

## Meeting Notes

---

Meeting title	<b>BIOSECURITY ADVISORY GROUP</b>
Group Area	Central Canterbury
Date	6 December 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	Andy Cox, Brent Glentworth, Bruce Marshall, Carl Diamond, Cllr. Ian Mackenzie, Fiona McDonald, Hamish Gilpin, Laurence Smith, Maree Goldring, Kaitlin Brydon, Mike Salvesen, Roger Bray, Paige Lawson, Rich Langley, Cllr. Bob Mugford, Michael McMillan
Apologies	Nicky Snoyink

	<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. Mackenzie opened the meeting.</p> <p>Brief refresh on how to use Microsoft Teams.</p> <p>Apologies from Nicky Snoyink.</p>	Cllr. Mackenzie	
2.	<p><b><u>Notes/Actions</u></b></p> <p>2.1 <b><u>Actions &amp; Updates from last meeting</u></b></p> <p>Parliamentary report from the Commissioner for the Environment providing a 'state of the nation' on weeds has been sent out to the group. Other articles including a review of Regional Pest Management Plans are also available on the website via the link that was shared. Great reading if people get an opportunity.</p> <p>The Communications and Engagement plan was sent out to group, Paige to update group on feedback received later in meeting.</p> <p>Chilean Needle Grass Field Day went ahead last week, went really well.</p>	Rich Langley /Laurence Smith	

	<p>Update on assessment of rules for Wilding Conifer – draft complete, Paige is working with Comms/Design to get it into a presentable format, will be sent out when it's ready and will be discussed at next BAG meeting.</p> <p>Brent Glentworth – Wallaby Programme Leader – at meeting to give brief update on the wallaby programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As temperatures and daylight hours increase, effectiveness and application of control methods decrease, as does expenditure. Majority of budget will be spent inside containment area during winter control programmes.</li> <li>• Still using some dog teams, currently have 3 teams working in South Waitaki. Couple of night shooting programmes starting tonight. Regular control is needed in braided riverbed areas.</li> <li>• Search and control operations going ahead e.g., searching Castle Hill area for sign.</li> <li>• 2 meetings last week – one with the 3 Runanga to discuss upcoming winter operations and talk about significant areas within these operations and how to work around them. Second meeting was chaired by Cllr. Elizabeth McKenzie, was a coordination group meeting.</li> <li>• Trialling new bait that breaks down faster with rain for potential use next year. Same size as current bait (possum sized).</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion re inspection regime.</i></p>		<p>Assessment of rules for Wilding Conifer to be circulated when finalised and discussed at next meeting</p>
2.2	<p><u>Comms &amp; Engagement Plan Update</u></p> <p>Paige shared a PowerPoint presentation with common themes from the feedback received about the Comms &amp; Engagement Plan from all groups.</p>	Paige Lawson	
2.3	<p><u>Council Update</u></p> <p>Currently in Annual plan discussions.</p> <p>Issues of rate rises from previous years and where funding should go.</p>	Cllr. Mackenzie	

