

# Gamba grass weed advisory committee meeting #7

## Meeting summary

**Time** 9:15am – 1:30pm

**Date:** Tuesday, 10 May 2022

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Gamba Grass Weed Advisory Committee members present		
Susanne Casanova	Chair - Representing Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM)	SC
Dr Keith Ferdinands	Representing Northern Land Council (NLC)	KF
Shelly Haitana	Representing tourism industry	SH
Sharon Jones	Representing NTG – Vacant Crown Land (VCL)	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		
Anna Boustead	Representing the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network (ICIN)	AB
Romy Carey	Representing the pastoral industry	RC
Justin Dunning	Representing Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) – local government interests	JD
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
Roni Opden	Manager – Gamba Fire Mitigation Unit	RO
John-Paul Slaven	Senior Biosecurity Officer Invasive Species – WA Government	JPS
Nigel Weston	Director - Weed Management Branch (WMB)	NW

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#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.

Gamba grass weed advisory committee meeting #7: Meeting summary

Summary of key outcomes against the Weed Management Plan for Gamba Grass 2020 – 2030:

WAC member	Objective of plan	Key outcomes this quarter
SC (chair)	(1a), (2a-2f), (4a), (4b)	<p>Has been working on gamba awareness items – communications, leaflets, stickers.</p> <p>Daly / Port Keats Land Trust Gamba Plan is now complete.</p> <p>On-ground – road corridor work around Maningrida.</p> <p>Kakadu (Mudginberri) – 2 days spot spraying has been undertaken. Some fly over work of this area has also been conducted.</p> <p>A Gamba Grass Community Forum run by TNRM was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2022. Presentations provided about the Mary River National Park, Casuarina Coastal Reserve and Gamba Army as well as other personal success stories. A brainstorming session was also held. A report about the forum will be completed and will be uploaded to the gamba hub at the TNRM website.</p> <p>Gamba Army – business as usual.</p>
KF	(1a-1c)	<p>Involved in set up of Northern Australian Alliance between the Northern Land Council, Kimberley Land Council, Northern Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance Ltd, Indigenous Carbon Industry Network and Arnhem Land Fire Abatement Northern Territory. All have Indigenous carbon offsets and gamba has a connection to those offsets.</p> <p>Working on comments for the Parks Masterplan including weeds.</p> <p>Chasing up items required under Weed Management Plan for Gamba Grass 2020 – 2030: Class A zone gamba point status on NLC managed land.</p>
SH	-	No update.
SJ	(2a-2f)	Working on scope of works for weed contracts. WMB and VCL to meet and touch base on spatial data, once WMB Spatial Data Manager position is filled.
LK	(1a)(2a-2f)	<p>Aerial survey has been undertaken at Nitmiluk. No gamba found. Southern section remaining to be surveyed. Fogg Dam Parks and Wildlife team have recently sprayed 70,000L of herbicide on gamba. The Parks and Wildlife team have also joined with Litchfield Council to spray the Anzac Parade Road reserve. A contractor has also been engaged to undertake spraying for gamba in Holmes Jungle.</p>
DL	(2a-2f), (4b)	<p>Gamba Grass Roots have been doing lots of lobbying and have submitted a number of proposals to the federal government.</p> <p>Casuarina Coastal Reserve – fantastic progress has been made with Adopt-A-Spot volunteers addressing outliers in the reserve and with the Gamba Army working on main infestations. Mapping of progress in the Casuarina Coastal Reserve is being undertaken to show progress. Overall between Year 1 and Year 2 – the gamba density class has changed, abundance has reduced and mature plants have reduced.</p>
NR-R	(3a)	CDU in conjunction with the WMB have now completed the gamba survey of Litchfield National Park. The management scenarios for managing gamba at the Litchfield National Park will be updated based on this recent survey.

WMB attendees	Objective of plan	Key outcomes this quarter
EB	(1a), (3a), (4a)(4c), (5b)	<p>Analysis of Class A zone data is progressing. Update provided to the WAC on analysis so far for gamba grass management units. The completed analysis will be included in the next gamba grass annual report.</p> <p>The Gamba Grass Mapping and Monitoring Program is now online.</p> <p>Environmental and cultural assets at threat from gamba was workshopped after last WAC meeting. 'Have your say' survey will run in May asking for community input on this action item.</p>

Gamba grass weed advisory committee meeting #7: Meeting summary

RO	(4a), (2a-2f), (5a)	<p>Communications – Work has started on the next Gamba Grass Annual Report and Communications Plan. Recent communications have included – radio interviews, ECNT webinar, how to spray gamba video available at: <a href="http://nt.gov.au/gamba">nt.gov.au/gamba</a>. Social marketing study to be workshopped today after WAC meeting. A ‘have your say’ survey will commence in May 2022 for 4 weeks to inform the next gamba grass annual report.</p> <p>Amendments are proposed to the Weeds Management Act 2001 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve weed management outcomes and</li> <li>• Improve compliance and enforcement outcomes.</li> </ul> <p>Fire Ready Assistance Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 17 properties have been treated (at 3 May 2022)</li> <li>• 25 properties are forecast to have been treated as of 30 June 2022</li> </ul> <p>Compliance and Enforcement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 961 inspections (at 3 March 2022)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 48 encouragement letters</li> <li>○ 119 advice letters</li> <li>○ 295 orders</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 222 follow up inspections so far:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 64 warnings</li> <li>○ 21 notice of intended infringement</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Education and awareness – fire ready week and school visits. Updated ‘education and awareness brochure’.</p> <p>Permit attachments issued by Bushfires NT have been updated with gamba control information.</p>
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Guest presenter	Objective of plan	Key outcomes this quarter
JPS	Related to (1a-1c)	Presented on the Western Australia gamba grass eradication response, a collaborative response between the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, WA Parks, Kimberley Rangelands Biosecurity Association and El Questro Pastoral Lease. Extended line surveys identified 3086 gamba plants in 2018, down to only 4 plants in 2022. Surveillance effort continues.