

Meeting Notes

Meeting title	BIOSECURITY ADVISORY GROUP
Group Area	Central Canterbury
Date	14 September 2021
Time	3:00pm – 6:00pm
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Invited	Bruce Marshall, Hamish Gilpin, Roger Bray, Cllr. Mackenzie, Helen Stewart, Andy Cox, Barry Austin, Chas Todhunter, Fiona McDonald, Maree Goldring, Michael Salvesen, Nicky Snoyink, Carl Diamond, Rich Langley, Cllr. Bob Mugford, Laurence Smith, Paige Lawson, Kaitlin Brydon, Brent Glentworth, Michael McMillan
In attendance	Cllr. Mackenzie, Andy Cox, Brent Glentworth, Bruce Marshall, Carl Diamond, Fiona McDonald, Hamish Gilpin, Laurence Smith, Roger Bray, Maree Goldring, Nicky Snoyink, Paige Lawson, Michael McMillan, Rich Langley, Cllr. Bob Mugford, Kaitlin Brydon
Apologies	Barry Austin & Michael Salvesen

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Person:</u>	<u>Action:</u>
1.	<p><u>Welcome, introductions, apologies & housekeeping</u></p> <p>Cllr. Mackenzie opened meeting.</p> <p>Housekeeping – introduction to using Microsoft Teams.</p>	Cllr. Mackenzie	
2.	<p><u>Notes/Actions</u></p>		
2.1	<p><u>Group Admin – BioBites Article, Model Release Forms</u></p> <p>BioBites edition going out shortly, thanks to everyone for photos. Some model release forms still to be collected, will get that at next meeting in person.</p>	Rich Langley	
2.2	<p><u>Actions from last meeting</u></p> <p>Wilding conifer & Wallaby programme updates – have started sending these out.</p> <p>Information on Yellow Bristle Grass has been sent out.</p> <p>Weed Risk in Canterbury Report – has been shared and Laurence is covering that in the meeting today</p> <p>Request for thorough update on the National Wallaby Programme – Brent Glentworth is at the meeting to cover that today.</p>	Rich Langley	

<p>2.3</p>	<p>Progressing predator free work in schools – Paige has been talking to ECan’s education team about getting that sorted, as well as updating resources given to schools.</p> <p><u>Council Update</u></p> <p>Pre lockdown Council were dealing with the aftermath of the floods across middle & central Canterbury, looking at how to address those going forward, flood funding and also river rating system to be reviewed. Ashley River was due for a review anyway, but Ashburton & Selwyn Rivers weren’t due for a few years, have agreed to bump these up as priority.</p> <p>State of Ashburton lakes – review of that progressing with high degree of urgency.</p> <p>Issue of grazing pests e.g. pigs & deer – will be discussed later in the meeting.</p> <p>Question re impact of Three Waters Reform on river management – River management may end up sitting with another entity if the reforms go through, as it will change how Regional Councils look. Three Waters itself has no direct impact on river management as far as Cllr Mackenzie is aware.</p>	<p>Cllr. Mackenzie</p>	
<p>3.</p> <p>3.1</p>	<p><u>Main Discussion Items</u></p> <p><u>Regional and local programmes update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emailed update report taken as read. • Feral pigs/deer being highlighted by parts of the community as expanding issue and we have been working with the 4 Biosecurity Advisory Group chairs and discussions within ECan re organising a meeting initially with organisations at a higher level in Canterbury. This is not seen as an Environment Canterbury management issue, as the legislation that exists to control feral pigs and deer is the Wild Animal Control Act, administered by DOC. But legislation is probably not the way to deal with this. We know what the outcome needs to be, just need to work out how to get their collaboratively. <p>Meeting will be in November. Will initially include Rūnanga, DOC, LINZ, Federated Farmers, Forest & Bird, OSH, QE2,</p>	<p>Laurence Smith</p>	

