

Meeting Notes

Meeting title	BIOSECURITY ADVISORY GROUP
Group Area	Christchurch & Banks Peninsula
Date	9 th March 2021
Time	2:00pm – 5:00pm
Venue	Aronga Whanokē, 87 Manchester Street, Christchurch
Invited	John Clemens, Colin Meurk, Gabe Ross, Gina Waibl, Pam Richardson, Paul de Latour, Philip Hulme, Richard Ball, Karl Dean, Cr Jeff Bland, Cr Lan Pham, Aperahama Kipa, Carl Diamond, Graham Sullivan, Laurence Smith, Bruce Marshall, Rich Langley, Zoe Buxton, Kaitlin Allan
In attendance	John Clemens, Colin Meurk, Gina Waibl, Pam Richardson, Paul de Latour, Philip Hulme, Richard Ball, Cr Lan Pham, Carl Diamond, Laurence Smith, Bruce Marshall, Rich Langley, Zoe Buxton, Elizabeth Wilkes (Public)
Apologies	Karl Dean, Kaitlin Allan, Graham Sullivan, Gabe Ross, Cllr Jeff Bland, Aperahama Kipa

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Person:</u>	<u>Action:</u>
1.	<u>Welcome, introduction, apologies & housekeeping</u> Cllr Pham welcomed the group.	Cllr Pham & Rich	
2.	<u>Notes/Actions</u>		
2.1	<u>Group Admin</u> Attendance and mileage payments for members of this group will be paid at the end of this round of meetings – last meeting is the 16 th of March. This will also cover the previous meeting in Lincoln.	Rich	
2.2	<u>Actions from last meeting</u> <i>Follow up on actions from the last meeting in Lincoln.</i> As the last BAG meeting was combined, the actions that come out of it were a bit more generalised. Main actions were around feedback collated from the groups. The prevalent theme was that groups want to try and cover less in more depth, and want more time to be able to discuss items.	Rich & Laurence	

	<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) - 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 future decision making <p>This ChCh/BP group also specifically asked to have future meetings more widely advertised. This latest round of meetings was advertised in local papers, facebook, via our website etc.</p>		<p>Members to look for opportunities to identify potential goals for the group.</p> <p>Members to utilise their networks to invite people to attend.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>Public Forum</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>Elizabeth Wilkes from the public gallery introduced herself to the group and shared her interest in finding out more about what the group is involved with and currently working on.</p>	<p>Cllr Pham</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Main Discussion Items</u></p> <p><u>Utilising Networks</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>Cllr Pham encouraged the group to enter into a general discussion about this.</p> <p>Carl - If you have a suggestion for someone who can come along and speak to the group please let us know.</p>	<p>Cllr Pham</p>	

