

# Stakeholder engagement summary report

This document summarises the consultation that has taken place during the development of the Proposal for the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan (“the Proposal”) as at 25 May 2017.

## Consultation during development of Proposal

In December 2015 Environment Canterbury released a discussion document on the future of pest management in Canterbury. The purpose of the discussion document was to seek the community’s views on the best approaches to be taken in a new regional pest management plan.

Environment Canterbury received a total of 97 feedback responses and 13 public meetings were held. The intention across all of the public meetings was to provide an overview of the discussion document and review process, outline the proposed shift in focus, and seek detailed feedback from the community on current and future pest management.

The outcome of this consultation was general agreement on the concept of placing greater priority on prevention, early intervention and pest risk pathway management, but not at the expense of controlling existing legacy pests.

## Ministers

Environment Canterbury met with representatives from the Department of Conservation (DOC) at various stages during the consultation process. In addition to general consultation around the process for the review and a high level structure of the Proposal, other discussion points were around establishing pests of mutual interest with DOC being the primary delivery agent, and management of specific interests such as Russell lupins, spartina, wallabies, rabbits and feral goats (under the Wild Animal Control Act).

General consultation also took place with Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) representatives as they are large landowners and will have ‘Good Neighbour’ responsibilities under the Proposal.

Environment Canterbury attended a workshop run by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) to discuss requirements for the National Policy Direction.

## Local authorities

Environment Canterbury has had meetings with neighbouring councils and consulted with them in relation to the process for the regional pest management plan review and high level structure of the proposal. Each meeting also had specific topics to discuss, in particular:

- Progress of Marlborough District Council and West Coast Regional Council’s pest management plans to establish where they are at in their process and also to ensure that they align with the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan (CRPMP).
- Consultation with Otago Regional Council in relation to a joint work plan for wallaby management as an area of concern.

- Discussion with Timaru District Council, Ashburton District Council, Selwyn District Council, Kaikōura District Council, Christchurch City Council and Waimakariri District Council on managing pests on roadsides and gravel extraction conditions.
- Outlined with Ashburton District Council and Selwyn District Council the tension between protecting native vegetation on roadsides and impact from adjoining land occupiers having responsibility for pest management

Canterbury Planning Managers Group comprises representatives from each of the territorial authorities in Canterbury and Environment Canterbury including, Christchurch City Council, Waimakariri District Council, Ashburton District Council, Selwyn District Council, Hurunui District Council, Waimate District Council, Timaru District Council, Mackenzie District Council, Waitaki District Council, Ministry for the Environment and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. There were several meetings with this group at various stages of the process. Apart for the general procedural information and consultation, there were some specific discussion topics which helped with the formation of the Proposal.

### **Tangata Whenua**

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu representatives attended the Canterbury Planning Managers Group meetings as stated above. Environment Canterbury also consulted with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu representatives, the Rūnanga Working Group and Te Paiherenga to discuss the process for the regional pest management plan review and high level structure of the Proposal. Some specific talking points with these groups were around the link between biodiversity and production pest management, establishing other pests or organisms of interest, managing pests/organisms outside the plan, funding streams and the responsibilities and obligations of resource users.

### **Other persons**

Environment Canterbury has held consultative meetings with key industry and interest groups such as NZ Merino, KiwiRail, Federated Farmers, NZ Forestry, Forest & Bird, Anti 1080 activists, Upper Rangitata Gorge Landcare Group, QEII Trust, Canterbury Pest Management Liaison Committees, District Councils mayors, Zone Committee chairs, Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust, Lyttelton Reserves Committee, the farming community and land managers. There is some overlap with landowner and community engagement.

### **Summary of feedback received through consultation**

In general, feedback included:

1. General support for a more proactive approach to stop new pests becoming established in the region, including more surveillance and pathway management.
2. General opposition to reducing regulation of legacy pests, such as gorse and broom. Those that provided feedback were concerned that a reduction in regulation for these pests would cause an increase in their density and geographic spread, losing any gains that had been made in recent history.
3. Many new organisms (not currently included in the Regional Pest Management Strategy 2011-15) were suggested as pests for consideration under the proposed Plan that impact on biodiversity values.
4. There was clear support for the Proposal around:

- Keeping pests that are not in Canterbury out of Canterbury
  - Regional benefits from reducing pest spread, e.g. keeping wallabies out of central and north Canterbury, and keeping Chilean Needle Grass out of central and south Canterbury.
  - Good Neighbour Rules
  - Retaining Community Pest Initiatives
  - Rules to provide protection for pest control investments
  - Greater level of regulatory support for wilding conifer control efforts
  - Eradication of baccharies, entire marshwort, phragmites, egeria and rooks
  - A focus on preventing wallabies establishing themselves in new areas
5. Key issues/concerns from general issues and concerns to more specific:
- Maintaining current levels of control, not reducing efforts and losing gains made
  - The levels of coordination, management, and education associated with the new Plan
  - Keeping links between biodiversity and biosecurity visible in the Plan
  - A desire to know the specific rule requirements around boundary rule for gorse and broom
  - Managing pests on roadsides and the transport of pests through gravel extraction / use in relation to roading
  - The tension between protecting native vegetation on roadsides and impact from adjoining land occupiers having responsibility for pest management
  - The proposed declassification of ragwort, nodding thistle and variegated thistle received both support and opposition
  - Concern some land owners use the “excuse” of being required to eliminate the few isolated gorse/broom plants to clear native vegetation to increase production
6. Questions about what will be included in the Proposal and how aspects of the Proposal may work:
- How to make the Plan work and what the rules need to look like along with the procedures and processes to implement compliance against the rules
  - The management of road reserves
  - The link between resource consent conditions and pest management
  - Whether the Regional Pest Management Plan would be solely land-focused or land and marine-focussed
  - Te flexibility to add or remove pests from the plan once it has been made operative

