

GAMBA GRASS

ANNUAL REPORT

2022

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Acronyms	Full form
CDU	Charles Darwin University
DEPWS	Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security
GAP	Gamba Action Program
GFMU	Gamba Fire Mitigation Unit
ICIN	Indigenous Carbon Industry Network
NESP	National Environmental Science Program
NLC	Northern Land Council
NTCA	Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association
NTG	Northern Territory Government
TNRM	Territory Natural Resource Management
WAC	Gamba Grass Weed Advisory Committee
WALFA	West Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (WALFA) Project
WMB	Weed Management Branch

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1. Executive Summary

The Weed Management Plan for Gamba Grass 2020 – 2030 (the gamba plan) was developed in 2020 to set out the legal requirements for land owners and occupiers in the Northern Territory for managing gamba grass. The gamba plan also outlines strategic goals, objectives and actions, to improve gamba grass management outcomes across the Northern Territory. This Gamba Grass Annual Report 2022 (this report) demonstrates progress against implementation of the gamba plan from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

In summary, implementation against strategic goals, actions and objectives outlined in the gamba plan are generally on track. This is demonstrated in this report by reporting against each performance indicator of the gamba plan. 'A reduction in area affected by gamba grass in the Class B zone' is the only performance indicator flagged as 'red: significant concern with progress.' A colour coded summary of all progress is provided in Appendix 1.

A number of key actions completed, over the reporting period of 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 include:

- Implementation of the mapping and monitoring program for the Class A (eradication) zone. The mapping and monitoring program can be viewed online at nt.gov.au/gamba. Results of implementation over the reporting period are included in this report.
- Compliance inspections and enforcement actions across the Class B zone by the Weed Management Branch (WMB) are summarised as follows:
 - In the Darwin rural area:
 - 1309 compliance inspections were undertaken
 - 40% of these properties were issued authorised officer orders and of these 2% have been notified of an intended penalty infringement notice.
 - Across Darwin and surrounds (outside Darwin rural area):
 - 162 compliance inspections were undertaken and 12% of these properties were issued authorised officer orders to comply.
 - Around Katherine:
 - Properties less than 3 ha have been the focus for compliance around Katherine in the Class B zone. Two of these properties are now verified as locally eradicated and two properties are under active control. In addition, 14 properties have documented active control programs for gamba grass management (ranging from less than 3 ha to much larger properties).
- The list of key environmental and cultural assets at risk from gamba grass, required by the gamba plan has been considered further and community input was requested, during the May 2022 'Have your say' survey.
- A communications plan has been implemented over the reporting period to raise awareness of gamba grass management requirements and available support; implemented actions are included in this report.
- An online 'Report Gamba' tool has been developed. Landholders can now report 'gamba of concern' via this tool to the WMB for investigation.
- A gamba grass community forum was held in April 2022 where guest speakers presented gamba grass success stories. A number of themes were also workshopped.
- A National Best Practice Gamba Grass Manual is being developed and is scheduled to be completed by December 2022.
- A 'Have your say' survey was conducted in May 2022 for a 4 week period to seek feedback from the community on implementation against the gamba plan. The survey results are included in this report. One key message in the feedback was that 89.7% of participants thought there is not enough being done to tackle gamba grass across the Top End.
- The Gamba Grass Weed Advisory Committee (WAC) are continuing to oversee implementation of the gamba plan through quarterly meetings and out-of-session discussions.

2. Purpose

This Gamba Grass Annual Report 2022 (this report) has been prepared to fulfil the requirements of the Weed Management Plan for Gamba Grass 2020 – 2030 (the gamba plan). The gamba plan requires that all performance indicators and measures will be reported on annually to assess performance and to determine whether the stipulated actions are contributing towards the identified outcomes at a Territory level.

This is the second gamba grass annual report and covers a twelve month reporting period of 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. The report has been released after the due date of 30 July to allow for collaboration with stakeholders required by objective 5b and to include this information in this report.

How to interpret this report

This report documents progress made against each performance indicator in the gamba plan. An extract from the gamba plan is included in Appendix 1 that presents Tables 7 to 11 showing all goals, objectives, strategic actions, performance indicators and performance measures.

Each performance indicator in Appendix 1 has been colour-coded to present progress made against the gamba plan. The colours in Appendix 1 indicate the following progress made:

- white: yet to be started
- grey: to be evaluated
- green: on track
- orange: progress but some concerns
- red: significant concerns with progress.

3. Introduction

The gamba plan was finalised and approved by the Minister for Environment in December 2020 and sets out the legal requirements for land owners and occupiers in the Northern Territory for managing gamba grass. The gamba plan also outlines strategic goals, objectives and actions, to improve gamba grass management outcomes across the Northern Territory. The gamba plan was drafted by a statutory Gamba Grass Weed Advisory Committee (WAC), appointed by the Minister in April 2020, which will stay on to oversee its implementation.

Gamba grass (*Andropogon gayanus*) is a declared weed under section 7 of the *Weeds Management Act 2001* (the Act) and has a split declaration as a Class A and B weed for different areas of the Northern Territory (see Figure 1).

- The gamba grass Class A zone means gamba grass is to be eradicated in all areas of this zone.
- The gamba grass Class B zone means gamba grass growth and spread is to be controlled.

These declared areas are based on the known distribution and density of gamba grass. As such, different goals and objectives apply to these zones to limit the impacts of gamba grass on the natural environment, life, property and infrastructure. Known gamba grass records across the Northern Territory are included in Figure 1.

Gamba Management Framework

The Gamba Management Framework (see Appendix 2) has been developed by the Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security (DEPWS) to demonstrate the collaborative projects that DEPWS are involved in to help manage the impacts of gamba grass. The Framework continues to evolve and strengthen with new elements being added including:

- 1) the addition of the Parks and Wildlife Division to DEPWS and the control work undertaken by rangers within the parks estate; and
- 2) the formulation of a specific gamba grass research project by the Office of Climate Change.

Collaboration with key stakeholders to inform annual report

A 'Have your say' survey was conducted in May 2022 seeking community feedback on implementation of the gamba plan. WAC members and their represented stakeholders were also invited to provide feedback for inclusion in this report. Key feedback has been incorporated throughout this report. All 'Have your say' survey results and individual submissions received during the survey period have been de-identified, compiled and included in Appendix 3.



Gamba grass plant - one distinguishing feature from other grassy weeds being its hairy leaf base

Legend

- Gamba grass (*Andropogon gayanus*)
- 50 km Grid
- ▭ Class B Control Zone

Weed Distribution

- Absent
- Eradicated and Monitored
- Present - Density Unknown
- Unknown Occurrence
- Occasional and Localised
- Occasional and Widespread
- Common and Localised
- Common and Widespread
- Abundant and Localised
- Abundant and Widespread

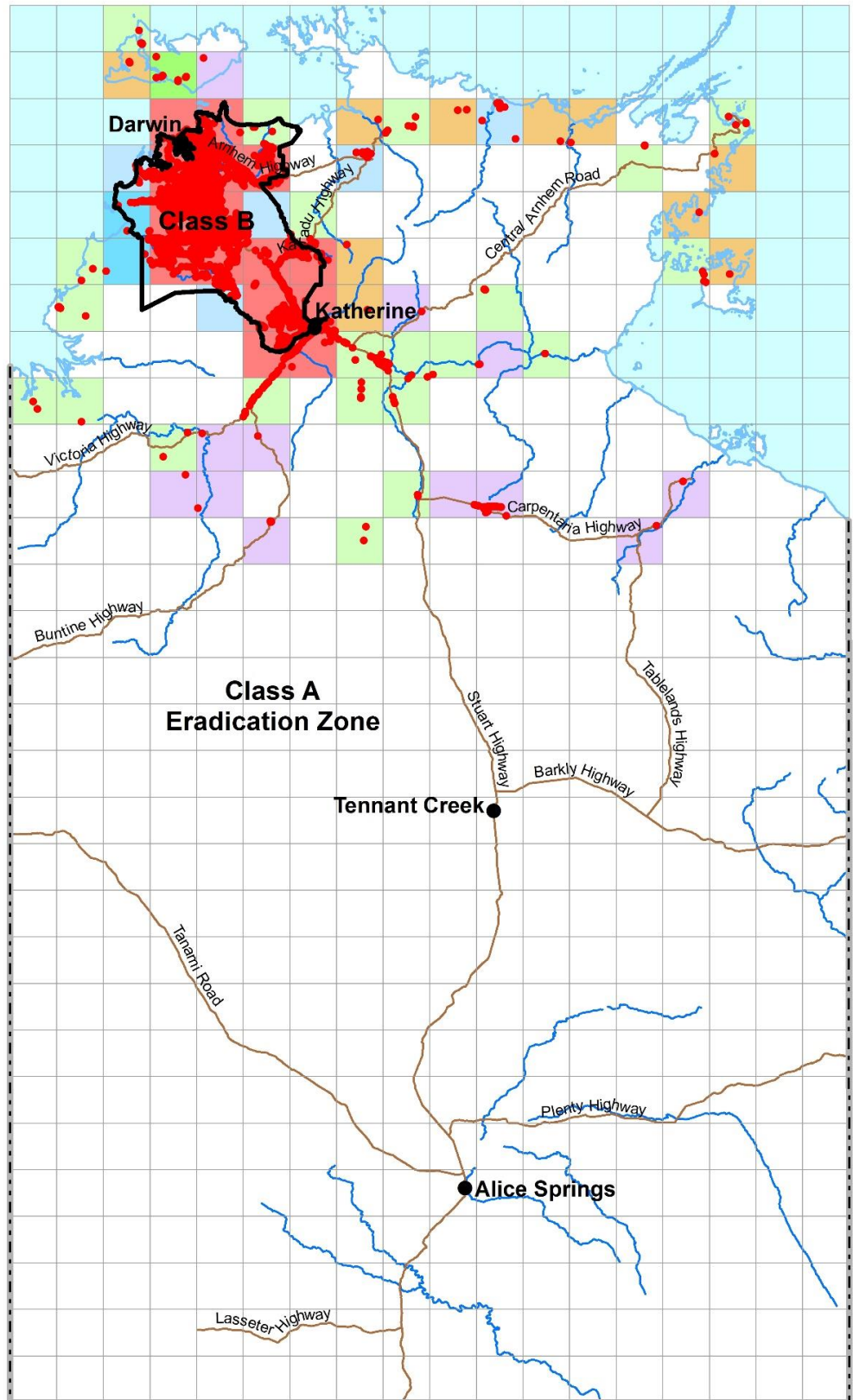


Figure 1 Recorded gamba grass data points as of 2022 in the Northern Territory (based on data ranging from 1960 to 2022) (WMB 2022)

4. Community feedback on gamba grass

A 'Have your say' survey was conducted in May 2022. The survey asked a number of questions in relation to community opinion on gamba grass management.

Some key findings are presented below:

Is enough being done?

89.7% of participants thought there is not enough being done to tackle gamba grass across the Top End.

Most concerning impacts

The impacts that concerned people the most (from most to least concerned) were:

- Gamba grass is highly invasive and can outcompete native species (86% of participants).
- Gamba grass creates high fuel loads and has potential to modify fire behaviour and regimes – threatening people, property and infrastructure (83% of participants).
- Gamba grass can reduce habitat quality for native animals (76% of participants).
- Gamba grass has the potential to restrict physical movement of people, animals, vehicles and machinery (52% of participants).
- Gamba grass fires change the amount of greenhouse gasses emitted and the ability of the natural environment to absorb and store greenhouse gases, both of which effect climate change (41% of participants).

Why are people controlling gamba grass?

Participants are taking action to control gamba grass because:

- Gamba grass creates much higher fuel loads than native grass fires and has the potential to modify fire behaviour and fire regimes – threatening people, property and life (86% of participants).
- Gamba grass is highly invasive and can outcompete native species (79% of participants).
- Gamba grass reduces habitat quality for native animals (62% of participants).
- You are responding to a lack of action by other land managers (55% of participants).
- Gamba grass has the potential to restrict physical movement of people, animals, vehicles and machinery (45% of participants).
- Gamba grass fires change the amount of greenhouse gasses emitted and the ability of the natural environment to absorb and store greenhouse gases, both of which effect climate change (45% of participants).
- You understand your legal requirements and want to comply with the law (45% of participants).
- You are responding to an order from the Weed Management Branch (WMB) and want to avoid being fined (7% of participants).
- I am not taking action to control gamba grass (7% of participants).

What improvements are needed regarding gamba grass management across the Top End?

1. More regulation and enforcement is required

Individual comments included:

- That all responsible landholders (private, public or government) are held to account for the maintenance of gamba grass.

- More real enforcement action against irresponsible rural block holders.
- Much more pressure on land owners to manage gamba as well as mission grass on their property.
- Push more people to do the right thing.
- More infringements for people that blatantly don't manage their gamba.
- Enforce compliance with statutory plan, community doesn't know if you really need to do anything.
- That more public sector weed officers are employed to check infestations and carry out compliance and weed control – whoever owns the land.

Response:

In terms of gamba grass the greatest compliance effort is targeted at areas of greatest risk of gamba grass spread and wildfire. Enforcement of gamba grass control is an escalating process, commencing with education and assistance. Where landholders voluntarily attempt to manage their gamba grass, enforcement is not the preferred course of action.

Where an enforcement pathway is commenced, landholders are given a timeframe to comply, with infringement notices available for a failure to make reasonable effort. Landholders who fail to manage their gamba grass over consecutive seasons can, and do receive multiple infringement notices.

Non-compliant properties that present a significant risk of wildfire impacting on a residential setting may be considered for enforced remedial work, at cost to the Northern Territory Government (NTG). The cost to the landholder when work is carried out in this way becomes a debt due and payable to the Territory and a statutory charge on the land.

Legislative amendments have recently been proposed to the Act. Modifications proposed will enhance the ability of weed management officers to regulate compliance with the gamba plan, helping to improve gamba grass management outcomes across the NT. For example, penalty infringement notices issued under the Act will have higher penalties. Changes to the Act have been passed, and will be legally enforceable once amendments have been gazetted.

A summary of compliance activities that have occurred over the reporting period are included throughout this report. Overall it can be reported that the number of orders and infringements issued this reporting period has increased from the previous year.

2. More assistance and funding is required

Individual comments included:

- Expand current gamba reduction programs now to assist with containment before the 2023 deadline.
- More assistance for landholders.
- Employ more to help, get the unemployed and communities involved in community service to help.
- More resources provided.
- More resources (money).
- Ongoing government funding for control programs.
- When I went to get the free poison to treat gamba grass I was advised that as I live within the town of Palmerston I was not eligible. Believe that the NTG needs to assist landowners that are not able to deal with gamba regardless of where they live.
- The Gamba Action Program (GAP) has increased in popularity as people learn about gamba grass and the GAP. It is now widely relied upon in people's gamba management strategies, however the \$100,000 per annum funding for the GAP has not increased despite the rising herbicide costs, resulting in less herbicide being available to those who need it. This saw some land occupiers miss out on receiving herbicide or

participating in the GAP in 2022. The GAP funding must be increased to meet this plan objective and provide enough herbicide to support the growing number of GAP participants.

- Noting the increased demand for herbicides to combat gamba grass as well as their increasing cost, there should be a proportional expansion in the funding for the GAP for public distribution of herbicides.

Response:

The WMB run a number of programs to help land owners manage gamba grass. Key programs include:

- The Gamba Action Program

The GAP is a program to provide free herbicide and equipment loans to any member of the community that has gamba grass on their property. Herbicide is available for collection each year from December through to April at multiple distribution points until program funding is exhausted. The herbicide component of this program is funded to a total of \$100,000 per year. A summary of the total number of participants that have used this program over the reporting period is included under Goal 4.

- The Fire Ready Program

The Fire Ready Program is a new program to help those willing, but unable to manage gamba grass on their properties, in areas of high wildfire risk. The contractor services component of this program is funded to a total of \$50,000 each year.

There is no additional funding for these programs.

3. More education

Individual comments included:

- Need more publicity to ensure everyone can confidently identify it and know the best strategies for eradication.
- Continued provision of the awareness of the dangers of gamba grass.
- The WMB produce excellent informative and educational documents about gamba identification, control methods and legislative requirements such as the gamba identification booklet, but the existence of these documents is not well known in the broader community, thus limiting people's access. These educational materials could be made more accessible to the general public by having them available at council offices, real estate offices, libraries, post offices, and distributing them with permits to burn, through schools, etc.
- Some landholders are not aware of their responsibilities when it comes to gamba control, such as the requirement for a 15m gamba grass free buffer around all boundaries, infrastructure, roads and tracks, or the requirement for all properties under 3 ha to have all gamba plants destroyed by July 2023. These must be widely advertised through government and community communications if they are to be achieved.
- In summary, to achieve the goals and objectives of the gamba plan, meet performance indicators, and increase compliance, we call on the NTG to:
 - Educate landholders about gamba identification, control methods and legislated requirements
 - Inform land occupiers that all <3 ha land parcels are to be gamba free by 2023, and
 - Consistently communicate the 15m gamba grass free buffer requirement.
- Awareness raising of gamba grass control methods and other information currently available on the NTG's gamba grass website needs to be proactively and strategically provided to targeted stakeholders; such as, just for example, in hardcopy at central community locations, accompanying Government postal material (e.g. local government publications, rates notices, etc), and / or mail-outs to major landholders. In particular, the 15 m buffer requirements are not well known to the community.

Response:

The WMB produces numerous educational materials on gamba grass, which are available in both hard copy and online at nt.gov.au/gamba. Educational documents about gamba grass include:

- How to control guide - [Gamba Management Guide](#)
- How to identify gamba grass - [A guide to identifying gamba grass and other Top End tussock grasses](#)
- Gamba grass spraying demonstration - [Gamba Grass Spraying - YouTube](#)
- Check your gamba grass risk score - [Check your gamba grass risk | NT.GOV.AU](#)

A 'Gamba Grass Communications Plan 2021 – 2024' has been developed as a requirement of the gamba plan. The communications activities that have occurred over the reporting period are discussed in this report under Goal 4. The communications plan has been updated for the next reporting period and implementation has begun.

Other stakeholders also produce and distribute gamba grass educational material such as Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM) and Gamba Grass Roots.

4. Government and council land

Individual comments included:

- Government land nature reserve needs to be under the same rules. Area behind Doxas Road needs attention.
- That the government takes things seriously and employs more field officers to get rid of gamba and other noxious weeds on government properties.
- Better integration, co-ordination of and communication between NTG Departments which seem to have contradictory motivations and operate in 'silos'.
- Stop gamba spread on government land. Landholder assistance to kill gamba on adjoining government land.
- Litchfield Council taking a lot more action to control gamba on areas under their control.

Response:

It is important that government agencies are prioritising gamba grass control due to the impacts gamba grass poses on the natural environment, life, property and infrastructure. To improve gamba grass management outcomes across the Northern Territory, Government agencies are coordinating gamba grass management action in a number of ways; for example through the Fire and Weeds Working Group, WAC meetings and out of session discussions and the Gamba Army, discussed under Goal 4.

Summaries of gamba grass management that have been undertaken on government and council land over the reporting period are included under Goal 2.

5. The Gamba Army

Key comments received:

- The Gamba Army has had an effective second season of treating gamba grass on public lands and revisiting previously sprayed areas to remove any regrowth. The efforts of the Gamba Army are truly admirable considering their small number. Thankfully the newly elected Federal Government has promised \$1.9 million per year over 4 years (\$7.6million) to create 5 full time Gamba Army Coordinators/Leaders positions and 25 six-month team member positions. These positions added to our current funded Gamba Army will immensely improve gamba control results across the Top End. The NTG must ensure that this Federal Government funding be available for the upcoming 2022/23 gamba spraying season.
- To achieve the goals and objectives of the gamba plan, meet performance indicators, and increase compliance, we call on the NTG to prioritise delivering on commitments to grow the Gamba Army by using both NT and Federal funding to increase capacity – including co-investment ahead of the 2022/23 control season.

- The anticipated expansion of the Gamba Army should be accompanied by public annual clearance targets, including on public land and especially along transport corridors.

Response

The Gamba Army has proven to be an efficient and successful avenue for managing gamba grass across the Northern Territory especially achieving effective cross tenure coordination and gamba grass treatment.

The WMB is exploring future Gamba Army funding and is liaising with the NT Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water Security, and the Federal Minister for the Environment and Water about the federal government funding commitments made during the last election for the Gamba Army.

In addition, the Northern Territory have recently had Australian Government funding approved for three projects through the Supporting Communities Manage Pest Animals and Weeds Programs. One project is to expand the control of gamba grass in the Litchfield National Park. Funding awarded to this project is \$492,000.

A summary of Gamba Army control over the reporting period is included under Goal 4.



The Gamba Army spraying gamba grass

Goal 1 - Eradicate gamba grass from the Class A zone

Objective:

1a: Understand the distribution of gamba grass in the Class A zone.

Performance indicator: "By July 2022, the extent of gamba grass has been assessed for land parcels identified in the monitoring and mapping program."

A mapping and monitoring program has been developed for the Class A (eradication) zone. This program is now available to the public at nt.gov.au/gamba, excluding the Appendices that include individual property details.

The objectives of this program aim to determine the extent of gamba grass across the Class A zone on properties already known to have gamba grass and to track the progress towards eradication of gamba grass in the Class A zone.

All land in the Class A zone with gamba grass records will be evaluated to determine the current presence or absence of gamba grass. Evaluation will be conducted through a number of methods, including WMB field surveys; engagement with landholders; letters and property surveys asking land owners for gamba grass presence and absence records. All land including private, NTG, Commonwealth and Aboriginal land trust land are being asked to report back on gamba grass presence or absence.

Assessment of gamba grass management units

A total of 650 units across the Class A zone were assessed as having gamba grass based on the gamba grass records held by the WMB. These units span across individual properties and roads. A single unit is a 1 ha cell and a unit is triggered when there is one or more gamba grass points in the cell. A breakdown of all 650 units is summarised in Figure 2.

Note the 650 units do not include gamba grass located in the two existing permit areas located in the Class A zone. This is because gamba grass is permitted to grow in these areas and is not under an eradication regime.

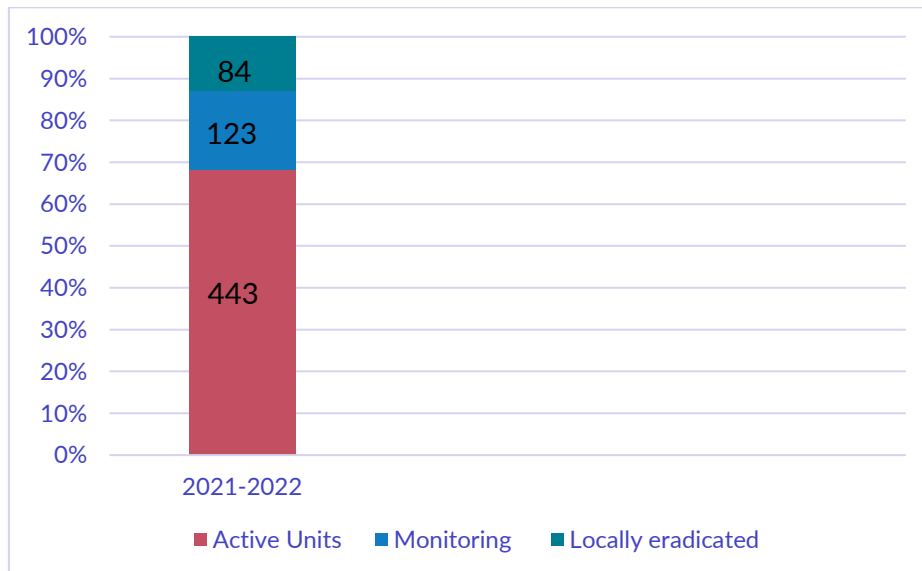


Figure 2 Assessment of gamba grass management units across the Class A zone

Active units – gamba grass units with a recorded gamba grass point.

Monitoring units – gamba grass units where gamba grass has not been detected for at least 12 months after the last detection.

Locally eradicated units – when the unit has been inspected and gamba grass has not been reported for at least 24 months after the last detection.

Assessment of gamba grass across individual properties

A total of 59 individual properties¹ have been assessed as having recorded gamba grass points. The assessment towards eradication of these individual properties is shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Assessment of properties in the Class A zone with gamba grass

Properties	Assessment towards eradication
21	Management status as unmanaged, unknown or no data provided during 2021/2022
14	Active management – control has occurred
8	Assessed as ‘monitoring’
16	Assessed as ‘locally eradicated’

Assessment of gamba grass across roads and highways

A total of 13 different roads and highways have been assessed as having recorded gamba grass points which are all under ‘active control’.

Gamba grass across areas with no recorded gamba points

A map will be developed for the rest of the Class A zone with no recorded gamba grass records, to show the confidence in gamba grass absence. This map will be useful for planning purposes to inform areas that may require follow up. When finalised, this map will be made publicly available at nt.gov.au/gamba.

Engagement with stakeholders

The Class A zone consists of predominantly Aboriginal land and pastoral leases. An update on gamba grass management across the Class A zone Aboriginal land and pastoral leases is provided below.

Aboriginal land

Gamba grass exists across land managed by Northern Territory Aboriginal Land Councils including the Northern Land Council (NLC), Tiwi Land Council and Anindilyakwa Land Council. The WMB have been working with each land council to implement the Class A zone mapping and monitoring program.

The Tiwi Land Council have been working collaboratively with the Tiwi Land Rangers, Tiwi Island Regional Council, Office of Township Leasing and the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities to manage gamba grass across the Tiwi Islands. Surveys have been conducted for old and new gamba grass records and when it has been found it has been controlled. This work has helped to inform the WMB follow up of gamba grass across the Class A zone.

The Anindilyakwa Land and Sea Rangers (working for the Anindilyakwa Land Council) have been proactive in the surveillance and priority management of gamba grass within the Groote Archipelago. They have been monitoring historic gamba grass infestations and surveying, treating, and reporting any suspect weeds and new gamba grass infestations to the WMB. Groote Eylandt is currently gamba grass free.

The NLC manages a large area of the Northern Territory, occupied by approximately 51,000 Aboriginal people. The NLC recognises that gamba grass management is a responsibility shared by a range of stakeholders and land managers, including government agencies, industry and Aboriginal people as land owners and land managers. The NLC recognises the accepted risks that gamba grass potentially poses to Aboriginal social, cultural, environmental and economic values and aspirations. As such, where resources for gamba grass management are available, gamba grass management is an important part of the caring for country work done by Indigenous Ranger Groups.

¹ For the purposes of this report an NT Portion has been reported as a property.

The NLC recognises the importance of not only managing gamba grass but mapping, monitoring and reporting changes in its distribution and density over time and space. We also know, from experience, that this important task requires large amounts of resources and continuity of funding; particularly where gamba grass is spreading into remote and difficult to access areas.

