

**From:** [ECInfo](#)  
**To:** [Mailroom Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Submission to LTP 13th April 2015 EMAIL:05270810  
**Date:** Monday, 13 April 2015 9:19:55 a.m.

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----- Original Message -----

**From:** Richardson Pamela Joan  
**Received:** 13/04/2015 7:27 a.m.  
**To:** ECInfo; Environment Canterbury; Services Customer; Services Customer  
**Subject:** Submission to LTP 13th April 2015

To whom it may concern.

Please find submission attached .

Pam Richardson member Banks Peninsula Goat Working Group ..

## **P19 Consultation document**

### **Pest Management and the proposal to focus on smarter management of pest risk.**

The Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust, the Department of Conservation, the Christchurch City Council and Environment Canterbury have formed a partnership in an effort to eradicate goats from Banks Peninsula. Today over 5,000 goats have been removed and we are looking for ongoing funding of \$20,000 to continue with an ongoing programme of eradication of goats.

***The greatest risk for Banks Peninsula is that if the programme does not continue we will see an increasing number of goats return once again. We need to manage the goat populations and prevent re - infestation.***

Banks Peninsula has for some time had pest control initiatives to control pests at lower levels. These programmes are

- The Possum Management Strategy when over \$2 million was spent over a 15-20 year on eradicating Tb in possums [funding provided from various sources by the Animal Health Board Ecan levies etc.] Considerable numbers of possums were removed from throughout Banks Peninsula and today in recognition of the funding spent a targeted rate funds a programme to manage possums at those lower levels working progressively around the Peninsula
- The Rabbit Programme for Banks Peninsula and rural landowners continue to be rated for a programme that is able to respond wherever rabbit populations are causing a problem. This is the only programme operating in Canterbury and the results show that we are managing the rabbit populations at lower levels.

The story of removing thousands of goats from Banks Peninsula is worth telling as there have been several earlier attempts at eradicating goats with little evidence of real success.

Goats and their insatiable appetite for lush indigenous vegetation can cause horrific damage to the environment. Feral goats have populated BP since the late 1800's and increased in numbers in the 1980's due to the collapse of the goat industry and subsequent reluctance to spend money recovering escapees. In recent years goats have been used as a tool for the management of gorse.

The Department of Conservation had a strategy and between 1992 and 2002 controlled the goats in their reserves to protect the indigenous vegetation. The areas were continually being re infested from the adjacent private land so some work was carried out on private land where agreement could be met mostly in the same area.

In 1998 a group of concerned landowners [see article attached] members of the public and the Department of Conservation formed a liaison group to institute some control.

In 2005 a joint control Strategy was developed by J Parkes Land Care Research with funds provided by the Biodiversity Advice Fund for the Department of Conservation, Environment Canterbury, the Christchurch City Council and the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust. Over 5000 goats have now been removed but there continues to be the debate as to how achievable complete eradication would be. At present we estimate less than 500 individual feral goats remain in areas of Banks Peninsula and we are working to remove and continue with control in other areas.

The partnership has three meetings per year but unfortunately the programme was disrupted by the earthquakes for a period of time. Each organization brings different skills to the table and these have been used with good success. Following the last meeting earlier in the year a number of steps were once again highlighted

- Continue to meet on a regular basis with an update on goat numbers, using the template.
- The Department of Conservation to meet with landowners to talk about the Wild Animal Control Act and the need to use this tool where appropriate.
- Recommends that funds are sourced for on-going surveillance to keep feral goats in check/to prevent them emerging again in such large numbers
- The need for landowners to continue to report where the feral goats are grazing

***The partnership looks forward to a positive outcome - \$20,000 being allocated to the programme for the ongoing eradication of goats.***

This is one way that we can all help to improve the health of our native vegetation and biodiversity and keep another pest at lower level.

