

Meeting Notes

Meeting title	BIOSECURITY ADVISORY GROUP
Group Area	Southern
Date	22 nd February 2021
Time	1.30pm – 4.30pm
Venue	Environment Canterbury – Timaru
Invited	Cllr Elizabeth McKenzie, Matt Simpson, Gavin Loxton, Angela Johnston, Graham Sullivan, Brent Glentworth, Richard Patterson, Rob Young, Ines Stager, Gary Foster, John Talbot, Cr Ann Munro, John Abelen, Laurence Smith, Rich Langley, Kaitlin Allan, Andrew Stewart, Carl Diamond
In attendance	Cllr Elizabeth McKenzie, Matt Simpson, Gavin Loxton, Angela Johnston, Brent Glentworth, Richard Patterson, Rob Young, Ines Stager, Gary Foster, John Talbot, Cr Ann Munro, Laurence Smith, Rich Langley, Andrew Stewart, Carl Diamond, Natasha Densey
Apologies	John Abelen, Graham Sullivan

	<u>Item</u>	Person:	Action:
1.	Welcome, introduction, apologies		
	Cllr McKenzie opened the meeting with a karakia.		
	All present introduced themselves.		
	Apologies were noted.		
2.	Notes/Actions		
	Rich reviewed the actions from the last meeting.	Rich	
	Main actions were around feedback collated from the groups. A prevalent theme from this feedback was that groups want to try and cover less in more depth and want more time to be able to discuss items.		
	Group members expressed a desire to establish some goals/ milestones for things they wish to achieve, to measure value added. The group is to look for opportunities to set goals that come out of discussion topics.		Rich to add this to the agenda for future meetings.
	ECan were to look into the benefit of establishing other groups to focus on specific pest issues. Laurence gave an update on the establishment of some of these targeted groups:	Laurence	

- Looking to establish a Nassella advisory group Plan to organise Nassella group – for the 3 types of Nassella in Canterbury - Chilean Needle Grass (Nassella neesiana) Nassella tussock (Nassella trichotoma) & Mexican Feather Grass (Nassella tenuissima)
- Still maintaining Chilean Needle Grass action group in the North Canterbury area.
- We are looking to have a Technical Advisory Group together for invasive organisms that we may encounter in the future that are top priorities, this will allow us to gather good information on the future management of this.

3. Public Forum

Presentation - Murray Ball - Funding to control OMB

- Murray Ball lives in Fairlie and has been farming that space for a long time and sees the OMB problem escalating in this area. Murray showed photos of the affected areas.
- Clematis is also growing up native trees and subsequently they are dying. It is also killing the planting done by ECan for flood protection.
- The gorse is dying out along the gorge and we see trees reestablishing, we are hoping to get a cycleway through here and re-establish the native trees, but OMB's is affecting this.
- Laurence We made a change 2 years ago regarding the approach to OMB. It is a very widespread pest. There are rules for landowners around their own boundaries.
- Carl will get Murrays details and liaise with him and Leigh Griffiths around this. We have access to a significant amount of funding to look at tree planting in some of these areas, opportunity here if it falls into the scope of the project.
- The Community group in Fairlie and Burkes Pass, have done an amazing amount of work. Contact is Jane Batcheler at the Burke' Pass Heritage Group.
- Contact Marcus Girvan at Boffa Miskell LINZ does fund this work on their land.

<u>Presentation – Peter Millar</u>

 Does ECan have any liaison with DOC or other groups in relation to Predator Free 2050? How can members of the community access funding, assist with local PF2050 projects, or help in terms of coordinating efforts? Carl to contact
Murray and Leigh
Griffiths at ECan to
see if there may be
some opportunities
to work together.

	 ECan is involved in Te Mana Huna and Pest Free Banks Peninsula but otherwise our involvement in Predator Free 2050 is limited. Laurence followed up with the presenter after this meeting. 		Laurence to help direct towards groups involved in predator trapping activities.
4.	Main Discussion Items		
	 Utilising Networks Following meetings, we will provide talking point notes that can be shared via your networks. These will include items for you to share as well as things we would appreciate further feedback on. We are going to move away from the current BAG website we are providing and improve our external website to make the groups more visible to both members of the these groups and the community. The website will include meeting dates, agendas, meeting notes, links etc. Please feel free to communicate between yourselves. Everyone should have received the email list for group members. There might be things you would like to collectively discuss at meetings. Meeting notes from the last meeting in November, correction to be made to point 6 "meeting wrap up", change from biosecurity to biodiversity. 	Rich	Rich to provide notes. Rich to organise updating of website. Rich to correct previous meeting notes.
	Long Term Plan (LTP)		
	 Carl provided an overview of the proposed Long-Term Plan. He covered what this is, how it affects Environment Canterbury's biosecurity programme and how members can submit their views on it. Carl to provide a copy of the details to Rich to share with everyone. 	Carl	Rich to share details about the LTP along with meeting notes.
	Biosecurity Act Review – Laurence		
	 There has been early consultation with national Biosecurity working group. Environment Canterbury have made a submission to MPI and were hoping it would be available for public consultation now, but it looks now to be April. MPI coming at it from a national perspective. The review is likely to be open to public submissions in around August. 	Laurence	

