



DELEGATE'S REPORT

2 February 2010

DR3	WEEDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE	{Folio No. *}
	FILE: 373 BJM (NRN)	

SUMMARY:

Reporting on attendance at two special Mid North Coast Weeds Advisory Committee Meetings held on 17 December 2009 and 13 January 2010, and a sub-committee meeting convened on 20 January 2010, all being held in the Greater Taree City Council committee rooms.

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DESCRIPTION:

A special meeting of the Mid North Coast Weeds Advisory Committee was arranged for 17 December, to elect a Chairperson due to the former Chairman, Mr Wayne Deer, leaving Greater Taree City Council.

Deputy Chairman, Councillor David West of Greater Taree City Council, chaired discussion as the meeting failed to reach a formal quorum, being 2/3 of the financial members represented on the committee. The members present discussed the importance to move the committee forward and not lose the momentum gained over the last ten years.

It was acknowledged that this committee has been a genuine advisory proactive body and that our collective constituent council communities have come to rely on, when dealing with the ever growing problems associated with the control and eradication of weeds.

This committee has taken the issue of weeds to another level through its community consultative role and its engagement with indigenous communities, to deliver programs of weed removal and rehabilitation. These engagements, although driven through weed control, have delivered genuine outcomes in education management and self esteem.

A date of 13 January was set to reconvene this meeting.

Special Meeting of 13 January achieved a quorum and the following was resolved.

Item 1 Election of a Chairman / Deputy Chairman.

Chairman

Mr Daryl Passfield, Manager Environmental Health, Greater Taree City Council, was nominated and he declined nomination.

Clr, David West of Greater Taree City Council nominated was accepted and was elected unopposed.

Deputy Chairman

Clr Dean Saul of Kempsey Shire Council nominated, accepted and was elected unopposed.

Item 2 NSW Weeds Action Program.

It was resolved that a subcommittee be established comprising Terry Hemmingway (L&PMA), Terry Schmitzer (MNCWAC), Clr David West (GTCC), Clr Dean Saul (KSC), Michael Dodkin (DECCW), Rod Ensbey (DII), scope the proposed position of consultant to assist in the production of the Weeds Action Program Grant Application.

The first meeting of the subcommittee was set for Wednesday 20 January at Greater Taree City Council.

Item 3 Future Auspice of the Mid North Coast Weeds Advisory Committee Inc.

It was resolved that the committee write to member councils and organisations seeking expressions of interest in the future auspice of the committee.

Debate on weed species lists to be the subject of control programs took place.

Sub-Committee (Weeds Action Program)

A meeting was held at Greater Taree City Council on 20 January 2010.

Scope of Project:

The project will require the development of a Regional Weeds Business Plan outlining;

1. The requirement of the NSW Weeds Action Program as they relate to the NSW Invasive Species Plan.
2. The requirements of the Noxious Weeds Act 1993.
3. Also outlining the community contribution toward weed programs in this region.

Following lengthy discussion on possible candidates for the task, and noting that tendering is not feasible due to the time constraints. (Application to be submitted to D.I.I. by 1 May 2010.) Along with the consultation that will be required with all the stakeholders, it was resolved that the sub-committee approach Daintry Gerrand as the preferred contractor. Her selection was on the basis of her ability, expertise and previous record of achieving desired outcomes and also considering the short timeframe available to complete the Weeds Action Program Grant Application, requesting that she provide an estimate cost for the project.

That a further meeting be scheduled for Monday 1 February to further this process.

RECOMMENDATION IMPLICATIONS:

- **Environmental**

Ongoing weed control measures are vital in the war against weeds.

Environmental weeds reduce bio-diversity by directly competing with native flora, often altering and destroying habit for native animals and thereby harming our unique fauna.

- **Social**

The importance of the Committee's submission to the Weeds Action Program Grant cannot be understated. All Weeds Advisory Committees are now competing for funding against other organisations and the better applications that show solid and inclusive partnerships with community and government will be given greater weight.

- **Economic (Financial)**

Council is a financial member of the Mid North Coast Weeds Advisory Committee.

- **Policy or Statutory**

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be noted

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COUNCILLOR D F SAUL