

Meeting Notes

Meeting title	BIOSECURITY ADVISORY GROUP
Group area	North Canterbury
Date	Tuesday 30 th August 2022
Time	3:00pm – 6:00pm
Venue	Council Chambers, Hurunui District Council, 66 Carters Road, Amberley
Invited	Clint McConchie, Duncan Lundy, Councillor Grant Edge, Hamish Chamberlain, Hamish Galletly, Hamish Roxburgh, Lorna Sandeman, Mark Giles, Richard Reed, Ted Howard, Councillor Vince Daly, Winton Dalley, Carl Diamond, Laurence Smith, Matt Smith, Paige Lawson, Zoe Buxton, Norm Kereikeepa, Rich Langley
In Attendance	Rich Langley, Paige Lawson, Carrie Keith, Hamish Chamberlain, Laurence Smith, Matt Smith, Cllr Grant Edge, Leo Fietje, Ted Howard, Noel Migger, Richard Reed, Andrew Arps, Cllr Vince Daley, Mark Giles, Duncan Lundy, Clint McConchie
Apologies	Winton Dalley, Hamish Roxburgh, Hamish Galletly, Carl Diamond, Zoe Buxton

Item No.	Description	Action
1	<p><u>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</u></p> <p>Hamish Chamberlain welcomed members.</p>	
2	<p><u>Notes/Actions</u></p>	
2.1	<p><u>Actions & Updates from the last meeting</u></p> <p>Rich shared the last meeting's minutes – General consensus notes were accurate.</p> <p>Update from Laurence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Graham Bourdot is happy to come to a future meeting to discuss the science of nassella tussock. - Seona Casonato could also speak with Biosecurity Advisory Groups to discuss controls. Is happy to attend future meetings as currently working on sustainable farming in NZ - Daniel Templeman from OSPRI possibility to attend a future meeting. Map provided by Daniel to show current TB 	

	<p>program. 95% free. Looking at pulling out of areas where control is finished as it is only TB related.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ted – noted an increase in possum numbers ○ Duncan? – How do ECan see possum control being funded? ○ Laurence – Possums are not a pest on the RPMP and the issue is mainly around protecting biodiversity. It's up to local communities to discuss the issue with each other and ECan if they are looking for support with facilitation or coordination. ○ Leo - what about the levies farmers are paying for TB control, if OSPRI is pulling out, is there going to be a reduction in levies? ○ Laurence – the levies are calculated over the country and contribute to TB testing, Animal Status Declaration and occasional pig testing. ○ Discussion on catchment sites. What do other regional councils do to control possums? ○ Laurence – a few other regional councils, have significant possum programmes. Possums are on the list that Morgan Sheilds has for assessing any potential future control status. ○ Rich - they are not in the regional plan, so we need to assess what other support can be offered? There needs to be more discussion. ○ Laurence – Cllr Elizabeth Mackenzie has put forward a proposal to have a set and forget possum trap in every property in Canterbury. <p>-Winton had requested a review of the proposed changes to the Crown Pastoral Lease Bill.</p> <p>-Laurence gave an update stating he had shared concerns with the Pastoral Manager at Land Information New Zealand. The response suggested controlling plant pest control would be able to be undertaken in productive grazing areas.</p> <p>- Laurence also advised group members Environment Canterbury had also submitted on the Pastoral Lease Bill.</p> <p>Update from Rich</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shared the BAG review slides following the previous meeting. Brief presentation provided today. - Also shared the community contacts list. - Update on behalf of Brent Glentworth. At a prior meeting, members requested an update on night vision trials to control wallaby. An update has been provided. <p>Vince - Concerns about the railway corridor and the lack of weed control. How this is affecting the neighbours who do not have it.</p>	<p>Laurence to share his update re the Pastoral Lease Bill with Winton.</p> <p>Rich to distribute NVG update from Brent with the meeting notes.</p> <p>Laurence to contact Ruth at Kiwi Rail regarding</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hamish- what communication do you have with Kiwi Rail? - Laurence – we have a lot of contact with Kiwi Rail in regard to many weeds including G&B and Yellow Bristle Grass - Hamish – ECan need to revisit it with Kiwi Rail - General frustration around lack of Kiwi Rail action. - Cllr Edge – Request to know more about their plan, to tackle the issue and what is the expectation? - Laurence – 2 parts to the programme, control to keep the line clear and general control of plant pests on KiwiRail land such as boundaries with adjoining properties. - Vince – would like to see more ground control not on the rail line. Ballast to the boundary. With a priority stretch where there is clear land. 	<p>the weed control program, to come back with an answer.</p>
<p>2.2</p>	<p><u>Council update</u></p> <p>Cllr Edge shared that the Crown Pastural Land submission passed at the last council meeting on the 18th August, item 8.7.</p> <p>Cllr Edge raised some questions.</p> <p>It would be useful to know if the Nassella Tussock scenarios are working? Request for an update of people who are having the inspections.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Matt – the aim was to provide the community with clearer information earlier in the year to enable them to plan for nassella control effectively. Any feedback would be great. Is it time for a new survey? - Hamish – Good to see the signs on the road. They are highly visible and puts it in people’s minds - Paige – The signs will change quarterly and be up earlier to raise awareness of the weeds that are coming up that need to be controlled. - General feedback on signs. Really good. Good community education. - Duncan - question for Matt, have you seen an increase in people with Nassella requesting early inspection? Has it changed for Ecan? - Matt - Yes, it’s working, people are getting in earlier. - Duncan – his compliance letter arrived later than expected and feels it could be even earlier. - Matt – We had understaffing issues in IT and Comms departments this year. Hope to be earlier next year, March possibly. 	

