

Meeting Notes

Meeting title	BIOSECURITY ADVISORY GROUP
Group Area	North Canterbury
Date	1 March 2022
Time	3:00pm – 6:00pm
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Invited	Duncan Lundy, Norm Kereikeepa, Hamish Roxburgh, Richard Reed, Winton Dalley, Hamish Chamberlain, Mark Giles, Ted Howard, Hamish Galletly, Lorna Sandeman, Cr Vince Daly, Cr Grant Edge, Clint McConchie, Carl Diamond, Laurence Smith, Rich Langley, Paige Lawson, Morgan Shields, Matthew Smith, Zoe Buxton, Kaitlin Brydon, Andrew Arps, Brent Glentworth, Greg Stanley
In attendance	Andrew Arps, Laurence Smith, Kaitlin Brydon, Clint McConchie, Cllr. Grant Edge, Hamish Galletly, Matthew Smith, Morgan Shields, Paige Lawson, Rich Langley, Ted Howard, Vince Daly, Winton Dalley, Lorna Sandeman, Brent Glentworth, Greg Stanley
Apologies	Carl Diamond, Duncan Lundy, Hamish Roxburgh, Richard Reed, Hamish Chamberlain, Mark Giles

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Person:</u>	<u>Action:</u>
1.	<u>Welcome, introductions, apologies & housekeeping</u> Cllr. Edge opened meeting. Request to record meeting by Matt Smith Apologies recorded.	Cllr. Edge	
2.	<u>Notes/Actions</u> 2.1 <u>Actions/Updates from last meeting</u> Carl Diamond's presentation on 2021 approach to Nassella Tussock was sent out following previous meeting. Request for BAG members to let ECan know of any community groups that they are aware of – hasn't been actioned yet, carry over action for next meeting (all Biosecurity Advisory Groups). Request for local update to include more specific details regarding the Waimakariri district – has been included in this meeting's local update. Request for the group to be let know when the Wilding Conifer rules update is ready - not ready yet, still with design team and the Wilding Conifer rules in the Regional Pest Management	Rich Langley / Laurence Smith	

Plan are being discussed with a consultant at present – hopefully out in the next month.

Request for wallaby update to be provided – has been sent out within the last fortnight, also accessible on website.

Request for link to Biosecurity Act Review to be circulated with group once it's out - still a few months away, perhaps mid-year.

Request to send out presentation re charging inspection costs to land occupiers to gather feedback – have been having discussions with our finance team about how we charge, and discussions with senior biosecurity officers about when we charge. Enforcement numbers have dropped dramatically in the last five years, not doing much charging out. Will send out options being discussed

Question re does drop in enforcement reflect that new processes are working? Yes, shows the work we have been doing with consultants and community groups and also due to the amount of communication that goes into inspections before we go down the line of enforcement action. Also trying to take a more pragmatic approach.

Comment re Hurunui Landcare Group and Josh Brown – they are sending through regular updates and it is looking like their numbers are increasing, heavy involvement with farm environment plans. Group members experience with Hurunui Landcare Group has been positive.

Comment re irrigation group being in limbo because no auditing is being done on farm plans, unsure when there is going to happen.

Discussion re potential opportunity to use groups like the Hurunui Landcare Group to raise awareness for certain pests that are less known.

Comment re opportunity to also use rural garden groups, circulating information through gardening clubs would be a great avenue to utilise – especially in terms of garden escapees.

Question re item 4.1 – feral ungulates meeting, will be holding meeting next week with LINZ, DOC, Deer Stalkers Association, NZ Game Council, Federated Farmers and iwi. First meeting is about roles and responsibilities and learning where groups sit in terms of response. Initial step, will be further meetings around Canterbury to assist with building the

Carl Diamond to give update on meetings he has had with Josh from Hurunui Landcare Group

Morgan Shields will be looking into this.

	<p>picture and figuring out what Environment Canterbury's role will be in supporting the community.</p> <p>Kaikoura Council approved funding for DOC led 'Trap Library' – with the funding, DOC are able to get more traps which means it can be publicised much wider. Community groups and individuals will have access to traps. Training and education also.</p> <p>Discussion re blackberry and old man's beard. Woody weeds are appearing in areas of river that have been fenced off and no longer grazed.</p> <p>Old Man's beard is in RPMP twice, under site led and also under compliance. Can do some investigations into areas that have been raised, particularly around riverbeds and can enter discussions with LINZ – focus is on high value native biodiversity sites. Working with AgResearch on Biocontrol – have released some biocontrol agents in the Waipara river.</p>		Blackberry to go into Morgan's list of plants he's investigating.
2.2	<p><u>Council Update</u></p> <p>Cllr. Edge gave brief Council Update.</p> <p>Concentrating on annual plan, which is going out for consultation March 2nd.</p> <p>3 key items in the annual plan, transport, flood recovery and climate change levy consideration.</p> <p>Councillors open to receiving any comments/questions.</p>	Cllr. Edge	
3.	<p><u>Public Forum</u></p>		
3.1	<p><u>Opportunity for public engagement with the BAG</u></p> <p>No public in attendance.</p>		
4.	<p><u>Main Discussion Items</u></p>		
4.1	<p><u>Regional and local programmes update</u></p> <p>Regional report update was sent out prior to the meeting - taken as read.</p> <p>Laurence briefly ran through feature of the regional update.</p> <p>Discussion re feral ungulates problem.</p> <p>Local update – taken as read.</p>	Laurence Smith/ Matt Smith	

