

Meeting Notes

Meeting title	BIOSECURITY ADVISORY GROUP
Group Area	Central Canterbury
Date	2 March 2021
Time	3:00pm – 6:00pm
Venue	Dunsandel Community Centre
Invited	Cllr. Ian Mackenzie, Cllr. Bob Mugford, Helen Stewart, Roger Bray, Andy Cox, Barry Austin, Chas Todhunter, Fiona McDonald, Hamish Gilpin, Maree Goldring, Michael Salvesen, Nicky Snoyink, Bruce Marshall, Carl Diamond, Michael McMillan, Rich Langley, Laurence Smith, Kaitlin Allan, Brent Glentworth, Andrew Stewart
In attendance	Cllr. Bob Mugford, Helen Stewart, Roger Bray, Andy Cox, Barry Austin, Fiona McDonald, Hamish Gilpin, Maree Goldring, Nicky Snoyink, Bruce Marshall, Rich Langley, Laurence Smith, Kaitlin Allan, Brent Glentworth, Andrew Stewart
Apologies	Cllr. Ian Mackenzie, Carl Diamond, Michael Salvesen, Chas Todhunter

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Person:</u>	<u>Action:</u>
1.	<p><u>Welcome, introductions, apologies & housekeeping</u></p> <p>Rich opened the meeting with a karakia. Advised group that as Cllr. Mackenze was away, Andy Cox would be chairing the meeting. This has brought to light the need for a Vice Chair of each Biosecurity Advisory Group – this will be arranged soon.</p>	<p>Rich Langley</p> <p>Andy Cox</p>	<p>Vice Chair needs to be elected for each committee</p>
2.	<p><u>Notes/Actions from last meeting</u></p> <p>2.1 <u>Group Admin</u></p> <p>Payment for members of this group for this meeting will be paid at the end of this round of meetings – last meeting is the 16th of March</p> <p>2.2 <u>Actions from last meeting</u></p> <p><i>Follow up on actions from the last meeting in Lincoln.</i></p> <p>As the last BAG meeting was combined with every group, the actions to come out of it are a bit more generalised.</p> <p>Main actions were around feedback collated from the groups, prevalent theme was groups want to try cover less in more depth, and want more time to be able to discuss items.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chilean Needle Grass group has been established, sits outside the BAG group and mainly occupiers from Cheviot. - 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) 	<p>Rich Langley</p> <p>Rich Langley & Laurence Smith</p>	

	<p>- Looking to form a technical advisory group to help with decision making around organisms' people see for potential inclusion in the RPMP in the future, as well as changes to our current RPMP. Input from scientific/botanical/biological perspectives into further decision making</p> <p>Actions around the Biosecurity Advisory Group – would be good to be involved in things like the nassella tussock co-design, and future things such as On Farm Biosecurity, and looking at the gap between biosecurity/biodiversity at Environment Canterbury. Environment Commissioner is currently looking at this gap and will provide suggestions as to how it can be addressed going forward</p>		
<p>3. 3.1</p>	<p><u>Public Forum</u></p> <p><u><i>Opportunity for public engagement with the BAG</i></u></p> <p><i>Floor is open for any members of the public to ask questions or raise concerns. Time may be restricted.</i></p> <p>No public in attendance.</p> <p>Rich explained to the group where the meetings are advertised, on the ECan website etc to try raise public awareness and encourage public attendance, did have public attendance at the Southern BAG meeting</p>	<p>Andy Cox</p> <p>Rich Langley</p>	
<p>4. 4.1</p>	<p><u>Main Discussion Items</u></p> <p><u><i>Utilising Networks</i></u></p> <p><i>How can Environment Canterbury staff better equip BAG members to utilise their networks and support the biosecurity programme?</i></p> <p>One of the key objectives of the Biosecurity Advisory Groups is to communicate items that are discussed in meetings out in the community and via networks. Likewise, items can be brought back into the group via those networks. Working on finding a better way to foster that function.</p> <p>Will start by putting together a sheet of talking points that can be given to members after each meeting – bullet points to help assist with conversations about what's been discussed at meetings with the wider community/networks. Aim is to keep it nice and brief. Be good to get opinions/feedback from networks – even if it's just one or two people from each network.</p> <p>Website – proving tricky with people having trouble accessing it in its current form, creating an external page that is also available to the public. This way anyone can stay in touch and</p>	<p>Rich Langley</p>	<p>External webpage to replace existing BAG website.</p>

<p>4.2</p>	<p>access information from the groups. This should tidy things up and ease technical issues.</p> <p>Encourage BAG members to communicate amongst themselves, doesn't necessarily have to only be restricted to meetings, can email each other and discuss things further outside of meetings.</p> <p>Rich will send out some questions to get some feedback from BAG members to seek further information on about what networks might be looking for, what the main questions they have been asking are.</p> <p><u>Long Term Plan, Annual Plan</u></p> <p><i>Information on proposed programme budgets. BAG members are invited to submit on this and encourage their networks to do the same</i></p> <p>Laurence Smith presenting on behalf of Carl Diamond, who couldn't be at the meeting.</p> <p>Refer to 'Central Biosecurity Advisory Group Update' notes sent out with the meeting agenda. Public consultation on the LTP opens on the 8th March 2021 and closes on 11th April 2021. BAG members are invited to submit feedback, individually or collectively as a group. If you put a submission in, you can select as part of the submission form whether you wish to speak to it at a hearing.</p> <p>The Biosecurity Programme is being renamed as "The Regional Pest Management Programme" and there will be more of a push towards early intervention and invasive organisms outside of the current Regional Pest Management Plan.</p> <p>Discussion re best methods around putting forward a submission, agreement that there isn't necessarily enough time to work on a group submission. Consensus that the best way forward would be to aim for individual submissions, and if members share their submissions with the group other's may want to endorse and add their names to it as members of the Biosecurity Advisory Group but not on behalf of the group.</p>	<p>Laurence Smith</p> <p>Andy Cox</p>	<p>Rich to send out feedback questions regarding what networks might be seeking from BAG members</p> <p>Members encouraged to individually submit on the plan, whilst giving other members the opportunity to undersign.</p>
<p>4.3</p>	<p><u>Biosecurity Act Review</u></p> <p><i>Providing details of plans and legislation impacting on Environment Canterbury's Biosecurity Programme. BAG members will have an opportunity to submit on this review in the future</i></p>	<p>Laurence Smith</p>	