Indigenous rangers regularly report that they suspect or know gamba grass is present in some areas they manage, but because resources are limited, the areas of land they manage are vast and access is often limited via foot or helicopter. In many cases confirming suspected new arrivals of gamba grass and mapping and eradicating it, is very difficult.

Consistent with the gamba plan, NLC staff work with Indigenous rangers in the Class A zone, areas the NLC manages, to try and detect, map and eradicate gamba grass. However, these efforts are often constrained by available resources and compounded by the difficulty of accessing many of the areas the Indigenous rangers manage. With the above constraints in mind, in many cases, the best that Indigenous rangers can do by way of mapping and monitoring is to report the suspected presence of gamba grass in a given location to the WMB. In the NLC's opinion this is not consistent with the stated class A zone aims; to understand and respond early and eradicate new and emerging gamba grass infestations and understand the current distribution of gamba grass.

The NLC recommendation for addressing this problem, is for NLC and other stakeholders to work in a coordinated and collaborative way to obtain regular monitoring and reporting resources, as well as gamba grass management resources.

Pastoral leases across the Class A zone

Many pastoral leases occur across the Class A zone. In most cases pastoral lessees are working cooperatively with the WMB reporting back on the presence and absence of gamba grass, and other weeds. This feedback is valuable information required for implementation of the Class A zone mapping and monitoring program. Two permits exist in the Class A zone to retain existing gamba grass areas for grazing. These permits are closely monitored by the WMB.

Vacant Crown Land and Transport – Katherine Region

Reported under Goal 2.

Indigenous Carbon Farming across the Class A zone

The Indigenous carbon industry is a rapidly expanding industry across the Class A zone. The industry supports improved savanna fire management through crediting emissions avoided from hot savanna fires as well as sequestration in living biomass and dead wood that occurs as a result of improved fire management. The industry started with the first Indigenous-owned savanna fire management project, the West Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (WALFA) project, which launched in 2006. There are now over 30 Indigenous-owned savanna fire management projects across Northern Australia, including 17 in the Northern Territory across 18 million ha of savanna woodland and grasslands.

The spread of gamba grass is a key threat to savanna fire management carbon projects within the Top End of the Northern Territory, because of its high fuel load that can change the fire regime to one of predominantly hot savanna fires. Many Indigenous land managers across the Top End also support savanna fire management projects, and so gamba grass is a direct threat to their livelihoods, as well as a threat to their health and safety when fighting wildfires. Indigenous land managers in these areas are simultaneously managing weeds such as gamba grass as well as managing fire on their country. This work is highly resource intensive. Indigenous land managers are managing vast areas of land across many thousands of hectares, for both fire and weeds. This land is often inaccessible by road and exposed to extreme seasonal changes and extreme heat conditions.

The current (2018) methodology for obtaining carbon credits means that if any gamba grass is reported in a project area, it must be removed within two years or the pixels containing gamba grass (1 ha) will be permanently removed from the project area. This could disincentive gamba grass being reported to the WMB when it has been found in the Class A zone.

The Indigenous Carbon Industry Network (ICIN) is currently supporting co-design of the new Savanna Fire Management Methodologies through the Clean Energy Regulator. The regulator is due to release the new methods in February 2023. The public consultation period for the new method will occur during September 2022. The impact of fire weeds such as gamba grass are being considered as a part of the co-design process to ensure that any gamba grass found in this zone is reported and controlled appropriately, which is vital for the successful eradication of gamba grass across this zone.

Objectives:

1b: By July 2023, all gamba grass in the Class A zone is under an active eradication program and all gamba grass plants have been destroyed (unless under permit).

1c: By July 2026, all gamba grass in the Class A zone is eradicated (unless under permit).

Performance indicator: "By July 2023, all known land parcels with gamba grass in the Class A zone are classified as b) active management."

A mapping and monitoring program and eradication register for the gamba grass Class A zone has been established to track progress towards eradication. The assessment of gamba grass management units, individual properties and roads has been provided above.

The register will continue to be updated and progress towards eradication will be updated in the next report.

Performance indicator: "By July 2025, all known land parcels with gamba grass in the Class A zone are classified as c) monitoring phase."

This performance indicator will be assessed through the implementation of the mapping and monitoring program and tracking the eradication of gamba grass in the Class A zone using the eradication register.

Performance indicator: "By July 2026, all known land parcels with gamba grass in the Class A zone are classified as d) eradicated."

This performance indicator will be assessed through the implementation of the mapping and monitoring program and tracking the eradication of gamba grass in the Class A zone using the eradication register.

Objective:

1d: By July 2026, a review of the permit system pertaining to gamba grass is completed.

Performance indicator: "Review of permit system is completed as it pertains to gamba grass."

A review of the permit system is yet to be undertaken.

There are two gamba grass permits in the Class A zone that authorise the grazing of already existing gamba grass. These permits were issued in the past as a way of working with landowners after gamba grass was declared in 2008.

Permit conditions require that the gamba grass is strictly monitored to ensure there is no spread. The permit holders are audited annually, to ensure compliance with permit conditions. Audits of the permit holders were conducted last year in June and August 2021. Both permit holders were found to be in compliance with their permit conditions at the time of the audit. This year, both current permit holders submitted their required annual report by 31 May 2022. This year's audit inspections will be undertaken in July and August 2022.

Permits for grazing gamba grass are no longer being issued by the WMB in the Class A zone.

Objective:

1e: "Review the Class A and B zone boundaries to improve the protection of areas in the Class B management zone that are free of gamba grass"

Performance indicator: "By July 2026, revised Class A and B zones are declared if recommended by the review process"

A review is yet to be undertaken.



Hairs on gamba grass stem



Distinctive white midrib on gamba grass leaf

Goal 2 – Contain and control gamba grass by actively managing infestations across the Class B zone and preventing spread into new areas

Objective:

2a: Reduce seed production.

2b: Implement weed hygiene measures to reduce gamba grass seed spread.

2c: Reduce gamba grass outliers at a land parcel and landscape scale.

2d: Prevent gamba grass spreading into clean areas.

2e: Reduce gamba grass abundance and density in the Class B zone.

2f: Reduce gamba grass presence around landholder infrastructure.

Performance indicator: “An increase each year in the number of assessed land parcels that have implemented management requirements and percentile of properties assessed that are compliant e.g. 80% compliant.”

In the Class B (control) zone, there is the potential for gamba grass to be present on many thousands of land parcels. In 2016 aerial gamba grass survey data was processed through a prioritisation key, utilising eight key variables in order to rank gamba grass on the likelihood and consequence of impact. The DEPWS has committed to inspecting 1,100 properties per annum through the gamba grass compliance program in the Darwin rural area, in high-risk clusters known as ‘hotspots’. Inspections are undertaken at the start and end of the wet season, allowing landholders an opportunity to voluntarily meet their management requirements after being informed of non-compliance.

During the 2021/22 wet season, 1309 compliance inspections were undertaken for properties around the Darwin rural area by the Gamba Fire Mitigation Unit (GFMU) (a partnership between the WMB and Bushfires NT). It is noted that not all properties required follow up inspections, such as properties already compliant at the time of inspection. Inspections were undertaken in areas of prioritised gamba grass risk, with the summary results shown in Table 2.

Table 2 Darwin rural area compliance inspection results

Percentage	Compliance result
6%	Properties inspected showed a significant improvement in gamba grass control, and notable progress towards achieving compliance. These landholders received a letter of acknowledgement, designed to encourage and maintain voluntary effort throughout the season.
16%	Properties inspected appeared to have attempted to manage gamba grass, with limited success. These landholders received a letter of advice with information on best practice gamba grass control and support available through the GAP.
38%	Properties inspected showed a reasonable level of ongoing land management, and were monitored for change throughout the season, with no intervention.
40%	Property inspections scored highly enough to result in authorised officer orders being issued, requiring the landholder to rectify non-compliance.

In total 306 orders were issued during 2021/22. Compliance with these orders is summarised in Table 3.

Table 3 Darwin rural area compliance with orders

Percentage	Compliance result
98%	Met their management requirements after being informed of non-compliance, or showed significant progress towards compliance.
2%	Landholders ordered, failed to make a reasonable effort to meet management requirements and have / will be notified of an intended infringement.

In addition, compliance activities were instigated for 162 properties in Darwin and surrounds (outside of the Darwin rural area) by the Darwin Operations Team of the WMB. A summary of compliant properties and required enforcement action is shown in Table 4.

Table 4 Darwin and surrounding area (excluding Darwin rural area) compliance inspection results

Percentage	Compliance Result
42%	Compliant at the time of initial assessment and no follow up action was required
13%	Voluntarily met management requirements after being informed of non-compliance
12%	Compliance action taken due to non-compliance – orders issued
11%	Compliance action not warranted, further inspections to be undertaken
22%	Action not commenced

The town of Katherine straddles both the Class A and B zone. Therefore half of Katherine is within the Class A zone and half is within the Class B zone. The focus for compliance in this area has been on the Class A zone, the results of which are documented above under Goal 1. In the Class B zone, properties less than 3 ha have been the focus for compliance around Katherine. Of these <3 ha properties, two are now verified as locally eradicated and two properties are under active control. In addition, 14 properties within the Class B zone have documented active control programs for gamba grass management (ranging from less than 3 ha to much larger properties).

Performance indicator: “By July 2024 and annually afterwards there is an improvement in gamba grass management as evidenced by an improvement in parcel compliance score.”

The gamba grass compliance program across the Darwin rural area includes a widespread property inspection regime. Parcel-based risk scores are collected to inform targeted enforcement and the comprehensive data set is also used to measure the broader change in parcel risk scores over time. The scores collected during the 2021/22 compliance season inform trends in risk over time, and can be used to indicate the effectiveness of awareness and enforcement approaches on influencing landholder behaviours.

Note the parcel risk scores for the Darwin rural area reflect the same scoring system found online at nt.gov.au/gamba where landholders can check the gamba grass risk for their property.

During the 2021/22 season, the overall compliance risk scores for the Darwin rural area improved. The following trends shown in Table 5 have been measured as a result of enforcement action.

Table 5 Overall compliance risk scores for Darwin rural area

Total percentage	Compliance result
63%	Land showed an improved parcel compliance score, indicating improved gamba grass management.
16%	Parcel compliance scores remained unchanged.
21%	Compliance scores worsened, indicating an increase in gamba grass hazard.

The Katherine Compliance Program uses a different approach to a parcel compliance score. Rather than a parcel compliance score to prioritise properties, the Katherine compliance program is comprehensive with all properties a priority for follow up. All affected properties are included in the program and properties scored with regard to progress towards eradication. This is because the majority of properties around the Katherine regional weed management area (see Figure 3) with gamba grass have small infestations.

Improvements in gamba grass management in Katherine will be assessed as:

- properties requiring no enforcement as are compliant with gamba plan;
- unmanaged;
- under active management;
- under monitoring or;
- properties that have locally eradicated their gamba grass.

Compliance results are shown separately for both the Class A and B zone (as Katherine is located across both zones). Goal 1 presents the Class A results and Goal 2 presents the Class B results for Katherine.

Performance indicator: "Reduction in area affected by gamba grass."

A baseline assessment of the area affected by gamba grass in the Class B zone was calculated as 4656km² in the Gamba Grass Annual Report 2021. This is approximately 12%* of the Class B zone. Using the same calculation method, an approximate area affected by gamba grass in the Class B zone as of 30 June 2022 is 4754km² (see Figure 4).

* Note: this area has been calculated based on a measurement unit of 1km² meaning that if one gamba grass plant is located in a 1km² measurement unit, the unit is considered 'affected.' This method is based on gamba grass records in the WMB spatial database which date back to 1960.

These affected areas are approximate only. Weed records collected, including gamba grass records, are continually added to the weed records database and never removed.

It is not feasible to track a 'reduction' in gamba grass across the Class B zone at a landscape scale. For example, to track the eradication of gamba grass across the Class A zone a separate register has been developed and all gamba grass records are being assessed within individual management units. This method would not be feasible for the Class B zone because the number of gamba grass records is too large.

However, significant amounts of gamba grass control have been undertaken across the Class B zone over the reporting period, resulting in the local reduction of gamba grass across many areas. A summary of some of this work undertaken by different stakeholders is outlined below.

Parks and Wildlife – National Parks

Parks and Wildlife (DEPWS) have been tackling gamba grass with aerial spraying and on-ground applications across a number of Parks over the reporting period, noting gamba grass is one of many priority weeds managed across NTG managed parks.

Parks and Wildlife have continued to liaise with the Gamba Army about gamba grass control undertaken in the:

- Charles Darwin National Park
- Casuarina Coastal Reserve
- Knuckey Lagoons Conservation Reserve
- Litchfield National Park

Approximately 400 ha of National Parks was sprayed by the Gamba Army in the reporting period. Gamba grass in the Charles Darwin National Park, Casuarina Coastal Reserve and Knuckey Lagoon has now been reduced from dense monoculture areas to small isolated patches, or individual plants. Parks and Wildlife have also continued to liaise with

the Adopt a Spot program volunteers and Landcare Groups (Casuarina and Rapid Creek) to tackle outlier gamba grass plants on the Casuarina Coastal Reserve.

Other notable parks and reserves controlled by Parks and Wildlife over the reporting period include:

- Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve
- Holmes Jungle Nature Park
- Mary River National Park
- Litchfield National Park (noting both the Gamba Army and Parks and Wildlife undertook control across this park).

Aerial surveillance surveys for the detection of gamba grass have also been undertaken around the boundaries of Nitmiluk National Park. Gamba grass was not detected during these surveys.

Government land – roads and vacant Crown land

The Northern Territory consists of approximately 52,287 m² of vacant Crown land (3624 individual land parcels). The Department of Infrastructure Planning and Logistics (DIPL) has developed a Weed Management Strategy NT Vacant Crown Land. This strategy is available online and can be found at: [Weed Management Strategy](#).

Vacant Crown Land – Darwin Region

Last season (2021/22) saw a total of 4,745 L of herbicide utilised across 219 sites extending from Darwin to Adelaide River. The majority of these sites included the treatment of gamba grass.

An amount of over approximately \$480,000 was expended on weed control within the Darwin, Palmerston, Rural, Batchelor and Adelaide River vacant Crown land parcels, over the reporting period.

A new three year contract for the control of weeds on vacant Crown land from Darwin to Adelaide River is currently being procured. The contract covers the treatment of gamba grass and additional species on over 200 parcels. Treatment areas for each site vary from buffers to complete eradication.

Transport – Darwin Region

DIPL's annual weeds mapping and monitoring program is continuing and has been completed for 2022. The DIPL roads control program is continuing and review of the current weeds contract is underway. Urban area weeds mapping has been completed and will be included in urban maintenance contracts with a focus on eradication. The 500 m gamba grass exclusion zones at border A and B zones is complete as per requirement 6.2 of plan.

Vacant Crown Land and Transport – Katherine Region

Weed control was carried out over various Crown land parcels in Katherine and Pine Creek over the 2021/22 wet season. The work has included treatment of actively growing gamba grass found, and also monitoring of historical sites. Overall, fewer plants were found and therefore less treatment was required. One vacant Crown land parcel in Pine Creek has been reprioritised and the Department is increasing the area of control over this parcel. Gamba grass continues to remain a priority within the road corridors in the Katherine region for inspections and control. Note that this work has been carried out over both the Class A and B zones.

Litchfield Regional Council

Over the reporting period the Litchfield Council undertook spraying of gamba grass on council land over an area of approximately 3000 km². Areas sprayed include 1000 lineal km of fire breaks and 1800 lineal km of road reserves.

The Litchfield Regional Council in co-ordination with Parks and Wildlife undertook spraying in the Anzac Parade Road reserve (adjoining the Harrison Dam Conservation Area).

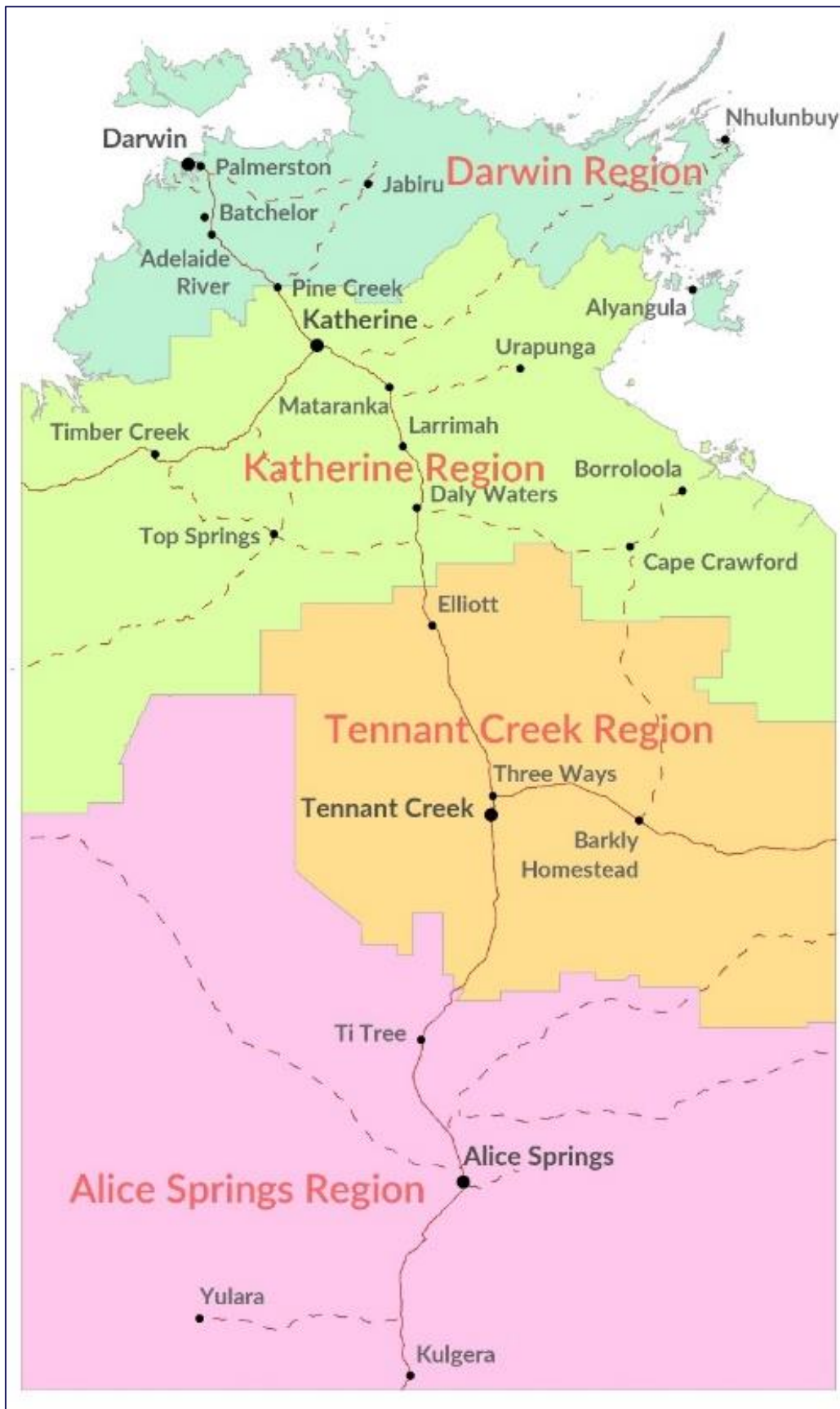


Figure 3 Weed Management Regions of the Northern Territory (WMB 2021)

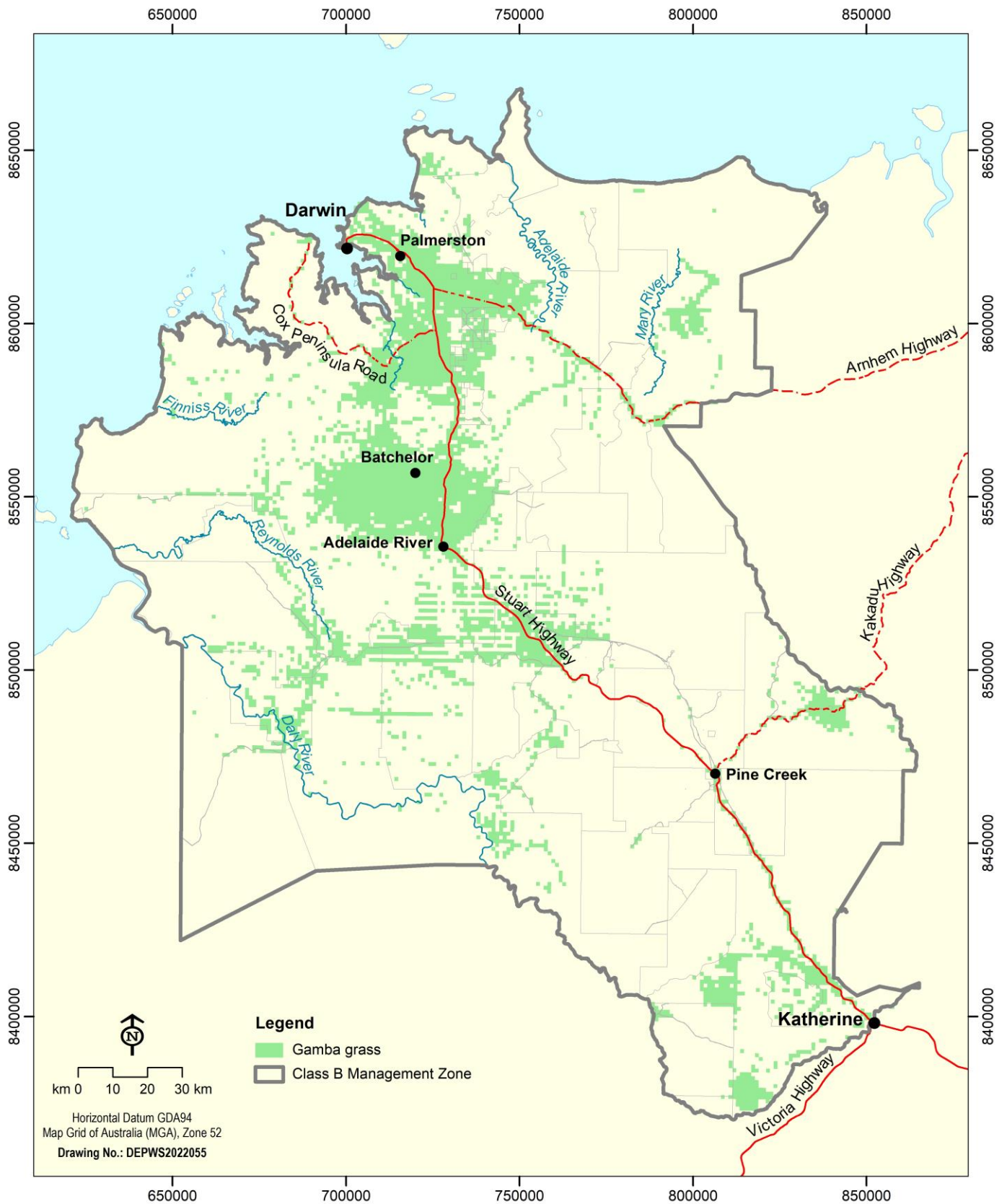


Figure 4 Estimated area affected by gamba grass in the Class B zone as of 2022 (based on data ranging from 1960 to 2022 reported to the Weed Management Branch)

Goal 3 – Protect priority environmental and cultural assets from the impacts of gamba grass

Objective:

3a: Identify key environmental and cultural assets at risk of being impacted by gamba grass and incorporate into relevant Weed Management Branch, stakeholder and land manager regional plans, strategies and compliance programs.

Performance indicator: “By December 2022 a list has been developed of key environmental and cultural assets.”

Key environmental and cultural assets are currently included in [regional WMB strategies](#). Key environmental and cultural assets at threat from gamba grass include areas such as Sites of Conservation Significance, watercourses, and key sites of community value such as Arnhem Land and the Darwin rural area.

As a requirement of the gamba plan objective 3a, key environmental and cultural assets at threat from gamba grass have been considered more closely. The WMB have put together a list of categories at threat from gamba grass, see Table 6.

Table 6 – Environmental and cultural assets at threat from gamba grass

Categories of environmental and cultural assets at threat from gamba	Values applicable to each asset which are at threat from gamba grass				
	Aesthetics Values	Conservation (including native biodiversity and habitat) values	Educational values	Recreational values	Spiritual values (indigenous values)
Parks and Reserves e.g. Litchfield National Park	X	X	X	X	X
Kakadu National Park (World Heritage Area) listed for its cultural and natural outstanding universal values	X	X	X	X	X
Indigenous Protected Areas		X	X		X
Sites of Conservation Significance	X	X	X	X	X
Nationally protected Arnhem Plateau Sandstone Shrubland Complex	X	X			X
Aboriginal Sacred Sites (for their Indigenous values)			X		X
Land for Indigenous Livelihoods (for example Indigenous carbon farming project areas)					X
Darwin rural area – residential living areas	X	X		X	
Other key sites of community value (e.g. camping, hunting, recreation areas)	X	X	X	X	X
Commonwealth and Northern Territory Heritage listed sites			X		

Community feedback was also sought on environmental and cultural assets at threat from gamba grass during the 'Have your say' survey held in May 2022. Community feedback on environmental and cultural assets at threat from gamba grass include:

- Aboriginal land
- Coomalie rural area and Coomalie especially in around Batchelor
- Native wildlife
- Bird and mammal populations are at threat due to habitat destruction. Controlled burns are being used to supposedly reduce fuel loads
- Blackmore River
- Riparian areas
- Native flora
- New residents to the Darwin rural area that are unaware of gamba grass and its devastating impacts
- Manton dam catchment
- All NT and beyond
- Everything north of Darwin excluding Darwin
- National Parks
- Howard River sand sheets – internationally renowned for extremely high diversity in Utricularias and other sand sheet flora. Also habitat for Howard River toadlet
- Virtually everything
- Gamba threatens environmental integrity wherever it spreads
- Gamba's emissions cause huge air-quality problems
- Arnhem Land
- Cox Peninsula
- Rapid Creek catchment and Casuarina Coastal Reserve
- Protecting Indigenous sacred sites, rock art and other culturally significant sites is crucial. This must be led by local Traditional Owners and supported as a partnership to protect identified priorities.
- Increased attention must be given to preserving our western historical sites such as homesteads, cemeteries, gold rush diggings, and World War 2 sites. For example, there is unmanaged gamba grass growing close to historical buildings at the WW2 Snake Creek Armament Depot near Adelaide River.

The list above will be provided to the underlying land tenures that manage land. This information can be used to understand current community concern about gamba grass and potential impacts on environmental and cultural assets.

Performance indicator: "Key environmental and cultural assets are prioritised in WMB regional plans, WMB compliance planning and stakeholder weed plans aimed at managing gamba grass."

Key environmental and cultural assets remain a priority in regional WMB strategies and compliance plans. As outlined above, key environmental and cultural values are currently included in [regional WMB strategies](#).

