

Meeting Notes

Meeting title	BIOSECURITY ADVISORY GROUP
Group area	Central Canterbury
Date	Tuesday 7 th June 2022
Time	3:00pm - 6:00pm
Venue	Hotel Ashburton
Invited	Roger Bray, Nicky Snoyink, Michael Salvesen, Michael McMillan, Maree Goldring, Councillor Ian Mackenzie, Environment Canterbury, Helen Stewart, Hamish Gilpin, Fiona McDonald, Chas Todhunter, Councillor Bob Mugford, Selwyn District Council, Barry Austin, Andy Cox, Paige Lawson, Laurence Smith, Carrie Keith, Richard Langley, Zoe Buxton, Bruce Marshall, Morgan Shields
In Attendance	Paige Lawson, Laurence Smith, Carrie Keith, Richard Langley, Helen Stewart, Roger Bray, Barry Austin, Michael Salvesen, Andy Cox, Fiona McDonald, Ray Goldring, Maree Goldring, Nicky Snoyink (via Teams)
Apologies	Michael McMillan, Morgan Shields, Hamish Gilpin, Carl Dimond

Item No.	Description	Action
1	<u>Welcome, introductions, housekeeping, and apologies</u> Councillor Ian Mackenzie welcomed members.	
1.1	<u>Chair and Vice-Chair election</u> Only nomination received prior to the meeting was for Fiona McDonald for the role of Chairperson. Fiona voiced that she would do the role if nobody else wanted to. Councillor Ian Mackenzie suggested that in the absence of a newly elected Chair he would continue on which he was happy to do. Councillor Ian Mackenzie was nominated for Chair by Roger Bray – Seconded by Barry Austin. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority of members in favour. Fiona McDonald was then nominated for Vice-Chair by Helen Stewart – seconded by Michael Salvesen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority of members in favour. 	

2	<u>Notes/Actions</u>	
2.1	<p><u>Actions & Updates from the last meeting</u></p> <p>Greg’s presentation about River Berm protection work was shared with members, Greg to provide update further down track.</p> <p>Update on wallaby program – will wait on an update from Brent, besides from the circulated information.</p> <p>Cllr Mackenzie gave an update on recent conversations about how to approach wallabies. Including the question of whether it would be worth reinstating the old wallaby boards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoe – There is an upcoming meeting with ECan and Local Council in regard to Wallaby Control to gain a better context and history to look at potential options. • Roger- Can anything be learned from the North Island Program? This is a national program, and is information continually being shared? • Rich – Two different species but they are both managed under the national programme. Likely there will be learnings from both. 	Rich to send out link to the video about the wallaby programme.
2.3	<p><u>Council update</u></p> <p>Cllr Mackenzie shared some details about current deliberations on the annual plan.</p> <p>Major topics include public transport and flood recovery (river rating districts).</p>	
2.4	<p><u>Runanga Update</u></p> <p>Michael couldn’t join us, group will wait for an update when Michael can next attend.</p>	
3	<u>Public Forum</u>	
3.1	<p><u>Opportunity for public engagement with the BAG</u></p> <p>No public attendance.</p>	

4	<u>Main Discussion Items</u>	
4.1	<p><u>Regional and local programmes update</u></p> <p>The update is taken as read. This is an opportunity to ask questions or comment on the update provided.</p> <p>Feral Animal Management Strategy – released by DOC.</p> <p>No other information about strategy is available to ECan yet. A high-level meeting with DOC is to be organised to talk about it. Hopefully, they will include community views.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiona – Is there an opportunity for DoC to come and speak to this group about the strategy? • Question: Is it likely to follow the tahr program? Rich – It is aimed at having more open dialogue and community involvement in decision making so as not to repeat the same challenges from the past. • Question: Is there a reason why feral ungulates, and particularly deer are so out of control? Hunter are after trophies, not hunting females. Recreational areas don't always allow hunting. Culls didn't bring the numbers down. Breeding faster than the hunters can kill them. <p>Nassella Tussock</p> <p>Successful field day down south, 30 people in attendance.</p> <p>Hurunui area – population increase – A predicted increase in plants over the next few years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question: What is the population of nassella like in Mid Canterbury? • Laurence - Central averages at approximately 4 plants per hectare. Some properties do have high density, but most are quite low. • Fiona – Is there a chance that nassella could spread further due to climate change? Laurence – Yes, as things dry out. The big issue remains are the number of plants still being left to seed due to grubbing being left too late in the season. • Fiona - What do numbers need to get up to reduce stock numbers? Is this a problem with the 170 properties that still have high no.? Laurence – Not a problem yet. High numbers in 1940/50's did have people walking off properties as 	<p>Laurence to follow up with DoC and ask for someone to speak to the new strategy.</p>

