

Meeting Notes

Meeting title	BIOSECURITY ADVISORY GROUP
Group Area	North Canterbury
Date	29 June 2021
Time	3:00pm – 6.00pm
Venue	Amberley Bowls Club
Invited	Cllr. Grant Edge, Cllr. Vince Daly, Duncan Lundy, Norm Kereikeepa, Hamish Roxburgh, Richard Reed, Winton Dalley, Hamish Chamberlain, Mark Giles, Ted Howard, Hamish Galletly, Lorna Sandeman, Clint McConchie, Carl Diamond, Nick Daniels, Leanne Lye, Rich Langley, Laurence Smith, Kaitlin Allan, Paige Lawson, Zoe Buxton
In attendance	Laurence Smith, Carl Diamond, Cllr. Grant Edge, Richard Reed, Mark Giles, Hamish Roxburgh, Duncan Lundy, Hamish Chamberlain, Zoe Buxton, Ted Howard, Leanne Lye, Paige Lawson, Kaitlin Allan, Rich Langley, Winton Dalley, Andrew Arps, Rima Herber
Apologies	Clint McConchie, Norm Kereikeepa, Hamish Galletly,

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Person:</u>	<u>Action:</u>
1.	<p><u>Welcome, introductions, apologies & housekeeping</u></p> <p>Round table of introductions.</p> <p>Apologies given.</p> <p>Housekeeping – emergency exits etc.</p>	Cllr. Edge	Paige Lawson's contact details to be circulated with group
2.	<p><u>Notes/Actions from last meeting</u></p>		
2.1	<p><u>Group Admin</u></p> <p>Payments will now follow each meeting – change from payments being made at end of 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>Webpage – previously required members to log in, had a lot of access issues, have now opened the webpage up to the public – anyone can view info, e.g. meeting notes, meeting dates,</p>	Rich Langley	

<p>updates provided to members, member details etc. Much better to be externally facing. Can direct people with any questions to the website – Google Biosecurity Advisory Groups.</p> <p>Update on Chilean Needle Grass – spoke briefly last meeting about a field day that happened at the end of last year. CNG newsletter was sent end of 2020 to all rural letter boxes north of the Waimakariri, will re-circulate via email to group – good resource. Have also requested full copy of Landcare project report.</p> <p>Hurunui District Council mowing update – Laurence Smith & Leanne Lye met with HDC re mowing CNG roadsides in Cheviot – come to an arrangement where ECan will undertake inspections around November, once inspected will give HDC all clear to mow. Has been an issue previously where grass has been left to get very long in between mows.</p> <p>Operational programme in CNG is being handed over to Biosecurity Officer Special Projects, Matt Smith – he will run all nassella programmes in Canterbury. Plan to get around all occupiers who have CNG as a catch up and as part of the handover.</p> <p>Relationships with community – was mentioned to contact Josh from Landcare, he will come along to a future meeting.</p> <p>Yellow Bristle Grass – gave update last meeting, ute guides available to take home from this meeting, and info sheets. Surveillance programme being organised for next season. Have held woolshed meetings with occupiers adjacent to sites that have been found. Working closely with HDC, NZTA, KiwiRail/Treescape to ensure spray programmes are implemented. Seeding March/April. Search programme first then will undertake control in known sites.</p> <p><i>Questions & discussion around where Yellow Bristle Grass is located, size of sites, and whether it's possible to eradicate.</i></p> <p>Initially was 1 site, then 3, now 15. Currently located in Parnassus, Lewis Pass, Omihi, Sefton, Ashburton & Springfield. Mostly on rail corridor, around marker pegs on roadsides and where there's been earthworks (i.e. post-quake work). Goal is to eradicate from Canterbury, challenges with it being an annual plant, as it dies off after March/April, must be reasonably strategic where we search.</p>	<p>Leanne Lye</p>	<p>2020 CNG newsletter, Landcare report and 2-sided fact sheet to be circulated to group.</p> <p>Yellow Bristle Grass info sheets – electronic copy will be sent out</p>
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	<p>Widespread in North Island, West Coast, Marlborough etc.</p> <p>Pasture barrier between properties and roadside is good way to prevent spread onto properties.</p>		
<p>3.</p> <p>3.1</p>	<p>Public Forum</p> <p><u>Opportunity for public engagement with the BAG</u></p> <p>Rima Herber – Waipara River Catchment Group. Members of group are curious to know how they can manage weeds, legally and effectively as adjacent occupiers frequently have AMF rights to the middle of the river. Would like to be a conduit for information. Looking for clarity on what occupiers can do.</p> <p>Discussion around subcommittee for rivers that is being established, and what that will look like.</p> <p>Discussion re responsibilities around riverbeds.</p>	<p>Cllr. Edge</p> <p>Rima Herber</p>	<p>Cllr. Edge to take information to rivers subcommittee about the Waipara River group</p>
<p>4.</p> <p>4.1</p>	<p>Main Discussion Items</p> <p><u>Long Term Plan</u></p> <p>Long Term Plan was adopted Thursday, 17th 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 Using \$300K of reserves.</p> <p>\$7.2m of wider biosecurity funding includes \$480k of new funding that was requested. \$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>5 objectives – prevent establishment of new emerging pests, empower community to assume responsibility, leverage opportunities through partnerships, deliver RPMP in collaboration with community and improve pest management through research and development.</p>	<p>Carl Diamond</p>	