Updated WMB operational and compliance programs will be developed with consideration of the above assets. An example of existing WMB and stakeholder programs that prioritise key assets are outlined below.

WMB - gamba grass compliance program (Darwin rural area)

The gamba grass compliance program for the Darwin rural area uses seven individual criteria to assign a parcel-based risk score out of 20. The individual criteria can then be assessed to identify particular risks of interest. During the 2021/22 compliance season, a range of specific risks have been measured and mapped as shown in Table 7.

Table 7 – Darwin rural area gamba grass risks measured and mapped through the compliance program

Percentage	Risks measured and mapped
70%	Properties assessed had gamba grass within 15m of their boundaries, presenting a risk of spread to neighbouring land.
29%	Properties assessed had gamba grass within 15m of roads and tracks, presenting a risk of vehicle-assisted spread off the property.
12%	Properties assessed had gamba grass growing within 15m of houses and infrastructure, presenting an increased bushfire risk to life and property.

Life and property are the highest priority assets identified through the gamba grass compliance program for the Darwin rural area. In 2022, 53 land parcels threatened by imminent bushfire risk to life and property were referred to the relevant fire authority (i.e. Bushfires NT and NT Fire and Rescue Service).

Council consideration of assets in weed management planning

In 2021 the Litchfield Council engaged a consultant to develop the 'Litchfield Council Integrated Weed Management Plan 2021 – 2026' (Litchfield plan). This Litchfield plan replaced council's previous weed management plan and provides project goals and objectives for the management of weeds on Litchfield Council land. The Litchfield plan is available at: [Litchfield Weed Management Plan](#). This Litchfield plan includes different criteria for considering weed management priorities including, 'protection of high priority natural assets and underpinning flora and fauna'.

Vacant Crown land consideration of assets in weed management planning

The Department of Infrastructure Planning and Logistics (DIPL) has developed a Weed Management Strategy NT Vacant Crown Land (VCL strategy). This strategy is available online and can be found at: [Weed Management Strategy](#). This strategy outlines that weed management objectives are dependent on the weed infestation status and discusses prevention, eradication, containment and asset based protection objectives. In accordance with this strategy, vacant Crown land has prioritised weeds control across the Northern Territory for a number of weeds, including gamba grass.



Actively growing gamba grass during the wet season

Goal 4 – Increase community capacity and willingness to participate in gamba grass management

Objective:

4a: “Engage with the community and obtain a high level of public support for gamba grass management action.”

Performance indicator: “Public knowledge of gamba grass impacts and management requirements has increased.”

A Gamba Grass Communications Plan 2021 – 2024 has been developed to raise awareness of gamba grass management requirements and available support. This plan, prepared in consultation with the WAC, is guiding communications in relation to gamba grass.

Gamba grass communications tools used over the reporting period are included in Table 8.

Table 8 Summary of gamba grass communications tools implemented over reporting period

Tool	Purpose
<p>A gamba grass requirements leaflet was developed and distributed to all rates payers within the Litchfield Council and Coomalie Council Shires with rates notices in August / September 2021.</p> <p>This was a collaborative effort between both council and the WMB.</p>	To increase awareness of gamba grass legal requirements amongst land owners.
Gamba grass requirements leaflet attached to fences around Marrakai, Dundee, Wagait and Southport.	
Gamba grass requirements leaflet sent to the Members of the Legislative Assembly for Palmerston and surrounding suburbs for distribution in newsletters.	
Gamba grass requirements posters printed and displayed at GAP collection points.	
<p>Gamba grass ‘control site’ core flutes printed and distributed to different stakeholders including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEPWS – Parks and Wildlife • DEPWS - GFMU • DIPL and • Gamba Army. 	To demonstrate gamba grass action is being undertaken at a site.
Gamba grass newsletter articles prepared by the WMB and sent to different stakeholders for inclusion in stakeholder newsletters.	To educate newsletter readers about different gamba grass topics.
Radio interviews and radio ads throughout the year.	To discuss different gamba grass topics and remind people that help is available to manage gamba grass.
Social media Facebook posts throughout the year.	To educate the community about different gamba grass topics – legal requirements for management, help available including the GAP and annual report release.
Gamba grass bus wrap from November 2021 to April 2022.	To remind the community it is the time of the year to take action on gamba grass.
Talks to local community groups and distribution of WMB resources including at information stalls at different events – e.g. Gamba Grass Community Forum, the Santos Science Experience and Fire Ready Week.	To educate the community about gamba grass and distribute gamba grass resources.

Tool	Purpose
NFRS and Bushfire NT Communications.	To promote the requirement to manage both gamba grass and firebreaks to reduce wildfire impact and improve community safety.
Gamba grass spray video prepared and uploaded at nt.gov.au/gamba .	To demonstrate how to correctly spray gamba grass.
Bushfire NT variable message boards.	To advertise gamba messages – such as herbicide available for collection.
Fire Ready Week held in March 2022.	To help rural residents and landholders prepare, act and survive the bushfire season.
Gamba Grass Community Forum in April 2022.	To discuss gamba management – celebrate gamba grass successes and discuss barriers with gamba grass management.
WAC meetings held quarterly.	To discuss implementation of the gamba plan and actions being undertaken by different stakeholders.
A one page summary is uploaded at Gamba Grass Weed Advisory Committee Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security .	To demonstrate to key stakeholders key outcomes of the WAC meetings.
A new gamba grass ID booklet has been developed. The gamba ID booklet is available both online at nt.gov.au/gamba and in hard copy from the WMB.	To improve community awareness and capacity to identify gamba grass.
New gamba grass reporting tool available at nt.gov.au/gamba .	To provide landholders the opportunity to make an online gamba grass report or complaint.
Gamba grass identification training day with Ranger Groups.	To educate Ranger groups on how to identify and manage gamba grass.



WMB demonstrating gamba grass control in a gamba grass training day

To evaluate the performance indicator “public knowledge of gamba grass impacts and management requirements has increased” the “Have your say - May 2022” survey asked a number of questions. Responses are provided below.

Table 9 Have your say survey responses that evaluates if public knowledge about gamba grass has increased

Question	Yes	No	No response
Q. Are you aware of the Weed Management Plan for Gamba Grass 2020 – 2030?	76%	21%	3%
Q. Do you know what your legal requirements are to control gamba grass, in accordance with the Weed Management Plan for Gamba Grass 2020 – 2030?	76%	17%	7%
Q. Did you know if you are a landholder and your block is less than 3 ha (7.4 acres) you are required to destroy all gamba on your property, by July 2023?	45%	48%	7%
Q. Are you aware that: Gamba grass is listed as a weed of national significance.	93%	-	-
Are you aware that: Gamba grass is listed as a key threatening process under the (Cwlth) <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> , which means it has a nationally agreed threat abatement plan.	72%	-	-
Are you aware that: Targets for the reduction of gamba grass are included in the Australian Government, Threatened Species Action Plan 2021 – 2026.	45%	-	-
Q. Do you have access to the information you need to be able to identify / plan / take action to manage gamba grass?	79%	10%	10%
Q. How do you like to receive information on gamba grass?			
Website	62%	-	-
Facebook posts	48%	-	-
Newsletters	41%	-	-
Radio	21%	-	-
Community forum / training day	38%	-	-
Other	24%	-	-

Q. Where do you find your information on gamba grass?

- Online – google, NTG website, gamba grass website, weeds website, DPI website, Facebook.
- Government organisations - NT WMB, Gamba team at Fred’s Pass, Parks and Wildlife.
- Non-government organisations / environment groups - Gamba Grass Roots Program, NRM, Environment Centre NT, NT Field Naturalists Club, Land for Wildlife, Top End Native Plant Society.
- Local councils - Local brochures at council.
- General responses - prior knowledge, colleagues, colleagues involved in control, field days, phone, visit rangers, Therese, newsletters, brochures, local knowledge, everywhere, many friends, committed members of the public, literature.

Q. What further information would you like about gamba grass?

- Gamba impacts
 - Potential for life threatening situations explained and maybe shock footage for better education.
 - TV and local advertising time to poison, local signage throughout the rural areas, gamba kills and soon will kill locals too if not under control. We have watched it explode over the years.
 - Nothing, thanks, but more education in schools and community groups on what gamba does.
- Gamba identification and how to control
 - None personally but I would like you to be more vocal about teaching the public about the issue. Start running gamba identification and “how to control” days early in the growing season.
 - Other methods of control.
 - Effective residual herbicide for suppression of gamba seed germination.
 - Continued updates regarding best control methods as research continues.
 - Proper research on how to manage it i.e. by someone that knows more than the landholders.
 - Yes and treatment options within town of Palmerston.
 - Better identification guides.
 - See above photos of the grass at various stages of growth so can be identified early and sprayed.
- Information about government land
 - What the government are doing about gamba on their land.
- Nil – information available is good.
- Other
 - When is the government going to get serious? Maybe a levy on the live cattle industry would help raise revenue. Is the government ensuring that hay bales are weed-free?
 - Results of cattle management.
 - News that it has been eradicated.

Despite a range of communications tools being implemented, the feedback suggests that more is needed. The Gamba Grass Communications Plan 2021 – 2024 has been updated for the next reporting period and will be implemented with the aim of continuing to increase public knowledge of gamba grass management requirements, impacts and assistance available.

Performance indicator: “Better understand community perceptions, needs and barriers regarding gamba grass management.”

There is no doubt that the community are concerned with the management of gamba grass. The forming of the ‘Gamba Grass Roots’ group attests to this. However, a study to better understand community perceptions, needs and barriers regarding gamba grass management was identified as a strategic action needed in conjunction with the WAC during development of the gamba plan. A social marketing study (subject to funding) is proposed by July 2023 to identify community perceptions, needs and barriers regarding gamba grass management.

The WMB and WAC have conducted a workshop to consider this action further. Further enquiry has identified there may be a number of pathways taken to explore this topic further, although this task is still pending a dedicated source of funding being identified. This action is ongoing.

Performance indicator: “Public reporting to WMB on gamba infestations.”

Gamba Grass Reporting Tool and Complaints

A new ‘Gamba Grass Reporting Tool’ is now available at nt.gov.au/gamba for reporting concerns about unmanaged gamba grass. Reports of problem gamba grass made through this online platform will be automatically emailed to the WMB for follow up. Alternatively, problem gamba grass can still be reported to the WMB via phone or email.

The WMB received approximately 106 gamba grass complaint reports in the 2021/22 financial year consisting of 52 complaint reports about the Darwin rural area and approximately 54 complaint reports about Darwin and surrounds (outside rural area). No complaints were received about gamba grass in the Katherine Region. All complaints received are triaged and followed up by WMB authorised officers. Follow up action may include undertaking an inspection of the property, engagement with land managers, follow up letters and the issuing of penalty infringement notices if the matter is not resolved.

NT WeedMate

The NTG NT WeedMate App remains the central tool for reporting weed data points. Since the last gamba grass annual report, registered uses for the NT WeedMate App has gone up from 200 to 258 users. To find out more about NT WeedMate go to: [NT WeedMate App | Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security](#)

There have been 3973 gamba grass reports via NT WeedMate since its development. Reports received include:

- 1456 records for 2021/22 financial year
- 2101 records for 2020/21 financial year
- 416 records for 2019/20 financial year (noting NT WeedMate commenced in the 19/20 financial year).

Performance indicator: “An increase in coordinated management effort.”

As outlined in the last annual report a Gamba Management Framework has been developed that includes a number of collaborative partnerships to improve gamba grass management (see Appendix 2). In addition, there are a number of co-ordinated stakeholder projects that aim to tackle gamba grass.

Gamba Management Framework collaborative partnerships

Gamba Grass Weed Advisory Committee

The WAC continues to meet quarterly with the WMB to oversee implementation of the gamba plan. The WAC includes representatives for NTG (DIPL and Parks and Wildlife); TNRM; Charles Darwin University (CDU); NLC; Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association (NTCA); ICIN; Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT), the Environment Centre NT and the tourism industry. Meeting updates (for all meetings held from September 2021 onwards) are available at: [Gamba Grass Weed Advisory Committee | Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security](#).

The Fire and Weed Working Group

The Fire and Weed Working Group has continued to co-ordinate the management of weeds and fire management on government land, including gamba grass. Members of the group include, Crown Land Estate; Roads; Power and Water Corporation; WMB; GFMU; Bushfires NT; Parks and Wildlife; NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services. This group meets quarterly to provide an update on their responsibilities, to discuss areas of concern and provides land managers the ability to co-ordinate management across different areas.

Gamba Army

The Gamba Army was established in late 2020 as a response to the COVID outbreak to create jobs and tackle problematic gamba grass across the Northern Territory at the same time. The Gamba Army continued for a second year over the 2021/22 reporting period and was coordinated by TNRM over this time with funding from the NT

Government. Over the 2021/22 reporting period the Gamba Army conducted follow up control on sites sprayed in 2020/21 as well as spraying a number of new sites. Approximately 2910 person hours of spraying occurred on 80 different land parcels encompassing nearly 8000 ha across a range of land tenures in the Darwin and rural area. Strategic treatment also occurred in Litchfield National Park, contributing to the estimated 400 ha of gamba grass managed by the Gamba Army in National Parks. Some of the sites managed include:

- Litchfield National Park
- Charles Darwin National Park
- Casuarina Coastal Reserve and adjoining hospital block
- Knuckey Lagoons Conservation Reserve
- Top End and Mickett Creek Shooting Complexes
- Howard Springs Pine Forest
- Numerous vacant Crown land blocks

Individual site reports are being completed for a number of [Gamba Army](#) areas sprayed and will be uploaded at [GAMBA GRASS HUB | Territory NRM](#)

Research Institutions working with the NTG

CDU / National Environmental Science Program (NESP) researchers in conjunction with the WMB completed a helicopter survey of approximately 70,000 ha of Litchfield National Park over the reporting period. This concludes the distribution mapping undertaken for gamba grass across 143,931 ha of Litchfield National Park, carried out over two years. The distribution maps showed that the range of gamba grass has substantially expanded in the park since the last survey in 2014. The density of existing gamba grass also increased, with the occurrence of high-density gamba grass (>50% cover) more than doubling in 7 years. The updated distribution data has been used to identify high-value habitats and visitor assets currently threatened by gamba grass invasion.

Researchers used the gamba grass distribution data to carry out a detailed prioritisation process for the park, using the six management zones in the Park's Integrated Conservation Strategy (ICS). The data was used to model the predicted gamba grass distribution in 2021/22 and develop costed management scenarios to manage gamba grass in the Park under three management scenarios:

- (1) No active management
- (2) Eradicating gamba grass in the existing Litchfield gamba grass eradication zone (to protect the visitor assets on Tabletop), no active management elsewhere in the park.
- (3) Eradicating gamba grass in an expanded eradication zone (to protect the majority of visitor assets in the park), no active management elsewhere in the park.

This research showed that an investment of greater than \$1 million per year, for 5 years, is required for an intensive gamba grass eradication and monitoring program to protect the majority of visitor assets in the park.

This prioritisation can support future gamba grass management in the park to protect high-value assets from the impacts of gamba grass.

The research results have been presented to the WAC, Parks & Wildlife Division and the WMB. The results have also been written into a journal paper, and are currently being peer reviewed before publication. DEPWS contributed \$100,000 to this two-year research project.

Gamba Action Program

The GAP is another element of the Gamba Management Framework. During the 21/2022 GAP season there were a total of 2602 participant events. A participation event is counted every time a person engaged with the assistance component of the program, no matter how many times an individual claimed herbicide or borrowed equipment. Of these participation events, there were 2215 individuals who accessed GAP for 2333 properties. The discrepancy between the total number of individuals and properties may have arisen for several reasons. Participation by property rather than name is considered a more accurate reflection of community engagement with the program.

The GAP program aims to provide one, 5L or 10L container of herbicide per property accessing the program so herbicide assistance can be provided to as many people as possible. Where people have more than one block, the WMB at its discretion will allow a person to access a second container of herbicide. Spray units are also available for loan to spray gamba grass.

The Gamba Fire Mitigation Unit

The Gamba Fire Mitigation Unit is a collaborative unit which combines specific functions of the WMB and Bushfires NT. This unit allows for better collaboration between these Divisions as well as the NT Fire and Rescue Service. This collaboration combines compliance and risk mitigation services aiming to reduce the risk of unmanaged gamba grass.

Coordinated stakeholder projects

TNRM – West Arnhem Land and Kakadu Regional Project

TNRM are coordinating the West Arnhem Land and Kakadu Regional Project which is funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program. This project aims to bring together stakeholders at a regional scale to tackle the negative impacts of invasive weeds (including gamba grass), feral animals and destructive fires. Over the reporting period the key activities undertaken or supported by TNRM have included gamba grass survey and control work for gamba grass found in Mudginberri Kakadu, gamba grass control in road corridors, helping rangers with spread prevention, collecting gamba grass records, treating gamba grass and addressing gamba grass along the main highways and roads into Arnhem Land. More information can be found about this project at: [West Arnhem Kakadu Project | Territory NRM](#)

Casuarina Coastal Reserve Landcare Group

The Casuarina Coastal Reserve Landcare Group have been continuing to collaborate with Parks and Wildlife to tackle gamba grass. Community volunteers with the Casuarina Coastal Reserve Adopt-a-Spot Pilot Project have complimented the work of the Gamba Army, concentrating on finding and destroying outlier gamba grass plants. More information can be found on the work being done at the Casuarina Coastal Reserve at: [TRACKING GAMBA AT CASUARINA COASTAL RESERVE - Casuarina Coastal Reserve Landcare Group \(landcarent.org.au\)](#)

Coordinated gamba grass management effort will be promoted where appropriate in line with the gamba grass communications plan.

Objective:

4b: "Ensure adequate information and knowledge of gamba grass management is available."

Performance indicators: "Documentation of knowledge gaps."

There are many gamba grass knowledge gaps, some of which were noted in the last annual report. Since the last annual report actions taken to address some of the noted knowledge gaps include:

Accurate gamba grass distribution records in both the Class A and B zones

- A framework and methodology to accurately capture control effort in order to report on the eradication status of gamba grass in the Class A zone has previously been reported as a knowledge gap. A methodology has been developed to address this knowledge gap in the 'gamba grass mapping and monitoring program for the Class A zone'. This is tracking well and results have been included in this report.

How to motivate more people to manage their gamba grass using a balance of encouragement and enforcement

- The WMB and WAC have completed the first workshop to look at the path forward for undertaking a social marketing study. It is anticipated that this social marketing study will look into knowledge gaps of this nature.

Integrated gamba grass management regime

Integrated gamba grass management regime, e.g. understanding the ideal integrated control regime combining chemical and burning techniques, understanding effective alternatives to glyphosate for chemical control.

- DEPWS have partnered with the Queensland Government in a project (currently at project concept stage) for improving the management of gamba grass through trials of herbicide and other control options in extensive landscapes. This project would look at alternative herbicides that may be used to glyphosate. A concept proposal has been prepared and submitted to the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (CISS) for funding.

There are avenues for discussing and exploring further knowledge gaps. For example, at WAC meetings, Fire and Weeds Working Group meetings, gamba grass community forums, or other events.

Performance indicator: "Community awareness"

Community Forum

An annual 'gamba grass research and development community forum' is required under the gamba plan. TNRM hosted a gamba grass community forum in April 2022, with assistance from Gamba Grass Roots. Presentations were held about:

- Community involvement in gamba grass at the Casuarina Coastal Reserve
- Gamba Army and the importance of cross tenure coordination
- Successful control in the Mary River National Park
- Alternative control methods to glyphosate – including vinegar, goats and fire.

A workshopping session was also held that focused on the topics:

- What are we (as a community and members of the community) doing well?
- What is stopping us from doing better?
- Strategies to help us do better?
- Information that should be included in the Gamba Grass Best Practice Manual. This information was provided to the consultancy engaged by the Australian Government to develop this manual.

TNRM are preparing a report about the forum which will be uploaded online at the TNRM website. The next gamba grass community forum is planned to be held in February 2023 in Katherine.

Gamba Grass Roots

Gamba Grass Roots is a community based group that has arisen from an alliance between The Pew Charitable Trusts and Environment Centre NT. Reflecting its community driven supporter base, Gamba Grass Roots has actively engaged with landholders and the general public, raising awareness and building the case for more action on gamba grass. Activities have ranged from: stalls at markets; developing educational materials to empower the public to express their voice; to advocacy efforts highlighting problems, solutions and recognising delivery. Community efforts are ongoing. This significant momentum has contributed to extra resources being made available from the NTG, along with commitments to further resources from the Federal Government. More information about the threats, solutions and actions is available at: [Gamba Grass Roots - Gamba Grass Roots](#).

Integration of research outcomes into core business activities and relevant publications

The WMB will continue to provide the community with gamba grass research outcomes through methods included in the gamba grass communication plan, via our website and via WMB educational material such as the Gamba Grass Management Guide.

In addition CDU/NESP are developing a new webpage that will summarise their research on the biology, spread, impacts, and management of gamba grass in a user-friendly way for land managers and the broader public. This website is expected to be live later this year.

Performance indicator: "Adaption of control programs to incorporate updated management recommendations."

As above, the community forum required under the gamba plan will allow for the discussion of gamba grass successes with control programs and any updated management recommendations.

The WMB will update its gamba grass management guide if required to reflect new recommendations in gamba grass management so this information can be shared with all stakeholders.

Performance indicator: "By December 2022 a pathway is identified to produce National Gamba Grass Best Practice Manual."

The Australian Government has engaged the consultancy Wild Matters to develop a number of Best Practice Manuals including a Gamba Grass Best Practice Manual. A steering committee has been set up to help inform this manual. It is predicted that the Gamba Grass Best Practice Manual will be completed and available online by December 2022. The nt.gov.au/gamba webpage will be updated to include a link to this new manual.

Objective:

4c: "Increase voluntary compliance with gamba grass management requirements."

Performance indicator: "Changes in active management and voluntary compliance levels."

A summary of trends in effort and compliance is provided against Goal 2. Further changes may be evident in future reports by looking at whether there is an increase in the number of properties already in compliance at the time of initial inspections or whether achieving compliance is more dependent on the active compliance programs.

Goal 5 – Implement transparent and accountable compliance, monitoring and reporting processes

Objective:

5a: “Deliver a transparent and risk-based compliance program.”

Performance indicator: “Responsiveness to public enquiries.”

All enquiries were responded to including enquiries about plant identification, the GAP, control options and enforcement action.

The WMB maintains a generic phone number (8999 4567) and email address (weedinfo@nt.gov.au) to receive public enquiries and reporting of all weeds. A dedicated team tracking sheet has been developed for reports specifically relating to gamba grass.

When complaints are made to the WMB about gamba grass they are recorded, triaged and followed up by authorised weeds officers. The WMB does not provide updates to every complainant about every complaint made, however that does not mean gamba grass complaints are not actioned. Complainants are welcome to follow up with the WMB on action that is being taken about a gamba grass complaint that has been made.

Performance indicator: “Public awareness of the parcel compliance rating system.”

An online '[Check Your Gamba Risk Tool](#)' has been developed. Landholders can answer a series of questions about their gamba grass and will be provided a risk rating and advice on what they should do to manage their risk.

This self-assessment score system aligns with a similar process used to assess landholder parcels for compliance.

The 'Check Your Gamba Risk Tool' went live on 1 April 2021. Over the reporting period there has been 384 views of the risk tool (excluding views by the NTG).

You can find the Check Your Gamba Risk score tool via link:

<https://nt.gov.au/environment/weeds/weeds-in-the-nt/A-Z-list-of-weeds-in-the-NT/gamba-grass/gamba-grass-risk-check>

Performance indicator: “Application of the parcel compliance rating system.”

Application of the parcel compliance rating system has been discussed above under Goal 2.

Objective:

5b: “Collaborate with key stakeholders to undertake regular monitoring and reporting of performance against the Weed Management Plan for Gamba Grass 2020 – 2030.”

Performance indicator: “Regular, transparent, and meaningful reporting that is effectively promoted to the public.”

A 'Have your say' survey was conducted in May 2022 for a period of four weeks, seeking comment on community and stakeholder progress against the gamba plan and to seek community comment on implementation of the gamba plan. A total of 29 participants responded to this survey. Individual submissions outside the survey were also provided to the WMB. Results of the survey have been included throughout this report. All survey results and individual submissions received, have been de-identified, compiled and included in Appendix 3.

Performance indicator: “Community awareness.”

A communications plan has been developed that documents the mechanisms for informing the community about gamba grass matters, including the promotion of this report and key outcomes from the report.

Objective:

5c. "Ensure ongoing independent oversight of delivery of the Weed Management Plan for Gamba Grass 2020 - 2030."

Performance indicator: "Retention of the WAC."

The WAC is continuing to oversee implementation of the gamba plan. A commitment has been made in the Gamba Grass Communications Plan 2021 - 2024 for the WMB to meet quarterly with the WAC.

Three meetings were held during the reporting period on:

- 16 September 2021
- 22 February 2022
- 10 May 2022.

Meeting summaries for the meetings above can be found online at:

<https://depws.nt.gov.au/boards-and-committees/gamba-grass-weed-advisory-committee>

Appendix 1 Goals, objectives, strategic actions, performance indicators and performance measures from the Weed Management Plan for Gamba Grass 2020 - 2030

Key

- white: yet to be started
- grey: to be evaluated
- green: on track
- orange: progress but some concerns
- red: significant concerns with progress

Table 7. Goal 1 - Eradicate gamba grass from the Class A (eradication) zone				
Objectives	Strategic actions	Who	Performance indicators	Performance measures
1a. Understand the distribution of gamba grass in the Class A zone.	By July 2021, design a mapping and monitoring program for the Class A zone.	Weed Management Branch (WMB)	By July 2022, the extent of gamba grass has been assessed for land parcels identified in the monitoring and mapping program.	A generalised map of distribution or gamba grass presence confidence is publicly available. Annual measurement of gamba grass in hectares using available spatial data and eradication status information.
	By July 2021, commence the mapping program in the Class A zone.	WMB / land owner / occupiers		
	By July 2022, complete the mapping program and continue monitoring in the Class A zone.	WMB/ land owner / occupiers		
1b. By July 2023, all gamba grass in the Class A zone is under an active eradication program and all gamba grass plants have been destroyed (unless under permit)	Individuals, land owners and occupiers implement required actions as per Section 4.	Land owners and occupiers	By July 2023, all known land parcels with gamba grass in the Class A zone are classified as b) active management. By July 2025, all known land parcels with gamba grass in the Class A zone are classified as c) monitoring phase. By July 2026, all known land parcels with gamba grass in the Class A zone are classified as d) eradicated ² .	A register is maintained by WMB of all known land parcels with gamba grass in the Class A zone according to their current eradication status: a) unmanaged b) active management c) monitoring phase d) eradicated Summary data of a, b, c and d is produced. Annual summary data produced showing progress toward eradication.
1c. By July 2026, all gamba grass in the Class A zone is eradicated (unless under permit).	Assess eradication status for land parcels.	WMB		
1d. By July 2026, a review of the permit system pertaining to gamba grass is completed.	Existing permits that allow grazing of gamba grass in the Class A zone are reassessed to ensure they are appropriate.	WMB Gamba Grass Weed Advisory Committee (WAC)	Review of permit system is completed as it pertains to gamba grass.	Annual reporting on gamba grass grazing permit conditions and compliance. Outcomes of the July 2026 review are made publicly available.
1e. Review the Class A and B zone boundaries to improve the protection of areas in the Class B management zone that are free of gamba grass.	By July 2026, review the Class A and Class B zones to ensure the Class A zone captures areas that are free of gamba grass and where eradication is considered feasible.	WMB WAC	By July 2026, revised Class A and B zones are declared if recommended by the review process.	Gamba grass management zones review discussion paper is produced through consultation with relevant stakeholders, including the WAC. Updated Class A and B zone map is produced if zones are amended.

