

Meeting Notes

Meeting title	BIOSECURITY ADVISORY GROUP
Group Area	Christchurch / Banks Peninsula Canterbury
Date	22 November 2021
Time	2:00pm – 5:00pm
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Invited	John Clemens, Colin Meurk, Pam Richardson, Paul de Latour, Philip Hulme, Richard Ball, Karl Dean, Jeff Bland, Cllr. Lan Pham, Aperahama Kipa, Gabe Ross, Gina Waibl, Sam Yeatman, Laurence Smith, Rich Langley, Carl Diamond, Bruce Marshall, Paige Lawson, Zoe Buxton, Graham Sullivan, Verity Halkett, Claire Fletcher, Kaitlin Brydon
In attendance	Cllr. Lan Pham, Bruce Marshall, Paige Lawson, Rich Langley, Carl Diamond, Gabe Ross, Phillip Hulme, John Clemens, Karl Deans, Laurence Smith, Kaitlin Brydon, Colin Meurk
Apologies	Pam Richardson, Paul de Latour, Richard Ball, Cllr Jeff Bland, Gina Waibl

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Person:</u>	<u>Action:</u>
1.	<p><u>Welcome, introductions, apologies & housekeeping</u></p> <p>Cllr. Pham opened meeting with Karakia.</p> <p>Apologies from Pam Richardson, Paul de Latour, Richard Ball, Cllr Jeff Bland, Gina Waibl</p> <p>Run down on today's agenda – main thing we want to focus on is the gaps within Environment Canterbury's programme with dealing with widespread pests, want to hear thoughts.</p> <p>Keen on feedback on several items on today's agenda.</p>	Cllr. Pham	
2.	<p><u>Notes/Actions</u></p> <p>2.1 <u>Actions & Updates from last meeting</u></p> <p>The group had a conversation during our last meeting about the report from the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment. A link has been sent out for the published report, hopefully everyone has had a chance to read that.</p> <p>Follow up on the request from the last meeting for any support that Banks Peninsula could get for controlling Canada Geese. Laurence – already a group established looking at this in Christchurch, there is a draft management plan that could be</p>	Rich Langley/ Laurence Smith	Laurence to circulate draft management report, and look into getting members from BP to attend next

