

Meeting Notes

Meeting title	BIOSECURITY ADVISORY GROUP
Group Area	Northern Canterbury
Date	14 December 2021
Time	3:00pm – 6:00pm
Venue	Microsoft Teams
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
In attendance	Carl Diamond, Cllr. Grant Edge, Hamish Roxburgh, Laurence Smith, Rich Langley, Winton Dalley, Matt Smith, Lorna Sandeman, Zoe Buxton, Rima Herber, Andrew Arps, Kaitlin Brydon, Ted Howard, Terry Charles, Paige Lawson
Apologies	Hamish Galletly, Duncan Lundy, Norm Kereikeepa, Richard Reed, Hamish Chamberlain

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Person:</u>	<u>Action:</u>
1.	<p><u>Welcome, introductions, apologies & housekeeping</u></p> <p>Cllr. Edge opened the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies from Hamish Galletly, Duncan Lundy, Norm Kereikeepa, Richard Reed and Hamish Chamberlain</p>	Cllr. Edge	
2.	<p><u>Notes/Actions</u></p> <p>2.1 <u>Actions & Updates from last meeting</u></p> <p>Parliamentary report from the Commissioner for the Environment, state of the nation on weeds has been sent out to the group, other articles were also attached to it. Great reading if people get an opportunity.</p> <p>Carl Diamond has been in contact with Josh Brown from Hurunui Landcare Group, looking to work together to build relationships.</p> <p>Engagement plan was sent out to group, Paige to update group on feedback received later in meeting.</p> <p>Request for electronic copy of the CRPMP – Rich sent around quick guide, encourage people to share this around contacts.</p>	Rich Langley /Laurence Smith	

	<p>Chilean Needle Grass Field Day went ahead last week, several members from BAG were able to attend and share their experiences.</p> <p>Link has been sent out to the Council report on dealing with communities under stress – as per request.</p> <p>Unabridged version of nassella tussock survey feedback has been sent out – as per request.</p> <p>Request for information on Wilding Conifer rules – draft is ready but is going to the design team to be tidied up.</p>		<p>Laurence to let group know when Wilding Conifer rules update is ready, and provide wallaby update.</p>
2.2	<p><u>Comms & Engagement Plan Update</u></p> <p>Paige shared a PowerPoint presentation with common themes from the feedback received about the Comms & Engagement Plan from all groups.</p> <p>Plan will be sent out again once feedback has been applied.</p> <p><i>Comment re terminology use of stakeholders/partners</i> Used to emphasise the rūnanga partnership under the Treaty of Waitangi. Different relationship to the one with stakeholders.</p> <p><i>Question re whether ECan is aware of all the community groups out there to engage with?</i> Fairly good idea – probably groups out there that we aren't aware of but aware that it's very important to have a good understanding of who's out there and their needs. Looking to build relationships.</p> <p><i>Comment – BAG members should be feeding back to ECan groups that they are aware of</i></p>	Paige Lawson	<p>BAG members to let ECan know of any community groups they're aware of.</p>
2.3	<p><u>Council Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 17th of November Council endorsed approval of the independent panel on the PC7 and PC2 – has now passed and staff are working their way through that. Part of integrated plan that needs to be completed by 2024. Submissions against PC7 and PC2 close on the 15th December. Any appeals will need to be heard soon. • Endorsed the refresh of Zone Committees at meeting on the 25th of November. 	Cllr. Edge	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emissions reduction plan has gone to government with submissions from ECan. Have begun process of looking at 2022/23 annual plan, early draft will be completed by Christmas, will be endorsed mid to late February. Ngai Tahu representation bill passed its first reading in Government, now goes through select committee process. Co-designing integrated plan on fresh water with Ngai Tahu and local rūnanga. Cllr. Mackenzie gave an update to Council on what's going on in the Central Biosecurity Advisory Group area. 		
<p>3.</p> <p>3.1</p> <p>4.</p> <p>4.1</p>	<p><u>Public Forum</u></p> <p><i><u>Opportunity for public engagement with the BAG</u></i></p> <p>No public in attendance.</p> <p><u>Main Discussion Items</u></p> <p><i><u>Regional and local programmes update</u></i></p> <p>Update report sent out taken as read. Laurence ran through some points.</p> <p>Regional update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Velvet leaf – MPI's focus is turning to long term management, the funding will only be in place until June 2023, decisions will need to be made before then about what's happening with the programme. Haven't had many reports of velvet leaf in recent times. A lot of areas that had it are still in pasture, may see a re-emergence when they're put back into crop – a matter of wait and see. Feral animals – as discussed at last meeting, increasing problem with pigs/deer/goats. Currently bid before Government for funding to control ungulates. High level meeting has been delayed, but DOC is keen to meet soon. Draft framework that will help with discussions about management of ungulates will be available early next year. <p><i>Comment re need for control of feral cats/mustelids as well – Pest free 2050.</i></p>	<p>Cllr. Edge</p> <p>Laurence Smith</p>	

Discussion re adding feral cats etc added to the table to be discussed with DOC.

