

Gamba grass weed advisory committee meeting #16

A summary of activities tabled at meeting 16, undertaken in the period 11th March to 12th August 2024 to progress implementation of the Weed Management Plan Gamba Grass 2020 – 2030. Activities are those undertaken by the Gamba Grass Weed Advisory Committee members, the Weed Management Branch and the Gamba Fire Mitigation Unit.

Time 9:00am – 3:00pm

Date: Monday, 12 August 2024

Gamba Grass Weed Advisory Committee members present

Sharon Hillen	Representing the Local Government Association Northern Territory (LGANT)	SH
Susanne Casanova	Chair – Representing Territory Natural Resource Management	SC
Racheal Curtain	Department of Logistics and Infrastructure (DLI)	RC
Tom Price (proxy)	Representing the Northern Land Council (NLC)	TP
Dr David Liddle	Representing Environment Centre Northern Territory (ECNT) / Gamba Grass Roots	DL
Dr Natalie Rossiter-Rachor	Representing Charles Darwin University (CDU) / National Environmental Science Program	NR-R
Louise Kean	Representing Tourism and Hospitality, (Parks and Wildlife)	LK
Anna Pickworth (proxy)	Representing the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network (ICIN)	AP

Gamba Grass Weed Advisory Committee apologies

Anna Boustead	Representing the ICIN	AB
Emily Fagg	Representing the Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association	EF
Shelly Haitana	Representing the Northern Territory tourism industry	SH
Dr Keith Ferdinands	Representing the NLC	KF

Other attendees present:

Emma Burcher	Weeds Planning Officer – Weed Management Branch (WMB), Department of Lands Planning and Environment	EB
Nigel Weston	Director – WMB, DLPE	NW
Roni Opden	Manager, WMB Planning and Science, DLPE	RO
Alix Campbell	Fire and Weeds Officer, Crown Land Estate, DLPE	AC
Lee Humphris	Senior Fire Management Officer, Bushfires NT, Northern Territory Fire and Emergency Service	LH
Mick Castelli	Project Manager, Horticulture, Civil Asset Management, DIL	MC
Shane Tepper	Project Director, Civil Asset Management, Civil Services, DIL	ST
Sean Spicer	Gamba Grass Co-ordinator, Parks Australia	SS
Billy Markham	Gamba Grass Officer, Parks Australia	BM
Julie Quinn	Office of the Threatened Species Commissioner, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	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: (committee member updates)

Objective of plan	Key outcomes this quarter
2a, 2c, 2d, 2e, 2f, 3a	<p>Parks and Wildlife DEPWS Updates provided to the WMB for the Gamba Grass Annual Report 2024. Update to be included in the annual report.</p>
2a, 2c, 2d, 2e, 3a	<p>Casuarina Coastal Reserve Landcare Group in collaboration with Parks and Wildlife Under this program community volunteers map and control gamba in adopted spots to target small outlying infestations within Casuarina Coastal Reserve. The 2023/2024 wet season is the third year of the program. Community volunteers have also worked with Parks and Wildlife staff to map gamba in the large infestations within the Reserve. Three hundred and sixty-eight hours of voluntary work was reported by community members for the 12 months from July 2023 to 2024. The major activity was searching for and control of gamba grass. Over the three years of the program there has been a substantial decline in the abundance of gamba in many of the 13 “adopted spots”, however, gamba is displaying significant resilience in some locations, with ongoing appearance of juvenile plants. Potential contributing factors include: persistence in the soil seedbank; a failure to prevent seeding in some years giving rise to a rejuvenated soil seedbank; and invasion of seed from off-site. While one can speculate about the contributing factors, a clear message is emerging that a version of the Pareto Principle (80/20 rule) is in play. Namely that an extraordinary effort is required to achieve the final phases of local eradication. To paraphrase the advice from an invasive species practitioner from New Zealand who attended the International Conference of the Society for Ecological Restoration in Darwin late in 2023 “over 90 percent of the effort is required to remove the last 10 percent of an invasive species”.</p>
4a	<p>Community – Gamba Grass Roots Gamba Grass Roots has continued to operate under the auspices of Landcare NT https://landcarent.org.au/groups/gamba-grass-roots/</p>

WMB and GFMU Updates:

Objective of plan	Key outcomes this quarter
1a	<p>Class A zone Finalising assessment for Gamba Grass Annual Report 2024.</p>
2a, 2c-2f	<p>Gamba Action Program GAP ended for this season at the end of April 2024. GAP results will be reported in Gamba Grass Annual Report 2024.</p>
4a	<p>Communications To be reported in the Gamba Grass Annual Report 2024 for 2023/24. Communications plan for 2024 – 2025 has been completed and approved. Final plan has been distributed to the gamba WAC. Implementation has begun. Liaison with various councils about the inclusion of gamba grass requirements leaflets with council rates. The Litchfield Council, Coomalie Community Government Council and Wagait Shire Council have all agreed to this for 2024 rates. Liaison with Litchfield and Coomalie Community Government Council's about gamba grass information available on council webpages and how this information may be improved.</p>
4b	<p>Gamba Grass Best Practice Manual Continued collaboration with Wild Matters on development of Gamba Grass Best Practice Manual.</p>
5a	<p>Compliance Compliance program for the season wrapped up and reporting to be completed for season in Gamba Grass Annual Report 2024.</p>