

## Meeting Notes

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Meeting title	<b>BIOSECURITY ADVISORY GROUP</b>
Group Area	South Canterbury
Date	21 June 2021
Time	1:30pm – 4:30pm
Venue	Aorangi Pavilion - Timaru
Invited	Cr 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, Paige Lawson, Gina Slee, Michael McMillan
In attendance	Cr Elizabeth McKenzie, Matt Simpson, Gavin Loxton, Angela Johnston, Brent Glentworth, Richard Patterson, Rob Young, Ines Stager, Gary Foster, John Talbot, Cr Ann Munro, John Abelen, Laurence Smith, Rich Langley, Kaitlin Allan, Paige Lawson, Gina Slee, Michael McMillan, Carl Diamond
Apologies	None

	<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Person:</u></b>	<b><u>Action:</u></b>
1.	<p><b><u>Welcome, introductions, apologies &amp; housekeeping</u></b></p> <p>Cllr. McKenzie welcomed the group and opened the meeting with a karakia.</p> <p>No apologies.</p> <p>Paige Lawson – Biosecurity Officer Community Engagement, introduced to the group.</p> <p>Gina Slee – new Team Leader for the Southern Biosecurity Team introduced to the group.</p>	Cllr. Mckenzie	Paige Lawson's contact details to be circulated with group
2.	<p><b><u>Notes/Actions from last meeting</u></b></p> <p>2.1 <u>Group Admin</u></p> <p>Payments for meetings will now follow each meeting – change from payments being made after every second meeting.</p> <p>Model release form – Member information will be published in the next edition of Bio Bites. Profile photos are requested to advertise the group more widely as discussed in previous meeting.</p> <p>Photo to be taken at meeting today or emailed through. Not compulsory – please complete form.</p>	Rich Langley	

2.2	<p><u>Actions from last meeting</u></p> <p>Names of members of public spelt wrong on last meeting notes.</p> <p>Update provided on Old Man's Beard issue raised at last meeting's public forum.</p> <p>Website – was hosted internally, now moving to external site. Accessible now to the public also, can just Google "Biosecurity Advisory Groups". Website will have information about the groups, group members, agendas, updates, meeting notes. If people are asking questions about the groups, first and foremost direct them to the site.</p>	Rich Langley	Names to be corrected on previous meeting notes
3. 3.1	<p><b>Public Forum</b></p> <p><u>Opportunity for public engagement with the BAG</u></p> <p>No public in attendance.</p> <p>Update on from Cllr Mckenzie on the change in Council from portfolio structure to committee structure, means a lot more meetings with the public. More opportunities for public engagement, from July/August. Meetings will be notified to public.</p>	Cllr. Mckenzie	
4. 4.1	<p><b>Main Discussion Items</b></p> <p><u>Long Term Plan</u></p> <p>Long Term Plan was adopted Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> June.</p> <p>Total budget for next financial year for Biosecurity is \$25million.</p> <p>National Funding – MPI looking at \$14.8m for Wilding Conifer, \$3.2m delivery for wallaby.</p> <p>ECan putting \$1.5m towards the Wilding Conifer programme, and \$700k to the National Wallaby programme.</p> <p>Main budget for RPMP - \$7.2m, includes funding from ECan.</p> <p>Using \$300K of reserves.</p> <p>\$7.2m of wider biosecurity funding includes \$480k of new funding. \$100k going to research and development, \$100k to partnership opportunities, \$100k to managing pests at the front end of the invasion curve and \$180k going towards organisms of interest, which includes a new position – looking at organisms not currently in the RPMP.</p> <p>Concentrating on using funding smarter, leverage money through partnerships, looking at focusing on the front end of the invasion curve to save money in the future.</p> <p>Question re clarity on \$100k going to partnership opportunities – effectively that \$100k is there for any opportunity to leverage national funding with a partner. Taking money further, working</p>	Carl Diamond	

<p>4.2</p>	<p>collaboratively. Not just spending the money because it's there.</p> <p><u>Programme Delivery Challenges</u></p> <p>Last 12 months have encountered several landowners who are not giving consent for the Biosecurity Officers to enter their property, mostly in North Canterbury.</p> <p>Must make an organisational decision about a way forward. Officers have legislative back up to enter properties under the Biosecurity Act, but it would destroy relationships within the community. Have to take a considered approach.</p> <p>There have been some scenarios where landowners have indicated they would let ECan on if an independent party was present – i.e. a BAG member.</p> <p>Ideas from previous BAG meetings shared – one on one chats without ECan present, person would have to have similar background to who they were talking to. Value in utilising industry partners like Beef &amp; Lamb.</p> <p>Discussion around why occupiers are denying access, form of protest about what's coming from a national level – SNA's etc. Not biosecurity related, but people do see ECan as being at the forefront of what's happening.</p> <p>Discussion re need for trust in the community, rumours about Biosecurity Officer's reporting something back to ECan that they haven't said they were there to look at – Response: Biosecurity Officers are not trained in any other area so would not know what to look for.</p> <p>Discussion re continuity of the person occupiers are dealing with - always seems to be a different person. New programme within ECan (Dynamics 365) will give more visibility between sections in ECans, can see recent interactions on properties.</p> <p>Feeling that farmers are having to fight to keep their heads above water – especially with central government.</p> <p>North Canterbury community engagement pilot explained – quarterly meetings to try build relationships and give community opportunity to raise issues.</p> <p>No locked gates issues currently in South Canterbury.</p>	<p>Carl Diamond</p>	<p>Any ideas from BAG members re steps ECan could take around access issues to be sent to Cllr McKenzie, Carl Diamond, or the BAG email address</p>
<p>4.3</p>	<p><u>Biosecurity Technical Advisory Group</u></p> <p>Forming TAG for pest management at end of this round of meetings.</p> <p>Specialist group – technical advice on potentially invasive organisms.</p>	<p>Laurence Smith</p>	

Work we are trying to do is better informed on future decision making about pests that are coming at us – that are not necessarily in our plan.