² For more information on active management, monitoring phase, and eradication status, see glossary of Weed Management Plan for Gamba Grass 2020 - 2030.

Table 8. Goal 2 – Contain and control gamba grass by actively managing infestations across the Class B (control) zone and preventing spread into new areas

Objectives	Strategic actions	Who	Performance indicators	Performance measures
2a. Reduce seed production. 2b. Implement weed hygiene measures to reduce gamba grass seed spread. 2c. Reduce gamba grass outliers at a land parcel and landscape scale. 2d. Prevent gamba grass spreading into clean areas. 2e. Reduce gamba grass abundance and density in the Class B zone. 2f. Reduce gamba grass presence around landholder infrastructure.	Land owners, occupiers and all users of land implement required actions as per Section 3 and 4.	Land owners, occupiers and all users of land	An increase each year in the number ³ of assessed land parcels that have implemented management requirements and percentile of properties assessed that are compliant e.g. 80% compliant.	Proportion of assessed land parcels that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Are already compliant at time of initial assessment and no follow up action is required. b) Voluntarily meet management requirements after being informed of non-compliance. c) Had compliance action taken due to non-compliance. Annual summary of a, b and c produced including the total number and area of parcels assessed as a proportion of the area of the Class B management zone.
			By July 2024 and annually afterwards there is an improvement in gamba grass management as evidenced by an improvement in parcel compliance score.	Proportion of land parcels that have had multiple year compliance assessments and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Compliance score has improved indicating reduced gamba density. b) Compliance score is unchanged indicating no reduction in gamba density. c) Compliance score has worsened indicating increased gamba density. Annual summary of a, b, and c produced.
			Reduction in area affected by gamba grass.	Gamba grass presence measured annually (in ha and km ²) using available spatial data and updated distribution maps produced.

³ In 2019 – 2020 the number of assessed land parcels was approximately 1500.

Table 9. Goal 3 - Protect priority environmental and cultural assets from the impacts of gamba grass

Objectives	Strategic actions	Who	Performance indicators	Performance measures
3a. Identify key environmental and cultural assets ⁴ at risk of being impacted by gamba grass and incorporate into relevant Weed Management Branch, stakeholder and land manager regional plans, strategies and compliance programs.	By December 2022, key environmental and cultural assets at risk of being impacted by gamba grass have been identified with stakeholder input.	WMB Non-Government Organisations Landholders and occupiers	By December 2022 a list has been developed of key environmental and cultural assets.	By January 2023, a list of priority assets identified is made publicly available (with exclusion of certain sacred sites if necessary).
	Identified key environmental and cultural assets have been prioritised in WMB and stakeholder planning processes.	WMB and landowners and occupiers with environmental and cultural assets	Key environmental and cultural assets are prioritised in WMB regional plans, WMB compliance planning and stakeholder weed plans aimed at managing gamba grass.	An annual assessment of regional plans and compliance programs is conducted to evaluate their success in managing the threat gamba grass poses to key environmental and cultural assets. An annual summary is produced to demonstrate progress towards protection of key environmental and cultural assets.

⁴ Environmental and cultural assets will be defined through consultation with available registers and consultation with key stakeholders.

Table 10. Goal 4 - Increase community capacity and willingness to participate in gamba grass management

Objectives	Strategic Actions	Who	Performance indicators	Performance measures
4a. Engage with the community and obtain a high level of public support for gamba grass management action.	By July 2021, develop a communications plan to raise awareness of gamba grass management requirements and available support. Engage with the community.	WMB WMB	Public knowledge of gamba grass impacts and management requirements has increased.	Delivery of the communications plan, including participation in public events. The number of people participating in the Gamba Action Program has increased.
	By July 2023, complete a social marketing study (subject to funding) to identify community perceptions, needs and barriers regarding gamba grass management.	WAC lead in conjunction with Non-Government Organisations	Better understand community perceptions, needs and barriers regarding gamba grass management.	Development and completion of the social marketing study by 2023. Post study completion, and delivery of strategies that incorporate study outcomes to increase uptake of gamba grass management in the community.
	Promote methods of reporting gamba grass distribution. ⁵	WMB	Public reporting to WMB on gamba infestations.	Uptake of NT WeedMate. Number of reports received (new locations).
	Development of an efficient tool (subject to funding) to encourage public reporting of gamba grass sightings and management effort.	WAC lead in conjunction with Non-Government Organisations		
	Establish and support cross tenure working groups to ensure coordinated management of gamba grass across different land tenures.	WMB	An increase in coordinated management effort.	Promote active working groups achieving effective gamba grass management across tenures.
4b. Ensure adequate information and knowledge on gamba grass management is available.	Identify and prioritise gamba grass knowledge gaps and advocate for research activity in these areas.	WMB Research partners	Documentation of knowledge gaps.	Knowledge gaps identified in annual reporting.
	Promote research activities and updated management recommendations.	WMB and Research partners	Community awareness.	Integration of research outcomes into core business activities and relevant publications (e.g. improved remote sensing technologies used for distribution mapping).
	Deliver an annual gamba grass research and development community forum with a focus on celebrating gamba grass successes and identifying barriers and issues to inform further research.	WAC in conjunction with relevant stakeholders	Adaption of control programs to incorporate updated management recommendations.	
	Collaborate with other jurisdictions to identify funding options for production of a National Best Practice Gamba Grass Manual by December 2022.	WMB	Pathway is identified to produce National Gamba Grass Best Practice Manual.	Progress is made towards development of National Gamba Grass Best Practice Manual.
4c. Increase voluntary compliance with gamba grass management requirements.	Education and awareness activities are implemented to encourage compliant behaviours.	WMB	Changes in active management and voluntary compliance levels.	Annual summary data produced as per Goals 1 to 3.

⁵ For example – promotion of NT WeedMate, development of a discussion paper regarding the feasibility and options for an ‘amnesty’ period to increase self-reporting of gamba grass.

Table 11. Goal 5 – Implement transparent and accountable compliance, monitoring and reporting processes

Objectives	Strategic actions	Who	Performance indicators	Performance measures
5a. Deliver a transparent and risk-based compliance program.	A risk-based compliance program is developed.	WMB	Responsiveness to public enquiries.	Proportion of public enquiries responded to regarding the compliance process.
	The compliance program is promoted to the community.		Public awareness of the parcel compliance rating system.	Number of online downloads of the parcel compliance rating system, annually.
	The compliance program is implemented annually.		Application of the parcel compliance rating system.	Annual summary of outcomes as per Goal 1 - 3.
5b. Collaborate with key stakeholders to undertake regular monitoring and reporting of performance against the Weed Management Plan for Gamba Grass 2020 – 2030.	By 30 July each year, deliver an annual report which addresses all performance indicators.	WMB WAC	Regular, transparent, and meaningful reporting that is effectively promoted to the public.	Public release of an annual report reviewed by the WAC that addresses performance indicators and measures within this plan. Annual online feedback undertaken to inform annual report.
	Effectively communicate key outcomes of the annual report to the community.	WMB	Community awareness.	Number of mechanisms used to promote the key outcomes of the annual report.
5c. Ensure ongoing independent oversight of delivery of the Weed Management Plan for Gamba Grass 2020 – 2030.	Ongoing collaboration with the WAC regarding implementation of this plan.	WMB	Retention of the WAC.	WAC are communicating with their represented stakeholders on performance of the Weed Management Plan for Gamba Grass 2020 – 2030 and acting on feedback received from stakeholders.

Appendix 2 Gamba Management Framework

GAMBA MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The Gamba Management Framework aligns the strategic and actionable items providing a holistic approach to gamba management and fire mitigation for fuel load reduction and infestation control. It is underpinned by the statutory 'Weed Management Plan for Gamba Grass 2020-2030', given force by the *Weeds Management Act 2001*.



Department of
ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND WATER SECURITY



Appendix 3 'Have your say' May 2022 survey results

Gamba grass annual report 2021 – 2022 survey including questions to inform the list of environmental and cultural assets at threat from

gamba SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT
01 June 2022 - 12 July 2022

PROJECT NAME:
Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey



SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1	Name or Organisation
Anonymous 6/01/2022 07:18 AM	name withheld for annual report
Anonymous 6/01/2022 07:41 AM	name withheld for annual report
Anonymous 6/01/2022 10:00 AM	name withheld for annual report
Anonymous 6/01/2022 10:22 AM	name withheld for annual report
Anonymous 6/01/2022 10:36 AM	name withheld for annual report
Anonymous 6/01/2022 10:42 AM	name withheld for annual report
Anonymous 6/01/2022 01:12 PM	name withheld for annual report
Anonymous 6/01/2022 02:27 PM	name withheld for annual report
Anonymous 6/01/2022 07:41 PM	name withheld for annual report
Anonymous 6/01/2022 07:49 PM	name withheld for annual report
Anonymous 6/01/2022 09:08 PM	name withheld for annual report
Anonymous 6/01/2022 09:59 PM	name withheld for annual report
Anonymous 6/02/2022 12:12 AM	name withheld for annual report

Anonymous name withheld for annual report
6/02/2022 09:06 AM

Anonymous name withheld for annual report
6/02/2022 01:52 PM

Anonymous name withheld for annual report
6/02/2022 08:22 PM

Anonymous name withheld for annual report
6/02/2022 09:32 PM

Anonymous name withheld for annual report
6/06/2022 03:58 PM

Anonymous name withheld for annual report
6/06/2022 09:01 PM

Anonymous name withheld for annual report
6/07/2022 05:12 PM

Anonymous name withheld for annual report
6/07/2022 06:48 PM

Anonymous name withheld for annual report
6/09/2022 01:22 PM

Anonymous name withheld for annual report
6/17/2022 07:56 PM

Anonymous name withheld for annual report
6/23/2022 12:24 PM

Anonymous name withheld for annual report
6/24/2022 09:52 AM

Anonymous name withheld for annual report
6/25/2022 09:08 AM

Anonymous name withheld for annual report

6/26/2022 12:34 PM

Anonymous name withheld for annual report
6/27/2022 10:12 AM

Anonymous name withheld for annual report
6/27/2022 03:41 PM

Mandatory Question (29 response(s))
Question type: Single Line Question

Q2 Your post code

Anonymous 0836
6/01/2022 07:18 AM

Anonymous 0834
6/01/2022 07:41 AM

Anonymous 0822
6/01/2022 10:00 AM

Anonymous 0822
6/01/2022 10:22 AM

Anonymous 0836
6/01/2022 10:36 AM

Anonymous 0836
6/01/2022 10:42 AM

Anonymous 0841
6/01/2022 01:12 PM

Anonymous 0841
6/01/2022 02:27 PM

Anonymous 0841
6/01/2022 07:41 PM

Anonymous 0841

6/01/2022 07:49 PM

Anonymous 0851

6/01/2022 09:08 PM

Anonymous 0822

6/01/2022 09:59 PM

Anonymous 0822

6/02/2022 12:12 AM

Anonymous 0841

6/02/2022 09:06 AM

Anonymous 0836

6/02/2022 01:52 PM

Anonymous 0841

6/02/2022 08:22 PM

Anonymous 0836

6/02/2022 09:32 PM

Anonymous 0836

6/06/2022 03:58 PM

Anonymous 0838

6/06/2022 09:01 PM

Anonymous 0830

6/07/2022 05:12 PM

Anonymous 0836

6/07/2022 06:48 PM

Anonymous 0838

6/09/2022 01:22 PM

Anonymous 0836

6/17/2022 07:56 PM

Anonymous 0810

6/23/2022 12:24 PM

Anonymous 0822

6/24/2022 09:52 AM

Anonymous 0846

6/25/2022 09:08 AM

Anonymous 0845

6/26/2022 12:34 PM

Anonymous 0803

6/27/2022 10:12 AM

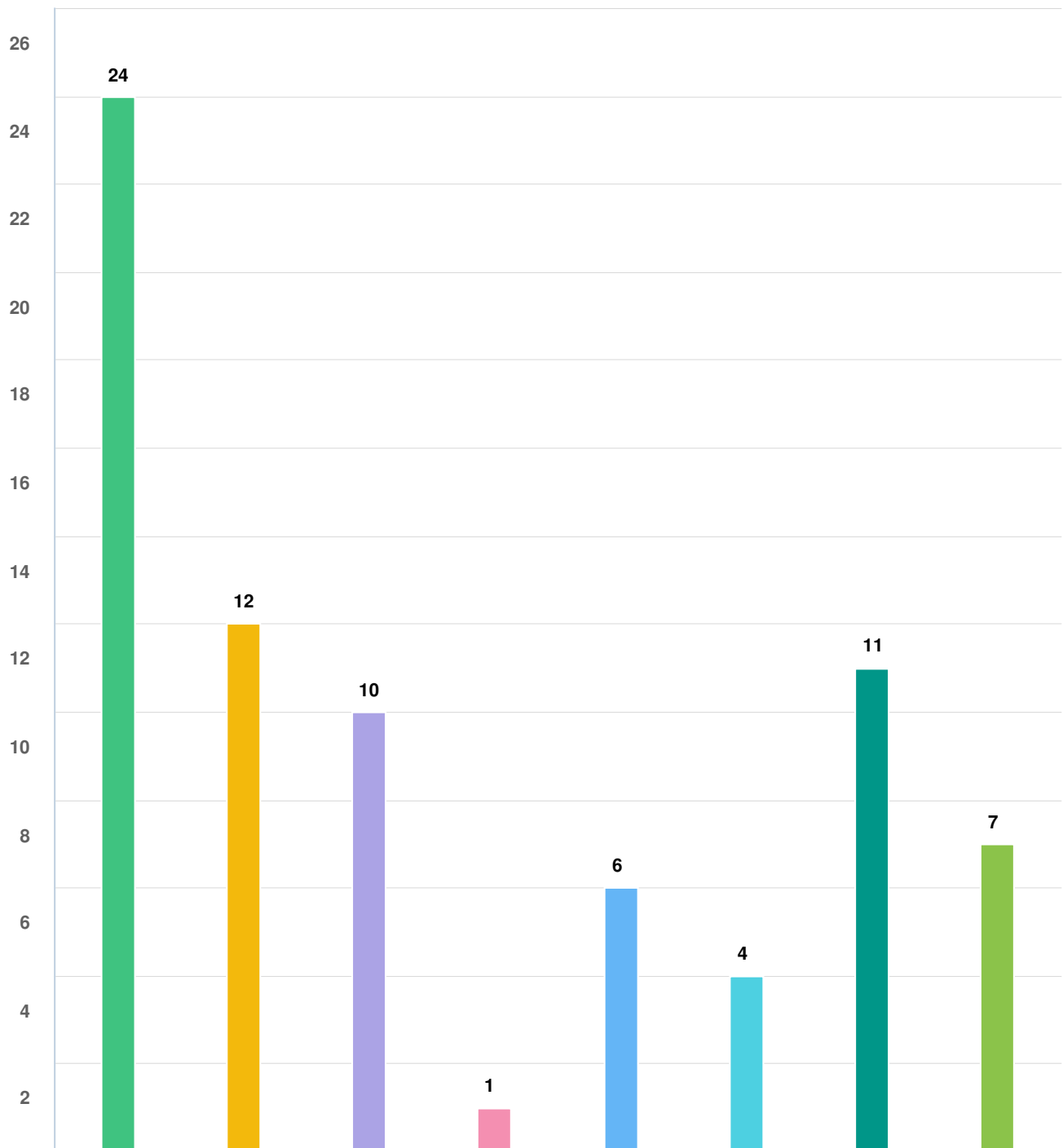
Anonymous 0810

6/27/2022 03:41 PM

Mandatory Question (29 response(s))

Question type: Single Line Question

Q3 What land do you manage, work on, have an interest in, or wish to comment on?

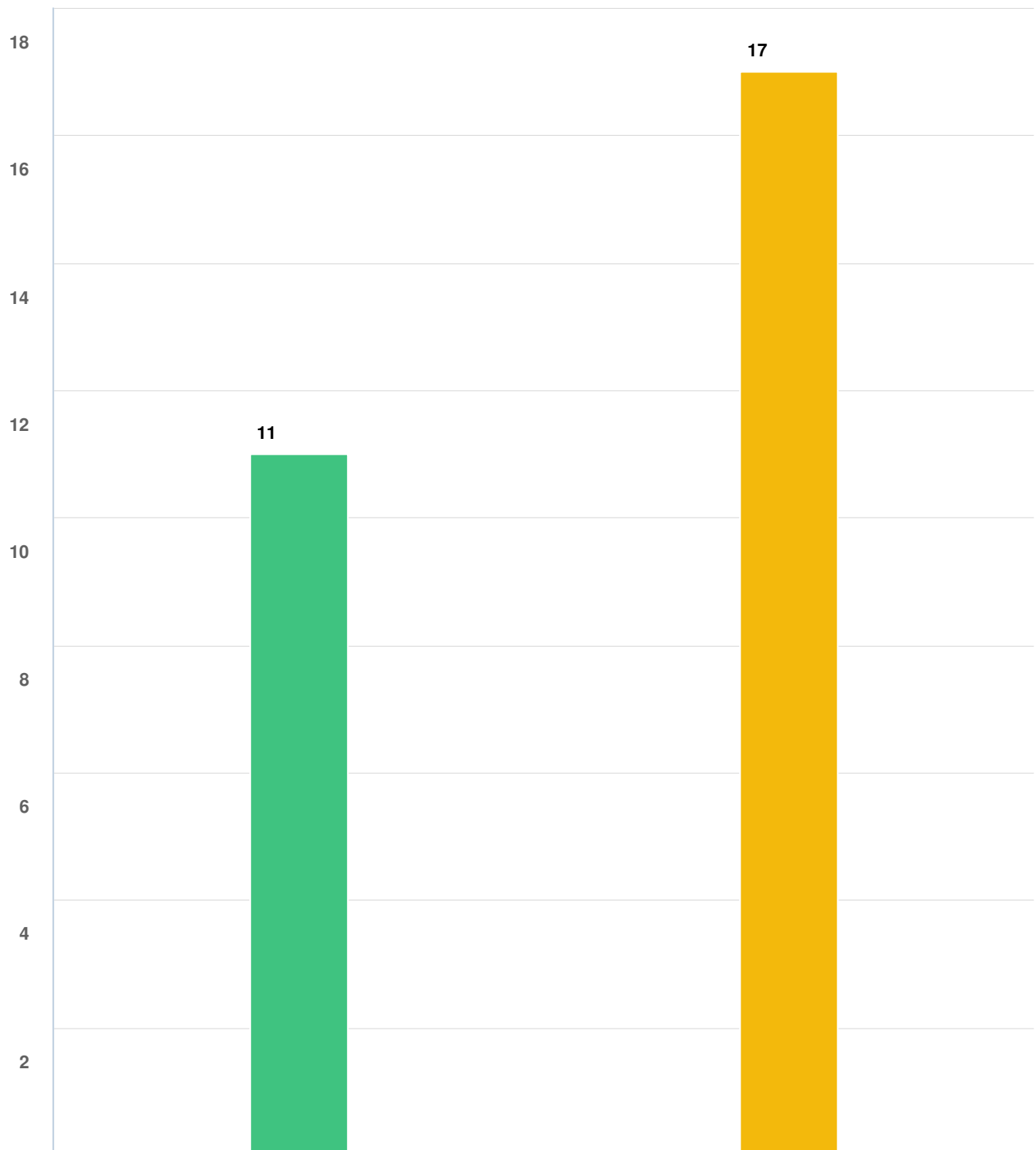


Question options

- A residential/rural property
- Road verges
- Government land
- Commercial
- Pastoral land
- Aboriginal land
- National Parks or Reserves
- Other (please specify)

Optional question (29 response(s), 0 skipped)
 Question type: Checkbox Question

Q4 Did you participate in the ‘Have your say’ survey in 2020 for the development of the Weed Management Plan for Gamba Grass 2020 – 2030?

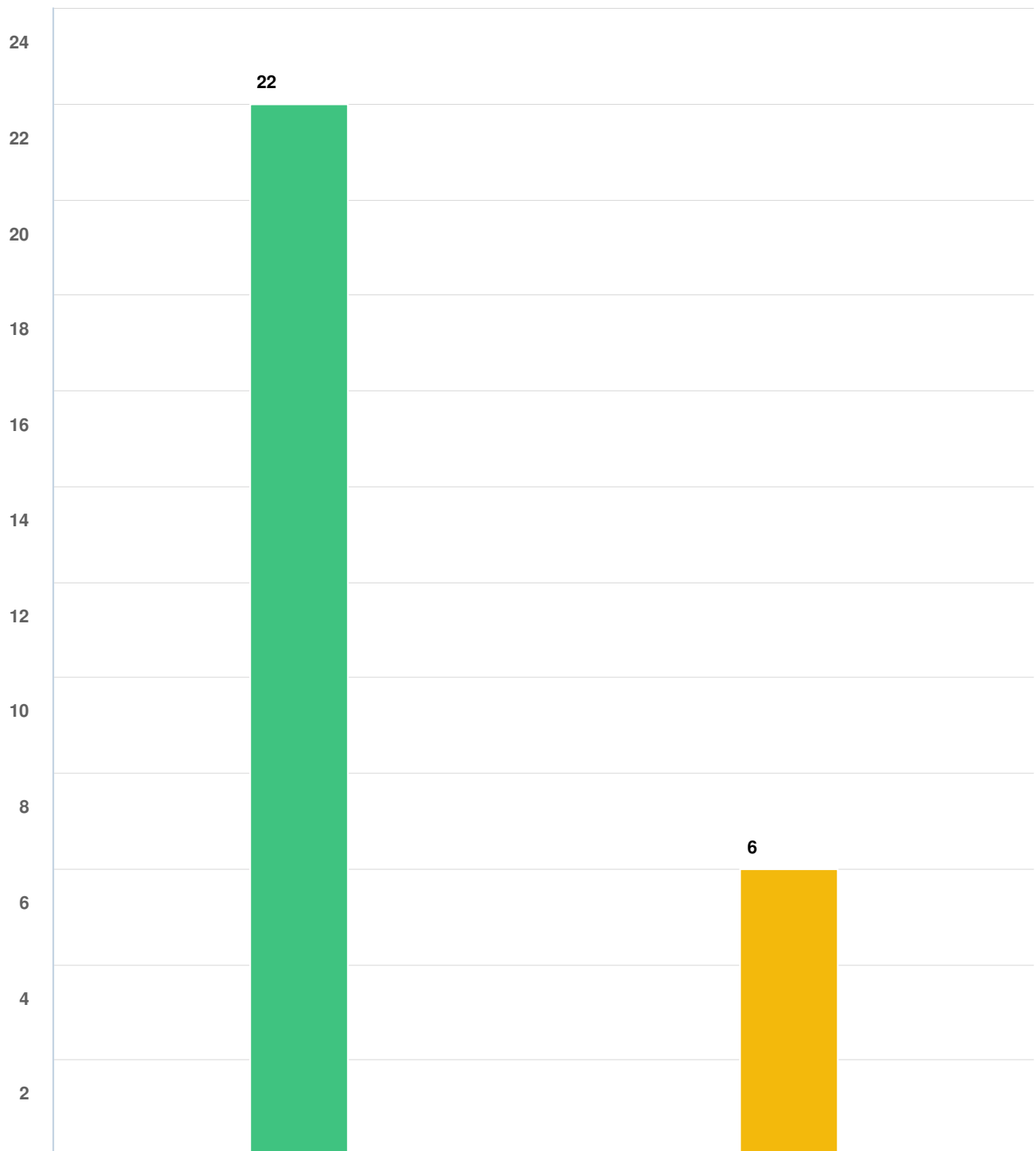


Question options

- Yes
- No

*Optional question (28 response(s), 1 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question*

Q5 Are you aware of the Weed Management Plan for Gamba Grass 2020 – 2030?

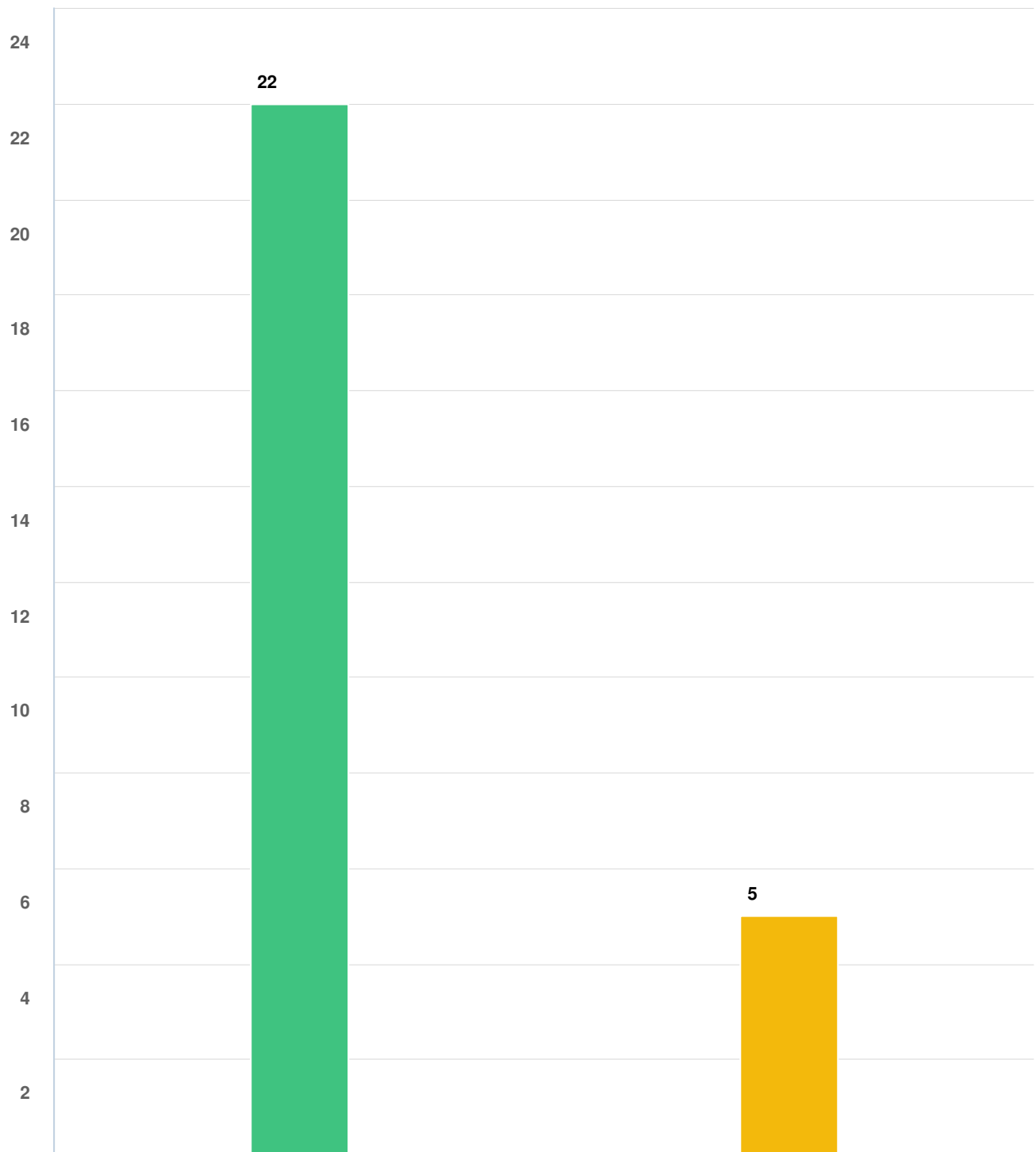


Question options

- Yes
- No

*Optional question (28 response(s), 1 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question*

Q6 Do you know what your legal requirements are to control gamba grass, in accordance with the Weed Management Plan for Gamba Grass 2020 - 2030?

