

17th NSW Weeds Conference Corowa

Weed management in NSW:
exploring opportunities to improve weed
management in NSW

Keynote speaker

Dr John Keniry AM

NSW Commissioner for Natural Resources

Outline

- About the NRC
- Terms of Reference for review of weed management
- Why this review? Why now?
- Outcome focused approach
- Commitment to consultation
- Review process

Natural Resources Commission

Our role:

Provide credible, independent advice to the NSW Government on managing natural resources in the social, economic and environmental interests of the state.

Functions:

- provide independent advice on natural resource management to the Premier and Ministers
- develop standards and targets for natural resource management in NSW, and oversee their implementation in regional planning
- undertake reviews of plans, audits and inquiries
- help to reconcile complex natural resource management issues.

The NRC undertakes this work using transparent, collaborative approaches

Terms of Reference

- **Purpose:** *to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the current weed management arrangements in NSW, with the view of informing the further development of the NSW Biosecurity Act and other relevant strategies under the NSW Biosecurity Strategy*
- **Four key lines of inquiry:**
 - the distribution and abundance of weeds across NSW and their impact on production and natural assets
 - current regulatory and institutional arrangements
 - weed management activities and funding arrangements
 - viable alternative weed management arrangements
- **Focus on barriers, opportunities and best practice**
- **Covers terrestrial and freshwater weeds on public and private land**

Steering Committee

- Members:
 - Dr John Keniry (Chair, NRC)
 - Dr Bruce Christie (DPI)
 - Mr Bob Conroy/Mr Mick O’Flynn (OEH)
 - Cr Reg Kidd (NWAC)

- Purpose:
 - to ensure that the Terms of Reference are met
 - to ensure that stakeholder input is considered

- First meeting in late August

Why this review? Why now?

- Weed management consistently raised as an issue during Local Land Service engagement
- Previous reviews
- Recommendations from the DPI Weed Summit (2009)
- Why the NRC?
- Review of biosecurity legislation and the launch of the Biosecurity Strategy

Examples of issues raised in previous reviews

- Funding – sources, effectiveness of use
- Effectiveness of awareness programs
- Multiple listing systems
- Efficiency and effectiveness of institutional arrangements
- Research and development – what should focus be?
- Compliance / enforcement arrangements and effectiveness
- Consistency of weed management on public/private land



Source – Industry & Investment NSW



Source – Kay Bailey (National Athel Pine & Bellyache bush Coordinator)



Source – Sandy Leighton



Source – M. Campbell



Source – Royce Holtkamp



Source – G. Grimshaw



Source – P. Sullivan



Source – B. Johnston



Source – NSW Department of Primary Industries



An outcomes focussed review

- Focus on improved outcomes and efficiency – not just another report
- No pre-determined outcome or hidden agenda
- We are:
 - Committed to taking a fresh and objective look at what is and is not working
 - Looking for practical ways to achieve better outcomes

Commitment to consultation

We want to hear your views



Issues Paper

- Purpose: To identify the key issues to be addressed by the review and clarify the scope
 - informed by
 - workshop to be held in September
 - NRC research
 - previous reviews
 - stakeholder input

- Timing:
 - Issues paper will be available for public comment from late October

- The NRC will review all comments to inform the draft report, which will include draft recommendations

Consultation

- Public comment periods
 - approximately six weeks for the Issues Paper
 - four weeks for the draft recommendation report
- Engagement with weed officers and Local Government
 - consultation with Regional Weed Committees, LGNSW, NWAC members
 - NWAC participation in Steering Committee
- How to stay informed: www.nrc.nsw.gov.au
- Regional tours
 - to include discussions with local weed officers
- Focus group meetings

Draft Report

- Will outline the findings and draft recommendations of the review
- Timing:
 - Issued in late-February
 - Additional consultation / public comments – concluding end of March
 - NRC considers feedback - April
- Final report to be issued by end-May

Questions?



www.nrc.nsw.gov.au