

Meeting Notes

Meeting title	BIOSECURITY ADVISORY GROUP
Group Area	Christchurch / Banks Peninsula Canterbury
Date	24 May 2021
Time	2:00pm – 5:00pm
Venue	Tai Tapu Community Centre
Invited	John Clemens, Colin Meurk, Pam Richardson, Paul de Latour, Philip Hulme, Richard Ball, Karl Dean, Jeff Bland, Cllr. Lan Pham, Aperahama Kipa, Gabe Ross, Gina Waibl, Sam Yeatman, Laurence Smith, Rich Langley, Carl Diamond, Bruce Marshall, Paige Lawson, Zoe Buxton, Graham Sullivan, Verity Halkett
In attendance	Cllr. Pham, Rich Langley, Kaitlin Allan, Paige Lawson, Philip Hulme, Gina Waibl, Gabe Ross, Pam Richardson, Paul de Latour, Karl Deans, Carl Diamond, Bruce Marshall, Laurence Smith
Apologies	John Clemens, Colin Meurk, Richard Ball, Jeff Bland

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Person:</u>	<u>Action:</u>
1.	<p><u>Welcome, introductions, apologies & housekeeping</u></p> <p>Cllr. Pham opened the meeting with a Karakia.</p> <p>Apologies from John Clemens, Colin Meurk, Richard Ball & Jeff Bland.</p> <p>Paige Lawson – newly appointed Biosecurity Officer Community Engagement introduced to group, role outlined.</p>	Cllr. Pham	
2.	<p><u>Notes/Action</u></p> <p>2.1 <u>Group Admin – Payments, Group Advertising & Photos</u></p> <p>Payments – mileage and meeting payments from last round should have been received. Payments will now be made after each meeting.</p> <p>Photos/Group Advertising – see email sent to group. Names of members have already been circulated with community on website/in Bio Bites. Wanting to put faces to the names, photos of BAG members to be sent out in next edition of Bio Bites. “Model Release Form” to be completed and returned to Rich. Portrait photo to be taken at end of meeting or emailed through.</p>	Rich Langley	Members who did not have their photo taken at the meeting to email a portrait photo.

2.2	<p><u>Actions from last meeting</u></p> <p>Membership of groups to be reviewed – a couple of members have left the group and others have not attended any meetings. Need full groups. New members will have same application process as previous. If any members know anyone suitable for the group, encourage them to submit application.</p>	Rich Langley / Laurence Smith	
3. 3.1	<p><u>Public Forum</u></p> <p><u>Opportunity for public engagement with the BAG</u></p> <p>Ian Hankin – attending as representative from DOC, and the Weed Liaison group. Would like to see BAG representation on the Weed Liaison group.</p> <p>Brian Keenan – farmer on Banks Peninsula – raised concerns about lack of weed control on Banks Peninsula, as well as the infestation of feral pigs - biodiversity, agriculture and health and safety issue. Seeking some advice on effective control methods for pigs, and information on what other areas have done.</p> <p>Group discussion around feral pigs.</p> <p>ECan is looking to facilitate a meeting with all pest control groups, landowners, stakeholders in Banks Peninsula to connect networks and get a clear picture of what is happening on the BP.</p> <p>Brian - Concern also around gorse and broom on Banks Peninsula. Discussion around tools that could be used to show the public comparisons of gorse and broom across past decades, vs now, vs what they could look like in the future if left untouched.</p> <p>Discussion re benefit of community discussion/engagement around gorse and broom. Group should show leadership in this space.</p> <p>Discussion around an industry partner running economics around cost implications with loss of productive land due to things like gorse and broom infestations. This information is already being worked on, passive communication with community is better due to the stresses already on farmers i.e drought.</p>	Cllr. Pham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laurence to connect Brian with feral pig group in the Conway & Pest Free Banks Peninsula group, & provide summary sheet of information – group members to send information through to Laurence about their networks/advice/any assistance - Rich/Paige to look into facilitating BP stakeholders engagement meeting - ECan to look into options for passive comms, circulating info around control options, economics, comparison of time frames around infestation. - Laurence to send gorse and broom brochure to Brian
4. 4.1	<p><u>Main Discussion Items</u></p> <p><u>Long Term Plan</u></p> <p>LTP will be formally adopted June 17, 2021</p>	Cllr. Pham & Carl Diamond	