	<p>Fish & Game, Deer Stalkers etc, and representatives from community.</p> <p>Discussion around pockets of DOC land, and the need to motivate surrounding occupiers to take responsibility to control pests.</p> <p>Not just isolated pockets of bush however, have received anecdotal reports of lots of forest damaged by deer/pigs/goats – far bigger issue that we realise.</p> <p>Discussion re the likes of Craigieburn area being closed for hunting. Pregnant sows have been released in area, would it remain that DOC has sole jurisdiction over that area?</p> <p>Topic of discussion for the meeting in November, pressure on DOC to open areas for hunting.</p> <p>BAG members agree that there is huge value in holding this meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilding Conifers at Castle Hill <p>Just over a year ago Environment Canterbury staff undertook a survey at Castle Hill Village, looked at declared Wilding Conifer pests, and also other pest agents in the village. Laurence shared a map on his screen as to what was found in the village.</p> <p>All wilding conifers on the south side of the village have been controlled, and on nearby farmland, still a lot of larch in the nearby subdivision. Around 140 trees removed on private property and Council land.</p> <p>Wilding Conifer Programme has been going for 4years, not applying Regional Pest Management Plan rules at the moment, but when they are applied, they will only apply to neighbouring properties, e.g. if your neighbour has cleared their wilding conifers and you haven't, you will be required to remove yours.</p> <p>Currently trying to work with people, not enforce rules. There has been a request for a blanket village exemption, however only individual landowners can request an exemption.</p> <p>Early days yet, be interesting to do another survey and see how things have improved. Hoping to have a meeting soon with Castle Hill Village and update people, happy to host at ECan and also travel to Castle Hill.</p>	<p>Laurence Smith</p>	
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<p>3.2</p>	<p>Discussion re removal of trees in 3 stages being a good idea as it softens the impact and allows people to plant beech. Everyone that has contorta on their property wants them gone, no resistance at all. Work on Selwyn District Council reserves will send a powerful message, signalling the direction the programme is heading.</p> <p><u>Wallaby Programme Update</u></p> <p>Wallaby Programme Leader Brent Glentworth presented an update to the group that will be presented to MPI next month.</p> <p>Three work stream priorities – continue to control known breeding populations outside containment area (Mackenzie, TMA and South Waitaki Management Units), search wider areas outside containment to ensure no unknown populations exist, and intensive control within the containment area/buffer fringe areas to reduce wallaby spread.</p> <p>Different approaches needed for different areas.</p> <p>Question re what sort of numbers of wallaby are in the purple area on the map? A. – Biggest area is south Waitaki, working with contractors there since 2008, now tracking in right direction, 1 kill every 26hours with dog and gun.</p> <p>First reports of wallaby outside containment area was 1997.</p> <p>Contractor hours have been doubling thanks to National Wallaby Programme.</p> <p>Question about limitations of thermal imagery – Landcare Research did trials, average detection rate was very low. More work needs to be done. Discussion around this.</p> <p>Question re rate of breeding vs rate of kill. Wallaby only have one joey per year in the pouch, but can have a fertilised embryo ready to go if anything happens to first joey or once it's weaned. In some areas confident that wallaby are being killed faster than they can breed, in other areas not as confident, still a work in progress.</p> <p>Question re is there a threshold of hours per kill that will make it economically unviable? – Eradication is a huge task, Canterbury has a huge area and huge problem. Need additional tools, the more hours, the more expensive. If we can get it down to a certain level then we can provide proof of freedom – but there isn't a proof of freedom when aiming for eradication.</p>	<p>Brent Glentworth</p>	
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Question re helicopters spooking wallaby – Rely on this to flush them out. Wallaby outside containment areas behave differently, outside containment area very hard to flush them because they have lots of hiding spaces when there are less of them.

3.3 'Weed Risk in Canterbury' Assessment

Laurence

Last year, AgResearch were engaged to look at 30 different species in terms of risk. Species were ranked from 1-30. Some could have a high risk of spread, but not be a top priority in terms of threat to agriculture or biodiversity. Next step is to look at their impacts, dispersal methods, pathways they move on, likely places we could find them – job for the Technical Advisory Group. This is important to help inform our future surveillance programme. First step in future focus. Hundreds of things we could look at, need to narrow that down to the most problematic that are just emerging or potentially threatening us here in Canterbury.

Biosecurity Officer Invasive Organisms will be on board soon which will hopefully help.

3.4 Biosecurity Communications and Engagement Programme

Paige & Rich

Biosecurity Comms/Engagement Plan will be passed on following meeting for group to provide feedback.

Currently working to increase community/engagement programme to enhance how we take our engagement to the community. Want community to play their part and value biosecurity. Managing pests at front end of surveillance curve, ties in with Ko Tātou vision of Biosecurity New Zealand – 5 million sets of eyes.

Workshop last year with BAGs, asked for ideas on how we can better engage with the community, have taken a lot of those ideas and fed them back into the plan.

Brief run through of abridged version of the plan that will be sent out.

Group asked if there are any other tactics ECan could explore, or any events the team could attend. These don't necessarily have to go into the plan, can approach at any time if members know of any opportunities.

Also looking to understand how BAG members (as stakeholders) are involved out in the community, and what

Plan to be shared with group to provide feedback, Currently is an internal plan only, not to be shared with public.

	<p>might be useful tools for members to use when attending meetings to utilise networks – i.e. brief power point presentations etc.</p>		
3.5	<p><u>General Business</u></p> <p>No general business.</p>	All	
4.	<p><u>Next Meeting</u></p> <p>November – looking at all group meeting, if members are keen. Meeting could be potentially combined with Chilean Needle Grass field day on 30 November 2021 (North Canterbury). Will send out email to gauge interest.</p>	Rich Langley	Rich to send out email re all group meeting, members to express interest.
5.	<p><u>Meeting Close</u></p> <p>5pm</p>	Cllr. Mackenzie	