

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

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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”<sup>1</sup> 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 website<sup>2</sup> 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 requirements<sup>3</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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](https://nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/954789/weed-management-plan-for-gamba-grass-2020-2030.PDF)

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

<sup>3</sup> 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](https://nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/954789/weed-management-plan-for-gamba-grass-2020-2030.PDF)