

## Meeting Notes

Meeting title	Southern Biosecurity Advisory Group
Date	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> August 2022
Time	1:30pm – 4:30pm
Venue	Mackenzie Community Centre, Fairlie
Invited	Laurence Smith, Brent Glentworth, Rich Langley, Paige Lawson, Zoe Buxton, Gerrit Roux, Cllr Anne Munro, Gavin Loxton, Richard Patterson, Matt Simpson, Cllr Elizabeth McKenzie, John Talbot, Gary Foster, Rob Young, Murray Bell, Michael McMillan, Ines Stager, Angela Johnson, Carl Diamond, John Abelen, Morgan Shields,
In Attendance	Laurence Smith, Brent Glentworth, Rich Langley, Paige Lawson, Zoe Buxton, Gerrit Roux, Cllr Anne Munro, Gavin Loxton, Richard Patterson, Matt Simpson, Cllr Elizabeth McKenzie, John Talbot, Gary Foster, Rit Fisher, Nick McCabe, Rob Young, Murray Bell, Lisa Watson,
Apologies	Michael McMillan, Ines Stager, Angela Johnson, Carl Diamond, John Abelen, Morgan Shields.

Item No.	Description	Action
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome, introductions, apologies &amp; housekeeping</b>  Cllr McKenzie opened with a Karakia. Round table of introductions.	
1.1	<u>Confirmation of Chair</u> Matt Simpson voted in as chair, will take over from Cllr McKenzie to chair this meeting. Thank you to Cllr McKenzie for her contribution to the group over the last 3 years.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Notes/Actions</b>	
2.1	<u>Actions &amp; Updates from last meeting</u>  Wilding conifer & Wallaby presentations were shared following the last meeting. Greg Stanley's presentation about the berm transition project was sent to the group.	

	<p>BAG Review presentation shared.</p> <p>Community contact list shared.</p>	
2.2	<p><u>Council update</u></p> <p>A resolution to issue traps to Canterbury households was passed by Council. Laurence and Zoe Buxton (Strategy &amp; Planning) are involved in addressing this resolution.</p> <p>The Biosecurity/Biodiversity portfolio reported to the Natural Environment Committee, there is good progress being made.</p> <p>Note: Natural Environment committee is made up council covering all parts of the environment including biosecurity, biodiversity, fresh water, flood protection (sub-committee). Meet approximately every 6 weeks.</p>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Public Forum</b>	
3.1	<p><u>Opportunity for public engagement with the BAG</u></p> <p>Welcome to 4 members of the public who joined the meeting: Nick McCabe, Rit Fisher, Murray Bell and Lisa Watson.</p> <p>Nick: Experience in rabbit control and general interest in pest control including wallaby and wilding conifer. Has a lot of hill work experience and is happy to share knowledge. Looking at applying for the next term's group.</p> <p>Rick: 45 years' experience farming at Shenley Station. Currently wallabies are the biggest problem they're working on. Shooting approx. 3500 p/y across 3500 hectares. Has come along today to listen and learn from the group.</p> <p>Murray: Concerns around old man's beard in riverbeds. It is destroying the willows that are used for flood protection. ECan has planted some poplars and is undertaking some restoration planting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laurence: There is a biological control for old man's beard, ECan released 3 lots last year. They are already spreading quite far from release sites. However, it will probably be a couple of years before success can be determined. ECan has</li> </ul>	

	purchased 3 more lots and they will be released in the coming weeks.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Main Discussion Items</b>	
4.1	<p><u>Te Manahuna Aoraki Project</u></p> <p>Unfortunately, Simone Smits was unable to join this meeting but is keen to attend a future one.</p>	
4.2	<p><u>Feral Ungulates Strategy - Te ara ki mua</u></p> <p>Laurence spoke with Andy Thompson from the Department of Conservation (DoC) regarding a representative attending a future BAG meeting. He had advised he was not best person to speak to the feral ungulate's strategy. Laurence has been speaking with another contact, Peter Thomas who is based on the West Coast. Happy to come and speak at the next BAG meeting in March.</p> <p>Rich: What does this group see as ECan's role in the future with feral ungulate management? Assistance with management? Enforcement with regulation? Financial? Who's going to control them on the ground?</p> <p>Nick: Biogenetics are being used for possums; can we use similar methods on other species?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pork industry issue.</li> <li>• Wouldn't be allowed under the Treaty of Waitangi as pigs are considered Taonga.</li> </ul> <p>Can we ask a representative from the Department of Conservation to join the group?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perhaps DoC can put forward a rep and then chose which is relevant on the agenda.</li> </ul> <p>CLlr Munro: How do we move forward in an efficient and coordinated way to encompass both biosecurity and biodiversity? Can we amalgamate a biosecurity and biodiversity group? Currently sits on Biosecurity Champions group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laurence: Spoke with Zoe and thought perhaps representatives from each group can attend each other's meetings but probably won't combine the groups. ECan biosecurity is regularly meeting with the zone and regional biodiversity teams on a staffing level to see where work aligns.</li> </ul>	