<p>2.2</p>	<p>circulated. Laurence to look into getting some members from the Banks Peninsula group to attend the next Canada geese committee meeting</p> <p>Request to share feedback on the Comms & Engagement plan, Paige to update group on this later in the meeting.</p> <p>Another Biosecurity Advisory Group requested a copy of the 'Quick Guide' for the RPMP, this has been sent to all groups. Useful to get an overview on how the plan is constructed.</p> <p>Chilean Needle Grass Field Day – planned for next week, Tuesday 30th November, starting at Mt Beautiful Vineyard at 1pm, followed by a visit to an arable sheep and beef farm. Not too late to register.</p> <p><u>Group Membership & Terms of Reference Review</u></p> <p>Looking forward to the next term for these groups (mid next year). Have undertaken a review of the terms of reference in general, membership of the committee is between 7-10 people, and people are appointed through a formed working group comprised mostly of Environment Canterbury Councillors. In respect of that process, and of the working group, have decided if it looks like we are going below 7 members, then we will look at the working group reconvening to look at appointing new members.</p> <p><i>Question: Is there an update on Runanga support for this group?</i></p> <p>Looking at working more closely with our Tuia team across Biosecurity in general, part of that is reviewing how we make sure that Runanga are represented, and how that partnership manifests in our programme. Part of the Terms of Reference review.</p> <p>It's currently about 9 months before we will be looking at the new term for these groups, with current members able to re-apply to be on the group. Comment from Laurence, the terms of reference for the Technical Advisory Group are nearly complete, and with the new Biosecurity Officer Invasive Organisms position starting in January, it may be when we kick off the TAG group that some BAG members may want to leave the BAG to be on the TAG.</p> <p>Comment re the disruption of the last year limiting full engagement and opportunity for field trips, which are often the most valuable way of exchanging information, knowledge, issues and solutions.</p>	<p>Rich Langley /</p>	<p>Canada Geese committee meeting</p>
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<p>2.3</p>	<p><u>Council Update</u></p> <p>Hearing commissions on Plan Change 7. Does change things for Christchurch drinking water, but mostly effects south Canterbury. Went through. A lot of the talk was about turning our minds towards the development of the new planning framework. Plan Change 7 was seen as more of a stop gap of a direction of travel.</p> <p>Deciding on emissions reduction plan submission. Environment Canterbury's submission so far is about clarifying the role of central Government in emissions reduction, it's not currently clear what that role is. As part of that, have been circulated the submission from the Banks Peninsula Native Forest Climate Change group – collective of stakeholders. Their submission is really good, hopefully looking to support it. Happy to circulate the submission once it's finalised.</p> <p>Banks Peninsula Zone Committee – this summer Environment Canterbury has a summer student specifically looking at permitted use of water in the Banks Peninsula streams, we have very little knowledge of how much water is actually being taken from these streams, wanting to understand this better.</p>	<p>Cllr. Pham</p>	<p>Cllr. Pham to send Carl link to Council's submission on RMA, Carl will circulate to group.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>Public Forum</u></p> <p>3.1 <u>Opportunity for public engagement with the BAG</u></p> <p>No public in attendance.</p> <p>4. <u>Main Discussion Items</u></p> <p>4.1 <u>Regional and local programmes update</u></p> <p>The update report sent out with the agenda is taken as read.</p> <p>Laurence highlighted some points.</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. <p><i>Question – what is the risk that velvet leaf becomes another weed that is progressively going to spread through</i></p>	<p>Cllr. Pham</p> <p>Laurence Smith/ Bruce Marshall</p>	

Canterbury over the next 20 years?

Currently relying on industry and farmers to do the right thing, report what they find. There is still some support available with detection. Need to wait and see what happens in the next year, awareness needs to be kept up with the farming community, create some responsibility out there.

- 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 for controlling feral animals, possibly along the lines of the wilding conifer/wallaby programmes. At this stage, we won't be pursuing the high-level meeting mentioned at last meeting until maybe January, when we can get some people that are already involved in this to come along.

Part of the noise for this has come from the billion trees programme, trees being planted then being eaten.

Discussion around feral animals.

- Check, Clean, Dry – It is a behaviour change programme. CCD advocates have been on board for a couple of weeks, Professor Hulme is contributing to their training. Excited to have 2 advocates this year, able to get around more Canterbury hotspots and down south to the usual spots around the Waitaki lakes. Will update progress at next meeting.
- Bruce Marshall ran through Central team update (taken as read).
- Goat working group has decided to go ahead and look at booking in professional hunters for Autumn next year, Peraki catchment, positive landowner buy in. Don't have the budget to control other feral animals at the same time.

Comment re Christchurch City Council's involvement in boneseed control. Discussion about boneseed containment area in Canterbury.

Rich Langley

Rich to provide update on Check, Clean, Dry programme at next meeting

4.2 Biosecurity Act Update

Draft discussion document has been circulated for feedback with representatives from Biosecurity Sector.

Documents cannot currently be shared publicly.

Laurence Smith

It is meant to be an enabling act providing Environment Canterbury with powers where required to perform its functions to regulate the Regional Pest Management Plan. It is not meant to provide a specific directive to do anything, and there is a concern that it is not written like that. It will be good to get to read it and make submissions.

4.3 Comms & Engagement Plan Update

Paige shared a PowerPoint presentation with common themes from the feedback received about the Comms & Engagement Plan.

Paige
Lawson

4.4 The Gap Between Biosecurity & Biodiversity

Laurence shared presentation, ran through bullet points on the gaps between biodiversity and biosecurity.

