for 4 years. A new 3 year, PhD project has commenced at the University of Melbourne on ‘modelling the spread and management of gamba grass on pastoral properties under climate change’.
(2a)(2c)(2d)(2e)(2f)(1b)(4a)	Works are underway on weed management contracts for 2022/23 wet season in line with VCL Weed Management Contract Greater Darwin, Katherine, road verges. DIPL continuing to work with the Gamba Army, including identification of VCL and road reserves sites for treatment by the Gamba Army.
(1a)	The 2023 North Australia Savanna Fire Forum will be held on 21 – 23 February 2023. The Savanna Fire Management Method will change the method of measuring carbon credits to a method based on a sequestration. The new carbon method will be released at the end of March 2023.
(2a)-(2f)(4a)	Gamba Grass Roots are lobbying for expanding the Gamba Action Program. A lot of communications actions from Gamba Grass Roots – including interviews on Country Hour, attending Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM) Forum, Eco Expo, Darwin Daly Fire and Weed Meeting. Ongoing collaboration with Parks and Wildlife – Adopt-a-spot.

WMB and GFMU Updates:

Objective of plan	Key outcomes this quarter
(1a-1c)(3a)(4a)	Class A zone gamba grass follow up and updating eradication register for 2022/23 season, environmental and cultural assets areas for prioritisation sent to Gamba Army and attendance at prioritisation workshop (managing gamba for biodiversity conservation), summary of actions taken in relation to goal 3 and next steps, implementation of gamba communications plan.
(2((2e)(2f)(3a)(4a)(4b)(4c)	BFNT Firebreak enforcement program from July to November addressed high gamba fuel loads during the dry season. This included 26 infringement notices, 26 flammable material warnings and 5 flammable material notices under the <i>Bushfires Management Act</i> . Non-compliance with notices allows BFNT to undertake fuel reduction measures to mitigate gamba fire risk, based on level of threat to key assets (life, environment, infrastructure). Some remedial work proposed prior to 2023 bushfire season. Engaged and promoted the work of the Gamba Fire Unit to various stakeholders, including NT Bushfires Council, Gamba Army workshop, partner Council bodies, school events and articles/newsletters. Input into National Gamba Grass Best Practice Manual with Wild Matters.