**Pam Richardson a member of the Banks Peninsula Goat Working Group representing the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust**

Attachments :

Front page Banks Peninsula Feral Goat Strategy February 2005

Front page Banks Peninsula Goat Control plan 1992-2002

Akaroa Mail article 1998

Handout Feral goats on Banks Peninsula

*2013-2014*

*Kilbuck*

# Banks Peninsula feral goat control strategy

Prepared by John Parkes

For: Department of Conservation, Banks Peninsula Conservation  
Trust, Environment Canterbury, Christchurch City Council

FEBRUARY 2005

Published by  
Department of Conservation  
North Canterbury Area  
Private Bag 4715  
Christchurch, New Zealand





**BANKS**

**PENINSULA**

**GOAT CONTROL**

**PLAN**

**1992 - 2002**

# Goats on Banks Peninsula

Wild goats have become widespread across Banks Peninsula in the last decade. They represent a major threat to the continued survival of the remaining native vegetation. We believe that Peninsula people and public authorities should face up to this deteriorating situation and reverse it.

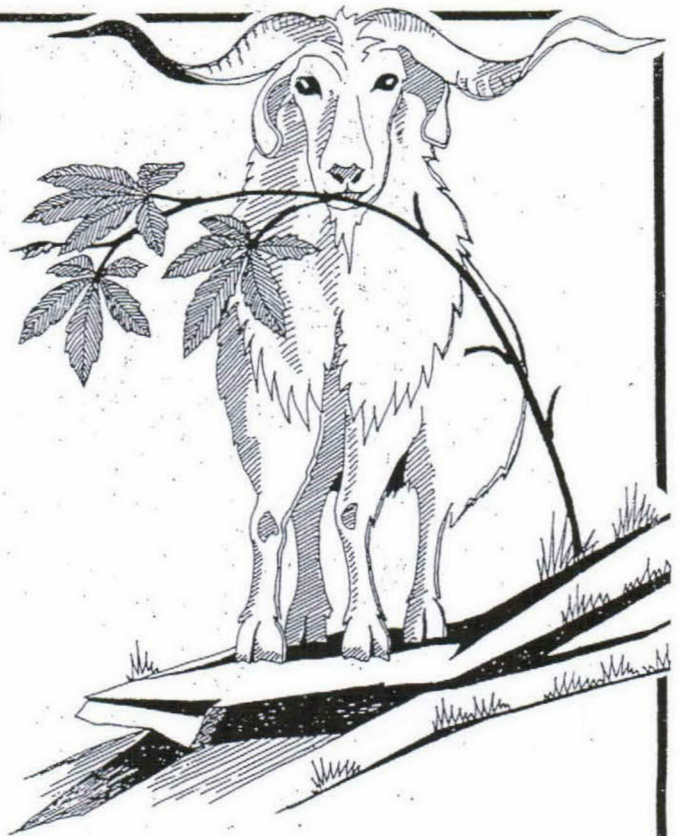
## An open letter...

Native vegetation on Banks Peninsula is represented now only by remnants - patches of original and second-growth bush and kanuka, scattered trees of totara, kahikatea and matai over pasture, tussock and scrub here and there, and the unique assemblages of plants on rocky bluffs and cliffs.

These remnants are important to us all. They are part of our special landscape and our surroundings. They enrich our environment. They are a perpetual source of interest and delight waiting to be explored and discovered by each new generation. They are also a resource. The plants and the wildlife they support not only provide firewood but also shelter for stock and protection of soil and water. Increasingly they will also be an important reason why other people come to visit the Peninsula (and spend their money here!).

Few threats to the survival of this native vegetation are currently as serious as that posed by wild and poorly farmed goats. Goats have been kept in a minor way on the Peninsula for many years, but the widespread farming and escape of these animals has taken place only within the last decade.

Everywhere in New Zealand (and elsewhere) where goats have gone wild they have wreaked havoc on native vegetation. They can and will totally destroy forest by ring-barking mature trees and by arresting regeneration. They reach sites inaccessible to all other grazing and browsing mammals. Although they have food preferences, and although gorse and broom are among their favourites, they consume a wide range of native trees, shrubs and herbs. Several plant species unique to Banks Peninsula are now, believe it or not, in serious danger of extinction. Many common ones such as ribbonwood, kowhai, mahoe and fivefinger are being widely damaged. Often the damage is done before it becomes obvious to most people. A recently completed botanical survey shows that the deterioration is reaching frightening proportions.