Purpose of group outlined – will also be emailed with more information. Supporting ECan in biosecurity leadership, future focus.

Looking for people with science/ecology type backgrounds, or local/central government experience.

Similar selection process to BAG. Only looking for 6-10 people. Some people have been shoulder-tapped already.

New position also going to be established – Biosecurity Officer Invasive Organisms – who will do most of the leg work behind the TAG – and present to the experts.

Invitation to apply to be on the TAG will be publicly advertised. Members encouraged to send link through to people they know who may be interested.

Potential for role of mana whenua within the group.

If interested, email [biosecurityAG@ecan.govt.nz](mailto:biosecurityAG@ecan.govt.nz)

Nassella Advisory Group also being established for the 3 types of nassella, Nassella Tussock, Nassella Tenuissima & Chilean Needle Grass. Similar group of experts to cover the region.

Information re both groups will be circulated. Both groups to report back to the BAG

#### 4.4 Nassella Tussock: Co-design Project

Co-design process for nassella tussock. Updates will have been emailed through to group – as well as links through to the website.

3 workshops – first was about listening to the group, second was around working to create something, and third was refining it.

Region wide – process updates will be applied across the region.

Process was great, be good to apply it across other areas.

Co-design process was part of the North Canterbury engagement pilot.

The need for better communication was a big thing to come out of the workshops.

Also pushing for longer inspection time frame, committing to properties remaining compliant if they are compliant at first inspection, from June each year. Education/advice will be

- Rich/Laurence to send through link to be forwarded on by BAG members to people who may be interested

Carl  
Diamond

	<p>given if the property is not looking too good later in the year etc.</p> <p>Took current process and built on it, based on feedback.</p> <p>Now trying to work out the best way to deliver it successfully, training needed for staff.</p> <p>Hurunui Mayor Marie Black &amp; ECan Council Chair Jenny Hughey attended a couple of meetings, Cllr Grant Edge came to all meetings as the BAG representative.</p> <p>Discussion around nassella tussock being a 'Sustained Control' pest in the RPMP.</p> <p>45 sites known in South Canterbury – grubbing is the best method of control but very labour intensive. Every year ECan undertakes search and finds more.</p>		
4.5	<p><u>Regional and Local Programme Update</u></p> <p>Read through of email update sent out to group.</p> <p>Discussion re marine biosecurity – lack of marine plans, MPI has recently employed a person to develop plans – hopefully will have one that covers NZ soon.</p> <p>Discussion around gorse and broom satellite technology presented at previous meetings. Concerns from ECan leadership around perceived privacy issues, need for communication with landowners. Laurence confirmed this is a 'proof of concept' at the moment, and no inspections utilising this technology have been undertaken.</p> <p><i>Question re ECan's follow up plan for after Wilding Conifer National Programme ends?</i></p> <p>There are rules for Wilding Conifer in the RPMP – do not currently have procedures but are about to release diagram to show what occupiers are required to do once the national programme moves away. Will be a compliance programme to ensure continuity and that the money put into it is not wasted.</p> <p>Discussion re way forward for land management plans after wilding control.</p> <p>Wallaby &amp; rabbit updates presented to group.</p> <p>Presentation and discussion around issues of grazing animals in the Tasman Scenic Reserve. Need for better fencing and predator control to maintain the reserve.</p>	<p>Laurence Smith</p> <p>Brent Glentworth</p> <p>Ines Stager</p>	<p>Rich to send out report on 30 Terrestrial Pests to group</p> <p>Rich to send update on Wilding Conifer Programme out to group</p> <p>Wilding Conifer team to attend next BAG meeting and discuss next steps</p> <p>Talk to Wilding Conifer team about putting comms out to community around next steps</p>
4.6	<p><u>Pathway Management Workshop</u></p> <p>PowerPoint presentation shared with group.</p> <p>Group answered worksheet questions:</p>	<p>Rich Langley</p>	

<p>4.8</p>	<p>1. What biosecurity actions do you see being the most effective?</p> <p>a). Which ones do you think would benefit from external support? What kind of support is required?</p> <p>2. Currently, very few people are undertaking these actions despite knowing the risks. Why do you think this is?</p> <p>3. What would drive you to change your behaviour?</p> <p>a. Who would you listen to? What would have to happen?</p> <p>4. Would you buy into an accreditation scheme? Why/why not?</p> <p>5. Are there actions or anything else in the picture of pathway management that you think we are currently missing?</p> <p>Answers fed back to group for questions 1 &amp; 2 – barriers to pathway management.</p> <p>Thoughts and ideas recorded and handed to Rich Langley to collate.</p> <p><u>General Business</u></p> <p>Out of time.</p>		<p>Rich to collate answers and feed back to groups</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Next Meeting</u></p> <p>August/September. Location and date to be confirmed.</p>		
	<p><u>Meeting close 4:35pm</u></p> <p>Karakia to close meeting.</p>	<p>Cllr. Mckenzie</p>	