## Meeting and Consultation Actions Summary Table

A summary of the actions undertaken is set out in the following table:

Meeting/ Action	Date	Location
Targeted Meeting with Runanga Working Group	06/10/2015	Lincoln Events Centre
Targeted Meeting with Te Paiherenga	30/11/2015	CES, 89 Nazareth Avenue
Discussion document published	December 2015	Environment Canterbury Website, hard copies available in Environment Canterbury Customer Services
Targeted Meeting with Department of Conservation	03/02/2016	Department of Conservation Christchurch Office
Discussion document public meeting, with only farming interests in attendance	04/02/2016	A & P Room, Oxford Town Hall
Targeted Meeting with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu	05/02/2016	Te Whare o Te Waipounamu,
Discussion document public meeting, with only farming interests in attendance	09/02/2016	Kaikōura Memorial Hall supper room
Discussion document public meeting, with only farming interests in attendance	10/02/2016	Cheviot Trust Hotel
Discussion document public meeting, with only farming interests in attendance	11/02/2016	Greta Valley Tavern
Discussion document public meeting, with only farming interests in attendance	12/02/2016	Waiau Community Hall & Library
Discussion document public meeting, with only farming interests in attendance	15/02/2016	Waikari Memorial Hall
Discussion document public meeting, including Ashley Pest Management Liaison Committee and North Canterbury High Country Federated Farmers representation	16/02/2016	Waimakariri District Council
Discussion document public meeting with farming interests, Department of Conservation and Anti 1080 activists in attendance	17/02/2016	Kurow Hotel
Discussion document public meeting with farming interests, ratepayers,	18/02/2016	Caroline Bay Hall, Timaru

Timaru Herald, Forestry, Forest & Bird and Federated Farmers in attendance		District Council
Discussion document meeting with farming interests, Upper Rangitata Gorge Landcare Group and Federated Farmers in attendance	19/02/2016	Ashburton Federated Farmers meeting room
Targeted Meeting with Canterbury Planning Managers Group (Territorial Authorities)	19/02/2016	Lincoln Events Centre
Discussion document public meeting with Christchurch City Council Ranger and Summit Road Society representation	22/02/2016	Addington Racecourse, Christchurch
Discussion document public meeting with farming interests and Selwyn Pest Management Liaison Committee	22/02/2016	Lincoln Events Centre
Discussion document public meeting with farming interests, Federated Farmers Contractor, Conservation and land manager in attendance	23/02/2016	Little River Rugby Clubrooms, Banks Peninsula
Targeted Meeting with Christchurch City Council	25/02/2016	Christchurch City Council offices
Targeted Meeting with NZ Merino	29/02/2016	NZ Merino offices
Targeted Meeting with QEII Trust	29/04/2016	Environment Canterbury offices, Christchurch
Discussion document feedback summary published	June 2016	Environment Canterbury Website
Targeted Meeting with NZ Merino	19/07/2016	NZ Merino offices
Further stakeholder/ community meeting with members of Federated Farmers, Pest Management Liaison Committees, District Councils Mayors, Zone Committee Chairs, Forest and Bird, and land managers in attendance.	19/08/2016 & 10/05/2017	Amberley Rugby Clubrooms, Hurunui
Further stakeholder/ community meeting with members of Federated Farmers, Pest Management Liaison Committees, District Councils Mayors, Zone Committee Chairs, Forest and Bird, and land managers in attendance.	23/08/2016 & 12/05/2017	Ashburton Hotel
Further stakeholder/ community meeting with members of Federated Farmers, Pest Management Liaison Committees, District Councils Mayors, Zone Committee Chairs, Forest and Bird, Banks Peninsula Conservation	26/08/2016 & 15/05/2017	Little River Rugby Clubrooms, Banks Peninsula

Trust, Lyttelton Reserves Committee, and land managers in attendance.		
Further stakeholder/ community meeting with members of Federated Farmers, Pest Management Liaison Committees, District Councils Mayors, Zone Committee Chairs, Forest and Bird, and land managers in attendance.	29/08/2016 & 8/05/2017	Environment Canterbury offices, Timaru
Targeted Meeting with Canterbury Planning Managers Group (Territorial Authorities)	16/09/2016	Lincoln Events Centre
Targeted Meeting with Rūnanga Working Group	05/10/2016	Environment Canterbury offices, Christchurch
Targeted Meeting with Te Paiherenga	10/10/2016	Environment Canterbury offices, Christchurch
Targeted Meeting with Marlborough District Council and West Coast Regional Council	26/10/2016	Epic Innovation, Christchurch
Targeted Meeting with Timaru District Council	03/11/2016	Timaru District Council offices
Targeted Meeting with Land Information New Zealand	06/12/2016	Environment Canterbury offices, Christchurch
Targeted Meeting with Waimakariri District Council	01/02/2017	Waimakariri District Council offices
Targeted Meeting with Department of Conservation	20/02/2017	Environment Canterbury offices, Christchurch
Targeted Meeting with Ashburton District Council	27/02/2017	Ashburton District Council offices
Targeted Meeting with Department of Conservation	30/03/2017	Department of Conservation offices
Targeted Meeting with Otago Regional Council	03/04/2017	Environment Canterbury offices, Timaru
Targeted Meeting with Department of Conservation and NZ Merino	28/04/2017	Environment Canterbury offices, Christchurch
Targeted Meeting with KiwiRail	28/04/2017	Environment Canterbury offices, Christchurch
Targeted Meeting with Rūnanga Working Group	10/05/2017	Environment Canterbury offices, Christchurch
Targeted Meeting with Canterbury Planning Managers Group	12/05/2017	Lincoln Events Centre