<p>4.3</p>	<p><u>Small Community Pest Management Groups</u></p> <p>Matt Simpson: Could we look to introduce pest management groups/small community groups administered by ECan. Main role would be to provide guidance/advice. This will develop cohesiveness. This could set up for wallaby initially. Has the potential to go national.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is it similar to a catchment model?</li> <li>• Would want to keep it local, no more than 15 landowners.</li> <li>• Rick: Good idea but think landowners will want to drive it themselves rather than utilising rules. That will bring coordination without overarching power.</li> </ul> <p>Rich: What would ECan's role be?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matt: Support, education on control options, framework of how a pest management plan would look.</li> <li>• Gavin: Perhaps different groups can generate own ideas that can be shared. If people are already controlling one thing, then they can control others too.</li> </ul> <p>Brent gave an update on the wallaby programme</p> <p>What evidence is there that wallaby have been purposely released in certain areas?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brent: Not confirmed, it's mostly circumstantial evidence. First noticed in 2006 on DoC land above safari block.</li> </ul> <p>CLlr McKenzie: How will the proposed wallaby fence in the Mackenzie District be structurally sound against flooding events?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brent: There are 2 main areas that flood approx. every 4 years. There will be a section of fence in these areas that will be designed to fail rather than taking the whole fence down.</li> </ul> <p>Nick: Could the night vision helicopter technology be used for pig control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brent: Yes, but this is funded by the National wallaby programme so would have to be resourced separately.</li> </ul> <p>CLlr McKenzie: Has anyone trialled high frequency sonar?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brent: Not that we are aware of as it is a very expensive tool. It may pick up other non-target species that are also active at night.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Rich</b> to share Brent's presentation with the meeting notes.</p>
------------	--	--

	<p>Cllr Munro: Why don't you shoot all wallaby you see during trial?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brent: It has been very difficult to get this trial over the line. It's taken 2 years to get approval from the CAA. MPI are very safety conscious. There are explicit specs for when pilots can fly, and they need to report on all flying hours. Hopefully when its fully over the line we can use it more freely.</li> </ul> <p>Is there any progress on the new bait being developed by MPI?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brent: Yes, the trial was flown in March / April, a small over fly in pellet application occurred in one area of the operation and EPA investigated the incident. The results of the trial indicated that the pellet mix met the guidelines of what we wanted in terms of disintegrating by 30 mm rain, however an early rain event of around 8 mm softened and swelled the pellets which seems to affect palatability to wallaby.</li> <li>We hope to run this trial again in April with a modified formulation. Gavin: Why not use carrot?</li> <li>Brent: It isn't as preferable and there are lots of strict specifications from the EPA using carrot.</li> </ul>	
4.4	<p><u>Plant pests – space invaders</u></p> <p>Gary: Control work undertaken for Himalayan Balsam in Geraldine with funding from ECan. However, the work was jeopardised as one landowner didn't want it removed.</p> <p>Group had no power under the RPMP as it's only recorded as an Organism of Interest and not as a declared pest. Luckily, the new landowner is onboard but had already set seed.</p> <p>Original landowner was given the option of support from the working group to control it but still didn't want to. Shows the difficulty of trying to undertake work in the community without any regulatory support.</p> <p>What are the options besides general awareness when trying to achieve something, but someone won't play ball? Something for ECan to look into more.</p>	
4.5	<p><u>Regional and local programmes Update</u></p> <p>Update taken as read. Time given for questions.</p> <p>How frequently are the Southern Alliance group meeting?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laurence: At the moment, every couple of months.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Rich</b> to send cat management options to Nick</p>



	<p>Gavin: How can we get numbers on pigs?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can put out a survey via Fed Farmers</li> <li>• Should be looking at trends rather than absolute numbers. Especially with fluctuations.</li> </ul>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>	
5.1	TBC: First meeting of new Biosecurity Advisory Groups planned for Feb/March	
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Meeting Close</b></p> <p>4:35pm</p>	