	<p>Cllr Edge – Update continued: Cllr Elizabeth McKenzie looking into traps and investigating the possibility of making these widely available. Submissions have been sent to LINZ, central government regarding national freshwater policy. Climate change, public transport Wallaby control.</p> <p>Waitaha action to impact fund is now open for biodiversity projects for next year. Applications close on the 12th of September.</p> <p>Letter from the honourable Damion O’Conner thanking Jason Butt for his mahi on biodiversity enhancement throughout Canterbury. Found Salvinia and knocked that on the head.</p> <p>There is currently a proposal underway to erect a Wallaby fence down near Tekapo.</p>	<p>Paige to send out the link to Waitaha Action to Impact Fund to members.</p>
3	<u>Public Forum</u>	
3.1	<p><u>Opportunity for public engagement with the BAG</u></p> <p>Leo and Noel from Rural Support Trust provided an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the Trust and how they can assist ECan building relationships with farmers who have grievances around Nassella Tussock Appreciation expressed for the time and resources that Ecan have given to BAG meetings and conflict resolution for people in the community who have raised issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr Edge – Question - Are the farmers aware of the process that the BAG members put together? Noel – the process and the steps have been given to them and appreciate the time and content that that has been given to them to better understand the process. - Hamish – Question - Have you found that the material is getting to the people that they are in contact with? Noel – yes there has been contact with the farmers that they are dealing with. - Duncan – Question – What do you think the farmers are thinking/feeling about the upcoming legislation? The implementation of the legislation is what is concerning. Leo – Went around 80 + farmers with Winton to give gifts to say they were thinking of them. Which opened conversations regarding legislation. Farmers were very worried about the speed and the ability to comply with regulations. Water quality, carbon credits, all the stuff that is coming down from the government. On top of that, they feel very unloved by 	

	<p>communities from what they read in local papers. They feel that the social licence to farm is not there anymore.</p> <p>Duncan – Expressed concern about the pressures on farmers creeping up on them.</p> <p>Laurence – What does the community feel the future looks like for Nassella tussock? Putting ECan compliance or regulatory responsibilities aside. Individuals’ actions need to align with most other landowners to ensure the communities long term objective is obtainable. If containment cannot be achieved by landowners then Nassella tussock pest status may need to be reconsidered. An important discussion is needed, looking at the future, that needs to happen soon.</p> <p>Cllr Edge - council passed a new policy which is going to respond to the stresses on farmers in the communities.</p> <p>Andrew – Thank you to the Rural Support Trust for their mahi.</p> <p>Mark – Faceless communication from ECan is an issue and it doesn’t work for farmers. Not being able to talk things through properly is a big part of the discourse between biosecurity and farmers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consensus in agreement 	<p>Rich to send a copy of this policy out to members.</p>
4	<u>Main Discussion Items</u>	
4.1	<p>Andrew Arps – Update on Zone delivery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview of recent activity from Zone Delivery in North Canterbury provided. Overview was sent out to members prior to the meeting. The overview included notes regarding follow up control of Wattle in the Conway River as previously requested. - Vince - Question – Projects need to look at maintenance as a part of the initial planning for long-term sustainability. <p>Andrew – Greater River revival update Looking at a more holistic way of managing the braided rivers within communities.</p> <p>Vince – Comment that Old Man’s Beard is particularly bad this year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laurence – Biocontrol mite released in the Waipara has made its way to Hanmer Springs. Impacts of the mite will not be known for a few years. <p>Rich – Canterbury Maps is a useful resource available to the community. Encourage members to take a look at it. Could provide some basic training for how to use it at a future meeting.</p>	<p>Rich to provide a link to Canterbury Maps with the meeting notes.</p>