We are Canterbury and Peninsula residents, scientists, farmers, naturalists etc., who are deeply concerned at this loss of our heritage of Peninsula flora and fauna. We urgently want to increase awareness of the value of remaining and regenerating native vegetation, and the serious threat that goats pose to it.

We are not suggesting restrictions on what animals farmers can run on their own land, and we do not claim that responsible goat-farming has no place on the Peninsula. Goats can be difficult to confine with conventional fencing and now roam widely over other peoples' land, into plantations and over publicly and privately owned reserves. Forestry developments increasingly face added costs for essential goat control.

As weed eaters, goats are most useful when heavily stocked within well-fenced small blocks of scrub (20 to 30 hectares or less). Dispersed browsing across wider areas is at best minimally effective for weed control and can in the long run favour weedy species which, by their nature, thrive in disturbed conditions.

We believe that both individual efforts and community effort is needed promptly to remove straying and wild goats from areas where natural values are unacceptably at risk. A great deal is at stake.

A local working group has been set up with access to people skilled in goat control, and the ability to organise control programmes at no cost to landowners.

### Inserted in the interests of Banks Peninsula by:

Bill Aitken  
Alison Bates  
Jock Bulman  
Gavin Daly  
Phil Garnock-Jones  
Warwick Harris  
Alan Haylock

Felicity Aitken  
Phil Bates  
Colin Burrows  
Arthur Ericson  
David Given  
Donald Hay  
Richard Heyward

Amanda Baird  
Margaret Bulfin  
Rowan Buxton  
Martin Fogarty  
David Glenney  
June Hay  
David Hodder

Ross Jamieson  
Gabrielle Menzies  
David Norton  
Joan Radcliffe  
Peter Shanahan  
Peter Wardle

Ralph Knowles  
Colin Meurk  
John Parkes  
Karen Riddell  
Lon Stronach  
Colin Webb

Maruia Society  
Brian Molloy  
David Pine  
Karl Schasching  
Tina Troup  
Hugh Wilson

OR post this slip to Hugh Wilson,  
c/o Cabstand,  
Eastern Bays RD,  
Akaroa.

There are stray goats in my area and I would like further information.

Name: .....

Address: .....

Phone number: .....

Donations towards the cost of this advertisement will be gratefully accepted.



# Feral goats on Banks Peninsula

## What is a wild or feral goat?

Under the Wild Animal Control Act 1977 a goat is wild or feral if it is not held behind effective fences or constrained and identified with a recognised identification system. Any wild goat entering a property may be destroyed or disposed of by the landowner. Non-feral (tagged) goats that trespass may be dealt with under the Impounding Act 1955. It is an offence to release goats into the wild or encourage an increase in the feral goat population.

## What control is occurring?

The Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust, Environment Canterbury, the Department of Conservation, and the Christchurch City Council are working together to eradicate feral goats from Banks Peninsula.

## Why get rid of wild goats?

Goats destroy forest by ring-barking mature trees, browsing on regeneration and opening up light gaps where weeds invade. The loss of vegetation increases erosion and decreases water quality. Several plants unique to Banks Peninsula are now at risk of extinction due to goat browse. Goats can severely damage plantation forestry by browsing young trees and by stripping bark from older trees. Goats also carry diseases such as footrot and lice.

## How can I help?

Report any goat sightings as soon as possible to: David Hunter, Target Pest Enterprises, phone: (03) 325-1103, 325-1215 (direct dial), fax: (03) 325-1003, mobile (0274) 374-743.

For weed control, consider using other animals (e.g. sheep), or other methods (e.g. herbicide). To be effective for gorse control, goats need to be kept at high numbers (20/ha) within very good fences.

If you own goats on Banks Peninsula please ensure that fences are goat-proof (see below) and well maintained or that the goats are well tethered and that goats are tagged.

## What fencing is needed to secure goats?

The best goat proof fence is a netting deer fence that is well secured at ground level. The minimum recommended standards for a goat proof fence are:

- Standard nine wire high tensile fence, 6 posts/20 metres
- Maximum spacing between battens of 1 m
- Electrified wires at 30 cm, 60 cm and 120 cm

Ensure stays and angle strainers are on the side of the fence to be protected, as goats are agile enough to climb structural parts of the fence.