

Submission to - Environment Canterbury Long term Plan 2019

To the Chairman and Councillors Environment Canterbury

Thank you for the opportunity to submit

The Feral Goat Working Group thanks Environment Canterbury for the \$40,000 allocation for the 2018 /19 year for the removal of feral goats from Banks Peninsula.

- The Feral Goat Working Group is a partnership between Environment Canterbury the Department of Conservation the Christchurch City Council and the Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust. Landowners are also an important part of the process.
- The Prices Valley trail in 2017 was regionally unique in applying intensive eradication methods –developed in offshore islands – to Banks Peninsula’s complex people dominated landscapes.
- This template can now be progressively applied to the remaining feral populations across Banks Peninsula. In August 2018 the feral goat population in the Little Akaloa catchment was reduced to zero.
- The Environment Canterbury Biosecurity team have followed up with inspections and monitoring of landowners farming goats in the Little Akaloa area. This is a vital part of the programme and there is a need to ensure that there is adequate funding and appropriate staff available to achieve the desired outcome.
- The Feral Goat Working Group have identified the next area and begun working with landowners. A plan of attack has been developed and a landowner visited and a plan agreed to. Neighbours have been and contacted and an email network is being developed. The programme is expected to be completed early 2020
- The Goat Working Group thanks Environment Canterbury Biosecurity team who have supported the Feral Goat Working Group. They have provided valuable support including information re the Regional Pest Management Strategy with farmed goats being tagged and behind an appropriate fence. The biosecurity team attended the Banks Peninsula Show at Little River. Going forward an important part of the programme will be the enforcement of the rules. We need to ensure that we monitor and record where farmed goats are being held.
- The Feral Goat Working Group needs to ensure that there is ongoing funding for the removal programme and inclusion within the wider pest free concept for Banks Peninsula – Pest Free Banks Peninsula.
- The Group supports Pest Free – Banks Peninsula and looks forward to being involved.

The history of removing over 5000 goats from Banks Peninsula is worth remembering. Banks Peninsula is a ‘high value area’ and has extensive areas of significant indigenous vegetation in public and private ownership. Feral goats and their insatiable appetite for lush indigenous vegetation can

cause horrific damage to the environment. They 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 and some landowners see goats as a recreational hunting opportunity.

The '2018 Little Akaloa feral goat removal operation: result report' is available.

The Working Group continues to work together focused on removing feral goats from Banks Peninsula. We have all parties working well and using each other's skills to the best advantage. We have shown that we are able to develop Operational Plans relevant to the area including using specialists to carry out the work. Landowners 'buy in' is important and we value their support.

No one party can resolve the issue - we need to all work together. We need to commit to removing feral goats and to do this we need a commitment to ongoing funding and support including the enforcement of the Regional Pest Management rules.

I wish to be heard.

Pam Richardson

Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust member Goat Working Group

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