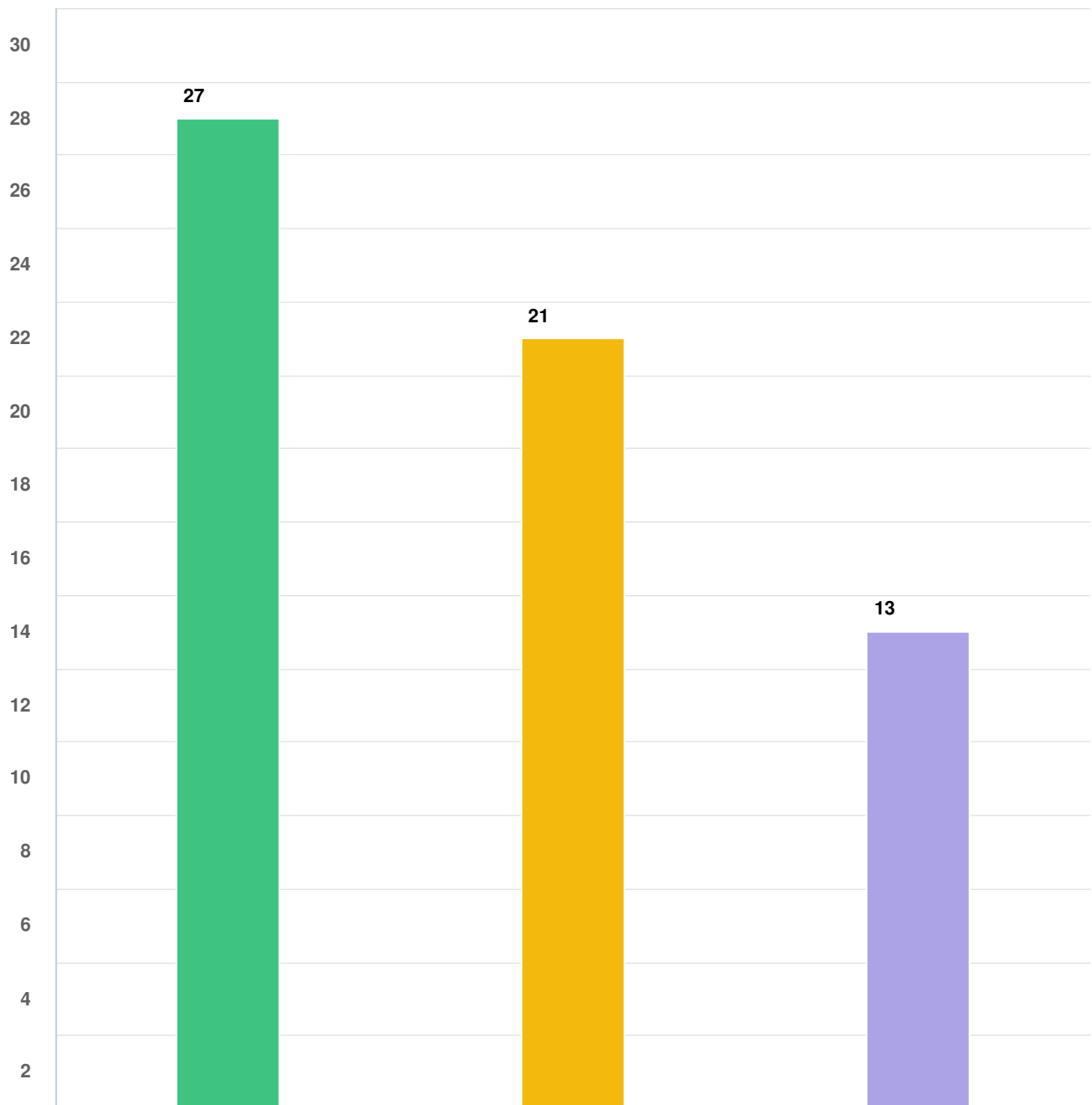


Question options

- Yes
- No

*Optional question (27 response(s), 2 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question*

Q7 Are you aware that:

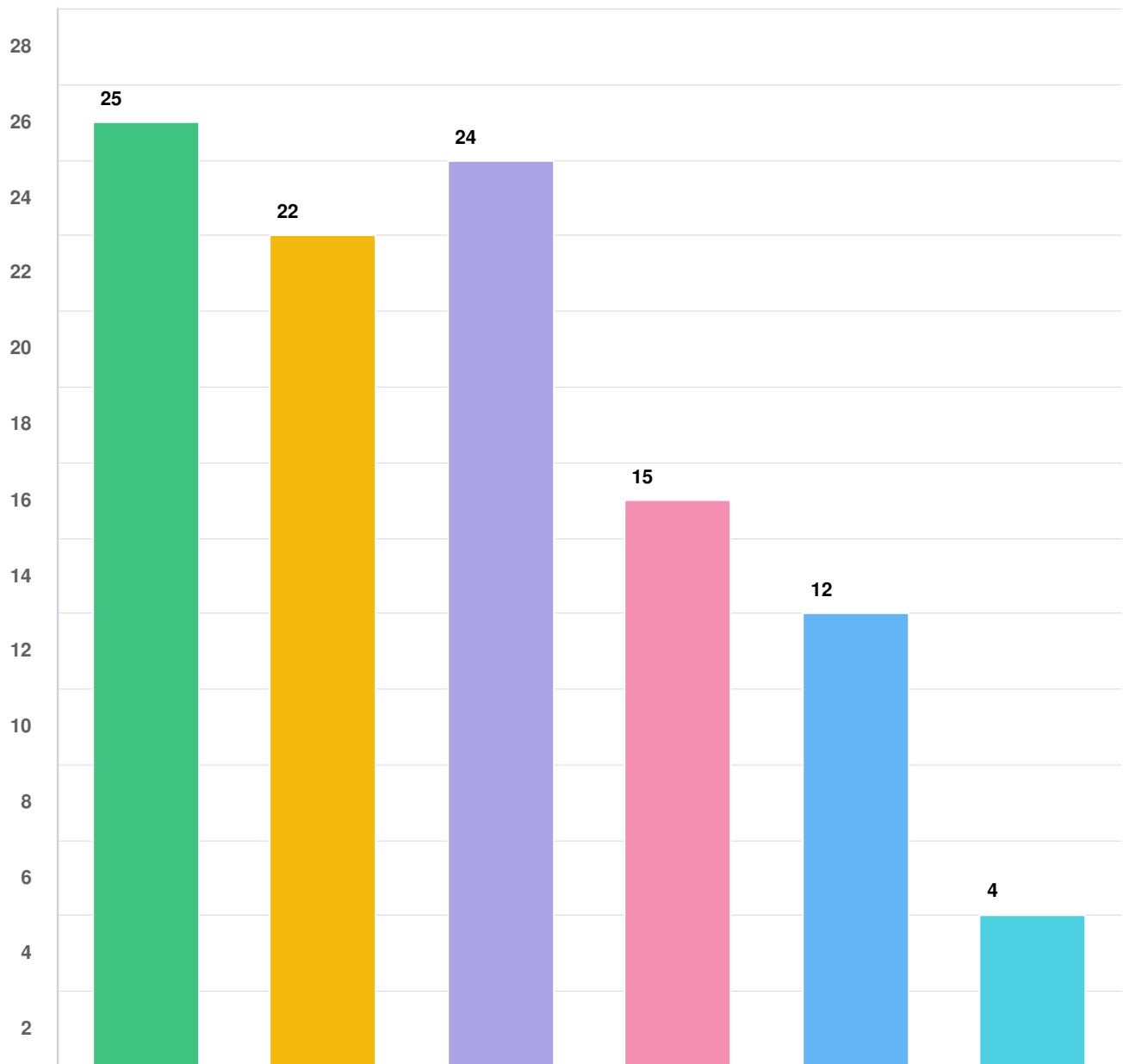


Question options

- Gamba grass is listed as a weed of national significance.
- Gamba grass is listed as a key threatening process under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, which means it has a nationally agreed threat abatement plan
- Targets for the reduction of gamba grass are included in the Australian Government, Threatened Species Strategy Action Plan 2021 – 2026

*Optional question (28 response(s), 1 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question*

Q8 Please tick the impact associated with gamba grass that concerns you the most:



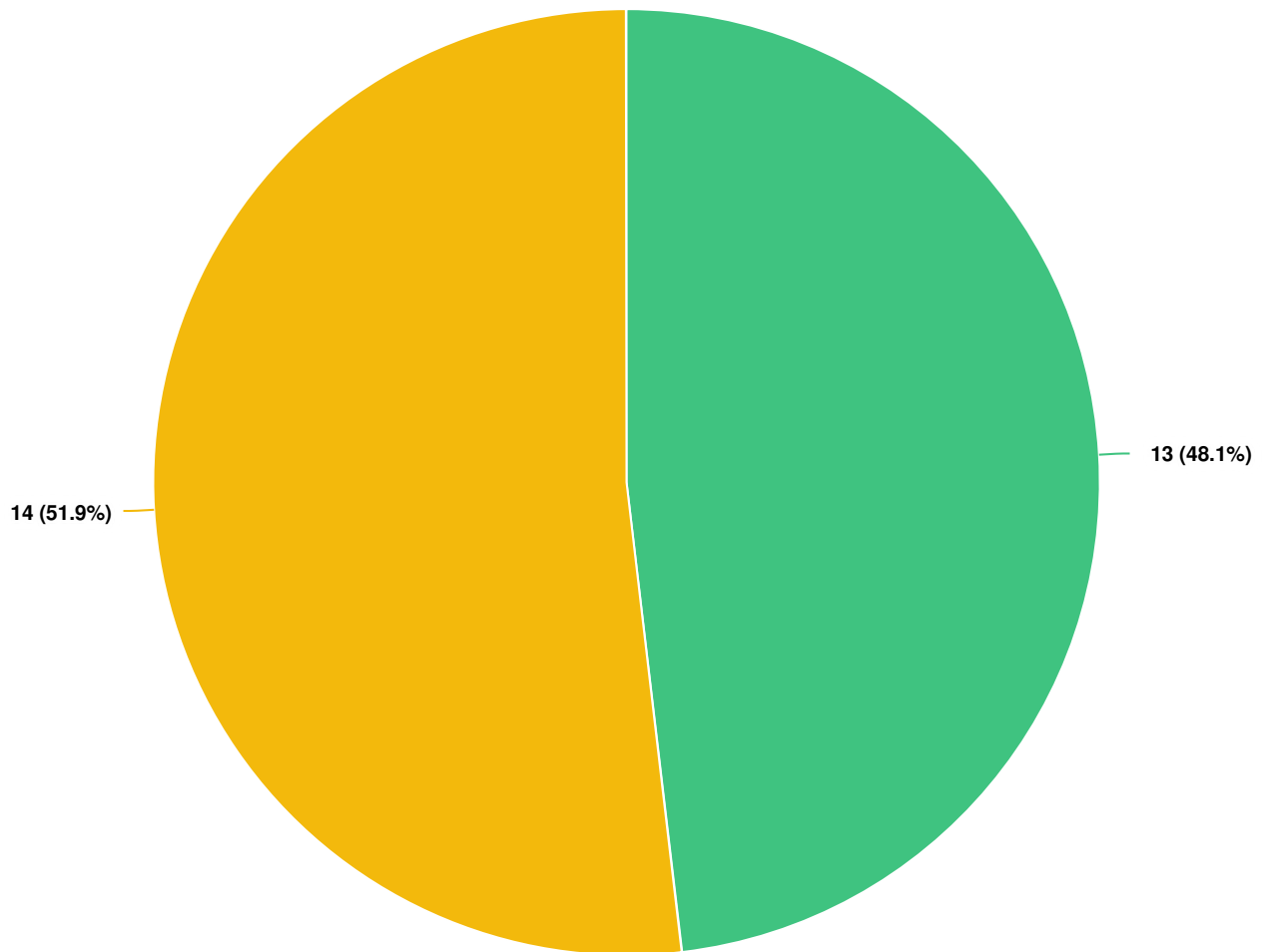
Question options

- Gamba is highly invasive and can outcompete native species.
- Gamba can reduce habitat quality for native animals.
- Gamba creates high fuel loads and has potential to modify fire behavior and fire regimes – threatening people, property and infrastructure.
- Gamba has potential to restrict physical movement of people, animals, vehicles, machinery.
- Gamba grass fires change the amount of greenhouse gasses emitted and the ability of the natural environment to absorb and store greenhouse gasses, both of which effect climate change.
- Other (please specify)

Optional question (29 response(s), 0 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Q9 Did you know if you are a landholder and your block is less than 3Ha (7.4 acres) you are required to destroy all gamba on your property, by July 2023?

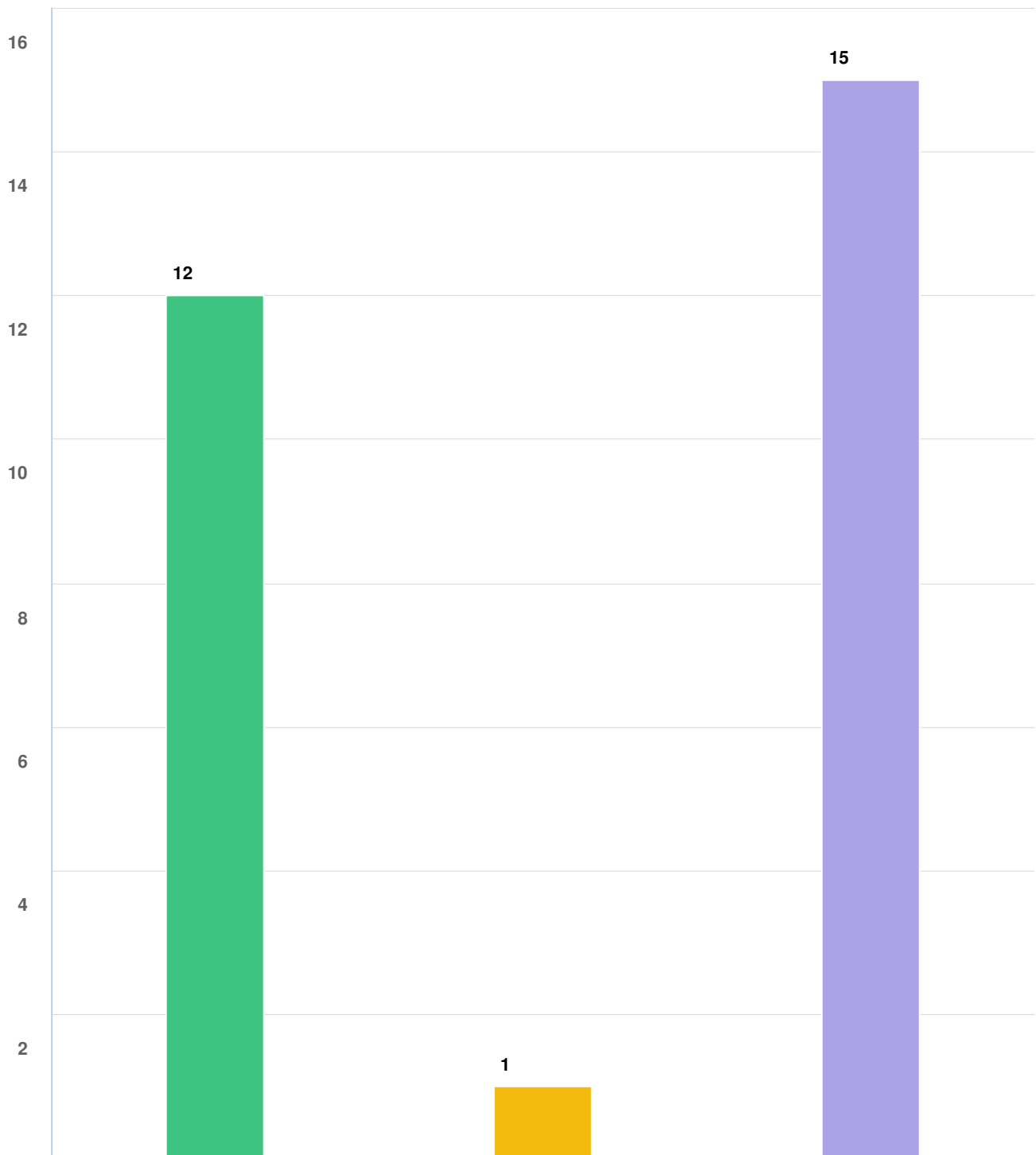


Question options

- Yes
- No

Optional question (27 response(s), 2 skipped)
Question type: Dropdown Question

Q10 If your block is less than 3Ha, are you working towards becoming gamba grass free by July 2023?



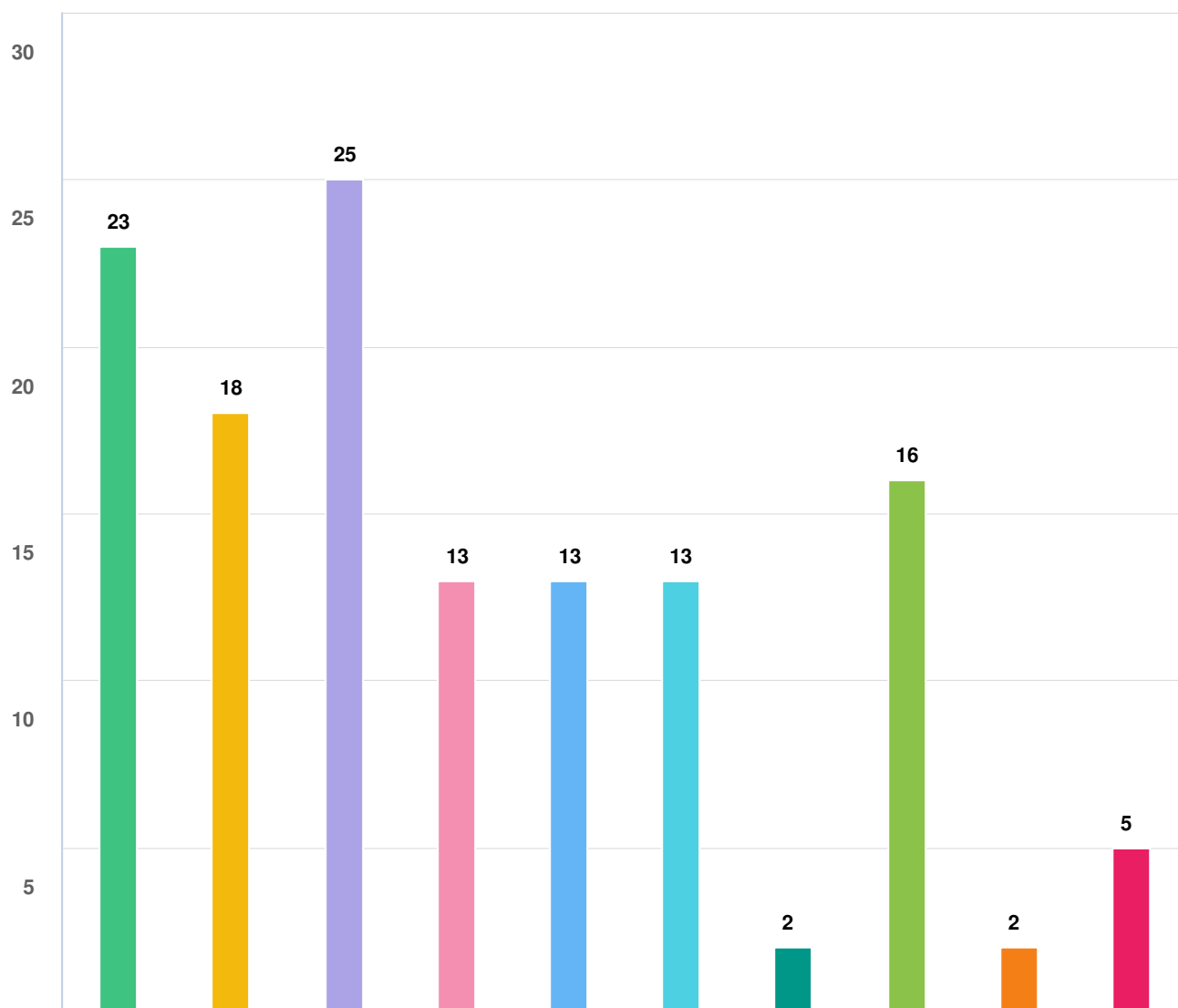
Question options

● Yes ● No ● NA

Optional question (28 response(s), 1 skipped)

Question type: Checkbox Question

Q11 Are you taking action to control gamba grass because:

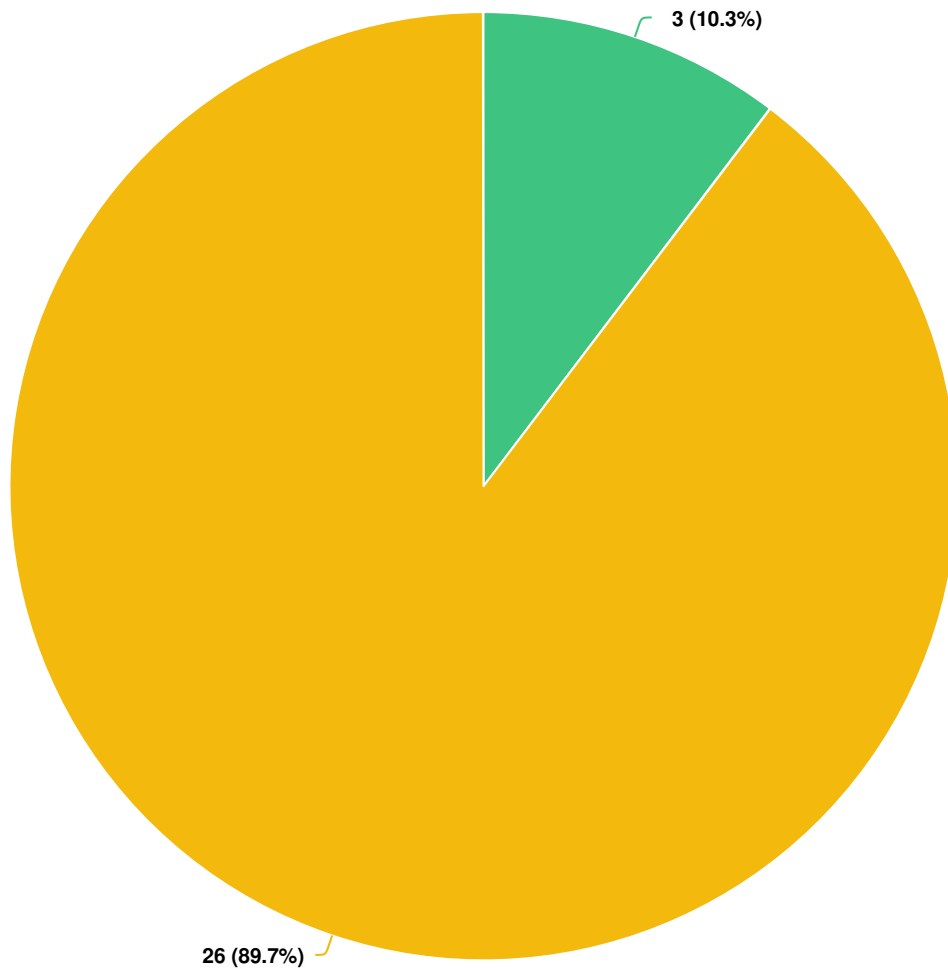


Question options

- Gamba is highly invasive and can outcompete native species.
- Gamba reduces habitat quality for native animals.
- Gamba create much higher fuel load than native grass fires and has the potential to modify fire behavior and fire regimes – threatening people, property and infrastructure.
- Gamba has the potential to restrict the physical movement of people, animals, vehicles, machinery.
- Gamba grass fires change the amount of greenhouse gasses emitted and the ability of the natural environment to absorb and store greenhouse gasses, both of which effect climate change.
- You understand your legal requirements and want to comply with the law.
- You are responding to an order from the Weed Management Branch and want to avoid being fined.
- You are responding to a lack of action by other land managers.
- I am not taking action to control gamba grass.
- Other (please specify)

Optional question (28 response(s), 1 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q12 Do you think enough is being done to tackle gamba grass across the Top End?



Question options

- Yes
- No

*Optional question (29 response(s), 0 skipped)
Question type: Dropdown Question*

Q13 | What improvements would you like to see in gamba grass management across the Northern Territory?

Anonymous

6/01/2022 07:18 AM

Expand current Gamba reduction programs now to assist with containment before the 2023 deadline.

Anonymous

6/01/2022 07:41 AM

More regulation and enforcement and research into other methods of control

Anonymous

6/01/2022 10:00 AM

that all responsible landholders, private, public or government are held to account for the maintenance of gamba grass.

Anonymous

6/01/2022 10:22 AM

Continued provision of the awareness of the dangers of Gamba Grass and the supply of chemicals to combat it.

Anonymous

6/01/2022 10:36 AM

More real enforcement action against irresponsible rural block holders. Teach Litchfield Shire officers and subcontractors how to do control correctly - they often spray at the wrong times, don't do adequate follow up of "treated areas" (so some plants always go to seed - a total waste of resources) and some can't identify gamba vs native grasses (spray annual sorghum or black speargrass and leave nearby young gamba plants unsprayed). More collaboration across tenures, to get areas properly clean rather than constant reinfestation from neighbours because control programs aren't coordinated (e.g. Girraween Road extension - roadside gets sprayed but PAWA don't do the borefields adjacent - waste of time and resources).

