

## 2. Summary of Recommendations

### Legislative requirements for weed control

*Recommendation 1:* NLC legal staff to investigate the implications of the new weed management bill particularly in relation to enforcement and compulsory acquisition of land.

*Recommendation 2:* Urgent need to inform landowners of their responsibilities under the NT Noxious Weeds Act and also to the implications of the impending weed bill. This needs to be presented in a culturally appropriate format. NLC to collaborate with NTDPIF and produce extension material on this.

*Recommendation 3:* The NLC should investigate a range of approaches to meet the cost of controlling species that were recommended for sowing and which have now spread to Aboriginal land. These could include government control/eradication programs and compensation and legal remedies. .

*Recommendation 4:* NLC to pursue negotiations in association with other interested groups to increase the number of weeds declared under the Northern Territory Noxious Weeds Act.

### Weed origins

*Recommendation 5:* There currently needs to be greater effort put into the following areas on NLC land:

1. Assessment of potential weeds through an appropriate weeds risk assessment program by those intending to use plants as pasture species.
2. Level of awareness of the weeds that have been introduced.
3. Level of awareness of the method of introduction of these weeds.

### Future collection, storage and mapping of weed data

*Recommendation 6:* NLC to seek funds to carry out a complete weed survey on all Aboriginal land. It is certain that the distribution data and the number of species recorded as weeds on Aboriginal land could be expanded greatly given further survey work.

*Recommendation 7:* NLC to seek funds to provide a dedicated person for the collation, entry and maintenance of any database developed by the NLC. This person should be located in the CFCU. Funding sources would logically come from ILC.

*Recommendation 8:* NLC to seek funds to employ a weed botanist to carry out the survey and data collection work on Aboriginal land. Possible funding sources include EA-invasive weeds program, or the ILC. This should be a joint NLC and DPIF/CRC position.

*Recommendation 9:* NLC to carry out an education program to increase the level of awareness in Aboriginal communities about weeds and their methods of introduction.

*Recommendation 10:* NLC to continue liaison with NTDPIF re the development of its weed database. The NLC should make sure it is involved in any further developments by the EA working group for the development of the National Weeds Database.

*Recommendation 11:* NLC to pilot a weed database collection and mapping program in one area or one community. This, once practically developed, can then be used as a model to train and instruct other communities.

*Recommendation 12:* Attention to weed control on Aboriginal land should be given to species in the priority groups in descending order. Recommended control methods for weed species in the high and medium priority group are given in Appendix 3. It will be necessary to periodically review this list, add new species or change priorities should the need arise.

### Weed management

*Recommendation 13:* Where possible NLC to assist in the development of controls on the importation of plant matter, soil and construction materials into weed free areas.

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For example, a policy and list of acceptable species for introduction needs to be developed for the Arnhem Land area.

*Recommendation 14:* NLC to raise the profile of weed issues among land landowners, local community residents, members of the public, members of the tourism industry, contractors and government departments working on Aboriginal land. (Liaise with all those with an interest.)

*Recommendation 15:* NLC to consider the development of an acceptable list of species to guide landholders and residents to appropriate native species suited for their country.

*Recommendation 16:* NLC to facilitate the development of alternative lists of plant species that are suitable for plantings on Aboriginal land. The replacement of some crop trees and screening shrubs is of paramount importance. Lists of species need to be developed for improved pasture areas, particularly ponded pastures, which do not include the current suite of highly invasive exotic plants. (Liaise with ALEP, ILMF.)

*Recommendation 17:* NLC to liaise with nurseries in rural and remote areas to suggest alternatives to selling weed species or NT plants out of their genetic range e.g. Nhulunbuy nurseries. (Liaise with ALEP, ILMF, NTDPIF, PWCNT.) Possibility of including some sort of status category like 'Australian made'.

*Recommendation 18:* NLC to coordinate an education program designed for local community councils and resource centres to make them aware of the importance of not importing weed species. (Liaise with ALEP, ILMF, NTDPIF.)

*Recommendation 19:* NLC to liaise with NTDPIF pastures re the assessment procedures used to determine release of pasture species.

*Recommendation 20:* NLC to investigate landholders' desire to install washdown facilities at strategic locations to prevent the entry of weeds onto relatively weed-free areas.

*Recommendation 21:* NLC to consider making permits regulating movement of hay through Aboriginal land compulsory, ensuring best codes of practice are conditions of entry to Aboriginal land. For example, sourcing hay from weed-free crops.

### **Training**

*Recommendation 22:* NLC through the CFCU assist communities members to identify local individuals in communities who can be trained to deliver weeds modules. This should involve the delivery of appropriate training at the Workplace Training Category 1 level and Assessor Training courses by appropriate people.

*Recommendation 23:* NLC to organise where appropriate those involved in the delivery of modules and courses to get together to present offerings at one place e.g. give talks at communities to prospective students. This will allow informed decisions to be made about the most appropriate type of training. There needs to be an overall commitment and coordinated approach to the delivery of courses so the best choice is made.

*Recommendation 24:* NLC to help communities identify those people considered appropriate for the delivery of weed training modules. NLC then to liaise with training bodies about the delivery of workplace training at communities to train selected trainers.

### **Awareness**

*Recommendation 25:* NLC liaise with interested parties such as ALEP, ILMF, DPIF, Topical Savannas CRC and CRC for Weed Management Systems etc. to form an information transfer group to examine the production of appropriate material about weed issues as well as the programs and policies of government departments.

*Recommendation 26:* NLC to increase education and involvement of Aboriginal traditional owners in weed issues.

*Recommendation 27:* NLC to organise field trips for Aboriginal traditional owners to view major weed threats of infestations in the Darwin area.

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*Recommendation 28:* NLC to provide weed identification booklets, fact sheets posters and information as it becomes available to NLC regional offices.

*Recommendation 29:* Regional and NLC main office to be on the mailing list for calendars and any weed information as it becomes available.

*Recommendation 30:* NLC to consider some form of interpretive material e.g. poster or calendar about who to contact for weeds information. Consideration should be given to presenting information in different languages. NLC to liaise with interested parties on this e.g. NTDPIF, TS-CRC, CRC Weeds, ALEP, ILMF, AQIS etc. on this.

### **Collaboration and Partners**

*Recommendation 31:* NLC to liaise with PWCNT, AQIS, CRC Weeds, NTDPIF and TS-CRC to build capacity of institutions to understand philosophy and methods of participation.

*Recommendation 32:* NLC to liaise with PWCNT, AQIS, CRC Weeds, NTDPIF and TS-CRC to build capacity of institutions to engage in cross-cultural activities.

*Recommendation 33:* NLC to liaise with PWCNT, AQIS, CRC Weeds, NTDPIF and TS-CRC to build capacity of institutions to recognise strengths and limitations of current approaches.