<p>Laurence – we plan on organising a meeting with all groups around BP who are contributing to biosecurity to share what we are doing.</p> <p>Paul – can we get the list of names of members out there in Biobites or other avenues so we can be known in the community.</p> <p>Rich - Shows and Events – Rich gave quick brief of A&P shows, our target audience and what we are aiming to achieve.</p> <p>Philip - Education providers – University students are involved with biosecurity activities, but these tend to be study focussed. Philip still sees our key networks for this group as the rural community and private landowners/occupiers.</p> <p>Philip - Can we revise the Weedbusters programme? They were doing really good work and it seems a shame to see this tail off.</p> <p>Colin – can we bring back weed of the month to help raise awareness of issues and get the word out there about things that we need to get on top of early?</p> <p>Pam and John Clemens – we need to get the communities around BP engaged with their own properties. Being aware of what’s there and what the issues are, how they can they be involved and help towards common cause.</p> <p>Rich – Gave a brief description of some activity regarding community projects and some recently developed videos.</p> <p>Many of these initiatives will be carried by the community engagement person when they are employed. There is an opportunity for them to pick up and design some new approaches as part of this role.</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>Rich 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.</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 access</p>	<p>Rich</p>	<p>Rich to explore best avenue for sharing members’ names.</p> <p>Laurence to explore with appointment of Biosecurity Officer – Engagement.</p> <p>Rich to send out a link to some of the videos once completed.</p>
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<p>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>Carl read through the sheet of information provided to give context to the draft Long Term Plan and what this means for biosecurity.</p> <p>Members can opt to submit either individually or as a group. If a group, Cllr Pham will have to exclude herself.</p> <p>This Friday there will be a LTP workshop about how to write effective submissions. Notes will also be available on the website.</p> <p>Cllr Pham shared that while the percentage increase to rates seems like a lot, in dollar terms for most people its not that much. The council would prefer option 1. There are some commitments that they want to see through. E.g. around public transport and legacy impacts – water and emissions.</p> <p>Laurence shared the rates calculator on the website and some example calculations.</p> <p>Philip raised that he didn't feel like the community really has an opportunity to influence the future direction of Environment Canterbury with the options provided. Both options are similar, just a scaled up/down version of the other. There is no real impression of something lost or gained by selecting option 1 or 2. By not really consulting people on what they specifically want, we don't have a good level of discussion. It would also be good to know whether previous targets were met and how this may influence how we move forward. Philip also raised that some of the numbers don't seem to stack up, there is an impression that biosecurity will do better under option 2 despite the lower overall increase.</p> <p>Cllr Pham, how reserves are being utilised is not detailed. Some are being replenished while some are being used. It's not clear and could be better.</p>	<p>Carl</p>	<p>Members to look out for the questions in the meeting notes.</p> <p>Members to communicate amongst themselves if they wish to submit as a group/s.</p>
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<p>Richard – wanted to acknowledge that it’s a very difficult process and cutting down the detail is a very challenging thing to do. Cllr Pham reiterated that there are other requirements from government and the LTP process which dictate certain details and levels of information to be included.</p> <p>Pam asked, what portion of our rates are used for Banks Peninsula specifically? How can we find this out? Laurence and Carl explained that apart from rabbits, everything else is now managed via a regional budget where pests are managed regionally. This is about efficiency and making sure we are getting the best value and spend out of our budgets.</p> <p>Pam also asked, how do we know that the programme is efficient and that the money being asked for is actually needed? Cllr Pham said the budgets were re-built from the ground up so that all expenditure is justified and that we have ensured that we are accounting for every dollar that we are spending.</p> <p>Paul – raised that he felt like the benefit was just as much for the urban community as for rural land occupiers. So perhaps the urban community should be sharing the costs. Laurence said that most of our programme is focussed on the rural community, so it is rated to reflect this general vs targeted rate. Richard reiterated this. Cllr Pham said that this LTP has been adjusted to take some of the pressure off the rural community by moving a lot more of the rating tool expenses towards the general rate so it comes back to the urban community.</p> <p>Phil questioned whether ECan should be undertaking research when there are other organisations that are better placed to do this, in what is a pretty crowded space. Carl and Laurence reiterated that the funding for research that is available is to outsource this R&D. Also utilising things like the SFF to bolster research projects.</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 covered that the review will be open to public consultation in August. National sector should get another look at this before it goes out to the public.</p> <p>Laurence will share ECan’s feedback on this review with the group, to try and get more of a public view on it.</p> <p>Phil, has there been consideration as part of this review for potential future threats? Has the cost of future threats been factored into the</p>	<p>Laurence</p>	