	<p>couldn't carry enough stock however stock numbers are lower than what they used to be.</p> <p>Invasive organism update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fiona – Could Ecan provide a promo for the reporting tool that has been developed to go to the Wilding Conifers Group and Castle Hill Village? <p>Gorse and Broom – Proposed change to inspection process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Mackenzie – Should we be inspecting for other organisms (e.g. wilding pines) while undertaking gorse & broom inspections? <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Laurence – We are exploring ways that we can inspect properties in a more general area. Can be difficult as pests/weeds aren't also visible at the same time.</p> Cllr Mackenzie – Why are we not covering DoC land as well? <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Laurence – On DoC and Crown Land only the good neighbour rule applies. We inspect gorse & broom on productive land which DoC land isn't (apart from site lead). We would be spending ratepayer money on land that doesn't pay rates.</p> <p>National Wilding conifer control program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maree – Operational report was received from Steve Palmer. There have been volunteer days in Craigieburn (9 days). Tramping and school groups, Forest & Bird volunteers to support maintenance control. It is working well and this model could be used in other areas. <p>Upper Waimakariri weeds strategy update</p> <p>Funding has helped with the development of a weeds survey and strategy, to help direct pest and weed control over the next 5-10 years in the Upper Waimakariri Catchment.</p> <p>Rich is currently coordinating meetings, but the next level of operational coordination to deliver the strategy will require more discussions.</p>	<p>Paige to write piece for Castle Hill Village newsletter.</p>
4.3	<p><u>Five-year Business Plan Feedback</u></p> <p>Unfortunately, Carl not available to take feedback at the meeting.</p> <p>Rich – A hard copy of the 5-Year Business Plan was sent out before Christmas, is there any additional feedback?</p>	

	<p>General comments received that the plan is clear and concise. No other specific feedback received.</p> <p>Helen –How are issues of land tenure being resolved around riverbeds with regard to weed control.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LINZ, DOC etc meeting in November when all together to discuss who is doing what or who is owning what in the riverbeds. 	
4.4	<p><u>BAG Review Workshop</u></p> <p>Rich shared a PowerPoint presentation with the group as part of a review for the Biosecurity Advisory Groups as they move into new term in November 2022.</p> <p>Members were asked to share their thoughts on how well the groups have been going over the past three years and provide feedback on some suggested changes to the way meetings and groups are organised.</p> <p>Improvements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael – A lot of confusion between Biosecurity and Biodiversity has muddied understanding and conversation. • Maree – Members need to understand topics so they can be advocates in the community. • Andy – Good to remember we are an advisory group; our job is to support biosecurity • Fiona – Have an opportunity to share what is going on in ‘our’ local community that we can bring to this space as individual members. This is currently happening in other committees <p>Length and frequency of meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group in agreement with length and frequency recommendations shared by Rich. <p>Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andy - Is there an opportunity for region-wide issues to be addressed by groups who come together to discuss them to save less repetition across meetings? Rich – This is dependent on the subject but can certainly look at options for regionally focused discussion groups. Purpose of the BAG’s is to think regionally and act locally. Zoe – Good idea to come up with a sub-committee where region-wide issues were discussed. 	

	<p>Cllr Mackenzie – Individuals come with a different focus to BAG meetings but regionally they might connect with other members from other BAG’s.</p> <p>Meeting Style</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiona – It would be beneficial to use the ‘Rooms’ feature on Microsoft Teams to assist in the online meeting format. • Cllr Mackenzie – It is still critical for the chair and vice-chair to keep time and keep on subject. Perhaps don’t stray too much from how the chair keeps the meeting to help achieve the goal of the meetings. • Barry – Can we have more field days outdoors and more education? ECan has a reputation with the community, too much pressure on farmers they want to give up. How can we make it better? Make farmers aware of rules? <p>Facilitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiona – Is it better for Rich to be facilitating the meeting or actively participating? Where is the most value • Andy - Not in favour of an external facilitator/expert. • Cllr Mackenzie – Maybe there could be different approaches for different topics. <p>Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • Cllr Mackenzie – Do we need a councillor or a staff member present from the council? Worth thinking about where we can get the most value added to these groups. • Fiona – Likes members being clear on what the conversation at the meeting will be about, being provided with quality information prior to meetings. 	
4.5	<p><u>Community Contacts for Biosecurity</u></p> <p>Paige ran through the list of community contacts that has been put together to help with broadening our awareness programme in Biosecurity.</p> <p>List to be sent to members. Any further suggestion for contacts, including contacts for small local rags, papers, magazines etc are welcome and appreciated.</p>	<p>Rich to send out list of community contacts with the meeting notes.</p> <p>Members to send through any more community groups or local newspapers.</p>

4.6	<u>General Business</u> No items raised.	
5	<u>Next Meeting</u> 6 th September 2022 venue TBC	
6	<u>Meeting Close</u> 6:00 pm	