Group discussion followed:

Comment: The Biosecurity Advisory Group could draw on models from pest free initiatives

Comment: shouldn't be making the initial judgement and identification of pests based on how much money we have to control them. Should be establishing a total inventory of everything that's problematic and categorise it in terms of seriousness, and then figure out how to attack it. What's missing is the official recognition that there is a much larger number of species that we should be stemming the flow of, nurseries, garden escapees etc. Providing 'plant this instead' alternatives – need to promote these things much more strongly.

Laurence – the Technical Advisory Group will help manage aspects of this, and comms/engagement etc.

Question: to what extent do the biodiversity team support the biosecurity team with implementing the RPMP?

Used to be a lot better, will work together on occasion.

Question: curious to see how we can enable community groups to deal with what is in their backyard, are there any resources available for this?

We certainly can work with groups and provide advice, probably not funding but perhaps biodiversity has funds for this.

Comment re comparisons between this and conversations within the Zone committee, trying to not box things up and separate into different agencies roles. Thinking about how we allow the community to have one conservation.

Suggestion that biosecurity staff should know where funding comes from, and where it is available in the organisation.

Suggestion from Carl Diamond - if we were to put together a biosecurity together plan that included all entities, we could put forward some sort of discussion document that could lead to a significant amount of money to the next LTP, could possibly get some movement.

Carl Diamond to action this

Carl Diamond to think about a strategic approach across agencies

4.5 Weed/Pest Control on LINZ & CCC Managed Land

Areas are serving as reservoirs for less desirable species, particularly in the red zone. Curious to know what we can do about these areas.

Question: pests that are in the plan is one conversation, another is that from a Regional Council perspective, what is the plan to manage the red zone going forward?

Some areas have access problems which means they're a no-go. General lack of knowledge in urban areas about what species we should be managing.

Comment – from an education front, we (Environment Canterbury) are promoting Find-A-Pest and what's found will go into iNaturalist.

Biocontrol – interested to know if there are any in the Christchurch area that we should be encouraging community groups to spread around.

Comment – just had 3 strategic releases of a new old man's beard biocontrol agent. Environment Canterbury belongs to a National Biocontrol collective and contribute to that, probably not enough, but still getting a lot for our money.

Gabe Ross

4.6 Charging Inspection Costs to Land Occupiers

Presentation shared by Laurence about direct charging policy – what is current happening under the Biosecurity Act.

Question: re how much is charged?

Varies due to size of property for inspection, paperwork presentation is charged at 1-2hours

Laurence Smith

	<p><i>Question: are occupiers given an estimate of the cost of a re-inspection?</i></p> <p>Part of the conversations the Biosecurity Officers have with land occupiers involves explanations of cost involved, not sure it gets that specific but perhaps this is something that could be looked at</p> <p><i>Question: will changes to the fees and charges be part of the Annual Plan or Long-Term Plan?</i></p> <p>Bringing everything into alignment, didn't used to be under fees and charges but will be going forward – hoping to get into this annual plan, if not this annual plan, then next.</p>		<p>Laurence to write down notes from this discussion to give to members unable to be at today's meeting</p>
<p>4.7</p>	<p><u><i>Biosecurity 5 year Business Plan</i></u></p> <p>Staff are primary audience for this, so will not send digital copies out to BAG members until after the Biosecurity section meeting on the 15th/16th of December. Will send hard copies out to members.</p> <p><i>Question: will the 5-year Business Plan have to change after the Biosecurity Act is revised or is it sufficiently generic?</i></p> <p>Changes to the Biosecurity Act shouldn't have a huge impact.</p>	<p>Carl Diamond</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><u>Next Meeting</u></p>	<p>Rich Langley</p>	
<p>5.1</p>	<p>February – All Groups – meeting location TBC</p> <p>Hoping to incorporate a field element, replacing the all-group meeting that couldn't go ahead this November due to covid restrictions.</p>		
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Meeting Close</u></p> <p>4:55pm, closed by Cllr. Pham with a Karakia.</p>		