

# Gamba grass weed advisory committee meeting #15

A summary of activities tabled at meeting 15, undertaken in the period 28<sup>th</sup> November to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to progress implementation of the Weed Management Plan Gamba Grass 2020 – 2030. Activities are those undertaken by the Gamba Grass Weed Advisory Committee members, the Weed Management Branch and the Gamba Fire Mitigation Unit.

**Time** 9:00am – 3:00pm

**Date:** Monday, 11 March 2024

## Gamba Grass Weed Advisory Committee members present

Robert Allnut	Representing the Local Government Association Northern Territory (LGANT)	RA
Susanne Casanova	Chair – Representing Territory Natural Resource Management	SC
Shelly Haitana	Representing the Northern Territory tourism industry	SH
Sharron Hillen	Representing LGANT	SHI
Dr David Liddle	Representing Environment Centre Northern Territory (ECNT) / Gamba Grass Roots	DL
Dr Natalie Rossiter-Rachor	Representing Charles Darwin University (CDU) / National Environmental Science Program	NR-R
Sam Washusen (proxy)	Representing Parks and Wildlife of the Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security (DEPWS)	SW

## Gamba Grass Weed Advisory Committee apologies

Anna Boustead	Representing the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network (ICIN)	AB
Emily Fagg	Representing the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association	EF
Louise Kean	Representing NTG – Parks and Wildlife, DEPWS	LK
Dr Keith Ferdinands	Representing the Northern Land Council (NLC)	KF

## Other attendees present:

Emma Burcher	Weeds Planning Officer – Weed Management Branch (WMB), DEPWS	EB
Nigel Weston	Director – WMB, DEPWS	NW
Ian Brown (Guest speaker)	Consultant, Northern Land Council	IB
Racheal Curtain	Manager, Crown Land Estate, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics	RC
Lee Humphris (Guest speaker)	Senior Fire Management Officer, Bushfires NT, DEPWS	LH
Steven Myburgh (Guest speaker)	PHD student, University of Melbourne	SM
Julie Quinn	Office of the Threatened Species Commissioner, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	JQ

#To demonstrate progress against the [Weed Management Plan for Gamba Grass 2020 – 2030](#), the objectives of the 2020 – 2030 gamba plan being implemented have been noted beside each outcome listed below.

Summary of key outcomes against the Weed Management Plan for Gamba Grass 2020 – 2030: (committee member updates)

Objective of plan	Key outcomes this quarter
2a, 2c, 2d, 2e, 2f, 3a	<p><b>Parks and Wildlife DEPWS</b></p> <p><b>Mary River National Park</b> - Commenced ground spraying control December 2023. January 2024 was very wet restricting access. Actively targeting gamba since early February as a priority in the work program.</p> <p><b>Litchfield NP (LNP)</b> – Federal Government Funded Gamba Control Program - Substantial efforts commenced October 2023 through until early March 2024 from ground contractors. Early indications at this point is that the program is rolling out well with the combination of aerial and follow up ground control efforts. To date a total of 1561 sites have been treated and recorded this weed season with aerial control due to commence in March – weather dependant. In addition, LNP Rangers continue to access areas where ground and aerial control contractors are not operating, completing in and around roadsides and access tracks. LNP Weed Walkers volunteers continue to target the more remote areas of the Park. NTG Roads department continue to control gamba through the LNP road corridor.</p> <p><b>Darwin Parks</b> - Gamba Army commenced spraying at Charles Darwin NP, Casuarina Coastal Reserve (CCR), Holmes Jungle and Knuckey Lagoons. Adopt a Spot volunteers continue hand pulling gamba outliers in nominated compartments at CCR. Rangers commenced roadside and bushland spraying targeting gamba at parks across the District.</p> <p><b>Adelaide River Wetlands Rangers</b> - Follow up weed control for areas targeted in the last two years with a focus on Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve, Lambells Lagoon and Djukbinj NP.</p> <p><b>Nitmiluk</b> - Rangers conducted entry road inspections, and general inspections during general spraying operations of the intensive use zones throughout Leliyn and the Gorge sectors. No gamba grass detected.</p>
2a, 2c, 2d, 2e, 3a	<p><b>Casuarina Coastal Reserve Landcare Group in collaboration with Parks and Wildlife</b></p> <p>Under this program community volunteers map and control gamba grass in adopted spots to target small outlying infestations within Casuarina Coastal Reserve. The 2023/2024 wet season is the third year of the program. The season kicked-off with a training session in early December and volunteers have been attending their spots to destroy gamba grass prior to seeding. Community volunteers have also worked with Parks and Wildlife staff to map gamba grass in the large infestations within the Reserve. There are four years of mapping for much of the Reserve and the data demonstrate a substantial decline in the abundance of gamba grass where control work has been implemented.</p>
4a	<p><b>Community – Gamba Grass Roots</b></p> <p>The evolution of Gamba Grass Roots as a community based organisation has progressed with registration as a group under the auspices of Landcare NT <a href="https://landcarent.org.au/groups/gamba-grass-roots/">https://landcarent.org.au/groups/gamba-grass-roots/</a> Activities have included market stalls, a community barbeque and advice to landholders.</p>
3a	<p><b>Tourism Top End &amp; Litchfield Tourism - Advocacy policy document for upcoming NT election</b></p> <p>Both organisations are currently finalising their priorities to present to various stakeholders ahead of the upcoming NT election.</p>

WMB and GFMU Updates:

Objective of plan	Key outcomes this quarter
1a	<p><b>Class A zone</b></p> <p>Commenced follow up with landholders within the Class A zone and liaison with stakeholders involved in federal funding addressing gamba grass in the Class A zone.</p>
2a, 2c-2f	<p><b>Gamba Action Program</b></p> <p>As of 6 March 2024 over 2300 units of herbicide have been collected by landholders as part of the program. Each unit is 5L of glyphosate.</p>
4a	<p><b>Communications</b></p> <p>Progress gamba grass communications including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new word version template available online at <a href="https://www.nt.gov.au/landcare/landcare-nt/landcare-nt-weed-management-planning/">Weed management planning   NT.GOV.AU</a> for individual property owners to prepare a weed management plan.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WMB hosted the gamba grass identification session at the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network (ICIN) Conference.</li> </ul>
4b	<p><b>Gamba Grass Best Practice Manual</b> Continued collaboration with Wild Matters on development of Gamba Grass Best Practice Manual.</p>
5a	<p><b>Compliance</b> Gamba Fire Mitigation region inspections have commenced with over 830 inspections. Round one almost completed. Non-compliant landholders will be notified and instructed. From April, 2<sup>nd</sup> round inspections will commence, leading to warnings or infringements for non-compliance, based on previous history and engagement. The Darwin Operations team have completed their 1<sup>st</sup> round of inspections at identified priority areas. This is a total of 400 land parcels inspected in the Palmerston/Darwin Council area.</p>
2a, 2c-2f	<p><b>Fire Ready Assistance</b> 7 properties have been treated so far this season. A late start to the wet season followed by lots of rain has delayed the start of works.</p>
All	<p><b>Review of Weed Management Plan Gamba Grass 2020 - 2030</b> Finalised in January 2024 and revised plan is available online.</p>