Anonymous

6/01/2022 10:42 AM

Government land nature reserve need to under same rules. Area behind Doxas rd needs attention!

Anonymous

6/01/2022 01:12 PM

Much more pressure on land owners to manage Gamba as well as mission grass on their property

Anonymous

6/01/2022 02:27 PM

1. Fund major research to identify & implement biological control(s) for gamba grass. 2. Enforce and strengthen existing control legislation.

Anonymous

6/01/2022 07:49 PM

More assistance for land holders

Anonymous

6/01/2022 09:08 PM

Boundary needs to be expanded to include Edith Farms and Katherine Region for total eradication before it gets out of control

Anonymous

6/01/2022 09:59 PM

More people physically eliminating it, through pulling, slashing, poisoning... whatever works. Not sitting in offices writing about it. Also need more publicity to ensure everyone can confidently identify it and know the best strategies for eradication. Road verge management to eliminate further spread. Feral pig eradication as they have contributed to local spread in our region.

Anonymous

6/02/2022 12:12 AM

Should be completely abolished and all persons be more responsible with gamba and weeds on properties, more action by councils to direct owners to comply strictly enforcing the rules including by themselves and all government bodies. Inspecting properties for infestations and recommending or assisting treatment before seeding each year. Spot poisoning the small area before they get out of control in native bush lands, reserves and parks. Continue the poison free because we never asked for this time consuming task of control or for the exposure to poisons continually but we have no choice unless you want to live with the introduced giraffe grass shit. Designated nature corridors be just that on private properties and inspected to comply and not let it be destroyed, should be made to revegetate if they have done so. Employ more to help, get the unemployed and communities involved in community service to help

Anonymous

6/02/2022 09:06 AM

- Stop gamba spread on government land - Landholder assistance to kill gamba on adjoining government land - Change plan so gamba has to be managed on large blocks - Enforce compliance with stat plan, community doesn't know if you really need to actually do anything

Anonymous

6/02/2022 01:52 PM

its out of control in Litchfield NP

Anonymous

6/02/2022 08:22 PM

We are paying over 300 dollars a tub to rid our gamba grass which we inherited when we bought our block!! No help to get rid of it from anybody but us!! Slowly seeing progress which we did not create!!

Anonymous

6/02/2022 09:32 PM

Other landholders (especially my neighbours) taking it a lot more seriously. Litchfield Council taking a lot more action to control Gamba on areas under their control. Encouragement of Alternative means of

control other than spraying herbicide (eg ploughing)

Anonymous

6/06/2022 03:58 PM

Push people to do the right thing.....name & shame might work, action the plan (ref: to the Arnham H/way property)

Anonymous

6/06/2022 09:01 PM

Slashing it under powerlines and on road verges and on government land (not burning or poisoning it) would give people more incentive to get rid of it on their own rural blocks.

Anonymous

6/07/2022 05:12 PM

When I went to get the free poison to treat the gamba grass was advised that as I live within the town of Palmerston I was not eligible. Believe that the NTG needs to assist landowners that are not able to deal with Gamba regardless of where they reside.

Anonymous

6/07/2022 06:48 PM

More resources provided.

Anonymous

6/09/2022 01:22 PM

That the government takes things seriously and employs more field officers to get rid of Gamba and other noxious weeds on government properties. That more public sector weeds officers are employed to check infestations and carry out compliance and weed control - whoever owns the land. Less fire and poison control and more slashing and grubbing before flowering occurs. More action needed and fewer unacted plans and words. Too much public money is being spent on contractors who don't do the job.

Anonymous

6/17/2022 07:56 PM

More infringements for people that blatantly don't manage their gamba

Anonymous

6/24/2022 09:52 AM

Get the gamba army off its backside and actually do some control

Anonymous

6/25/2022 09:08 AM

Recognise cattle as an essential management tool

Anonymous

6/26/2022 12:34 PM

More resources (money). Better integration, co-ordination of and communication between NT Government Departments which seem to have contradictory motivations and operate in 'silos'. We need to take the 'long' view - not just the easiest, cheapest, quickest, short-term response.

Anonymous

6/27/2022 10:12 AM

Verge maintenance contracts having a clause about gamba control eg clean cutters or spray before cutting Bushfires NT having responsibility to notify landowners of gamba on blocks when they are doing annual firebreak inspection NT aim should be eradication not control Education material showing various stages of growth so people can recognise when small and has not seeded

Anonymous

6/27/2022 03:41 PM

Ongoing government funding for control programs and improved enforcement of regulations

Optional question (27 response(s), 2 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q14 | Do you have access to the information you need to be able to identify/plan/ take action to manage gamba grass?

Anonymous

6/01/2022 07:18 AM

yes

Anonymous

6/01/2022 07:41 AM

yes

Anonymous

6/01/2022 10:00 AM

yes

Anonymous

6/01/2022 10:22 AM

Yes

Anonymous

6/01/2022 10:36 AM

Yes. But I was on the committee that wrote the plan. Most of the public would have no idea about legal requirements or appropriate control methods. Government needs to be louder and more consistent with public education

Anonymous

6/01/2022 10:42 AM

Yes

Anonymous

6/01/2022 01:12 PM

Yes

Anonymous 6/01/2022 02:27 PM	Yes
Anonymous 6/01/2022 07:49 PM	Yes
Anonymous 6/01/2022 09:08 PM	Yes.
Anonymous 6/01/2022 09:59 PM	Yes. But I am regularly surprised that many people can not identify it.
Anonymous 6/02/2022 12:12 AM	Yes
Anonymous 6/02/2022 09:06 AM	Yes
Anonymous 6/02/2022 01:52 PM	yes
Anonymous 6/02/2022 09:32 PM	I can manage Gamba grass on my own property - but I cannot manage it on my neighbours properties and that is my biggest concern
Anonymous 6/06/2022 03:58 PM	Yes
Anonymous 6/06/2022 09:01 PM	yes
Anonymous 6/07/2022 05:12 PM	No
Anonymous 6/07/2022 06:48 PM	Yes
Anonymous 6/09/2022 01:22 PM	It's not more information I need but equipment (not necessarily herbicide) and government-employed field officers out-and-about to help pensioners etc unable to carry out legal requirements by themselves.

Anonymous
6/17/2022 07:56 PM
Yes great govt and community support in the NT

Anonymous
6/24/2022 09:52 AM
yes

Anonymous
6/25/2022 09:08 AM
yes

Anonymous
6/26/2022 12:34 PM
Done already.

Anonymous
6/27/2022 10:12 AM
Yes but sought it out.

Anonymous
6/27/2022 03:41 PM
Yes

Optional question (26 response(s), 3 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q15 | Where do you find your information on gamba grass?

Anonymous
6/01/2022 07:18 AM
Google.

Anonymous
6/01/2022 07:41 AM
online

Anonymous
6/01/2022 10:00 AM
prior knowledge and weeds website

Anonymous
6/01/2022 10:22 AM
Nt weeds management branch. Gamba Grass Roots program.

Anonymous
6/01/2022 10:36 AM
Internet, colleagues involved in control

Anonymous
6/01/2022 10:42 AM
Gamba grass website

Anonymous 6/01/2022 01:12 PM	Collugue's and weeds branch
Anonymous 6/01/2022 02:27 PM	On-line, field days.
Anonymous 6/01/2022 07:49 PM	Website
Anonymous 6/01/2022 09:08 PM	DPI website, facebook, phone and/or visit rangers
Anonymous 6/01/2022 09:59 PM	Weeds Branch Gamba grass roots
Anonymous 6/02/2022 12:12 AM	Gov info, therese balinternet, newsletters, brochures, local knowledge
Anonymous 6/02/2022 09:06 AM	Everywhere
Anonymous 6/02/2022 01:52 PM	internet , Gamba action team at fred's pass
Anonymous 6/06/2022 03:58 PM	Mainly friends, NT naturalist group
Anonymous 6/06/2022 09:01 PM	Weeds branch and Gamba Grass Roots.
Anonymous 6/07/2022 05:12 PM	I was
Anonymous 6/07/2022 06:48 PM	Google
Anonymous 6/09/2022 01:22 PM	Weeds Management people and Gamba Grass Roots and committed members of the public.

Anonymous
6/17/2022 07:56 PM
Weeds Branch, NRM, Land for Wildlife, parks and wildlife, top end native plant society

Anonymous
6/24/2022 09:52 AM
literature

Anonymous
6/25/2022 09:08 AM
everywhere

Anonymous
6/26/2022 12:34 PM
Internet, NT Weeds Branch. Environment Centre NT and Gamba Grass Roots.

Anonymous
6/27/2022 10:12 AM
NTG web site and local brochures at council

Anonymous
6/27/2022 03:41 PM
NT government website

Optional question (25 response(s), 4 skipped)
Question type: Essay Question

Q16 What further information would you like about gamba grass?

Anonymous
6/01/2022 07:18 AM
Potential for life threatening situations explained and maybe shock footage for better education.

Anonymous
6/01/2022 07:41 AM
other methods of control

Anonymous
6/01/2022 10:36 AM
None personally but I would like you to be more vocal about teaching the public about the issue. Start running gamba identification and "how to control" days early in the growing season.

Anonymous
6/01/2022 10:42 AM
What are the government doing with gamba on their land?

Anonymous
6/01/2022 01:12 PM
How to dob in neighbors/owners who are doing nothing to manage their gamba

Anonymous 6/01/2022 02:27 PM	Effective residual herbicides for suppression of gamba seed germination.
Anonymous 6/01/2022 07:49 PM	-
Anonymous 6/01/2022 09:59 PM	Continued updates regarding best control methods as research continues.
Anonymous 6/02/2022 12:12 AM	TV and local advertising time to poison etc, local signage throughout rural areas, gamba kills and soon will kill locals too if not under control. We have watched it explode over the years
Anonymous 6/02/2022 09:06 AM	Proper research on how to manage it ie: by someone who knows more than the landholders
Anonymous 6/06/2022 09:01 PM	When is the government going to get serious? Maybe a levy on the live cattle industry would help raise revenue. Is the government ensuring that hay bales are weed-free?
Anonymous 6/07/2022 05:12 PM	Yes and treatment options within town of Palmerston
Anonymous 6/07/2022 06:48 PM	Better identification guides.
Anonymous 6/09/2022 01:22 PM	Nothing, thanks, but more education in schools and community groups on what Gamba does.
Anonymous 6/17/2022 07:56 PM	Nil - information available is good
Anonymous 6/24/2022 09:52 AM	none
Anonymous 6/25/2022 09:08 AM	Results of cattle management
Anonymous	News that it has been eradicated :)

6/26/2022 12:34 PM

Anonymous

6/27/2022 10:12 AM

See above photos of the grass at various stages of growth so can be identified early and sprayed

Anonymous

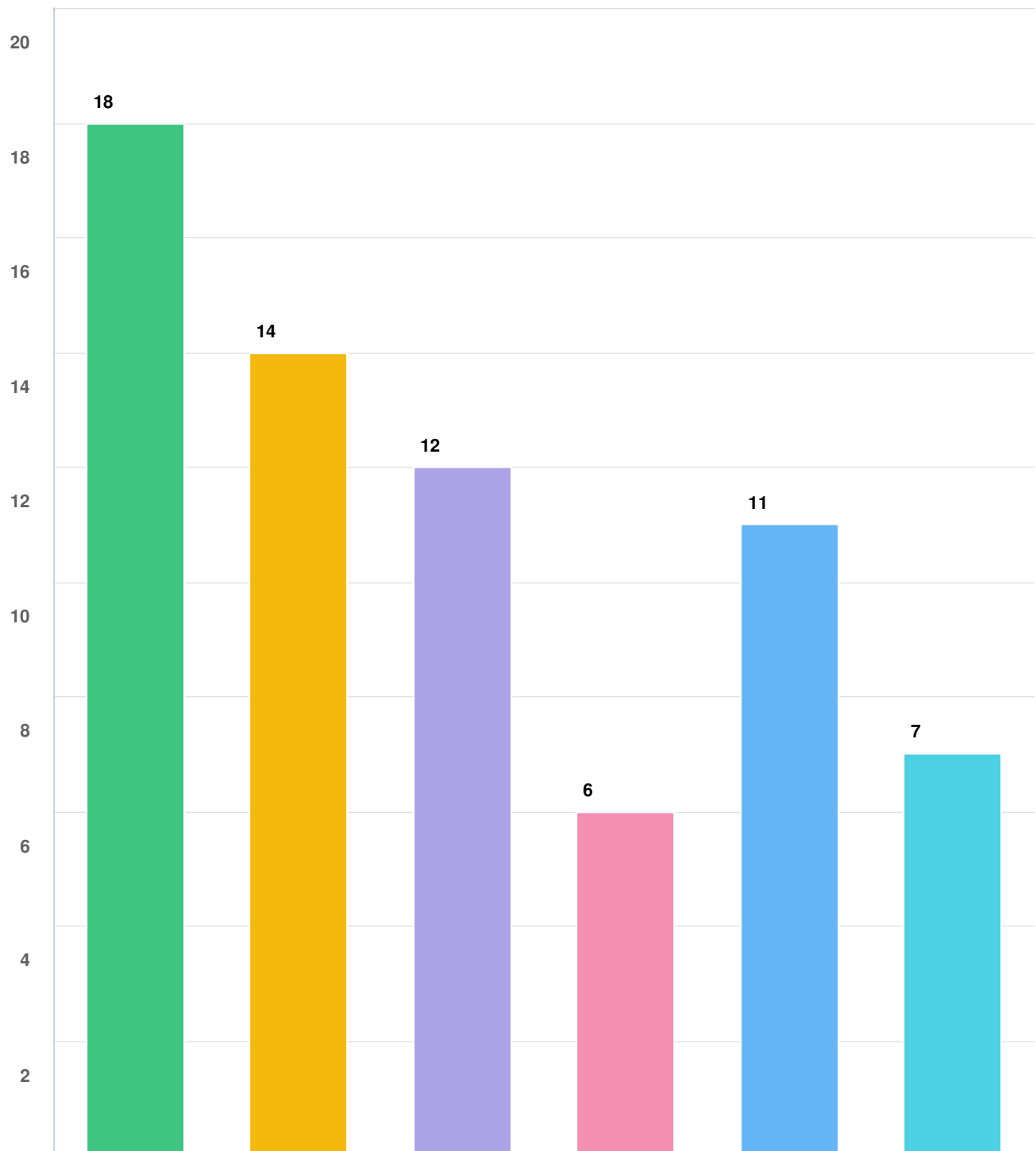
6/27/2022 03:41 PM

None

Optional question (20 response(s), 9 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q17 How do you like to receive information on gamba grass?



Question options

- Website
- Facebook
- Newsletters
- Radio
- Community forum / training day
- Other (please specify)

Optional question (25 response(s), 4 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q18 | Please list other environmental and cultural assets in the Northern Territory that you believe to be at threat from gamba.

Anonymous 6/01/2022 07:18 AM	as above.
Anonymous 6/01/2022 07:41 AM	Aboriginal lands that aren't getting managed
Anonymous 6/01/2022 10:00 AM	Coomalie rural area
Anonymous 6/01/2022 10:42 AM	Native wildlife
Anonymous 6/01/2022 01:12 PM	The Blackmore River will be over run in the future as it is not very developed thus being neglected
Anonymous 6/01/2022 02:27 PM	Riparian areas
Anonymous 6/01/2022 07:41 PM	Native flora
Anonymous 6/01/2022 07:49 PM	-
Anonymous 6/01/2022 09:08 PM	New residents to the rural areas that are unaware of Gamba Grass and its devastating impacts
Anonymous 6/01/2022 09:59 PM	Manton dam catchment
Anonymous 6/02/2022 12:12 AM	All nt and beyond with the spread of baled gamba and other weeds sent all around for feed and mulch
Anonymous 6/02/2022 09:06 AM	Everything north of Katherine excluding Darwin

Anonymous

6/02/2022 01:52 PM

our national parks

Anonymous

6/02/2022 09:32 PM

Howard River sand sheets - internationally renowned for extremely high diversity in Utricularias and other sand sheet flora. Also habitat for Howard River toadlet. This habitat is being invaded by Gamba. Gamba poses a much bigger risk to this habitat than sand mining.

Anonymous

6/06/2022 09:01 PM

Virtually everything. It's no good poisoning it along roadways but leaving huge areas further in from them. Even dead poisoned grass is a serious fire hazard. Pastoralists should be fined for letting pasture grasses off their properties. I have a neighbour who is growing pasture on his firebreak as well as a paddock of mixed weed grass that threatens all properties in the neighbourhood.

Anonymous

6/07/2022 05:12 PM

Get the crown land treated as well as verges.

Anonymous

6/09/2022 01:22 PM

Like cane toads (that you've done nothing about) Gamba threatens environmental integrity wherever it spreads. Gamba's emissions cause huge air-quality problems. The Territory is worth saving.

Anonymous

6/17/2022 07:56 PM

National parks

Anonymous

6/23/2022 12:24 PM

Arnhem Land, Cox Peninsula

Anonymous

6/24/2022 09:52 AM

none

Anonymous

6/25/2022 09:08 AM

Aboriginal land

Anonymous

6/26/2022 12:34 PM

Coomalie - especially in / around Batchelor.

Anonymous

6/27/2022 10:12 AM

Bird and mammal populations are at threat due to habitat destruction web controlled burns are being used to supposedly reduce fuel load.

Anonymous

Rapid Creek catchment and Casuarina Coastal Reserve

6/27/2022 03:41 PM

Optional question (24 response(s), 5 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q19 | Do you think enough is being done to protect the assets listed above and if not, what more could be done?

Anonymous

6/01/2022 07:18 AM

Land holders are in a constant battle financially trying to get best bang for buck. The chemical to spray and the recourses to implement.

Anonymous

6/01/2022 07:41 AM

no - more coordinated efforts between government departments and land holders with less restrictions over land tenure (working together more)

Anonymous

6/01/2022 10:36 AM

No. See comments above for increasing public help and action

Anonymous

6/01/2022 10:42 AM

Government land nature reserve need to under same rules. Area behind Doxas rd needs attention!

Anonymous

6/01/2022 01:12 PM

No. Many owners are doing nothing and need serious prodding to get them moving.

Anonymous

6/01/2022 02:27 PM

Massively increase all control measures, monitoring and enforcement.

Anonymous

6/01/2022 07:41 PM

Spray to assist in protecting other flora, and only kill gamba

Anonymous

6/01/2022 07:49 PM

More this than landholders

Anonymous

6/01/2022 09:08 PM

As stated previously, eradication zone needs to be expanded. NT Rural College impacts rural Edith Farm area & roadsides

Anonymous

More poisoning, backpacks, quad bikes etc to access all areas.

6/01/2022 09:59 PM

Slashing prior to seeding. Burning before gamba seeding and after native grasses have dropped their seeds. Feral animal control, especially pigs. Pigs are likely spreading seeds as new garbage has been found where the pigs are wallowing and sleeping.

Anonymous

6/02/2022 12:12 AM

Destroy completely and no longer allow for cattle feed. Enforce the rules to land owner and councils and govt to be better at managing. Earthmoving equip, slashing contractors all need to better managing cleaning equipment and stop spreading it. Landowners should report contractors responsible for property infestations and be held accountable.

Anonymous

6/02/2022 09:06 AM

Gamba is spreading freely everywhere except right near Darwin. What is being done it isn't working. Either do a proper job or give up so we can pack up and go somewhere else.

Anonymous

6/02/2022 01:52 PM

I'm unaware of any action being done in the parks

Anonymous

6/02/2022 08:22 PM

No!!! Government should be investing in more people to help come and spray !!!

Anonymous

6/02/2022 09:32 PM

No. It seems very little is being done to protect the Howard River sand sheets from Gamba. It seems very little is being done at all to protect the Darwin/Litchfield shire flora and fauna from the invasion of Gamba. Most people don't seem to see or care what is happening. Many people have little appreciation or knowledge of the diversity of our local flora in particular so maybe they do not appreciate the extent of the threat.

Anonymous

6/06/2022 03:58 PM

Not really, there is still copious amount of gamba seen growing on properties

Anonymous

6/06/2022 09:01 PM

Employ more Parks and Wildlife weeds officers not private contractors. Contractors are being paid to do nothing but spread poison around.. Pay people to slash and brushcut before seeding occurs. More compliance officers are needed especially to make sure that those paid to get rid of gamba actually do it.

Anonymous

6/07/2022 05:12 PM

No

Anonymous

6/09/2022 01:22 PM

Pastoralists and mining companies should be levied to help achieve this. More government sector field and compliance officers should be employed. Bigger fines and even environmental negligence included as a criminal offence. Keep fires out by slashing and grubbing weeds out and helping bushlands to regenerate and become healthy again.

Anonymous

6/17/2022 07:56 PM

There are not enough resources for parks. Aboriginal and crown land also an issue

Anonymous

6/23/2022 12:24 PM

Not enough is being done to protect NT Parks & more resources needed. Gamba on KNP southern boundary needs to be contained and reduced.

Anonymous

6/24/2022 09:52 AM

get gamba army off its backside

Anonymous

6/25/2022 09:08 AM

Recognise cattle as teh only way to control large infestations like Litchfield

Anonymous

6/26/2022 12:34 PM

See my response to Q13.

Anonymous

6/27/2022 10:12 AM

How long is a piece of string and the money available

Anonymous

6/27/2022 03:41 PM

Good efforts but require more thorough complete eradication

Optional question (26 response(s), 3 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q20 | What actions have you been involved with related to gamba grass?

Anonymous

6/01/2022 07:18 AM

P&W, Bushfires NT, concerned Land owner and member of Bushfire Brigade.

Anonymous

6/01/2022 07:41 AM

implementing weed control programs

Anonymous

6/01/2022 10:00 AM

control and eradication of gamba grass, education.

Anonymous

6/01/2022 10:22 AM

Spraying. Spreading of Gamba Grass responsibilities by land holders.
Distributing Gamba Grass poisons from the fire shed

Anonymous

6/01/2022 10:36 AM

Gamba Grass Advisory Committee, eradication from own my rural block, education of neighbours/friends

Anonymous

6/01/2022 10:42 AM

Undertake controls on my rural block

Anonymous

6/01/2022 01:12 PM

Managing Gamba on my Blackmore River block and into the neighbors, because it is being threatened from neighbors who are not doing anything about the Gamba on their blocks.

Anonymous

6/01/2022 02:27 PM

Attempting to manage and control gamba on 68Ha at Darwin River for past 14 years.

Anonymous

6/01/2022 07:49 PM

None as health and work prevent it

Anonymous

6/01/2022 09:08 PM

I have eradicated two separate outbreaks on my property

Anonymous

6/01/2022 09:59 PM

Own and neighbouring properties and some fire breaks on crown land and power and water land. Mostly sprawling, also hand pulling. Letters including photos to absentee landholders, signs and letters to landholders offering assistance with gambling, local mber newsletters, letters to Ministers.

Anonymous

6/02/2022 12:12 AM

I walk all over our 20 acre native bush block spot poisoning by hand continually because of the neighbours and neighbourhood not managing their responsibilities and getting away with it, some simply don't give a shit, many genuinely don't have time or money to pay someone for this introduced disaster. Being a volunteer committee member at Livingstone Rec Reserve we have engaged with council to have the gamba army help battle the problem there. I help educate people who care to listen and are interested before it's too late. The control should of been action 20, 30 plus years ago particularly

Batchelor area and when the railway began construction in 2001 it exploded too.

Anonymous

6/02/2022 09:06 AM

Controlling gamba on own property and nearby government, council, private land

Anonymous

6/02/2022 01:52 PM

the free poison has been a huge help for me on my property

Anonymous

6/02/2022 08:22 PM

We do it ourselves plus work full time!!!

Anonymous

6/02/2022 09:32 PM

Trying to stop gamba establishing on our 20 acre property despite neighbours allowing it to proliferate.

Anonymous

6/06/2022 03:58 PM

Total control on my own property

Anonymous

6/06/2022 09:01 PM

Difficult enough for oldies like me to keep it off my block but I've helped others to grub it, slash it or cut it. I cut the seed heads off and compost them when I can't get rid of clumps. I'm involved with Gamba Grass Roots and am almost a serial complainant to Weeds Branch.

Anonymous

6/07/2022 05:12 PM

None

Anonymous

6/09/2022 01:22 PM

Kept own 20 acre block practically weed-free for nearly 30 years and even tackled neighbouring blocks until the owners fenced them off. Photographed weeds and contacted Weeds and Gamba Grass Roots people about huge infestations. Slashed and knocked down weeds for less-abled people and informed the media when government bodies have neglected to carry out weed control on their land.

Anonymous

6/23/2022 12:24 PM

Grubbing gamba in CCR

Anonymous

6/24/2022 09:52 AM

killing it

Anonymous

Everything

6/25/2022 09:08 AM

Anonymous

6/26/2022 12:34 PM

Successfully eradicated Gamba Grass from my land. Secretary : Litchfield Regional Tourism Inc. - raising the impacts of Gamba to the broader tourism sector as any threat to LNP will negatively impact most tourism enterprises in the Top End, NT due to visitor demand visiting LNP> Numerous media interviews on impacts of Gamba on LNP and tourism enterprises. Letters to Federal and NTG Politicians (past, candidates and current) advising them of the scope, risk and impacts of Gamba Grass.

Anonymous

6/27/2022 10:12 AM

Spraying and identifying the grass on private land and advising council and weed mgmt branch

Anonymous

6/27/2022 03:41 PM

Eradication from a specific small bushland site

Optional question (26 response(s), 3 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q21 | Do you believe there has been a change in attitude towards gamba grass over the last 2 years and if so please list the change(s)?

Anonymous

6/01/2022 07:18 AM

Very limited, very disappointing the Gamba chemical program ran out of chemical this year.

Anonymous

6/01/2022 07:41 AM

yes there seems to be more effort going into gamba control. The gamba army is filling in the gaps and enabling cross tenure spraying which results in better control of gamba

Anonymous

6/01/2022 10:00 AM

no, not in the Coomalie region. people seem to be overwhelmed by the challenges down here with gamba grass. especially with the rising cost of glyphosate.

Anonymous

6/01/2022 10:22 AM

Absolutely. Local landholders have been far more vigilant in controlling the weed. They have doubled in accessing the poisons program since the commencement of it.

Anonymous

6/01/2022 10:36 AM

In some areas yes - there's been more interest/uptake in the gamba assistance scheme. In some areas no - an attitude that horse has

bolted and people can't see the point of trying to manage it.

Anonymous

6/01/2022 10:42 AM

No it's to late. Government land nature reserve need to under same rules. Area behind Doxas rd needs attention!

Anonymous

6/01/2022 01:12 PM

Nothing noticable.