Comment re overarching pest management plan with targeted responses to ungulates, feral cats, mustelids, rodents etc – this is where connecting community groups comes in.

- Check, Clean, Dry – 2 advocates have been on board for a couple of weeks. This year with Covid a lot of events have been cancelled, has given us an opportunity for our advocates to reach out to groups that we aren't usually able to. Programme is subsidised by MPI.
- 'Space Invaders' – Parliamentary Report from the Commissioner for the Environment, review of weed management, widespread weeds that have become a problem. A lot of expertise went into it, highly recommend people read it.

Comment re difference between the number of introduced species vs the number of natives.

Rich
Langley

Local update

- Puna grass, some work has been done, majority will happen after Christmas.
- Boneseed – control has been undertaken mostly in Kaikoura with some around Motunau and Gore Bay.
- Bur daisy – most of that will be undertaken after Christmas, infestation is pretty much under control.
- Chilean Needle Grass – work started on that in mid-November, 2 new sites were found, both connected to existing properties, so not unexpected. Cold weather means we are expecting plants to keep appearing possibly through to March. 3 of the properties with larger infestations have engaged their own contractor to deal with CNG, we have stepped away, now just auditing the contractor.
- Saffron thistle – haven't found much so far, expecting to find some more in next year.

Matt Smith

Question re newspaper articles on tensions in community with ECan, has this affected any of the above work?

Not at this stage – might in the future as there is one occupier with a significant nassella issue and a small Chilean Needle grass issue but at this stage looks ok for access.

4.2	<u><i>Nassella Tussock Inspection Issues</i></u>	Carl Diamond	Carl to send out copy of presentation to group.
	<p>Carl Diamond shared presentation to the group on nassella tussock inspections this season, running through statistics on inspections undertaken, the inspection process, misconceptions, impact and treatment of staff, rural wellbeing, the right to protest and work in the new year.</p> <p>Future BAG meeting will go over what a Notice of Direction, Act on Default and Compliance Order mean</p> <p>Carl to send out electronic copy of diagram that shows the nassella tussock inspection process.</p> <p><i>Discussion re threats received by ECan staff, clarified the examples given were general comments across this year's inspections, there was no inference that they were from occupiers denying access.</i></p>		
4.3	<u><i>Biosecurity Act Update</i></u>	Laurence Smith	Link to Biosecurity Act Review will be circulated with group once it's out.
	<p>Ministry of Primary Industries have a draft proposal for changes to Biosecurity Act, feedback has been submitted by biosecurity staff from a number of regional councils. Report was meant to be out by now but doesn't look like it will be out until March. Link to document will be sent out to group when we have it.</p> <p><i>Question – will they be taking the Space Invaders document into account?</i></p> <p>Yes, they were waiting for that report to come out so they could take its contents into account.</p>		
4.4	<u><i>Biosecurity 5 year Business Plan</i></u>	Carl Diamond	
	<p>Hard copy will be sent out to BAG members before Christmas.</p>		
4.5	<u><i>The Gap Between Biosecurity & Biodiversity</i></u>	Laurence Smith	
	<p>Laurence shared presentation, ran through bullet points on the gaps between biodiversity and biosecurity.</p> <p>Rima Herber, founder of Waipara River Care Group and Water & Landcare Coordinator for Hurunui District Council discussed problems in area of Waipara River, and the impact this is having on biodiversity. Aiming to bring this to the attention of the group.</p>		

	<p><i>Discussion re state of Waipara river and weed spread.</i></p> <p><i>Comment that initial interactions with groups needs to be around what groups need for support, and once we have established that we will be able to be of best service to the community, by knowing who needs to be involved, and how they should be involved.</i></p> <p><i>Comment re land occupiers being weary of prosecution, don't want to do anything on riverbeds for fear of retribution. People feel that they aren't empowered to do the work.</i></p> <p><i>Comment re need for a global consent for people doing biodiversity/biosecurity work in riverbeds.</i></p> <p><i>Discussion re catchment approach.</i></p>		
4.6	<p><u>Charging Inspection Costs to Land Occupiers</u></p> <p>Presentation shared by Laurence about direct charging policy – what is current happening under the Biosecurity Act, and how are costs recovered.</p> <p>Minimal difference between what is proposed and what is currently happening.</p>	Laurence Smith	Laurence to send out presentation as an email to gather feedback.
4.7	<p><u>General Business</u></p> <p>Request from Lorna re what is occurring in the Waimakariri district, would like more information next meeting.</p>	All	ECan to provide update that includes Waimakariri district at next meeting
5.	<p><u>Next Meeting</u></p>		
5.1	February – All Groups – meeting location TBC	Rich Langley	
5.	<p><u>Meeting Close</u></p> <p>5:45pm, closed by Cllr. Edge.</p>		