


From: Environment Canterbury
To: [Mailroom Mailbox](#)
Subject: Proposal for the Canterbury RPMP Plan [#22]
Date: Wednesday, 28 June 2017 10:00:35 a.m.

Name *	Rob Smith
Organisation (the organisation that this submission is made on behalf of, where applicable)	QEII National Trust
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Please tick those that apply	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I do wish to be heard in support of my submission; and if so,• I would be prepared to consider presenting my submission in a joint case with others making a similar submission at any hearing
Attach any supporting documents here.	<div data-bbox="667 972 766 1070"></div> submission_for_wallaby_control.docx 12.75 KB · DOCX

Submission for Wallaby Control

Wallabies have caused and continue to cause significant browsing damage in QEII National Trust covenants that are found along the Hunter Hill eastern slopes.

Wallabies browse to chest height and will take all edible natives. This has resulted in the loss of an understory for these covenants. This loss of understory will mean that these remnant bush patches are being turned into museum pieces of bush. The loss of regeneration will eventually mean that when the canopy trees die then there will be no understory to fill the light wells. Thus eventually we will be looking at deforestation of erosion prone slopes, loss of local biodiversity and loss of local bush enjoyment by many interest groups.

Wallabies we believe need a coordinated and centralised control group to effectively manage the numbers which is not happening under the current regime. We have seen the current legislative and management approach undertaken by all the responsible local and regional authorities as well as local landowners often not being that effective. The reasons for this lack of impact on the wallaby population is that wallabies need to be in high numbers before control methods are used, by this time, even if we manage to get a coordinated approach from all the landowners (not an easy task) much of the damage has been done and the lower levels of the bush are effectively stripped bare.

The current situation means that only unpalatable species in the Hunter Hills have any real chance of getting to canopy height. The Hunter hills have some magnificent examples of broadleaf and fuschia canopy trees for instance. These are both highly palatable for wallabies and are simply not being replaced due to mammalian browsing. The impact of wallabies will mean in future that these trees will disappear from the canopy with the result loss of habitat for our indigenous birds as well.

Wallabies prefer having bush cover during the day then moving out onto pasture at night. Thus the edges of any bush besides paddocks are often where the densities of wallabies are at their highest. Our covenants are often long strips of bush clad gullies with pasture on either side. Thus we have a large marginal strip that forms a considerable percentage of our covenanted land where wallabies live during the day. This edge effect on New Zealand's already most affected region for loss of biodiversity and bush will eventually mean a collapse of the bush edges and a further contraction of the bush.

We would like to see the regional council leading and have the authority to coordinate wallaby control and raise the funds needed by a targeted rate. We have already spent over \$20,000 last year on wallaby control for some of our covenants but realise that this is effectively not a very useful way to spend money without a coordinated approach from the local landowners. We believe that the regional council will be the best leader for this role. Our covenants are managed for perpetuity, without effective wallaby control we could well end up managing covenants that look very different from the original covenant. These could well be deforested gullies in many places or covenants with only inedible species in them.

Attached are some photos of wallaby infested bush and also bush free from wallabies.

From: Environment Canterbury
To: [Mailroom Mailbox](#)
Subject: Proposal for the Canterbury RPMP Plan [#21]
Date: Tuesday, 27 June 2017 10:51:46 a.m.

Name *	Rob Smith
Organisation (the organisation that this submission is made on behalf of, where applicable)	QEII National Trust
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Attach any supporting documents here.



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