Anonymous

6/01/2022 02:27 PM

Not much generally, some people are more aware however, very few are actively taking action. My impression is many believe control of gamba ia too hard, or the government's responsibility. Bushfire volunteers and staff and ARE very aware of gamba, its associated risks and are trying to get the message out to landowners. I have repeatedly heard rural fire brigade members state brigades are in danger of losing/have lost volunteers because of the very real risks posed by gamba to fire fighters.

Anonymous

6/01/2022 07:49 PM

Not sure

Anonymous

6/01/2022 09:08 PM

More awareness thanks to the Gamba Army & Weeds branch

Anonymous

6/01/2022 09:59 PM

Very little.

Anonymous

6/02/2022 12:12 AM

Yes it has and even sooner than the last 2 years we've been talking about it for over 20 years but I think darwin city residents are now the ones that are becoming more aware as it is encroaching their residential zones.

Anonymous

6/02/2022 09:06 AM

No change. Community wants it gone, government still not serious.

Anonymous

6/02/2022 01:52 PM

I don't think so

Anonymous

6/02/2022 09:32 PM

I really do not see a great deal of change in attitude towards gamba or mission grass in the past 2 years. There is a LOT of apathy.

Anonymous

6/06/2022 03:58 PM

No

Anonymous

6/06/2022 09:01 PM

More members of the public are aware of and try to do what they can but government instrumentalities responsible for land are slack and letting us down. public servants do what they can, too, but we need more committed to the environment.

Anonymous

6/07/2022 05:12 PM

No

Anonymous

6/09/2022 01:22 PM

Apart from the fact that it's spread even more, members of the public try to do what they can but all governments do is put more tenders out for private contractors to spray poison. This has been largely ineffective. Covid has inspired some people to clean up their own backyards but I'm not inspired by the lack of action by our elected politicians who don't like getting their hands dirty. It doesn't help that more new introduced pasture grasses are planted by money-grubbing pastoralists for the export cattle industry without prior research on implications for our precious natural environment in the future.

Anonymous

6/24/2022 09:52 AM

no

Anonymous

6/25/2022 09:08 AM

more awareness still lack of coordination. Better burning crown lands and roadsides this year before or during Gamba seeding rather than after as before.

Anonymous

6/26/2022 12:34 PM

Pleasingly - yes. People are genuinely concerned, politicians are listening, research is proving the impacts across environmental, bio-diversity, social, cultural and economic measures and proving that concise, collaborative, consistent action is required to eradicate Gamba. Lest, we do too little and risk people dying in Gamba Fires, environments being so changed by the hot and high fires that birds and animals have no places to live, feed and breed and infrastructure being destroyed. All at great expense... and the environment is IRREPLACEABLE.

Anonymous

6/27/2022 10:12 AM

Yeas has a higher profile through gamba army initiative

Anonymous

Growing awareness and knowledge in the general community re the

6/27/2022 03:41 PM

environmental impact of gamba

Optional question (24 response(s), 5 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

From: [name withheld for annual report](#)
To: [Minister Moss](#); [Weedinfo DEPWS](#)
Subject: My feedback as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey
Date: Wednesday, 22 June 2022 10:57:37 AM

I write to provide my feedback on the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan 2020 – 2030, as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey.

I welcome the investment that your government have made in the Gamba Army over successive years – this program has had a big impact on tackling gamba on public lands. However, to ensure the program achieves its aims, it requires a stable, ongoing commitment of funding for the future. It is welcoming to know that the Federal Government have committed an additional \$7.6 million towards this program. I look forward to the NT Government using this co-investment to grow the Gamba Army over the coming years, and encourage you to announce these plans ahead of the 2022-23 spraying season.

I am concerned that the amount of herbicide available through the Gamba Action Program has not been enough to meet community demand. The yearly funding has not increased despite rising herbicide costs, resulting in less herbicide being available to those who need it. This is a very useful program which has helped many land occupiers treat their gamba - many of whom may not have been able to afford the purchase of herbicide otherwise. The Gamba Action Program funding should be increased to provide enough herbicide to match the need in the community.

The NT Government should work to ensure that adequate information and knowledge on gamba grass management is being distributed to the public effectively. Whilst the Weed Management Branch produces excellent documents about gamba identification, control methods and legislative requirements, the existence of these documents is not well known in the broader community, thus limiting people's access. These educational materials could be made more accessible to the general public by having them available at council offices, real estate offices, libraries, post offices and schools.

Some landholders are also not aware of their responsibilities when it comes to gamba control, such as the requirement for a 15m gamba grass free buffer around all boundaries, infrastructure, roads and tracks, or the requirement for all properties under 3 hectares to have all gamba plants destroyed by July 2023. These must be widely advertised through government and community communications if they are to be achieved.

I would also encourage government agencies to work with the Gamba Army to develop gamba free buffers along public roads and railway lines, to stop greater spread of gamba.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback.

Yours,

name withheld for annual report
Parap 0820

From: [name withheld for annual report](#)
To: [Minister Moss](#); [Weedinfo DEPWS](#)
Subject: My feedback as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey
Date: Wednesday, 22 June 2022 12:47:37 PM

I write to provide my feedback on the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan 2020 – 2030, as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey.

I welcome the investment that your government have made in the Gamba Army over successive years – this program has had a big impact on tackling gamba on public lands. However, to ensure the program achieves its aims, it requires a stable, ongoing commitment of funding for the future. It is welcoming to know that the Federal Government have committed an additional \$7.6 million towards this program. I look forward to the NT Government using this co-investment to grow the Gamba Army over the coming years, and encourage you to announce these plans ahead of the 2022-23 spraying season.

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The NT Government should work to ensure that adequate information and knowledge on gamba grass management is being distributed to the public effectively. Whilst the Weed Management Branch produces excellent documents about gamba identification, control methods and legislative requirements, the existence of these documents is not well known in the broader community, thus limiting people's access. These educational materials could be made more accessible to the general public by having them available at council offices, real estate offices, libraries, post offices and schools.

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I would also encourage government agencies to work with the Gamba Army to develop gamba free buffers along public roads and railway lines, to stop greater spread of gamba.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback.

The 15m gamba grass free buffer around all boundaries, infrastructure, roads and tracks needs to be enforced. 3 out of my 4 neighbours on Livingstone Rd do nothing to stop the spread.

Yours,

name withheld for annual report
The Gardens 0820

From: [name withheld for annual report](#)
To: [Minister Moss](#); [Weedinfo DEPWS](#)
Subject: My feedback as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey
Date: Wednesday, 22 June 2022 12:57:32 PM

I write to provide my feedback on the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan 2020 – 2030, as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey.

I welcome the investment that your government have made in the Gamba Army over successive years – this program has had a big impact on tackling gamba on public lands. However, to ensure the program achieves its aims, it requires a stable, ongoing commitment of funding for the future. It is welcoming to know that the Federal Government have committed an additional \$7.6 million towards this program. I look forward to the NT Government using this co-investment to grow the Gamba Army over the coming years, and encourage you to announce these plans ahead of the 2022-23 spraying season.

I am concerned that the amount of herbicide available through the Gamba Action Program has not been enough to meet community demand. The yearly funding has not increased despite rising herbicide costs, resulting in less herbicide being available to those who need it. This is a very useful program which has helped many land occupiers treat their gamba - many of whom may not have been able to afford the purchase of herbicide otherwise. The Gamba Action Program funding should be increased to provide enough herbicide to match the need in the community.

The NT Government should work to ensure that adequate information and knowledge on gamba grass management is being distributed to the public effectively. Whilst the Weed Management Branch produces excellent documents about gamba identification, control methods and legislative requirements, the existence of these documents is not well known in the broader community, thus limiting people's access. These educational materials could be made more accessible to the general public by having them available at council offices, real estate offices, libraries, post offices and schools.

Some landholders are also not aware of their responsibilities when it comes to gamba control, such as the requirement for a 15m gamba grass free buffer around all boundaries, infrastructure, roads and tracks, or the requirement for all properties under 3 hectares to have all gamba plants destroyed by July 2023. These must be widely advertised through government and community communications if they are to be achieved.

I would also encourage government agencies to work with the Gamba Army to develop gamba free buffers along public roads and railway lines, to stop greater spread of gamba.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback.

Yours,

name withheld for annual report
Darwin City 0800

From: [name withheld for annual report](#)
To: [Minister Moss](#); [Weedinfo DEPWS](#)
Subject: My feedback as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey
Date: Wednesday, 22 June 2022 1:01:03 PM

I write to provide my feedback on the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan 2020 – 2030, as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey.

I welcome and applaud the investment that your government have made in the Gamba Army over successive years – this program has had a big impact on tackling gamba on public lands. However, to ensure the program achieves its aims, it requires a stable, ongoing commitment of funding for the future. It is welcoming to know that the Federal Government have committed an additional \$7.6 million towards this program. I look forward to the NT Government using this co-investment to grow the Gamba Army over the coming years, and encourage you to announce these plans ahead of the 2022-23 spraying season.

I am concerned that the amount of herbicide available through the Gamba Action Program has not been enough to meet community demand. The yearly funding has not increased despite rising herbicide costs, resulting in less herbicide being available to those who need it. This is a very useful program which has helped many land occupiers treat their gamba - many of whom may not have been able to afford the purchase of herbicide otherwise. The Gamba Action Program funding should be increased to provide enough herbicide to match the need in the community. I know people who missed out on herbicide and could do nothing about spraying Gamba on their properties this year. I usually buy what herbicide I need (approx 60 litres per annum), but am finding the cost difficult to meet now that I am retired. My job each year is made more difficult by neighbouring property owners who do nothing about weed infestations that infiltrate my property. A larger enforcement team in the Weeds Branch would help there.

The NT Government should work to ensure that adequate information and knowledge on gamba grass management is being distributed to the public effectively. Whilst the Weed Management Branch produces excellent documents about gamba identification, control methods and legislative requirements, the existence of these documents is not well known in the broader community, thus limiting people's access. These educational materials could be made more accessible to the general public by having them available at council offices, real estate offices, libraries, post offices and schools.

Some landholders are also not aware of their responsibilities when it comes to gamba control, such as the requirement for a 15m gamba grass free buffer around all boundaries, infrastructure, roads and tracks, or the requirement for all properties under 3 hectares to have all gamba plants destroyed by July 2023. These must be widely advertised through government and community communications if they are to be achieved.

I would also encourage government agencies to work with the Gamba Army to develop gamba free buffers along public roads and railway lines, to stop greater spread of gamba.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback.

For too long in this country, we have had a weak reactionary, placatory and conciliatory culture in the public sector where environmental issues are concerned. It is time this was changed to a strong advocacy role. The Gamba Plan is a step in the right direction, and this government is well placed to take a leading role in changing the land management culture in the NT and beyond. Please do so.

From: [name withheld for annual report](#)
To: [Minister Moss](#); [Weedinfo DEPWS](#)
Subject: My feedback as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey
Date: Wednesday, 22 June 2022 1:24:23 PM

I write to provide my feedback on the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan 2020 – 2030, as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey.

I welcome the investment that your government have made in the Gamba Army over successive years – this program has had a big impact on tackling gamba on public lands. However, to ensure the program achieves its aims, it requires a stable, ongoing commitment of funding for the future. It is welcoming to know that the Federal Government have committed an additional \$7.6 million towards this program. I look forward to the NT Government using this co-investment to grow the Gamba Army over the coming years, and encourage you to announce these plans ahead of the 2022-23 spraying season.

I am concerned that the amount of herbicide available through the Gamba Action Program has not been enough to meet community demand. The yearly funding has not increased despite rising herbicide costs, resulting in less herbicide being available to those who need it. This is a very useful program which has helped many land occupiers treat their gamba - many of whom may not have been able to afford the purchase of herbicide otherwise. The Gamba Action Program funding should be increased to provide enough herbicide to match the need in the community.

The NT Government should work to ensure that adequate information and knowledge on gamba grass management is being distributed to the public effectively. Whilst the Weed Management Branch produces excellent documents about gamba identification, control methods and legislative requirements, the existence of these documents is not well known in the broader community, thus limiting people's access. These educational materials could be made more accessible to the general public by having them available at council offices, real estate offices, libraries, post offices and schools.

Some landholders are also not aware of their responsibilities when it comes to gamba control, such as the requirement for a 15m gamba grass free buffer around all boundaries, infrastructure, roads and tracks, or the requirement for all properties under 3 hectares to have all gamba plants destroyed by July 2023. These must be widely advertised through government and community communications if they are to be achieved.

I would also encourage government agencies to work with the Gamba Army to develop gamba free buffers along public roads and railway lines, to stop greater spread of gamba.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback.

Private properties should be fined if they do not remove the Gamba from their property before it starts seeding and spreading to adjacent lands.

Yours,

name withheld for annual report
Humpty Doo 0836

From: [name withheld for annual report](#)
To: [Minister Moss](#); [Weedinfo DEPWS](#)
Subject: My feedback as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey
Date: Wednesday, 22 June 2022 3:08:00 PM

I write to provide my feedback on the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan 2020 – 2030, as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey.

I welcome the investment that your government have made in the Gamba Army over successive years – this program has had a big impact on tackling gamba on public lands. However, to ensure the program achieves its aims, it requires a stable, ongoing commitment of funding for the future. It is welcoming to know that the Federal Government have committed an additional \$7.6 million towards this program. I look forward to the NT Government using this co-investment to grow the Gamba Army over the coming years, and encourage you to announce these plans ahead of the 2022-23 spraying season.

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I would also encourage government agencies to work with the Gamba Army to develop gamba free buffers along public roads and railway lines, to stop greater spread of gamba.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback.

My husband and I live on twenty acres at Darwin River. Every day we put in hours clearing gamba grass. Consequently our place is an island of diversity. For example we have at least 26 genera of native grasses, some of which are essentials for Gouldian finch and partridge pigeon. Other plants are sand sheet specialists. We've also some rare insects, for example a moth related to but rarer than Atlas moth. We are an island of diversity, but sadly in a sea of gamba grass because of our neighbours, either absent or overwhelmed. One day we and other landholders who put in as much effort not going to be able to work so hard, and then what will happen to the Top End's flora and fauna diversity? I had hoped to continue hosting international birders, but after three near misses with gamba-fuelled fires I've asked them not to come.

From: [name withheld for annual report](#)
To: [Minister Moss](#); [Weedinfo DEPWS](#)
Subject: My feedback as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey
Date: Wednesday, 22 June 2022 4:16:10 PM

I write to provide my feedback on the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan 2020 – 2030, as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey.

I welcome the investment that your government have made in the Gamba Army over successive years – this program has had a big impact on tackling gamba on public lands. However, to ensure the program achieves its aims, it requires a stable, ongoing commitment of funding for the future. It is welcoming to know that the Federal Government have committed an additional \$7.6 million towards this program. I look forward to the NT Government using this co-investment to grow the Gamba Army over the coming years, and encourage you to announce these plans ahead of the 2022-23 spraying season.

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I would also encourage government agencies to work with the Gamba Army to develop gamba free buffers along public roads and railway lines, to stop greater spread of gamba.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback.

Yours,

name withheld for annual report
Virginia 0834

From: [name withheld for annual report](#)
To: [Minister Moss](#); [Weedinfo DEPWS](#)
Subject: My feedback as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey
Date: Wednesday, 22 June 2022 5:32:14 PM

I write to provide my feedback on the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan 2020 – 2030, as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey.

I welcome the investment that your government have made in the Gamba Army over successive years – this program has had a big impact on tackling gamba on public lands. However, to ensure the program achieves its aims, it requires a stable, ongoing commitment of funding for the future. It is welcoming to know that the Federal Government have committed an additional \$7.6 million towards this program. I look forward to the NT Government using this co-investment to grow the Gamba Army over the coming years, and encourage you to announce these plans ahead of the 2022-23 spraying season.

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I would also encourage government agencies to work with the Gamba Army to develop gamba free buffers along public roads and railway lines, to stop greater spread of gamba.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback.

In January this year I lost my husband and I was at as how I was going to tackle our gamba this year. The gamba grass covers a large area on my property and is only accessible by foot. The Gamba Army - Gamba Grass Weed management program has made a difference in reducing the impact of growth, future proofing for the year ahead and has giving me hope in being able to managing this land during my grief.

Thank you.

In appreciation

name withheld for annual report

Yours,

From: [name withheld for annual report](#)
To: [Minister Moss](#); [Weedinfo DEPWS](#)
Subject: My feedback as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey
Date: Wednesday, 22 June 2022 9:45:20 PM

I write to provide my feedback on the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan 2020 – 2030, as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey.

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I would also encourage government agencies to work with the Gamba Army to develop gamba free buffers along public roads and railway lines, to stop greater spread of gamba.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback.

I agree with the information provided in the above letter but wish to add that having been aware of gamba for over 20 years and involved first hand over that time frame in trying to manage outcrops by spraying, slashing and manual removal - I feel that the horse has bolted in terms of actually controlling railway corridors, road verges, national parks... - when corresponding with Litchfield council in the past month regarding their contractors slashing gamba on road verges that was well and truly seeding - I was told that they knew what they were doing, that they had informed advice and that due to their thousands of kms of road verges to manage - they were fine carrying out this action. This is NOT fine, their machinery is just perpetuating the seed spread - assisted by wind, fire, native animals - unfortunately they sort of need to be a bit more realistic ...

From: [name withheld for annual report](#)
To: [Minister Moss](#); [Weedinfo DEPWS](#)
Subject: My feedback as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey
Date: Wednesday, 22 June 2022 9:59:51 PM

I write to provide my feedback on the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan 2020 – 2030, as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey.

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I would also encourage government agencies to work with the Gamba Army to develop gamba free buffers along public roads and railway lines, to stop greater spread of gamba.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback.

Please note I rent a property in Howard Springs and the landowner refuses to address the rampant gamba grass problem on my property and the neighbouring property which he also owns and leases. If ALL landowners are not forced to take action, the efforts of others are worthless.

Yours,

name withheld for annual report
Howard Springs 0835

From: [name withheld for annual report](#)
To: [Minister Moss](#); [Weedinfo DEPWS](#)
Subject: My feedback as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey
Date: Thursday, 23 June 2022 1:28:34 AM

I write to provide my feedback on the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan 2020 – 2030, as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey.

I welcome the investment that your government have made in the Gamba Army over successive years – this program has had a big impact on tackling gamba on public lands. However, to ensure the program achieves its aims, it requires a stable, ongoing commitment of funding for the future. It is welcoming to know that the Federal Government have committed an additional \$7.6 million towards this program. I look forward to the NT Government using this co-investment to grow the Gamba Army over the coming years, and encourage you to announce these plans ahead of the 2022-23 spraying season.

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I would also encourage government agencies to work with the Gamba Army to develop gamba free buffers along public roads and railway lines, to stop greater spread of gamba.

I regularly drive along a road in Ludmilla where the land on either side appears to be infested with gamba. Why?

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback.

Yours,

name withheld for annual report
Fannie Bay 0820

From: [name withheld for annual report](#)
To: [Minister Moss](#); [Weedinfo DEPWS](#)
Subject: My feedback as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey
Date: Thursday, 23 June 2022 6:07:07 AM

I write to provide my feedback on the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan 2020 – 2030, as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey.

I welcome the investment that your government have made in the Gamba Army over successive years – this program has had a big impact on tackling gamba on public lands. However, to ensure the program achieves its aims, it requires a stable, ongoing commitment of funding for the future. It is welcoming to know that the Federal Government have committed an additional \$7.6 million towards this program. I look forward to the NT Government using this co-investment to grow the Gamba Army over the coming years, and encourage you to announce these plans ahead of the 2022-23 spraying season.

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The NT Government should work to ensure that adequate information and knowledge on gamba grass management is being distributed to the public effectively. Whilst the Weed Management Branch produces excellent documents about gamba identification, control methods and legislative requirements, the existence of these documents is not well known in the broader community, thus limiting people's access. These educational materials could be made more accessible to the general public by having them available at council offices, real estate offices, libraries, post offices and schools.

Some landholders are also not aware of their responsibilities when it comes to gamba control, such as the requirement for a 15m gamba grass free buffer around all boundaries, infrastructure, roads and tracks, or the requirement for all properties under 3 hectares to have all gamba plants destroyed by July 2023. These must be widely advertised through government and community communications if they are to be achieved.

I would also encourage government agencies to work with the Gamba Army to develop gamba free buffers along public roads and railway lines, to stop greater spread of gamba.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback.

Yours,

name withheld for annual report
Weddell 0838

From: [name withheld for annual report](#)
To: [Minister Moss](#); [Weedinfo DEPWS](#)
Subject: My feedback as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey
Date: Thursday, 23 June 2022 6:21:04 AM

I write to provide my feedback on the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan 2020 – 2030, as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey.

I welcome the investment that your government have made in the Gamba Army over successive years – this program has had a big impact on tackling gamba on public lands. However, to ensure the program achieves its aims, it requires a stable, ongoing commitment of funding for the future. It is welcoming to know that the Federal Government have committed an additional \$7.6 million towards this program. I look forward to the NT Government using this co-investment to grow the Gamba Army over the coming years, and encourage you to announce these plans ahead of the 2022-23 spraying season.

I am concerned that the amount of herbicide available through the Gamba Action Program has not been enough to meet community demand. The yearly funding has not increased despite rising herbicide costs, resulting in less herbicide being available to those who need it. This is a very useful program which has helped many land occupiers treat their gamba - many of whom may not have been able to afford the purchase of herbicide otherwise. The Gamba Action Program funding should be increased to provide enough herbicide to match the need in the community.

The NT Government should work to ensure that adequate information and knowledge on gamba grass management is being distributed to the public effectively. Whilst the Weed Management Branch produces excellent documents about gamba identification, control methods and legislative requirements, the existence of these documents is not well known in the broader community, thus limiting people's access. These educational materials could be made more accessible to the general public by having them available at council offices, real estate offices, libraries, post offices and schools.

Some landholders are also not aware of their responsibilities when it comes to gamba control, such as the requirement for a 15m gamba grass free buffer around all boundaries, infrastructure, roads and tracks, or the requirement for all properties under 3 hectares to have all gamba plants destroyed by July 2023. These must be widely advertised through government and community communications if they are to be achieved.

I would also encourage government agencies to work with the Gamba Army to develop gamba free buffers along public roads and railway lines, to stop greater spread of gamba.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback.

From what I have seen, it is spreading. My neighbour has it and does nothing. I am managing it well but it is now on the Howard river floodplain. The quarry beside the river has it everywhere and does nothing. Cheers

Yours,

name withheld for annual report
Howard Springs 0835

From: [name withheld for annual report](#)
To: [Minister Moss](#); [Weedinfo DEPWS](#)
Subject: My feedback as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey
Date: Thursday, 23 June 2022 7:34:40 AM

I write to provide my feedback on the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan 2020 – 2030, as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey.

I welcome the investment that your government have made in the Gamba Army over successive years – this program has had a big impact on tackling gamba on public lands. However, to ensure the program achieves its aims, it requires a stable, ongoing commitment of funding for the future. It is welcoming to know that the Federal Government have committed an additional \$7.6 million towards this program. I look forward to the NT Government using this co-investment to grow the Gamba Army over the coming years, and encourage you to announce these plans ahead of the 2022-23 spraying season.

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I would also encourage government agencies to work with the Gamba Army to develop gamba free buffers along public roads and railway lines, to stop greater spread of gamba.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback.

Yours,

name withheld for annual report
RIDGEHAVEN 5097

From: [name withheld for annual report](#)
To: [Minister Moss](#); [Weedinfo DEPWS](#)
Subject: My feedback as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey
Date: Thursday, 23 June 2022 2:48:11 PM

I write to provide my feedback on the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan 2020 – 2030, as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey.

I welcome the investment that your government have made in the Gamba Army over successive years – this program has had a big impact on tackling gamba on public lands. However, to ensure the program achieves its aims, it requires a stable, ongoing commitment of funding for the future. It is welcoming to know that the Federal Government have committed an additional \$7.6 million towards this program. I look forward to the NT Government using this co-investment to grow the Gamba Army over the coming years, and encourage you to announce these plans ahead of the 2022-23 spraying season.

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I would also encourage government agencies to work with the Gamba Army to develop gamba free buffers along public roads and railway lines, to stop greater spread of gamba.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback.

The priority is starting ASAP so that action can be taken this wet season.

The gamba fire last weekend in Ludmilla reminds us that the danger is everywhere in the Top End, and urgent.

Yours,

name withheld for annual report
Millner 0810

From: [name withheld for annual report](#)
To: [Minister Moss](#); [Weedinfo DEPWS](#)
Subject: My feedback as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey
Date: Friday, 24 June 2022 5:58:23 AM

I write to provide my feedback on the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan 2020 – 2030, as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey.

I welcome the investment that your government have made in the Gamba Army over successive years – this program has had a big impact on tackling gamba on public lands. However, to ensure the program achieves its aims, it requires a stable, ongoing commitment of funding for the future. It is welcoming to know that the Federal Government have committed an additional \$7.6 million towards this program. I look forward to the NT Government using this co-investment to grow the Gamba Army over the coming years, and encourage you to announce these plans ahead of the 2022-23 spraying season.

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I would also encourage government agencies to work with the Gamba Army to develop gamba free buffers along public roads and railway lines, to stop greater spread of gamba.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback.

There was some spraying of gamba early in the season along the highway south of Coomalie Creek. There was no follow up so the plants that survived have now seeded and consequently will provide new clumps of gamba next Wet.

Also many of the people employed do not spray the correct plant-untrained. Along Pell the gamba was not sprayed in one part because it would have meant walking through water, owing to the dip in roadside level.

Contractors mow through weeds and are responsible for the proliferation of Rat's Tail grass in particular, but many species. I have seen contractors spraying Mission grass and not gamba as I travelled on highway enrollee to Batchelor.

From: [name withheld for annual report](#)
To: [Minister Moss](#); [Weedinfo DEPWS](#)
Subject: My feedback as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey
Date: Friday, 24 June 2022 5:58:23 AM

I write to provide my feedback on the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan 2020 – 2030, as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey.

I welcome the investment that your government have made in the Gamba Army over successive years – this program has had a big impact on tackling gamba on public lands. However, to ensure the program achieves its aims, it requires a stable, ongoing commitment of funding for the future. It is welcoming to know that the Federal Government have committed an additional \$7.6 million towards this program. I look forward to the NT Government using this co-investment to grow the Gamba Army over the coming years, and encourage you to announce these plans ahead of the 2022-23 spraying season.

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Contractors mow through weeds and are responsible for the proliferation of Rat's Tail grass in particular, but many species. I have seen contractors spraying Mission grass and not gamba as I travelled on highway enrollee to Batchelor.

From: [name withheld for annual report](#)
To: [Minister Moss](#); [Weedinfo DEPWS](#)
Subject: My feedback as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey
Date: Friday, 24 June 2022 9:54:30 AM

I write to provide my feedback on the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan 2020 – 2030, as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey.