<p>4.4</p>	<p>Refer to emailed update document. Biosecurity NZ are working towards public consultation on the review by August this year. Discussion re timelines, and what this means for biosecurity/Environment Canterbury.</p> <p><u><i>Nassella Tussock Co-Design Project</i></u></p> <p><i>An overview of the project underway to refresh the Nassella Tussock programme in collaboration with the community. Advice and feedback will be sought from BAG members on the recommendations made by the project group.</i></p> <p>Laurence Smith presented on behalf of Carl Diamond.</p> <p>Of the 1400 Nassella tussock properties in Canterbury, 890 of those are in North Canterbury. Approx. 150 of those 890 properties are high density. Has been quite a strong compliance regime to try get occupiers over the line. Commitment has been made to try and improve relationships and review how nassella tussock is managed going forward. Has already been several aspects to this approach, starting with the clusters – the main thing that came out of the clusters was the importance of the feedback given to occupiers. Have also undertaken a collaborative project called ‘Aronga Whanoke’ – looking at a new approach, and now about to work with the community to co-design. Big programme of work, 10% of the entire BAU biosecurity budget is spent on Nassella Tussock.</p> <p>The co-design is looking at talking to a range of people, people with a lot of nassella tussock as well as people with very little/no nassella tussock. Seeking feedback on the best way forward, working together.</p> <p>Emailed as many nassella tussock occupiers as we have email addresses for pre-Christmas, and again in the new year. 30 people have expressed interested in being part of the co-design.</p> <p>There will be 3 workshops – each with its own theme. The first workshop is about listening to concerns. Meetings are facilitated by an externally by Media Suite. Council Chair Jenny Hughey will attend the first meeting, Cllr. Grant Edge will attend all meetings as the representative for all BAG chairs.</p> <p>Discussion around main issues occupiers have with the current nassella tussock programme – e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Problems acquiring contractors 	<p>Laurence Smith</p>	
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<p>4.5</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grubbing too late – people want to grub when it’s flowering because it’s easier to see, but usually too late to prevent seeding - Conflict as ECan gets a very small window to do as many inspections as possible before the nassella tussock seeds in November - Cost/time involved with control <p>Discussion around causes/fixes for issues/conflicts.</p> <p>Climax modelling has been done that shows that half of the region is susceptible to nassella. ECan undertakes surveillance/search.</p> <p><u>National Wallaby Management Programme Feedback</u></p> <p><i>Look at the draft vision, aims, outcomes and objectives of the National Wallaby Management Programme followed by a feedback session. Workshop ideas for how the programme can better engage the community</i></p> <p>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 splitting into separate groups to answer the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 wallabies? Any particular channels we should use? 4. How can we make more people view wallabies as an issue? <p>Brent Glentworth (Wallaby Programme Lead - Environment Canterbury) presented a brief PowerPoint about regional operations that had been shared with MP Jacqui Dean the previous day.</p>	<p>AJ Stewart (MPI)</p> <p>Rich Langley</p> <p>Brent Glentworth</p>	<p>Any additional feedback from group members would be appreciated. To be collated by Rich Langley and passed on to AJ Stewart</p>
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<p>4.6</p> <p>4.7</p>	<p>Group discussion around best methods for wallaby control still being dog and gun, as there isn't a biological control available yet.</p> <p><u>Regional and Local Programme Update</u></p> <p><i>Reports taken as read. This is an opportunity for members to ask questions about these updates.</i></p> <p>Refer to Environment Canterbury update document.</p> <p>Discussion around biodiversity role/projects.</p> <p><u>Group member's item</u></p> <p><i>No group member items put forward.</i></p>	<p>Bruce Marshall & Laurence Smith</p>	
<p>5.</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p>	<p><u>Next Meeting</u></p> <p><u>Meeting Locations</u></p> <p><i>It was always our intention to meet in places that best suited the members – how are we doing?</i></p> <p>Discussion re different meeting locations – difficult to plan ahead with meeting date as it is dependent on Councillor's availability – ECan & District Councillors. Looking at benefit of a meeting in Castle Hill – open to feedback on locations.</p> <p><u>Future Agenda Items</u></p> <p><i>What are some items we plan on bringing to the group at future meetings?</i></p> <p>Discussion around getting more information on pest plants out into the community, conversations with networks using pest plant information from previous meetings revealed that there is a lack of awareness in the community about what is considered a pest, as many people had these plants in their gardens and weren't aware.</p> <p>Will be representation from the Biosecurity team at upcoming A&P shows and South Island Agricultural Field Days.</p>	<p>Rich Langley</p> <p>Laurence Smith & Rich Langley</p>	<p>Group members to please feed back if they have ideas for an alternative meeting location.</p>
	<p><u>Meeting close – 5:40pm</u></p>		