	<p>Matt Smith talked to the group about nassella tussock finds pre-Christmas. First was in the Goose Bay area, will be working with the land occupier on that. Second find was in South Canterbury, large area of very dense nassella tussock that has been there at least 30 years if not longer. In the throes of reviewing how we are dealing with nassella at the moment, might potentially start focusing on regional surveillance rather than so much compliance in the core Hurunui area. There is the potential that there are many areas that we don't know about. Looking into options on how to control the South Canterbury property, land occupier is on board. Lots of work to do on the property itself but also on the surrounding properties. Have been working from the inside out in terms of focusing on the core Hurunui problem, need to start working from the outside in and focusing on the broader region.</p> <p>Planning to do a field day down in South Canterbury as an education tool with Nassella, also hoping to put a drone over the area to get some quality footage for awareness/education.</p> <p>Question posed to the group about how they would feel about ECan doing less compliance/focusing less on the Hurunui area, discussion around this.</p> <p>Paper currently being developed around this.</p>		
4.2	<p><u>Wallaby Programme Update</u></p> <p>Brent Glentworth shared his presentation on the Bennett's Wallaby, introductory overview of National Wallaby Programme.</p> <p>Question/discussion around thermal control methodology vs dog and gun.</p>	Brent Glentworth	Brent to report back on thermal NVG trials that MPI have just approved
4.3	<p><u>Climate Resilience Programme Update</u></p> <p>Presentation from Greg Stanley, Regional Biodiversity Officer from Environment Canterbury on his project, the Climate Resilience Programme (Part of Covid-19 Recovery Fund, Shovel Ready).</p> <p>Question re gravel extraction from rivers, seems to be a huge process to get consents to take gravel, and conflicting information being given out, need for more consistency in approach. There is a current extraction policy.</p>	Greg Stanley	Someone to come back to Vince Daly with clarity around gravel extraction consents

	<p>Discussion re making effective changes with longevity, rather than wasting time and resources, 100-year commitment.</p> <p>Question/Discussion re Weka Creek which runs into the Waipara river, current state is having a big impact on habitats. Large scale willow removal project is in the pipeline for that area, led by Rima Herber, as well as upgrading rock abutments etc. Plan is currently being developed and should be shared with group before next meeting.</p> <p>Comment re maps being really helpful as part of the presentation, be great to have progress updates and maps to follow up on North Canterbury Area.</p>		<p>Andrew Arps to share Weka Creek/Waipara River plan with group before next meeting</p> <p>Greg's presentation to be forwarded to group. Updates to be provided</p>
4.4	<p><u>Biosecurity Advisor – Invasive Organisms</u></p> <p>Morgan Shields introduced himself to the group and discussed the future focus of his role as ECan's Biosecurity Advisor for Invasive Organisms. Looking to be more proactive with Biosecurity approaches.</p> <p>Currently collating a list of species that we need to investigate and prioritise. Looking at emerging pests and weeds, things that aren't in Canterbury yet but could get here from other parts of the country. Considering climate change as well. Long term approach. Focusing on pests, weeds, insects, etc. Trying to prevent the next big pest getting out of control.</p> <p>Morgan has been contacting community groups/industry/Crown research institutes/universities – open to receiving information from all sources. Looking into distribution of pests etc. Once we have the list, will be able to prioritise species and increase our surveillance programme. Very broad approach at the moment, then will narrow down.</p> <p>People are encouraged to use Find-A-Pest – great to have digital report.</p> <p>List is currently 470 species.</p> <p>Will be getting advice from Technical Advisory Group (TAG) as well. Pretty much there with finalising the Terms of Reference for this group. Will be an external group looking at practical/scientific methods around invasive organisms.</p> <p>Aim is to be more informed and make better decisions in the future and contain/exclude some very problematic species that could cost us in the future.</p> <p>Work will feed into the surveillance programme and inform pathway management.</p>	Morgan Shields	

	Discussion re barnyard grass.		
4.5	<p><u>BAG Chair Election and future membership</u></p> <p>November is the end of the first 3-year term of the BAG groups, will be looking at new membership, don't want to lose all members but understand that people might not want to sit on the BAG for another term. Will need a new Chair, group terms of reference also allow a vice and Co-Chair.</p> <p>Elections for local Government coming up this year. Continuity of having Chair still there after elections if the Councillor Chair isn't re-elected.</p>	Laurence	Rich to send out email with Chair election process.
4.6	<p><u>General Business</u></p> <p>Lorna Sandeman to email Andrew Arps re getting on the Waimakariri Zone Committee</p> <p>Question re Chilean Needle Grass – any new finds? One new site, adjacent to exist site. Season has been difficult, but team has done really well to get across known sites several times.</p> <p>Question re contractor movement on vineyard – has been investigated and the vineyard did everything by the book.</p>	All	
5.	<p><u>Next Meeting</u></p> <p>May/June</p> <p>Will send out invitations to the next two meetings at the same time.</p>	Rich Langley	
5.	<p><u>Meeting Close</u></p> <p>Meeting closed 5:23pm by Cllr. Edge</p>	Cllr. Edge	