I welcome the investment that your government have made in the Gamba Army over successive years – this program has had a big impact on tackling gamba on public lands. However, to ensure the program achieves its aims, it requires a stable, ongoing commitment of funding for the future. It is welcoming to know that the Federal Government have committed an additional \$7.6 million towards this program. I look forward to the NT Government using this co-investment to grow the Gamba Army over the coming years, and encourage you to announce these plans ahead of the 2022-23 spraying season.

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The NT Government should work to ensure that adequate information and knowledge on gamba grass management is being distributed to the public effectively. Whilst the Weed Management Branch produces excellent documents about gamba identification, control methods and legislative requirements, the existence of these documents is not well known in the broader community, thus limiting people's access. These educational materials could be made more accessible to the general public by having them available at council offices, real estate offices, libraries, post offices and schools.

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I would also encourage government agencies to work with the Gamba Army to develop gamba free buffers along public roads and railway lines, to stop greater spread of gamba.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback.

Each time I've needed assistance with gamba encroachment on my property from neighbouring blocks it is a schmozzle!! Firstly, it is a problem getting to the right area to discuss your issue... The number times a number rings out, is answered by someone who is just answering someone else's phone and doesn't actually handle gamba enquiries ("so maybe try another time" or "no, sorry, I can't help you with who you should call"). Then, when you finally get to speak with someone who is employed to deal with gamba, you are usually told you need to speak to another staff member (a ranger) who isn't available but will call you back. Sometimes they get back to you, often they don't, sometimes they are frequently "on leave" or "away for a few days/weeks". Eventually you get hold of the person who is responsible for inspecting the neighbouring blocks. I'm often asked if the

weeds are visible from the road frontage of those blocks, and told they've driven past but couldn't see anything. Out of frustration I provide photos. Then I have to go to bat about whether the weed volume warrants the ranger doing something... Seriously? After seriously making it a daily mission to have it dealt with, eventually something half arsed gets done. The neighbours might slash the barely 10-15m requirement, leaving whatever is in the fence or within a metre of said boundary, happily seeding its head off. Often the mown plants manage to quickly throw up some emergency stalks and seeds afterwards anyway, infecting surrounding blocks. Or the mowing is done after the seed has all set anyway (given the months elapsed since I've first started attempting to have it dealt with - you know, when it's a smaller more manageable problem) and is dispersed even further by the force of the mower...

I have basically eradicated gamba and mission grasses from my property by weeks every year/wet season hand pulling any and all old and now new growth. All plants now are seeded from neighbouring growth. The government management is simply USELESS and needs to ensure reported property infestations are thoroughly managed, just as if it was banana freckle.

Thank you.

Yours,

name withheld for annual report
Humpty Doo 0836

From: [name withheld for annual report](#)
To: [Minister Moss](#); [Weedinfo DEPWS](#)
Subject: My feedback as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey
Date: Friday, 24 June 2022 10:53:30 AM

I write to provide my feedback on the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan 2020 – 2030, as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey.

I welcome the investment that your government have made in the Gamba Army over successive years – this program has had a big impact on tackling gamba on public lands. However, to ensure the program achieves its aims, it requires a stable, ongoing commitment of funding for the future. It is welcoming to know that the Federal Government have committed an additional \$7.6 million towards this program. I look forward to the NT Government using this co-investment to grow the Gamba Army over the coming years, and encourage you to announce these plans ahead of the 2022-23 spraying season.

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The NT Government should work to ensure that adequate information and knowledge on gamba grass management is being distributed to the public effectively. Whilst the Weed Management Branch produces excellent documents about gamba identification, control methods and legislative requirements, the existence of these documents is not well known in the broader community, thus limiting people's access. These educational materials could be made more accessible to the general public by having them available at council offices, real estate offices, libraries, post offices and schools.

Some landholders are also not aware of their responsibilities when it comes to gamba control, such as the requirement for a 15m gamba grass free buffer around all boundaries, infrastructure, roads and tracks, or the requirement for all properties under 3 hectares to have all gamba plants destroyed by July 2023. These must be widely advertised through government and community communications if they are to be achieved.

I would also encourage government agencies to work with the Gamba Army to develop gamba free buffers along public roads and railway lines, to stop greater spread of gamba.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback.

For the past 6 months I have been actively spraying Gamba grass for a local weed control firm in the Top End and have extensive local knowledge of the severity of this grass. The hard good work being carried is important but is far from achieving any effective control. I offer the following:

Legislation is ineffective without enforcement. I understand prosecution is costly and that there is not the resources to carry out this enforcement. Can consideration be given to introducing a system similar to firebreaks administered by NT Police Fire and Emergency Services where fire break surveys are carried out, notices of non compliance issued and if not complied with, the clearing is carried out by contractors paid by NTPFES and cost recovered by lodging a loan with interest on the title.

15m buffer zones are a waste of time and money as the seed is easily distributed back into those zones within one season. The only mindset for Gamba control is eradication, so instead of doing 15m buffer zones all over the Top End we have to select a starting point and radiate out with total elimination with a follow up program until all Gamba is eradicated. Over years, in the Kimberley region of Western Australia, they have appeared to have largely eradicated Gamba. In short eradicating Gamba can only be achieved by enforcing private land owners and a systematic approach to all crown land.

The Gamba Army must have legislative powers to enter properties both private and crown land to be able to survey issue compliance notices and organise spraying of Gamba.

The administration for the control of Gamba needs to be centralised as currently each body appears to have its own agenda, objectives and funding ie Gamba Army, Parks and Wildlife, local councils and Weeds Branch.

The systematic eradication of Gamba overseen by a central body on all land is paramount. Consideration should be given to an administrator and/ or contractor to be given responsibility for eradication of Gamba in a given area for 5 years to ensure adequate follow up to prevent plants seeding. Recommend liaising with Kimberley Region Weed Control organisation to establish how eradication was achieved.

I am more than willing to discuss at any level as this is a dominant grass in most areas which needs to be seriously managed if to be eradicated.

Yours,

name withheld for annual report

Bees Creek 0822

From: [name withheld for annual report](#)
To: [Minister Moss](#); [Weedinfo DEPWS](#)
Subject: My feedback as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey
Date: Friday, 24 June 2022 2:18:14 PM

I write to provide my feedback on the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan 2020 – 2030, as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey.

I welcome the investment that your government have made in the Gamba Army over successive years – this program has had a big impact on tackling gamba on public lands. However, to ensure the program achieves its aims, it requires a stable, ongoing commitment of funding for the future. It is welcoming to know that the Federal Government have committed an additional \$7.6 million towards this program. I look forward to the NT Government using this co-investment to grow the Gamba Army over the coming years, and encourage you to announce these plans ahead of the 2022-23 spraying season.

I am concerned that the amount of herbicide available through the Gamba Action Program has not been enough to meet community demand. The yearly funding has not increased despite rising herbicide costs, resulting in less herbicide being available to those who need it. This is a very useful program which has helped many land occupiers treat their gamba - many of whom may not have been able to afford the purchase of herbicide otherwise. The Gamba Action Program funding should be increased to provide enough herbicide to match the need in the community.

The NT Government should work to ensure that adequate information and knowledge on gamba grass management is being distributed to the public effectively. Whilst the Weed Management Branch produces excellent documents about gamba identification, control methods and legislative requirements, the existence of these documents is not well known in the broader community, thus limiting people's access. These educational materials could be made more accessible to the general public by having them available at council offices, real estate offices, libraries, post offices and schools.

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I would also encourage government agencies to work with the Gamba Army to develop gamba free buffers along public roads and railway lines, to stop greater spread of gamba.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback.

Yours,

name withheld for annual report
FLY CREEK 0822

From: [name withheld for annual report](#)
To: [Minister Moss](#); [Weedinfo DEPWS](#)
Subject: My feedback as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey
Date: Saturday, 25 June 2022 6:46:21 AM

I write to provide my feedback on the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan 2020 – 2030, as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey.

I welcome the investment that your government have made in the Gamba Army over successive years – this program has had a big impact on tackling gamba on public lands. However, to ensure the program achieves its aims, it requires a stable, ongoing commitment of funding for the future. It is welcoming to know that the Federal Government have committed an additional \$7.6 million towards this program. I look forward to the NT Government using this co-investment to grow the Gamba Army over the coming years, and encourage you to announce these plans ahead of the 2022-23 spraying season.

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I would also encourage government agencies to work with the Gamba Army to develop gamba free buffers along public roads and railway lines, to stop greater spread of gamba.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback.

name withheld for annual report
Woodbridge 07095

From: [name withheld for annual report](#)
To: [Minister Moss](#); [Weedinfo DEPWS](#)
Subject: My feedback as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey
Date: Saturday, 25 June 2022 7:11:59 AM

I write to provide my feedback on the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan 2020 – 2030, as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey.

I welcome the investment that your government have made in the Gamba Army over successive years – this program has had a big impact on tackling gamba on public lands. However, to ensure the program achieves its aims, it requires a stable, ongoing commitment of funding for the future. It is welcoming to know that the Federal Government have committed an additional \$7.6 million towards this program. I look forward to the NT Government using this co-investment to grow the Gamba Army over the coming years, and encourage you to announce these plans ahead of the 2022-23 spraying season.

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I would also encourage government agencies to work with the Gamba Army to develop gamba free buffers along public roads and railway lines, to stop greater spread of gamba.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback.

Not enough support in the way of a labour force for the older land owners to tackle gamba, who may not be able or capable of doing the physical work to remove this weed. The government just sends out threatening letters about fines you will face if you don't comply.

Yours,

name withheld for annual report
Darwin River 0841

From: [name withheld for annual report](#)
To: [Minister Moss](#); [Weedinfo DEPWS](#)
Subject: My feedback as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey
Date: Saturday, 25 June 2022 9:01:48 AM

I write to provide my feedback on the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan 2020 – 2030, as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey.

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I would also encourage government agencies to work with the Gamba Army to develop gamba free buffers along public roads and railway lines, to stop greater spread of gamba.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback.

I am concerned that cattle management of Gamba grass is never mentioned by many so called "experts" though it is the only solution for many areas like Litchfield National Park.

Yours,

name withheld for annual report
Adelaide river 0846

From: [name withheld for annual report](#)
To: [Minister Moss](#); [Weedinfo DEPWS](#)
Subject: My feedback as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey
Date: Sunday, 26 June 2022 8:36:51 AM

I write to provide my feedback on the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan 2020 – 2030, as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey.

I welcome the investment that your government have made in the Gamba Army over successive years – this program has had a big impact on tackling gamba on public lands. However, to ensure the program achieves its aims, it requires a stable, ongoing commitment of funding for the future. It is welcoming to know that the Federal Government have committed an additional \$7.6 million towards this program. I look forward to the NT Government using this co-investment to grow the Gamba Army over the coming years, and encourage you to announce these plans ahead of the 2022-23 spraying season.

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I would also encourage government agencies to work with the Gamba Army to develop gamba free buffers along public roads and railway lines, to stop greater spread of gamba.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback.

Having a 22 acre block, after 9 months of cutting and poisoning we have reduced ours down with over half the block. My issue and concern is that surrounding neighbours are not attempting to reduce the gamba on their lots. I'm starting to think that the 500+ hours we have put in is a waste of time. The seeds from the neighbours have drifted onto our block ready to germinate and grow come next wet season, and here we go again. Poison is NOT cheap. There needs to be a clear and defined communication method, promoting support to land owners of their responsibility and what support they have. That being more spray trailers, more poison or at least a much cheaper option to purchase. Another note what heard options are there that will eat gamba and suited to top end conditions, other than cattle?

From: [name withheld for annual report](#)
To: [Minister Moss](#); [Weedinfo DEPWS](#)
Subject: My feedback as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey
Date: Tuesday, 28 June 2022 9:02:56 PM

I write to provide my feedback on the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan 2020 – 2030, as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey.

I welcome the investment that your government have made in the Gamba Army over successive years – this program has had a big impact on tackling gamba on public lands. However, to ensure the program achieves its aims, it requires a stable, ongoing commitment of funding for the future. It is welcoming to know that the Federal Government have committed an additional \$7.6 million towards this program. I look forward to the NT Government using this co-investment to grow the Gamba Army over the coming years, and encourage you to announce these plans ahead of the 2022-23 spraying season.

I am concerned that the amount of herbicide available through the Gamba Action Program has not been enough to meet community demand. The yearly funding has not increased despite rising herbicide costs, resulting in less herbicide being available to those who need it. This is a very useful program which has helped many land occupiers treat their gamba - many of whom may not have been able to afford the purchase of herbicide otherwise. The Gamba Action Program funding should be increased to provide enough herbicide to match the need in the community.

The NT Government should work to ensure that adequate information and knowledge on gamba grass management is being distributed to the public effectively. Whilst the Weed Management Branch produces excellent documents about gamba identification, control methods and legislative requirements, the existence of these documents is not well known in the broader community, thus limiting people's access. These educational materials could be made more accessible to the general public by having them available at council offices, real estate offices, libraries, post offices and schools.

Some landholders are also not aware of their responsibilities when it comes to gamba control, such as the requirement for a 15m gamba grass free buffer around all boundaries, infrastructure, roads and tracks, or the requirement for all properties under 3 hectares to have all gamba plants destroyed by July 2023. These must be widely advertised through government and community communications if they are to be achieved.

I would also encourage government agencies to work with the Gamba Army to develop gamba free buffers along public roads and railway lines, to stop greater spread of gamba.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback.

We know the Gamba Army and the Gamba Grass Roots movements are working incredibly hard to eradicate and/or control Gamba. It's encouraging to see the spotlight on this invasive species. It is also encouraging to see funding for these organisations and we need to see a continued commitment into the future for the funding needed to keep this problem under control as it will be a long term commitment from stakeholders from all quarters. There is an abundance of gamba growing and seeding on land in the territory every year. We can see it in suburbia as well as national parks. In both habitats it is dangerous to humans in the dry. Dangerous because of the extreme heat generated when it burns. This danger extends to all animal species because of the fierce and fast burns generated by this highly volatile grass. There is danger also from the height of the gamba.

Gamba reaches far above native grasses therefore it impacts animals and lizards, which seek refuge up trees, at the approach of fire. I would appreciate additional funding to extend the work which needs to be continued.
Thank you.

Yours,

name withheld for annual report
Gray 0830

From: [name withheld for annual report](#)
To: [Minister Moss](#); [Weedinfo DEPWS](#)
Subject: My feedback as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey
Date: Friday, 1 July 2022 2:52:33 PM

I write to provide my feedback on the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan 2020 – 2030, as part of the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey.

I welcome the investment that your government have made in the Gamba Army over successive years – this program has had a big impact on tackling gamba on public lands. However, to ensure the program achieves its aims, it requires a stable, ongoing commitment of funding for the future. It is welcoming to know that the Federal Government have committed an additional \$7.6 million towards this program. I look forward to the NT Government using this co-investment to grow the Gamba Army over the coming years, and encourage you to announce these plans ahead of the 2022-23 spraying season.

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Some landholders are also not aware of their responsibilities when it comes to gamba control, such as the requirement for a 15m gamba grass free buffer around all boundaries, infrastructure, roads and tracks, or the requirement for all properties under 3 hectares to have all gamba plants destroyed by July 2023. These must be widely advertised through government and community communications if they are to be achieved.

I would also encourage government agencies to work with the Gamba Army to develop gamba free buffers along public roads and railway lines, to stop greater spread of gamba.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback.

Yours,

name withheld for annual report
Noonamah 0837



Weed Management Branch
Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security
By email: weedinfo@nt.gov.au

To the Weed Management Branch, Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security, and the Gamba Grass Weed Advisory Committee,

RE: GAMBA GRASS WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN SURVEY

Gamba Grass Roots is a partnership between The Pew Charitable Trusts and Environment Centre NT. We raise public awareness of the threats posed by gamba to our homes, communities, tourism sector, and our unique Top End wildlife and landscapes. We also highlight what needs to be done to reduce the gamba threat, call for increased action to provide more resources and funding to fight gamba, and support community involvement in creating solutions to the NT's gamba challenge.

Gamba Grass management requires serious investment by all levels of government now to reduce its spread and the damage it causes.

The Weed Management Plan for Gamba Grass 2020 - 2030 (the Plan) aims to reduce and eliminate gamba grass in the NT to minimise the risk and damage caused by gamba grass and the destructive fires it fuels to the natural environment, life, property and infrastructure. The Plan outlines the legal requirements for land owners, occupiers and all persons in the Northern Territory for the management of gamba grass under the Weeds Management Act 2001, and applies to all land parcels in the NT, including pastoral land, Aboriginal land, Crown land, national parks and road reserves. The Plan spells out strategic goals, objectives, actions and performance indicators for gamba management in the NT. This Plan must be fully implemented, and improved where required, to ensure that gamba control objectives are met.

The Plan requires annual monitoring and reporting against the measures included in the Plan to track the Plan and Territorians' performance and guide future gamba actions, with the results published in a publicly released annual report which addresses all performance indicators. This email forms our response to the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey.

We have identified several aspects of the Plan where the implementation could be improved to achieve greater success and included them below.

Community Awareness and Education

The Plan's Table 10. Goal 4 - Increase community capacity and willingness to participate in gamba grass management, includes Objectives 4b. Ensure adequate information and knowledge on gamba grass management is available, and the 4a. Performance Indicator, Public knowledge of gamba grass impacts and management requirements has increased (p.19).

The Weed Management Branch (WMB) produces excellent informative and educational documents about gamba identification, control methods and legislative requirements such as the Gamba Id booklet, but the existence of these documents is not well known in the broader community, thus limiting people's access. These educational materials could be made more accessible to the general public by having them available at council offices, real estate offices, libraries, post offices, and distributing them with permits to burn, through schools, etc. Distributing gamba information with Council rates notices last year was a good start at disseminating information effectively.

The requirements for land owners and occupiers by parcel size and use are also not widely known or understood. For example, in Table 2, Class B Zone – Land parcels (<3 Ha) Control growth and spread, Objectives 2.1 Establish and maintain by chemical, mechanical or physical means, a gamba grass free buffer on all land parcels, a distance of 15 m in width along the inside of the land parcel boundaries, around infrastructure, and on both sides of tracks and roads prior to seeding each year, and 2.2 All gamba grass plants are destroyed by July 2023 (p.12).

The requirement for 15m gamba grass free buffers around boundaries, infrastructure and tracks must be more widely advertised. People can only comply with legislation if they are aware of it. It would greatly help if Bushfires NT included the requirement for a 15m gamba grass free buffer in all their communications about firebreaks.

Similarly, the requirement for all Class B Zone Land parcels <3 Ha to have all gamba plants destroyed by July 2023 must also be widely advertised if compliance is to be achieved.

The Gamba Action Program

Table 10. Goal 4 - Increase community capacity and willingness to participate in gamba grass management, Objective 4a Performance Measure, The number of people participating in the Gamba Action Program has increased (p.19).

In order for the number of people participating in the Gamba Action Program (GAP) to increase, there must be sufficient herbicide available for people to access. This is a wonderful program which has helped many land occupiers treat their gamba, many of whom may not have been able to afford the purchase of herbicide otherwise. The GAP has increased in popularity as people learn about gamba grass and the GAP. It is now widely relied upon in people's gamba management strategies, however the \$100,000 per annum funding for the GAP has not increased despite the rising herbicide costs, resulting in less herbicide being available to those who need it. This saw some land occupiers miss out on receiving herbicide or participating in the GAP in 2022. The Gamba Action Program funding must be increased to meet this Plan objective and provide enough herbicide to support the growing number of GAP participants.

The Gamba Army

The Gamba Army has had an effective second season of treating gamba grass on public lands and revisiting previously sprayed areas to remove any regrowth. The efforts of the Gamba Army are truly admirable considering their small number. Thankfully the newly elected Federal Government has promised \$1.9 million per year over 4 years (\$7.6 million) to create 5 full time Gamba Army Coordinators/Leaders positions and 25 six-month team member positions. These positions added to

our current NTG funded Gamba Army will immensely improve gamba control results across the Top End. The NTG must ensure that this Federal Government funding be available for the upcoming 2022/23 gamba spraying season.

The Plan's Appendix A states that Northern Territory Government agencies have a responsibility to manage declared weeds on land under their care and control including vacant Crown land, NT-managed National Parks and reserves and major road reserves (p.22). The Gamba Army increases the ability of NTG agencies to manage gamba grass on their lands. Increasing the Gamba Army will therefore increase the amount of gamba grass removed from public lands.

A drive along the Stuart Highway provides ample evidence of dry season burning being used as a gamba grass control method without any other control methods being used, especially on Crown Lands, despite the Plan stating, "Note that burning, grading, slashing and grazing management methods do not destroy gamba grass. These methods can be useful for managing gamba grass fuel loads and minimising seed production. To destroy gamba grass these methods must be implemented in conjunction with other control methods (e.g. herbicide application, hand pulling)" (p.11). This is why growing the Gamba Army's capacity to reduce and even eliminate gamba is so vital.

Transport Corridors are another land parcel tenure which are often non-compliant with the Plan's requirements such as, "6.1 For all transport corridors, establish and maintain by chemical, mechanical or physical means, a gamba grass free buffer of 15 m in width on both sides of tracks and roads prior to seeding each year" (p.13). The lack of gamba free buffers along public roads and railway lines allows for greater spread of gamba grass. This is another area where government agencies can coordinate with the Gamba Army for greater efficiency.

Significant Cultural Sites

Protecting Indigenous sacred sites, rock art, and other culturally significant sites is crucial. This must be led by local by Traditional Owners and supported as a partnership to protect identified priorities.

Increased attention must be given to preserving our western historical sites such as homesteads, cemeteries, gold rush diggings, and World War 2 sites. For example, there is unmanaged gamba grass growing close to historical buildings at the WW2 Snake Creek Armament Depot near Adelaide River.

Summary

In summary, to achieve the goals and objectives of the Plan, meet performance indicators, and increase compliance, we call on the Northern Territory Government to:

- Prioritise delivering on commitments to grow the Gamba Army by using both NT and Federal funding to increase capacity – including co-investment ahead of the 2022/23 control season
- Increase funding for the Gamba Action Program to reflect increasing herbicide costs and enable more properties to participate
- Educate landholders about gamba identification, control methods and legislated requirements
- Inform land occupiers that all <3 Ha land parcels are to be gamba free by 2023, and
- Consistently communicate the 15m gamba grass free buffer requirement.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback on the Plan's progress and to suggest some improvements for the Plan's implementation. We acknowledge the ongoing work of the Department and the members of the Gamba Weed Advisory Committee.

This 10 year gamba management plan is important, supported and a necessary piece of the puzzle in responding to gamba. It needs resources, prioritisation and backing from all levels of Government to succeed. Investments now are the best way to turn the tide on gamba.

Kind regards,

Pauline Cass
for Gamba Grass Roots

27 June 2022

Weed Management Branch
Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security
Palmerston NT 0831
By email: weedinfo@nt.gov.au

Level 3 329 Collins Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
info@alca.org.au
ABN 80 637 680 310

27 June 2022

Dear Weed Management Branch,

RE: Submission to the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan Survey

The Australian Land Conservation Alliance (ALCA) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Northern Territory Government's consultation regarding the ongoing implementation of its *Weed Management Plan for Gamba Grass 2020 – 2030* ('Gamba Grass Annual Report 2021-2022 survey').

Please note that ALCA is happy for this submission to be published in full.

About the Australian Land Conservation Alliance

The Australian Land Conservation Alliance is the peak national body representing organisations that work to conserve, manage and restore nature on privately managed land. We represent our members and supporters to grow the impact, capacity and influence of private land conservation to achieve a healthy and resilient Australia. Our eleven members are:

- Australian Wildlife Conservancy
- Biodiversity Conservation Trust NSW
- Bush Heritage Australia
- Greening Australia
- Landcare Australia
- Nature Foundation
- Queensland Trust for Nature
- South Endeavour Trust
- Tasmanian Land Conservancy
- The Nature Conservancy Australia
- Trust for Nature (Victoria)

ALCA land conservation efforts stretch across over 3 million square kilometres with more than 3,000 landholders. We have over 50,000 supporters and our combined annual turnover exceeds \$200 million. Together ALCA and its members address some of the most pressing conservation issues across the country, including restoring endangered ecosystems, building the protected area estate, tackling invasive species, expanding private conservation finance and funding and using nature-based solutions to tackle climate change.

Through their active land management, ALCA member organisations are deeply embedded in regional communities and economies, providing jobs, securing significant regional investment, and safeguarding remaining native habitat, with its many positive spillover effects for community, wellbeing and food security. We seek to demonstrate the role and value of private land conservation as a cornerstone of the Australian economy.

Some ALCA members are statutory entities; the views expressed in this submission do not necessarily represent the views of the Government administering those statutory entities.

Summary

Directly and indirectly, ALCA's member organisations are helping to combat gamba grass across multiple sites in the Northern Territory; managing the threat of weeds to our natural environment is a key component of the work that our members undertake on a daily basis. Gamba grass is one of the worst and most pervasive weeds facing our members operating in northern Australia, with the *Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan 2020 – 2030* appropriately recognising it as “a very high risk weed”¹ within the Northern Territory.

The recent Federal election – including the \$9.8m election commitment from the new Federal Labor Government to tackle gamba grass in the Northern Territory – has distinctly increased both community knowledge and community expectations for upscaled, quality gamba grass management.

In line with these expectations and the anticipated funding, there is a compelling opportunity for the Northern Territory to scale up its most effective weed management efforts, in particular, its Gamba Action Program (i.e., publicly funded herbicide distribution), awareness raising of effective control measures, and clear targets for the nascent Gamba Army.

Recommendations

1. Noting the increasing demand for herbicides to combat gamba grass as well as their increasing cost, there should be a proportional expansion in the funding for the Gamba Action Program for public distribution of herbicides.
2. Awareness raising of gamba grass control methods and other information currently available on the Northern Territory Government's gamba grass website² needs to be proactively and strategically provided to targeted stakeholders; such as, just for example, in hardcopy at central community locations, accompanying Government postal material (e.g. local government publications, rates notices, etc.), and/or mail-outs to major landholders. In particular, the 15 metre buffer requirements³ are not well known to the community.
3. The anticipated expansion of the Gamba Army should be accompanied by public annual clearance targets, including on public land and especially along Transport Corridors.

Thank you again for the opportunity to contribute to the Northern Territory Government's consultation on the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan.

ALCA looks forward to ongoing engagement with the Territory Government to ensure that gamba grass weed management strategy delivers for Australian biodiversity.

Australian Land Conservation Alliance

¹ See: p5, Northern Territory Government (2020). *Weed Management Plan for Gamba Grass 2020 – 2030*, Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security, Darwin; https://nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/954789/weed-management-plan-for-gamba-grass-2020-2030.PDF

² See: <https://nt.gov.au/environment/weeds/weeds-in-the-nt/A-Z-list-of-weeds-in-the-NT/gamba>

³ See: Table 2, 3 & 4; page 12, https://nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/954789/weed-management-plan-for-gamba-grass-2020-2030.PDF