<p>4.2</p>	<p>There are no major changes proposed to Biosecurity from what was consulted on and many submissions in support.</p> <p>There was one change in regard to where funding comes from.</p> <p>Biodiversity – lots of consultations/submissions made.</p> <p>Asked for more funding for research/development, communications/engagement, surveillance, awareness, focus on front end of the pest invasion curve. Outcome is what we asked for. In general, people supported the program. Lots of support from within Council.</p> <p>1300 submissions total on the LTP from across Canterbury. Shift in public becoming more aware of how important the role of biosecurity/biodiversity is. People see it as a core part of ECan’s role.</p> <p>Discussion around the Council needing to utilise groups such as the Biosecurity Advisory Group to be better informed on consultation/submissions. Group asked if they would like more of a say in priorities/expenditure – Yes, should be a partnership.</p> <p>Discussion re division between biodiversity/biosecurity being an issue, things could be missed. Group advised there is a parliamentary report being done on the gap between biosecurity/biodiversity. To be shared with group when completed.</p> <p>50% of the pests in the Canterbury Regional Pest Management Plan are biodiversity pests and 50% production pests.</p> <p><u>Programme Delivery Challenges</u></p> <p>Rural Advocacy Network in North Canterbury and newly established group Groundswell, as well as other groups protesting what’s happening at National level are refusing access to ECan staff – form of protest.</p> <p>Biosecurity Officers are warranted under Biosecurity Act 1993 to be able to enter properties, but ECan doesn’t like to enforce that as trying to build relationships with the community.</p> <p>Group encouraged to discuss matter with their networks if it comes up, and feedback any beneficial information – e.g. if ECan is able to do anything to be let on property etc</p> <p>Discussion around how officers are trained, and future improvements/extensions to this training.</p>	<p>Carl Diamond</p>	<p>Parliamentary report on gap between biodiversity/biosecurity to be shared with BAG when complete.</p> <p>Group members to feedback any useful ideas for how ECan can engage with these groups or individuals refusing access.</p>
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<p>4.3</p>	<p><u>Biosecurity Technical Advisory Group (TAG)</u></p> <p>Specialised advisory group to provide technical advice on potential invasive organisms – direction we are heading in.</p> <p>Future proof the region from organisms. To support delivery of surveillance programs etc.</p> <p>Experts to provide advice on plants, animals, science, pathways, movement – identifying and advising on potential threats.</p> <p>Assisting with considerations for future inclusions in Regional Pest Management Plan.</p> <p>Reports from TAG group will come back to the BAGs.</p> <p>Putting invitation to join TAG group out to people with backgrounds in science/biology/government to apply to be on the TAG, information will be sent out to all the members as invitation to join, will also be advertised to the public.</p> <p>Question if the group will also include pests that are already here posing a risk (garden escapees). Yes – looking at prioritising/determining threats to make better decisions for the future.</p> <p>Up to 10 people on TAG group. Ideally 6-8.</p> <p>Also looking at establishing a Nassella Advisory Group purely focused on three Nassellas (Chilean Needle Grass, Nassella Tussock, and Nassella tenuissima (Mexican Feathergrass). Looking for people with particular interest in Nassella's to advise on this group.</p> <p>Would prefer to work with people from a range of organisations.</p>	<p>Laurence Smith</p>	<p>Laurence to put together a simple diagram to show what each new group will deal with.</p>
<p>4.4</p>	<p><u>Nassella Tussock: Co-design Project</u></p> <p>BAG members were all sent an update from all three co-design workshops.</p> <p>Currently the facilitators are putting together feedback.</p> <p>Looking to increase relationships in areas they need to be increased, other areas the relationships will be maintained.</p> <p>Also looking at spreading inspections out over the year, people have always been able to get an inspection at any point in the year. It was thought that people knew this but generally this is not the case – better comms is needed around this.</p>	<p>Carl Diamond</p>	

<p>4.5</p> <p>4.6</p>	<p>Staff training & reallocation of resource needed to happen in the background to roll this out in the next few months.</p> <p><u>Regional and Local Programme Updates</u></p> <p>Emailed update taken as read.</p> <p>Comment – update would be good in a much more shareable way. User friendly that could be shared with people on issues that are being brought up with members.</p> <p>Website – undergoing overhaul currently, will have completely new look. In the interim, the existing BAG website has been adjusted to include dates/times of meetings, notes, information from meetings, open to public access.</p> <p>Discussion re possum funding appearing on rates letter for BP when rabbits are the only vertebrate pest that are still meant to be rated.</p> <p><u>Pathway Management Workshop</u></p> <p>Presentation on pest pathway management, followed by discussion and idea generation about how to engage the community with pest pathway management activities.</p> <p>The pathway management programme sits outside the RPMP. It's about raising awareness, and promoting behaviour change.</p> <p>Discussion re wash down facilities – clean before you leave your farm, and clean before you come back.</p> <p>Read through of 'Actions to mitigate the spread of pests and diseases onto/from a property' handout.</p> <p>Group split into smaller groups to answer questions on handout.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What biosecurity actions do you see being the most effective? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a). Which ones do you think would benefit from external support? What kind of support is needed? 2. Currently, very few people are undertaking these actions despite knowing the risks. Why do you think this is? 3. What would drive you to change your behaviour? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a). Who would you listen to? What would have to happen? 4. Would you buy into an accreditation scheme? Why/why not? 5. Are there actions or anything else in the picture of pathway management that you think we are currently missing? 	<p>Laurence Smith & Bruce Marshall</p>	<p>Update next meeting on new website, the plan and examples of proposed tools.</p> <p>Laurence to investigate funding on rates letter.</p> <p>Rich to collate answers and remaining questions and send them out for further discussion.</p>
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	<p>Second aim of workshop – opportunities for BAG members to champion pathway management?</p> <p>Discussion re what opportunities exist for BAG members to support pathway management practices in our community.</p> <p>Example of how to effectively clean side by sides – extremely difficult</p> <p>Risk assessment in terms of knowing where you're going.</p> <p>Rest of questions to be sent out to group – out of time. Will go back over it at next meeting.</p> <p>Question re is there a checklist as a guide to help people wash down? Would be helpful for community to have one.</p> <p>Discussion re lack of National Awareness Campaigns.</p>		<p>Any questions to be sent through to Rich.</p> <p>Checklist to be created around wash down procedures to be shared with community.</p>
4.7	<p><u>General Business</u></p> <p>No general business.</p>	All	
5.	<p><u>Next Meeting</u></p> <p>August/September – meeting location TBC</p>	Rich Langley	
6.	<p><u>Meeting Close</u></p> <p>5pm</p>		