	<p>Putting \$100,000 this year into the Christchurch Foundation who are looking to get large scale funding from donors for restoration projects.</p>		
<p><b>3.</b></p> <p>3.1</p> <p><b>4.</b></p> <p>4.1</p>	<p><b><u>Public Forum</u></b></p> <p><u>Opportunity for public engagement with the BAG</u></p> <p>No public in attendance.</p> <p><b><u>Main Discussion Items</u></b></p> <p><u>Regional and local programmes update</u></p> <p>Update report sent out taken as read. Laurence ran through some key points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Feral animals – as discussed at last meeting, increasing problem with pigs/deer/goats. Have spoken to a number of people in the policy area of Department of Conservation. There is a bid before parliament currently for a substantial amount of money (billions) for controlling ungulates. Given these discussions and the bid is currently underway, Environment Canterbury was going to postpone their own higher-level meeting with industry/agencies, however in the last week have had communication from people that they would like it to go ahead, so now planning for some time towards end of January. Would be good to know what DOC and the Crown's positions are, with regard to who they think is responsible to control feral animals. Want to get agencies positions first, then meet with communities.</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion around inability to hunt animals, e.g. DOC blocks with no hunting allowed.</i></p> <p><i>Equal concerns with private and public land.</i></p> <p><i>Recreational hunters will not get on top of the ungulates, too big of an issue.</i></p>	<p>Cllr. Mackenzie</p> <p>Laurence Smith/ Bruce Marshall</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 giving us an opportunity for our advocates to reach out to groups that we aren't usually able too. Programme is subsidized by MPI. Will update more at next meeting.</li> <li>• 'Space Invaders' – Parliamentary Report from the Commissioner for the Environment, review of weed management. Highly recommend people read it. <i>Question – is there an update on wilding conifer programme for summer?</i> To be shared in within the next few days.</li> <li>• Local update – 2 major work streams since last meeting have been the nassella tussock programme and the Chilean needle grass programme. A lot of effort was put in to getting inspections done earlier in the season. A lot of effort has gone into comms and engagement for Chilean Needle Grass this year – currently contained and that's how we want to keep it.</li> </ul>	<p>Rich Langley</p> <p>Bruce Marshall</p>	<p>Rich to provide update on Check, Clean, Dry programme at next meeting</p> <p>Laurence to share wilding conifer programme update</p>
<p>4.2 <u>Biosecurity Act Update</u></p> <p>Part of Regional Update – can't currently share the proposal as it hasn't been publicly released yet. Have put questions to the Minister to try get proposal out to public before end of December - however it hasn't been before parliament and won't be until March next year. Won't see the report until after March, at which stage it will be open for consultation.</p>	<p>Laurence Smith</p>	
<p>4.3 <u>Biosecurity 5-year Business Plan</u></p> <p>Carl ran the group through a digital copy of the newly created 5-year Business Plan for Biosecurity. Hard copy will be sent out to group members before Christmas. Primary audience is internal staff to give clarity about the direction we are going, mostly for the biosecurity officers. Officers will get their copies at the section meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> of December – would appreciate people not sharing it until after the primary audience has seen it.</p> <p><i>Comment – would like opportunity at future meeting to discuss the business plan once everyone has read it.</i></p>	<p>Carl Diamond</p>	<p>Group to discuss plan at a future meeting.</p>

<p>4.4</p>	<p><u><i>The Gap Between Biosecurity &amp; Biodiversity</i></u></p> <p>Laurence shared presentation, ran through bullet points on the gaps between biodiversity and biosecurity.</p> <p>Discussion around risk of spreading selves too thin and not achieving anything if too ambitious on projects.</p>	<p>Laurence Smith</p>	
<p>4.5</p>	<p><u><i>Charging Inspection Costs to Land Occupiers</i></u></p> <p>Presentation shared by Laurence about the direct charging policy, what is currently happening under the Biosecurity Act, and how costs are recovered. Proposal to change charges to be a fixed rate as opposed to individually assessed.</p> <p><i>Question – how big of a problem is this?</i></p> <p>Not doing as much enforcement that we used too – only in the extreme cases of non-compliance. Even with nassella tussock there are around 20 contacts with occupiers, starting months in advance so it's not a surprise for anyone. Currently not very consistent, different costs for different people, moving to a fixed rate to make it more consistent and fairer.</p>	<p>Laurence Smith</p>	
<p>4.8</p>	<p><u><i>General Business</i></u></p> <p>No general business.</p>	<p>All</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p><b><u>Next Meeting</u></b></p>	<p>Rich Langley</p>	
<p>5.1</p>	<p>February – All Groups – meeting location TBC</p> <p>Communication will go out to group re all group meeting in February to gauge interest.</p>		
<p>6.</p>	<p><b><u>Meeting Close</u></b></p> <p>4:35pm, closed by Cllr. Mackenzie.</p>		