Wallaby

Andrew Stewart (AJ) – Senior Advisor, National Wallaby Eradication Programme talked through a PowerPoint Presentation on the draft National Wallaby Programme, looking for feedback from the group on the wording. There were questions raised and discussions facilitated during the presentation, followed by the members moving around the room to answer the following questions:

- 1. How might we work together? What role do community groups see for themselves?
- 2. How best to communicate? How should the wallaby programme communicate with the community groups? What channels are best? How do you want to communicate with us?
- 3. How can we encourage people to report wallables? Any particular channels we should use?
- 4. How can we make more people view wallabies as an issue?

Additional discussion regarding the Wallaby programme was facilitated. Some notes discussed as follows:

- Deer stalkers on board and willing to help however they can.
- There have been some additional trials underway for new baits. Have trialled 2 from the North and 2 from Christchurch, there was a strong preference for the Christchurch bait which has a high Maize content that is more attractive to Wallaby. Need 20g for a large wallaby looking to downsize to 16g.
- A system they used in Australia to reduce wallaby movement was the closure of gates at night which had a significant impact.
- Ideas for communication improvement. Do we need to think about the wording and language, feel it needs to be stronger?
- Thank you to AJ and Brent for all their good work so far.

Nassella Tussock Co Design Project

- A community meeting was held in Nov 2020 where we looked at the methods we use to communicate with the community and how this could be better.
- This was an opportunity for continuous improvement on our part.
- We are putting a real emphasise on listening.
- We have a contact list of everyone that has Nassella (600) and sent a letter those landowners last year. Only 30 people

Andrew & Brent

Group members to send through any further ideas or suggestions that may arise via conversations with their networks.

Carl

responded, and we have now spoken with all 30 of them to see who wants to attend the workshops.

- There will be 3 workshops 5th March 19th March and 9th
 April. Chair Hughey to attend the 1st and Cllr Edge will attend
 all 3.
- All workshops will be from 10:00am-3:00pm.
- All workshops will be held at the Council Chambers, Hurunui District Council, 66 Carters Road, Amberley, North Canterbury
- The format of the workshops is still to be determined, and we will provide more detailed information closer to the time.
- Broadly they will cover the following:

Workshop 1 - Listening

This workshop will focus on hearing the community's perspectives on what the main issues are with the current management programme, to help inform what we can change.

Workshop 2 - Creating

This workshop will be the chance to discuss improvements to, and new elements of, the Nassella tussock programme.

Workshop 3 – Refining

This workshop will build on the previous two, looking at practicalities and determining what's possible in the 2021-22 season.

NB There may be a 4th workshop, later in 2021, that focuses on implementation.

Regional and Local Update Question Time

Q. What is the current status of Velvetleaf, have there been any new sightings? A. No new reports on velvetleaf in Canterbury. Management group workshops will focus on 'where to from here' and do we continue as we are? The further south you go the less viable the velvet leaf.

Gary Foster & Gavin Loxton - Update

 There was a recent biocontrol meeting held in Geraldine. Staff from Landcare Research attended. Landcare provide a biocontrol field guide on their website which may be of interest to this group. Carl to report back to the BAG on the progress of this project

Rich to send out a copy of the Biocontrol Field Guide.

 Horehound Plume Moths – a couple of sites found and they are causing significant damage. Hieracium survey. Intention is to go back to Europe with seed collected in NZ, they stopped importing it from NZ which reduced the efficacy of the biocontrol. On the next attempt we will bring back larger numbers of them. There is a mite that has been released from containment, that should cause significant damage to OMB. 	
 How are we doing with the meetings and locations, does it suit people to keep moving around? If we want to stay in Timaru can we find a bigger venue? If we met in a rural location, we could fit in a field trip. Karakia to close meeting. 4.20pm. 	Members to email through any ideas for future venues or places where we could visit as part of a meeting.
Next meeting	
Tbc late may / early June	