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<p>LTP as well? Laurence referenced the Velvetleaf ‘exit strategy’ of MPI, which is a good example of a future threat that may be passed on to us to potentially manage in the future. Something like Velvetleaf, if we tried to add it to our programme would be a huge expense.</p> <p>ClIr Pham - With the RMA being reviewed – at a high level, should there be more work to align the biosecurity act review at the same time. Are there ways these could better work together. Phil – there is some requirement for pine control built into the RMA, but there are many more examples of where biosecurity should be factored into work being undertaken. Laurence – a good example is gravel extraction in riverbeds and the potential for spread. It would be good to explore this some more and look for ways that we can get the Biosecurity Act and biosecurity in general working in with the RMA, consent requirements etc.</p> <p><u>Pest Free Banks Peninsula</u></p> <p><i>Project Manager and Operational Lead to provide an update of the programme. Questions and discussion to follow.</i></p> <p>Sarah and Tim introduced themselves and their roles. Sarah is Project Manager and Tim is Operational Lead. Sarah gave a quick run down on who she is and how she got involved with the project.</p> <p>Sarah shared the vision of the project and some details about their goals, aspirations, funding background, and some of the needs to engage the community to really get this underway properly.</p> <p>Tim is the operational lead and believes that eradication is fully possible given the current tools if we can get the funding and the social buy-in.</p> <p>Richard spoke about how this is fundamentally a different way of working that has a different kind of governance model that is proving very successful. Is this the sort of model that we could grow for weed pests and grow in other parts of the region? Laurence shared some example of other project groups where Environment Canterbury is currently utilising a similar governance model. TeManahua, Upper Waimak etc.</p> <p>Phil raised the question of data management and how this will be managed. Sarah and Tim detailed the process and tools they will use, as well as the partnerships they are looking to leverage to boost research and support. The best tool will be leveraging the community and getting them involved. If they are looking out and</p>	<p>Richard Tom Sjoberg Sarah Wilson</p>	<p>Zoe to look into this in some more detail.</p>
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<p>reporting sightings of things then that is winning, the next step will be making sure we have the staff to respond.</p> <p>Carl reiterated that this project aligns very closely with the objectives of our 5-year business plan. It shows that we are heading in the same direction and that we are looking to work in a collaborative way using similar fundamental approaches to engage with the community as the driver for success.</p> <p>Sarah would appreciate some feedback from the group about any future considerations and thoughts about their programme. BFBP to come back in 6 months and give us another update to help keep us in the loop. It was also suggested they could present at METS this year.</p> <p><u>Nassella Tussock: Co-design Project</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>Carl went through a presentation detailing the Nassella tussock co-design project. Why are they necessary, what is the objective and how they will be conducted. Primarily it is about building relationships, and really listening to the community about the challenges they face when managing this pest.</p> <p>Laurence provided some stats around the distribution of Nassella tussock and where the biggest issues have historically come from.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Phil - Who is facilitating these workshops? – Media Suite. Phil reiterated that this is good to hear so there is an impartial and independent view. It's important that this is robust and ECan is not experienced as leading this to a desired outcome.</p> <p>Colin – keen to hear that contractors are well versed and trained in what NT looks like so that they are not destroying native species. How could we find out about the level of knowledge of landowners to find out whether people are potentially grubbing out native plants? Could these questions be put to the co-design group?</p> <p>Pam asked whether this co-design model is being used to address any other issues at the moment? Like for the identification of historic wetlands. Carl explained that we are looking at a new approach for highlighting some of the things we are doing well and exploring opportunities for ways we can do things better.</p>	<p>Carl</p>	<p>Members to provide any further thoughts or considerations for the project to Sarah.</p> <p>Rich and Richard to liaise about a future update.</p>
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<p>Carl can update the group again on this at a future meeting.</p> <p><u>Regional and Local Programmes Update</u></p> <p><i>Reports taken as read. This is an opportunity for members to ask questions about these updates.</i></p> <p>Philip – can ECan provide some additional information about how much money and resource is being committed to these programmes? It would be useful to have some idea of what is being invested along with the notes provided. Laurence demonstrated how our budget is spread amongst the pest projects and managed across the programmes. Laurence will provide some budget info for members to help them see where money is being spent.</p> <p>Laurence went through this update quickly and provided some supporting details.</p>	<p>Bruce and Laurence</p>	<p>Laurence to provide some budget information alongside the update in future.</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>Please let us know if you have suggestions for an alternative venue, or whether you think we should be moving our meetings around more. Also let us know if you have any suggestions for where we could look to tie into a meeting a field visit of some kind.</p> <p><u>Future Agenda Items</u></p> <p><i>What are some of the things we plan on bringing to the group at future meetings?</i></p> <p>Biosecurity Act Review – update and information about ECan’s contribution to this process.</p> <p>Workshop on communication and how we reach the community.</p> <p>Behaviour change and Farm Biosecurity – Phil suggested having someone from a group like ‘OnRoad’ who work in the farm biosecurity space to come and talk to us about what they are doing. How can we tie the players together and find where we should be involved?</p>	<p>Rich</p> <p>Laurence</p>	<p>Members to make recommendations for future meeting locations if desired.</p>

	<u>Meeting Closed</u> 6:00pm		