<p>4.2</p>	<p><i>Question re how to engage community – historically quite difficult.</i></p> <p>One example is through Paige Lawson’s new position of Biosecurity Officer – Community Engagement. Another example was the Co-Design process with Nassella Tussock, did not get much engagement with that but will up comms and engagement and do what we can do. Trying to be more of a presence and engage community in what we do.</p> <p>Lots of new groups starting up, example of Banks Peninsula.</p> <p>Focusing in partnership area, the more that we can align with other groups the more people we can hope to get on board.</p> <p>Discussion re needing to change how people perceive ECan, needed to get groups to want to align themselves with ECan.</p> <p>Andrew Arps told the group about the engagement pilot currently going on in North Canterbury, relationship building, looking at getting better at working alongside the community – don’t always have to be leading.</p> <p>Comment from Duncan that clear actions achieved are a better way to get engagement than meetings.</p> <p><u>Programme Delivery Challenges</u></p> <p>Landowners not giving consent for ECan Biosecurity Officers to access their properties to undertake inspections. Largely around nassella tussock, and gorse & broom.</p> <p>A lot of it is happening in North Canterbury, around 17 properties at present.</p> <p>Putting it to the group if there are any ideas on best way forward, or if any members would be interested in joining ECan and/or communicating with some occupiers who are refusing access, as a trusted member of the community.</p> <p>Overview of ideas given from other BAG meetings – sending BAG members for a one-on-one chat, without ECan – would need knowledge/experience in that area. Potential to use the likes of Beef & Lamb/Federated Farmers to facilitate.</p> <p>Increasing communications to ensure we are being more transparent – lack of trust is part of the issue.</p> <p>The problem we have is we are struggling to get onto properties and want to take care with how we approach it. Access to properties is a form of protest – not really to do with biosecurity.</p> <p>Group feedback/discussion.</p> <p>One-on-one chats would have to be on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>People waking up to what full impact of what the new</p>	<p>Carl Diamond</p>	
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legislation means to them, and the full kick back is only just starting. Need to sell the story about needing to take action on weeds. Unrealistic to think people who have refused access are going to change their minds until the issues they've raised are addressed.

Feedback from BAG meetings will be taken back to Council, very small part of bigger picture but need to work out where too from here.

Discussion around how to reinforce that biosecurity officers are not on the property to look at anything else – build trust.

4.3 Biosecurity Technical Advisory Group

Forming TAG for pest management at end of this round of meetings.

Specialist group – technical advice on potentially invasive organisms.

Work we are trying to do is about getting better informed for 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.

If interested, email 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

Update on Nassella Tussock Co-design - Created flow chart over a year – looked at what we did last year and what we are going to do going forward. Increase in communication and

Laurence
Smith

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

Carl
Diamond

	<p>transparency, looking at several touch points throughout the year, starting earlier in the year – chart shown to group.</p> <p>All staff need to be trained up, processes, interactions, building relationships. A lot of stuff happening in the background as we prepare for the upcoming changes.</p> <p>Process was good, would like to do more of it with the community on different matters.</p> <p>Email sent to occupiers recently offering early inspections, always been possible but realised not many people knew.</p>		<p>Request for information on final outcome to be shared with community. Co-design group to work with Comms.</p>
<p>4.5</p>	<p><u>Regional and Local Programme Update</u></p> <p>Read through of email update sent out to group – brief overview.</p> <p>Update from Cllr. Vince Daly of Hurunui District Council – HDC are reviewing contractors that they use on roadsides and are going to combine other spray work with roadsides and will be monitoring contractors. Trying to be pragmatic in their approach, where the adjoining property is clear of weeds, HDC expect a 100% strike rate, where the property has the same weed present, then they expect a 90% strike rate. Any questions re roadsides to be passed to HDC.</p> <p>Discussion re provision of Cut n Paste gel to be provided to community groups such as Kaikoura Vines Free Group.</p>	<p>Laurence Smith</p> <p>Leanne Lye</p>	<p>Rich to send out list report on 30 Terrestrial Pests to group</p> <p>Rich to send update on Wilding Conifer Programme out to group</p>
<p>4.6</p>	<p><u>Pathway Management Workshop</u></p> <p>PowerPoint presentation shared with group.</p> <p>Discussion around accountability – e.g. with seed certifiers if seed is tainted, and stock agents knowingly selling stock from at risk properties – shouldn't all be on the land occupier.</p> <p>Group answered questions:</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 required? 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>Rich Langley</p>	

4.8	<p>Study currently being undertaken to show cost analysis of spending money early to prevent establishment vs spending money down the track to remediate pest issue.</p> <p>Comment re EnviroSchools – good opportunity to enter education sphere.</p> <p>Comment re agricultural sector competitions and adding farm biosecurity to win/lose points.</p> <p>Thoughts and ideas handed to Rich Langley to collate.</p> <p><u>General Business</u></p> <p>Feral deer – group being assembled with DoC and stakeholders to discuss feral deer.</p>	Laurence Smith	Rich to collate answers and feed back to groups
5.	<p><u>Next Meeting</u></p> <p>August/September. Location and exact date to be confirmed.</p>		
	<p><u>Meeting close 6:05pm</u></p>	Cllr. Edge	