4.2	<p>BAG Review Update</p> <p>Rich provided an overview of the feedback received by the Biosecurity Advisory Groups across Canterbury. A timeline regarding the process for establishing the next term for these groups was shared.</p> <p>The first meeting of the next groups will not be until March 23.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Members were encouraged to contact Ecan if anything comes up in-between the now and the next meeting. - ECan to keep members updated with new developments - Members can still be involved in our programme and will be invited to field days and events over the spring / summer. <p>ClIr Edge – Raised concerns about how people are appointed to the committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are the terms of reference able to be reviewed? - There needs to be a broader perspective of appointments. - Remuneration, is this going to be reviewed? Are people claiming it? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Rich – Yes remuneration is being paid. Yes it will continue to be available for members during the next term. - Clint – The Terms of Reference needs to be looked at for Ngati Kuri. - Laurence – A cross section of public and geographical representation would be good. 	Rich to share presentation.
4.3	<p><u>Feral Ungulates Strategy – Te ara ki mua</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laurence – Strategy document taken as read. How does this relate back to our communities? - Laurence – shared that there is currently some work underway on Banks Peninsula regarding feral pigs. Suggested that the Chair of that group could share what they are doing. - Pete Thompson, Department of Conservation, based in Hokitika is responsible for implementing the Te ara ki mua programme in the South Island and is prepared to attend a meeting later in March 2023. - Clint – Is there a way of feeding into the programme or an open discussion? - Laurence – Yes, they are open to discussion - Richard – raised concern about the increase in deer and pig numbers. - Farmers are taking on the responsibility themselves but there are those who don't. A suggestion for ECan to work on a joint venture. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concern raised about foot and mouth spread with the wild ungulates - Hamish – with change of climate etc we will start seeing more issues. Suggestion for ECan to look at land use change as a driver for further problems with ungulates. 	
4.4	<p><u>Nassella Tussock and Chilean Needle Grass</u></p> <p>Matt ran through nassella tussock and Chilean needle grass (CNG) plan for the coming season.</p> <p>Previously employees were costing \$25-30 p/h but now looking at \$50/60 p/h for contractors, which puts a limit on how much work will be completed by contractors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hamish: When CNG seedings were viable in May, what action did you take to let landowners know? - Matt: None, as it was in waste areas - Hamish: That’s when they would put stock in for winter grazing, so they need to be told. - Matt: Noted for future, was not told that information previously. - Cllr Edge: Are we targeting isolated spots to eradicate the CNG? - Laurence: We do visit more often and target with additional herbicide but it’s very difficult to eradicate (and probably won’t happen) due to seedbank. - Cllr Edge: Is there a biocontrol for CNG? - Laurence: There is one in Argentina where it’s from but not currently in New Zealand. Seona Casonato is working on a biological control for nassella tussock currently. <p>Nassella tussock</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laurence: Systematic and thorough is the most cost-effective way to control Nassella tussock in the long run, in many cases where plants are being left to seed it’s the quality of the work that has a detrimental impact, not quantity. - Matt: How does this group feel about Biosecurity Officers only visiting high density properties? ECan biosecurity doesn’t have the resources to cover all properties so the suggested approach is that the lower density properties will be visited less often and left to get on with control. - Mark: If you have limited resources then that’s the way to go but landowners on smaller properties or lower-density properties still need to be aware of the problem. - Cllr Edge: Can we phone landowners on lower-density properties instead of visiting? 	Rich to share a copy of the plans for this season with the meeting notes.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Richard: There are concerns around lifestyle blocks changing hands frequently. They need to be aware of the problem and what their obligations are. - Matt – ECan biosecurity does undertake facilitation with new landowners and sends communications each year. We also try to stay on top of blocks being subdivided. - , Duncan Lundy – I suppose as long as people are putting some effort into Nassella tussock control, that is all we can expect. - Laurence: Unfortunately, ‘just trying’ is not going to reach the objective. Landowners need to match the action with the objective. - Mark: There is a lot of misinformation circulating at the moment. Some landowners are using nassella as an example to take a stand against other central government compliance issues. 	
4.5	<p><u>Regional and local programmes Update</u></p> <p>There were no questions relating to the Regional and Local Programmes Update that hadn’t already been discussed.</p>	
4.6	<p><u>General Business</u></p> <p>Nothing raised.</p>	
5	<p><u>What’s next for the Biosecurity Advisory groups?</u></p>	
5.1	<p>Timeline and process for establishing the next Biosecurity Advisory Groups shared during the BAG review discussion.</p>	
6	<p><u>Meeting Close:</u></p> <p>6:03pm</p>	